



## WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S WORD

Christmas Pageant

“King of the Outcasts”

## WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH JOY

\* Song of Response

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

#136

\*Affirmation of Faith

It is through Christ's reconciling work that we are the church, united to God and to other believers. As the church, we are the salt of the earth. We are the light of the world. We are entrusted with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. As the church, we are witnesses by both word and deed. We proclaim the new heaven and the new earth, in which righteousness dwells. As the church, we proclaim that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered sin and death. God conquers irreconciliation, hatred and bitterness. As the church, God's life-giving Word and Spirit enable us to live in a new obedience, God opens new possibilities of life for society and the world. We declare ourselves ready to venture out on the road of obedience and reconciliation--servants of the God who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people. Amen.

Generosity Ministry Testimonial

Lynn Haiducek

Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering of our Gifts

*Offertory*

\* Offertory Response

“Doxology for Christmas”

*(Traditional Tune)*

*Praise God, whose dawn transfigures night, whose Daystar shines for us on high,  
Whose Spirit brings into our sight, the hope which to our world draws nigh. Amen.*

\* Prayer of Dedication of our Offerings

## WE GO OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\* Sending Song

“Joy to the World”

#134

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Benediction Response

“Soon and Very Soon”

#384 (vs. 1)

*Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!*

\* Postlude

## OUR WORSHIP IS ENDED, OUR SERVICE BEGINS!

### Questions for Reflection

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, what is the beginning of God's good news in your life, and how will it change the way you approach this season of expectation and hope?

### Did you know?

Did you know that the PC(USA) has an office at the UN? Presbyterians were part of the drafting of the U.N. charter 72 years ago and we are grateful to be a part of a ministry that works for peace around the world.

The Gathering Prayer is reprinted by permission from Katherine Hawker's Advent Resources @ [www.liturgyoutside.net](http://www.liturgyoutside.net). The Prayer of Confession was written by James Hart Brumm and reprinted by permission from ISSUE #105 SEPTEMBER 2012 of *Reformed Worship*. The Prayer for Illumination and Questions for Reflection are used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, © 2014. Our Christmas Pageant was written by the Rev. Christina Westbury. The Affirmation of Faith was compiled by Barbara Hedges-Goettl and reprinted from the PC(USA)'s Office of Theology & Worship webpage; used with permission.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF Dec 10, 2017

**Welcome Friends!** If you are new in the area or looking for a church home, we hope you will consider becoming a part of this community of faith. Please use the Fellowship Pad to note your presence with us and the welcome card to help us serve you better. **There is a large- print Bible and handheld hearing devices on the table at the back of the sanctuary and also in the foyer for anyone who needs them.**

**Please be advised:** Videos, audiotapes, and photographs may be taken during worship and other church activities for broad use (including the Internet), and that by attending you consent to this and to the broad use described. **If you do not wish to have your photo taken and/or published on our website,** please send a request in writing to [office@chapellane.org](mailto:office@chapellane.org) or Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church, 5501 Jefferson Ave., Midland, MI 48640.

**Children in Worship:** We have **Worship Bags** in the back of the sanctuary containing worship aids for children: Blue-handled bags for older children, red-handled bags for younger. Please return them to the floor below the rack at the end of the service. We have a staffed **nursery** for children infant through first grade (older children may use the nursery and playground if accompanied by an adult). During the school year, we offer **Children's Church** for kids from kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade on most Sundays. Children will remain for part of worship and will be dismissed part way through the service to a time geared toward them.

**Tape Ministry:** Each week our worship service is taped and sent to our homebound members and friends. This is a ministry of our Deacons. If you would like more information, please contact Harry White (692-2059).

**Bulletin Announcements:** Bulletin announcements are listed **two weeks** prior to an event. For a forecast of upcoming events farther in the future, please visit "newsletter" or the church "calendar" at [www.chapellane.org](http://www.chapellane.org). Did you miss last week's announcements? They may be viewed at "Worship /bulletin" at [www.chapellane.org](http://www.chapellane.org).

### CHAPEL LANE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Today through Dec 24, 2017

**Flowers:** The flowers today are given by Jim, Jennifer and Olivia Mayer in loving memory of Janet Hobbs and Jerry Mayer.

**Congregational Meeting 1/14/18:** The special meeting of the congregation scheduled for today has been postponed until January 14, 2018.

**The Congregational Care Star Gifts and Gift Cards** are due TODAY. Please place gifts in a gift bag unwrapped with the star attached. Return them to the church office. The gift card with the star attached may be placed in the red box in the kiosk in the foyer. If you have any question, please call Alice Wiltse, 631-7271.

**Newsletter Deadline:** Wow! It's that time again yet earlier. The chimes newsletter deadline is on the second Wednesday this month which is Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. This allows for more flexibility on the office staff and the editor during this busy season. Please send your information for January 2018 issue this week. Advent is here! Christmas is coming! The New Year is just around the corner.

**Followers In the Spirit Here:** Music, lessons, fellowship and more. Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pre-kindergarten to Senior High. This Wednesday, Pastor Rhonda, will be our host for dinner. (Please sign up.) And the Advent craft will be one to "give away."

**Fall Contemporary Issues Class:** Please join us in the parlor each Sunday this fall after the 10 a.m. service for our contemporary issues class. We are discussing the book *How Jesus Saves the World From Us: 12 Antidotes to Toxic Christianity* by Morgan Guyton. Guyton, a Methodist pastor, argues that many people are reluctant to attend church because the loudest Christian voices they hear sound harsh, judgmental and intolerant. He suggests that it is time for more compassionate and welcoming voices to assert themselves and he provides a roadmap for mainline Christian congregations to do just that. The class will be co-led by Pastor Rhonda Myers and Elder Paul Teed. Join us!

**Lectionary-Based Class:** The Lectionary-based class will not meet again until Sunday, January 7, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in the library. We hope you will consider joining us.

**The Thursday Afternoon Bible Study:** We are studying the story of Joseph, Jesus' earthly father. Books are \$13 and are available from Pastor Rhonda on a first come/first served basis.

**Thanksgiving Food Baskets** is a program of the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network (EFPN) that is coordinated and hosted every November at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Midland. Approximately 350 Midland County families received Thanksgiving dinner fixings and a gift certificate for a turkey from LaLonde's market, as well as grocery staples and personal care items. For almost two hours on the afternoon of our Share Fair, four Chapel Lane adults and nine youth sorted the 1,263 boxes of donated cereal! Thank you to our "youth missionaries"- Carter, Catelin, Catie, Dominic, Jillian, our two Olivias, Rachel and Zach. Thanks to everyone who so

generously provided many bags of groceries, paper products, and personal care items for our neighbors!

**Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee will meet in the Parlor on the next two Tuesdays, December 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Carols by Candlelight! Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.:** Hopefully your Family Christmas Traditions will include attending our Annual “Carols by Candlelight” Christmas Concert on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. This concert will feature all of the sights & sounds of Christmas as all of the Chapel Lane choirs participate in this festive evening. Please be our guest and attend the reception immediate following the concert and invite your friends and neighbors! A free will offering will be taken to benefit the children’s Summer Camp & Music programs.

**Afternoon Ladies’ Circle:** The afternoon ladies’ circle will meet on Monday, December 18 at Independence Village located on Rockwell Drive (note change for winter months) from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. In this fourth lesson, “Hebrews” takes us on a tour of angelic messengers in the Bible to remind us that we never know when an encounter may bring us God’s messages of love and support. Our mission project is the donation of personal care items to the HELP food pantry. Everyone is welcome! Questions? Please call Sally Ann Sutton at 835-2428.

**Christmas Eve Services:** As Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, we will have only two services that day. Our family worship will be held on the morning of December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Our service of lessons and carols will take place at 7:00 p.m. that night. **Note: there will be no 5:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.**

**Christmas Joy Offering:** What does the Christmas Joy Offering do? By supporting the Board of Pensions, the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers in their time of need by providing financial assistance to support them through life’s challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful responses to God’s charge to love one another as Christ commanded. See the bulletin insert for more information. There are envelopes in the pew racks for your donations.

**Advent Devotionals:** Our 2017 Advent Devotionals are in and you have two from which to choose. One is entitled “Watch,” published by the Stillspeaking Writers Group, based upon Mark 13:35, “Watch, pay attention, stay wide awake, for the hour is coming...” The other is published by *Presbyterians Today* and is entitled “Let Love Speak.” We suggest a donation of \$4 for either of these devotionals. But hope, most of all, that you will take one home and use it for your daily devotions this Advent. Consider bringing one to a

friend or loved one, too. Let us hope in God, watch for the signs of Christ’s coming light, and let love speak through our words and actions this Advent.

#### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS – Today through Dec 24, 2017**

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**Dinner on Christmas Day** will be served on **Monday, December 25, at St. John’s Lutheran Church** at 505 East Carpenter in Midland from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The free turkey dinner, with all the traditional trimmings, will begin after the 10 a.m. worship service that is offered to anyone who wishes to come. Arrangements may be made for transportation to the Christmas Day Service and/or the dinner, as well as for delivered meals. **Please call 835-5861, extension 1225 by December 20 for transportation or meal delivery.**

***Participants in Today's Service***

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers  
**Musicians:** Karen Graef, Dr. Tim Hendrickson  
**Worship Leader:** Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers  
**Ushers:** Chris and Carter Greiman, Jen and Jamie Winkler  
**Nursery:** Renee White, Jennifer Hahn, Sarah Hahn  
**Ministers:** *All the members of Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church*

**Our Mission Statement**

*Celebrating our diversity of gifts, we  
seek to serve Christ by serving others  
with grace, love and laughter.*

***Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church***

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<b><i>Pastor:</i></b>	<b><i>Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers</i></b>	<b><i><a href="mailto:revrhon@aol.com">revrhon@aol.com</a></i></b>
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