

*\*All who are able, please stand*

**Gathering Music & Lighting of Candles**

**Centering Silence & Prayer**

**Prelude**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**Words of Welcome**

This is the day that our God has made...  
*let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

**\*Call to Worship & Advent Candle Lighting**  
*We light God’s candles of hope and peace*

**\*Opening Song**

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace” #157

**Sharing God’s Peace**

**Preparing our Hearts**

**Reading**

“Psalm of an Emerging Emmanuel”

*Edward Hays*

**Special Music**

“I Wonder as I Wander” *John Jacob Niles*



**A Time of Offering, Opportunity & Blessing**



God is good . . . *all the time.* . .  
and all the time . . . *God is good!*

**Offertory** *Bill Staines*

*All God's critters got a place in the choir  
Some sing low, some sing higher  
Some sing out loud on the telephone wires  
And some just clap their hands, or paws,  
or anything they got now.*

**Children’s Time**

*Star Child, earth Child, go-between of God.  
Love Child, Christ Child, heaven’s lightning rod:  
This year, this year let the day arrive when  
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!*

**Bible Bits & Scripture**

Isaiah 11: 1-10 Matthew 3:1-12

**Sermon**

“Prepare the Way”

**Silent Reflection**

**Song of Response** 2x *Tom Fettke*

*You are the Light we see.  
You are the truth we know.  
You are the Life we live. You are the Hope.  
You are the Joy. You are the Song we sing.*

**Celebration of Holy Communion**

*This is Christ’s table and all are welcome. Please come forward  
by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. If you would like  
to remain seated, raise your hand and we will gladly come to*

**A Time of Prayer**

God In Your Grace . . . *Hear Our Prayers*

**\*The Prayer of Jesus**

*(as created by Riverside’s “Greatest Prayer” Study Group)*

*O Giver of all life,  
clear a space within us for your light to dwell.  
Create your holy reign of justice and love here  
today, on Earth, through our fiery hearts and  
willing hands. Give us the bread and strength we  
need for this day. Forgive us the harm that we do to  
all that you love, as we forgive those who harm us.  
And lead us not into numbness, distraction,  
or greed, but bring us back from our fears.  
For You are the source of all that is good and holy—  
now and forever. Amen.*

**\*Closing Song**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

#153

**\*Benediction**

**\*Congregational Response**

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord” *Godspell*

Rev. Vicky Stifter | Minister  
Katie Cook Youth Program Coordinator & Kristen Daly | Nursery Care Provider  
Tim Mayer | Pianist – Lydia Warren | Vocalist  
Sandy Spellecy, Alison Betzing & Nancy Johanson Paul | Diaconate  
The Callison Family | Lighting of the Advent Candles  
Ann Harris & Gail Lyon | Readers  
Kathryn Murray | Audio-Visual & Sound System  
Nancy Pavelnko & Elaine Thompson | Hospitality

**Welcome to Riverside Community Church**  
*United Church of Christ*

**GUESTS** We are blessed to worship with you today.  
Thank you for the gift of your presence. We invite you to fill out a “welcome card” and place it in the offering plate or give it to Pastor Vicky after the service.

**THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE**

**Today**

Children - Please join Katie Cook for Sunday School after Children's Time. Birth-Age 4 – Nursery care available in the Fireside Room from 10:15 AM – 12:00 PM.  
All are invited after worship for a time of coffee, & snacks in the Riverview Room.  
Wreath-making & church greening – All ages welcome.  
Final day for the Holiday Market!

**Wednesday**

Bible Study at Parkhurst 2:00 - 3:00 PM  
Meditation 3:30 PM  
Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM  
OWL at 6:45 PM

**Thursday**

Adult Ed & Spiritual Nurture Board meets | 8:30 AM.  
Cheers Team meets | 10:30 AM

**Friday**

Those of all ages are invited to an interfaith gathering for peace with justice in Palestine at 2<sup>nd</sup> & State Streets  
4:30– 5:00 PM.

**“SEEKING THE HEART OF CHRISTIANITY”**

Advent series 9:15-10:15 AM in the Ruth Wells Room.  
December 14 & 21. All are welcome.

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*United Church of Christ*

**WHO WE ARE**

We are a vibrant, Spirit-filled community following the ways of Jesus-loving our neighbors, seeking justice, and sharing God's extravagant welcome.

**OPEN AND AFFIRMING**

We fully embrace LGBTQ+ individuals in all aspects of church life and ministry.

**IMMIGRANT WELCOMING**

We stand in solidarity with our immigrant siblings, documented and undocumented.

**CARING FOR CREATION**

We divest from fossil fuels, invest in renewable energy, and strive to reduce our environmental impact.

**MINISTRIES & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Youth Ministry - Sunday School, teen GROUPS, and Our Whole Lives (OWL), a comprehensive human sexuality program. Contact: Katie Cook 541-980-0505 or [katie@riversideucc.com](mailto:katie@riversideucc.com)

**JUSTICE & WITNESS**

Engaging in advocacy & service  
Contact: Jeannie Chance 541-806-6648 [stjechance@gmail.com](mailto:stjechance@gmail.com)

**“CHEERS” CARE TEAM**

Providing meals and support during times of transition and challenge.  
Contact: Pastor Vicky 541-386-1412 [pastor@riversideucc.com](mailto:pastor@riversideucc.com)

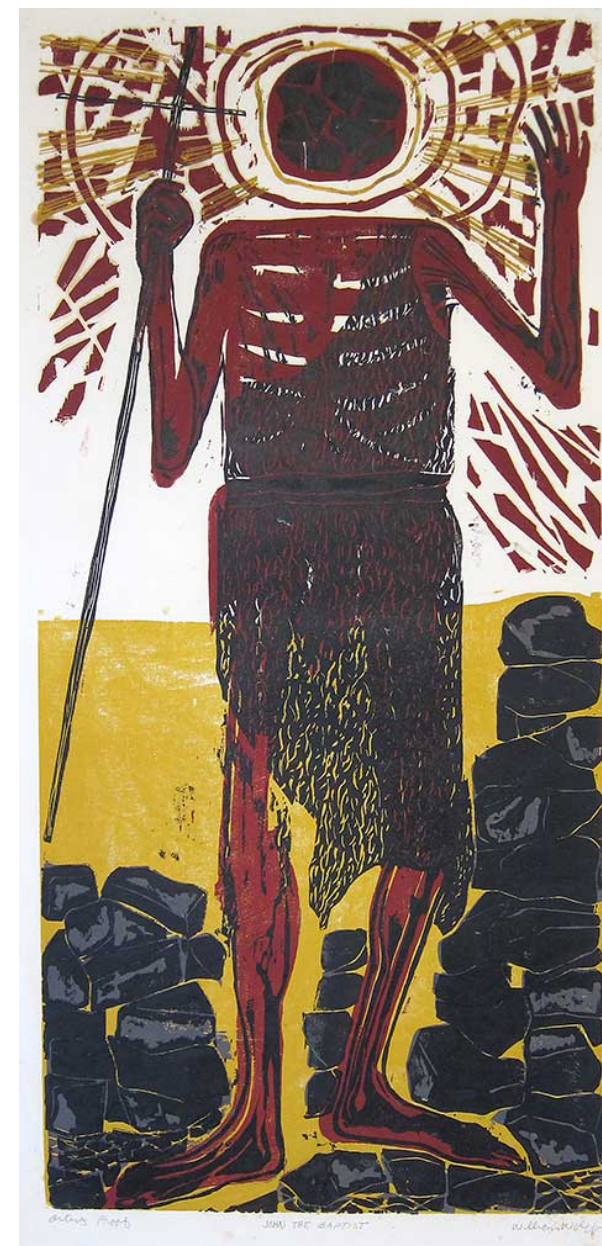
**CONNECT & GROW**

Men's Discussion Group  
Monthly Book Group  
Adult Education Classes  
Bible Study & Reflection

**STAY CONNECTED**

Weekly Newsletter, The Current  
Sign up at [kathy@hungerchronicles.com](mailto:kathy@hungerchronicles.com)  
Follow Us on Facebook - Riverside Community Church

Learn more about the United Church of Christ at [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)



*“John the Baptist” William Wolff*

**RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
*United Church of Christ*  
**December 7, 2025**  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT