

December 17, 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent



St. Timothy Presbyterian Church
16700 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154
734-464-8844
Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm
Friday: 9:30 am to 12:00 pm
email: sttimothy@sttimothypcusa.org

Staff
Pastor - Joel Puntigam
Music Director & Accompanist – Tim Falk
Office Manager – Shelly Walldorff

St. Timothy Mission Statement
Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to: seek God, follow Christ, serve and love our neighbor.

Worship is also available via Live Stream just before 10:30 am or later in the afternoon as a video. Just use this link for both options:
<https://video.sttimothypcusa.org>

Welcome!

PRELUDE “One Small Child” Meese
INTROIT “Wait for the Lord” Berthier

PASTORAL WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: Joy

Today we light the candle of hope, the candle of peace, and the pink candle- the candle of joy. This candle is also known as the Mary candle. **Mary demonstrates for us the grace, humility, and determination of the woman who carried the Incarnate Joy of the world- Christ Jesus.**

Mary reminds us that we too carry this same Joy in our lives.

As we light this candle of joy, we remember the shared Incarnate Joy of Christ within us as we continue our journey of Advent.

*Light the Advent Candle three: Think of heavenly harmony;
Angels singing “Peace on earth” at the blessed Savior’s birth.
Candle, candle burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

Psalm 47: 1-2 declares: “Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth!”

Let us pray: Holy God, we thank you for the gift of joy that is found in Christ Jesus. Remind us of this Incarnate Joy within us as we enter into another week ahead. Amen.

HYMN “The Advent of our God” see insert

CALL TO CONFESSION

SILENT CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

As we return to the Lord with joy and gladness, let us sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more because in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE “Gloria Patri” # 623
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet, and a Light unto my path.

People: Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet, and a Light unto my path.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61:1-3

SPECIAL MUSIC “I Wonder as I Wander” Niles

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Karlane Belaire

GOSPLE READING John 1:6-8, 19-28

INTERACTIVE SERMON Pastor Joel Puntigam
“Joyful Comfort”

HYMN “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” see insert

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Shorter Catechism*

Q63: What is the Fifth Commandment?

A: The Fifth Commandment is, “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”

Q66: What is the reason attached to the Fifth Commandment?

A: The reason attached to the Fifth Commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve God’s glory and their own good) to all who keep this commandment.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Doxology # 625
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, teach us to give thanks in all circumstances, for you are always with us. Thank you for the privilege of sharing what we have with others, of giving ourselves away in love, and of receiving the gifts that others share with us. With our whole being, spirit and soul and body, we rejoice in you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER

Day by day, day by day, O, dear Lord, three things I pray: To see Thee more clearly, Love Thee more dearly, Follow Thee more nearly, Day by day.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN “O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful” see insert

SENDING AND BENEDICTION

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to: seek God, follow Christ, serve and love our neighbor.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

POSTLUDE

**Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1.*

**Sunday, December 17th
Following Along in Worship**

1. Today is the third Sunday of Advent. What is your favorite thing to do during the Advent Season?
2. How many Advent candles did we light today? What is the theme of the candle that was lit today?
3. What was the topic of today's time with the children? Circle the correct one:
 - a. O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree!
 - b. All I want for Christmas is...
 - c. How to make sand sculptures
 - d. The Light of the World
4. Who is the Light of the World? Why is it important to tell others about the Light?
5. In the sermon, Pastor Joel will lead an interactive message from John 1:6-8, 19-27. Circle all that are true about the John the Baptist:
 - a. He came as a witness to the Light
 - b. He wanted everyone to believe in the Light
 - c. John confessed that he was the Christ
 - d. John confessed that he was not the Christ
 - e. John was the voice in the wilderness
 - f. John was the voice of Shrek
 - g. The best thing about Christmas is getting presents
 - h. The best thing about Christmas is Jesus

Serving in Worship This Morning

Greeter:	Paul Moon
Ushers:	Youth
Worship Assistant:	Jillian Sautter
Advent Readers:	Muriel and Ron Martin
Vocal and Dulcimer Soloists:	Dave Olko Sr., Linda Delezenne
Keyboard:	Linda Delezenne
Technology:	Melanie Gumz
Safety Officer:	Tim Chanko
Tellers:	Kimberly Gaines, Cassy Sautter
Fellowship Hour:	Bring your favorite soup

Weekly Bible Studies

Adult Sunday Bible Study – *approximately 12:15 pm.*

We are doing an Advent study in Room 14. All are welcome!

Zoom Bible Study – *see you on January 8, 2024*

We continue our study on the book of Job.

This is the link address to join: <https://study.sttimothypcusa.org>

Zoom Bible Study – *see you on January 2, 2024*

We are studying the book of Luke.

This is the link address to join: <https://study.sttimothypcusa.org>

Adult Weekly Bible Study, Thursday – *9:30 am*

Our study is on the passage that Paula Boegner will be preaching on December 24 – Luke 1:26-38.



Prayer and Praise meets weekly on Tuesday mornings via phone and it is a great way to start your day. Details about joining are on the calendar (back page of bulletin).



Advent Devotionals are available and on the table in the Narthex under the information station.

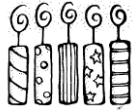


Chancel Flowers



In memory of Linda Osborne and Marilyn Taulbee,
Richard and Karlane Belaire

Celebrating



Birthdays:

December 19

Joan Hixson

Anniversary:

No anniversaries this week

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Sunday, December 17 – Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, December 20 – Friendship Club Worship

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, January 13 – Hope Clinic Bag Lunch Packing

CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Today, December 17th – short Congregational Meeting right after service to elect our leaders. **The meeting will be available via zoom, just click on link: [zoom.sttimothycusa.org](https://zoom.us/j/9123456789)**



2024 Chancel Flower Chart

The new chart is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Please consider signing up for a Sunday or two. Adding some beauty and color to our sanctuary on Sunday mornings is so special! One Sunday left in December – the 31st.



Friendship Club Worship Service
December 20 at 11:00 am
Everyone is invited!

Joy

Fellowship Hour “Joy” Scriptures

Romans 12:12

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer.”



The new giving envelopes have arrived and are on a card table in the narthex. Please pick your box up when you are able.



christmas card
BULLETIN BOARD

How would you like to write just one Christmas card and have the ENTIRE congregation receive it? You can do just that with the Christmas Card Bulletin Board! Bring your card and leave it in the special mailbox on the fireplace or mail it to the church office marked "Attention Bulletin Board." Have a question? Contact Margaret Barsch.




Upcoming events:

Wednesday, December 20th 11:00AM - Friendship Club Worship Service, all are welcome.

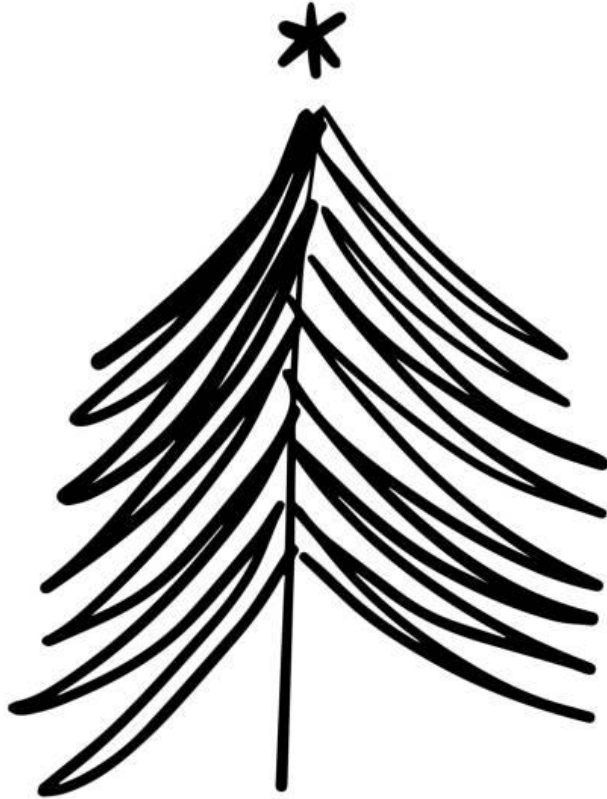
Saturday, January 13th 9:00 AM - Hope Clinic Bag lunch packing – All invited, plus workers will be treated to a brunch as well. A sign-up sheet is on the board in Fellowship Hall.

January through February: Presbytery Toilet Paper Drive (Individually wrapped)



The Deacon "Warming" Tree is in the narthex and ready to be decorated! Please consider trimming the tree with the following items:

Socks, Hats, Gloves, Mittens and Scarves
Charity TBD, if you have ideas, reach out to
Kathej Turnbull



Church Weekly Schedule

Sunday	9:45 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
12/17	10:30 AM	<i>Family Worship</i>
	11:30 AM	Congregational Meeting
	11:45 AM	<i>Fellowship Hour</i>
	12:15 PM	Adult Bible Study
Monday	6:00 PM	TOPS
12/18	6:30 PM	<i>Deacons</i>
Tuesday	6:45 & 8:15 AM	Prayer and Praise Call
12/19		202-926-1029 - access code 235645
	9:00 AM	<i>STARS</i>
Wednesday	11:00 PM	Fellowship Club Worship
12/20		
Thursday	9:30 AM	Thursday Morning Bible Study
12/21	5:55 PM	<i>Handbell Rehearsal</i>
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday	6:00 PM	Special Olympics Cheer
12/22		
Saturday	10:00 AM	Chanko Family Christmas
12/23		
Sunday	9:20 AM	Handbell Rehearsal
12/24	9:45 AM	<i>Chancel Choir Rehearsal</i>
	10:30 AM	Family Worship
		https://video.sttimothycusa.org
	11:30 AM	<i>Fellowship Hour</i>



The Advent of Our God

The Advent of our God

*With eager hearts we greet;
And we must praise Him in this hour
With hymns and anthems sweet.*

*All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free;
With Father, Spirit
Ever One Through all eternity.
Amen*

Of the Father's Love Begotten

*Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the Ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!*

*O ye heights of heav'n adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!*

*Christ, to Thee with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore!
Amen*

O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful

*O thou joyful, O thou wonderful
Grace revealing Christmas tide!
Jesus came to win us
From all sin within us;
Glorify the holy Child!*

*O thou joyful, O thou wonderful
Love revealing Christmas tide!
Loud hosannas singing
And all praises bringing:
May Thy love with us abide!*

*O thou joyful, O thou wonderful
Peace revealing Christmas tide!
Darkness disappeareth,
God's own light now neareth:
Peace and joy to all betide.*