

WELCOME TO:
FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
711 Seventh Ave (at 8th Street Bridge), Altoona, PA 16602
Ph: 814-943-0713
Website: www.FaithUCCAltoona.com
Email: faithuccaltoona@verizon.net

9:30 AM Adult Christian Education
10:45 AM Worship
Fellowship Hour Following Worship

Rev. John L. Emig
Pastor
814-244-1602



*No matter who YOU are or where YOU are on life's journey,
YOU are welcome here.*

*“Never place a period where God has placed a comma” --
Gracie Allen*



Our goal on this third Sunday of Advent is to have fellowship with our living Lord and with one another. Let our hands be extended to our fellow worshipers.

Christ Jesus didn't reject anyone neither do we. God Is Still Speaking.

Sunday, December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent – JOY

***Those who are able are invited to stand.**
BOLD print – congregation participates.
Hymns are in the New Century Hymnal unless otherwise indicated.

Come to earth, O tiny King, take away our sadness. At Your birth our hearts will sing, filled with hope and gladness! Come to earth, O tiny King, heaven's love descending. At Your birth our hearts will sing, filled with joy unending! Come to earth, O tiny King, among us dwelling. At Your birth our hearts will sing, Your salvation telling! Amen.

Organ chimes

Joys, Concerns, and Announcements

Greeting:

L: No matter who YOU are or where YOU are on life's journey,
P: YOU are welcome here!

Prelude

Lighting the Altar Candles



***Call to Worship**

L: My soul magnifies the Lord;

P: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

L: The Mighty One has done great things.

P: Holy is God's name!

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11: 2 – 11

Response: "Praise be to you, O Christ!"

Advent Wreath Ceremony

L: As we look to the great things that God has done for us, we remember:

P: The Spirit of the Divine Creator is in our very midst, restoring the fortunes of Zion, reclaiming our hearts that all may know joy.

L: As we cry out in a wilderness of blaring ads, frantic sales, and celebration that can feel hollow once we get home, we remember:

P: There is a deeper joy that has no price tag, and a baby boy who seeks to heal the deeper hurt, the real brokenness within and among us.

L: As we draw closer to the light of everlasting joy in this season, we remember and claim for our own lives:

P: The courage and spirit of John the Baptizer to testify to the light that is coming into the world, a beacon of joy for all those who are searching.

L: We light these candles as reminders of the joy of the Advent story, as well as the delight of retelling that story to others, that joy may abound all the more.

Candle Lighting: Candle of Joy

Prayer (In Unison):

Source of all light and love, as we anticipate the Light of the World, draw us more deeply to this Season of Advent. Draw our eyes toward the pleasant glow of a life that has depth and meaning. Draw our hearts out into the larger love that is Your way in the world. When we are discouraged by the brokenness around us, help us to claim joy daily, as those who are welcoming the Christ Child. We pray in the name of the One who is, Himself, good news of great joy for all the people. Amen.

***Hymn of Adoration: "The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore" #115**

***Call to Confession**

L: Old habits and new wrongs wear ruts through our lives and relationships.

P: But God is able to restore us. Like water coursing through a desert, the waters of baptism flow through us,

L: Reminding us that we belong to God and are raised to a new life.

***Confession (In Unison)**

Merciful God, You love justice; why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing and every form of evil? You have given us the gift of Your Spirit; why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us? You have given us the words of the prophets and the Word Himself; why, then, do we despise and ignore what we have heard from You? You have sent the light into the world; why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light? Forgive us. Restore us. Till and tend us as Your garden until righteousness and praise spring up, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

L: Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting.

Gloria (tune: Ville Du Havre)

“O God, speed the day that is filled with your light,
when clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall appear,
‘even so’ it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.”

Anthem: Of the Father’s Love Begotten – Divine Mysterium setting by
H. Hopson

First Lesson: Isaiah 35: 1 – 10

Psalter: Psalm 146: 5 – 10, page 719

***Hymn of Preparation: “With Joy Draw Water” #109**

SERMON

Morning Prayer: The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. AMEN.**

***Dedicatory Prayer (Unison)**

Thanks be to You, O God, maker of heaven and earth – giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and us these gifts we offer to further Your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Christ the Lord we pray. Amen.

***Hymn of Response: “We Hail You God’s Anointed” #104**

***Benediction**

***Masithi Page 760**

Postlude



Participating in Today's Service

YOU – the members and ministers in Christ's family

Music Director	Claire White
Lay Reader	Janice Lonsinger
Church Secretary	Christina Schmitt
Minister	Rev. John Emig

Attendance: 12 – 7 – 25 Sunday School: 8 Worship: 20

OUR STEWARDSHIP FOR December 7, 2025

Current	\$670.00
Plate	\$ 29.00
Sunday School	\$ 11.00
Flowers	\$ 40.00
TOTAL	\$750.00



Patty Shoup 12/16
Ethel Aurandt 12/11 –Happy belated
birthday!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sun., December 21st 9:30 AM Sunday School
 10:45 AM Worship

Christmas Caroling will be this Saturday afternoon singing carols to our homebound members. We will gather at the church at 2:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate.

Consistory will be held tomorrow evening at 6:00 PM.

Next Sunday, after worship, we will hold our Christmas Party.

Christmas Eve Worship will be held at 7:00 PM.

Please remember our tradition of giving “gifts to the church”. This season, we need paper towels, toilet bowl cleaner, and napkins. Thank you.

Would you like to donate a Memorial Tree to our Community Garden? We will be planting around 8 fruit trees with plaques costing around \$125 - \$150. Please speak with any of our Committee Members if you have any questions. Thank you.

Credit card/debit card slips are available.

The Flower Calendar for 2025 is available on the board above the water fountain.

Large-print Daily Bread devotionals are available in the narthex (hall). Please help yourself.

Don't forget to like us and follow us on Facebook

(www.facebook.com/faithuccaltoona) and subscribe to our YouTube channel (@faithuccaltoona).

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!! In an effort to keep our prayer list as up-to-date as possible, we request that you **personally notify the office** any time a name needs to be added or deleted from the list. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Friends and Neighbors needing our Prayers:

Richard Port

Gracie Raihl

Shawn Ellis Family (grieving)

Scott Weyer Family (grieving)

Rick Plowman

Vivian Fitzsimmons

Heather Guthrie

Nick Lonsinger

Janet Weyer

Baby Ridge

Dave Zimmerman

Lettie Allen

Dallas Webb

Peggy Mapes

Zach Lonsinger Family

Donna Skelley

Linda Hollen

Carol Marlett

Our sick and shut-ins



We offer up our prayers for any of our **church family** not listed here who may be in need.

Please pray for our men and women in the military.

