Link for Zoom:

https://zoom.us/j/94327921872?pwd=a05walRGK1MxcTRab0pLWC9DeFViQT09

Meeting ID: 943 2792 1872

Password: 023012

To connect by phone, call (646)558-8656

When attempting to join our Sunday morning worship on Zoom, participants enter a "Waiting Room" and are allowed entrance only when recognized by a member of the UUC Tech Team. This means your Zoom login must have your name or some identifying information that we can recognize. "Zoom User" will not work!

Those joining us for worship on Zoom can present their tithes and offerings online through our website or by downloading the <u>Tithe.ly App</u> for your iPhone or Android device. You may also give using Venmo. Our Venmo "handle" is @UUCAlfred, but you can find us by searching for the name of the church, or you can scan this QR code to donate to UUC on Venmo:



UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH ORDER OF WORSHIP First Sunday of Christmas December 29, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

PRELUDE

Away in a Manger

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In a world where power often silences, **People**: We gather to hear the whisper of hope.

Leader: In a time when the vulnerable are displaced and overlooked, **People:** We remember a child born in a manger and carried to safety.

Leader: In the shadow of violence and fear,

People: We proclaim the light that shines in the darkness. Leader: Come, let us worship the God who dwells with us,

People: The God who carries our fragile hope and makes it strong.

* HYMN OF THE MONTH #212 Comfort, Comfort, O My People

PRAYER CONCERNS
PASTORAL PRAYER
SILENT PRAYER – LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

(Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary. You may also give directly through your bank, or online through Tith.ly or Venmo. Our Venmo "handle" is @UUCAlfred, but you can find us by searching for the name of the church or use the QR code on the back of the bulletin.

OFFERTORY

Good Christian Friends

*DOXOLOGY #71A & BLESSING

Praise God, the source of life and birth. Praise God, the Word who came to earth. Praise God the Spirit, holy Flame. All glory, honor to God's name.

*HYMN #269 Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:13-23 (pew Bible p.836)

MEDITATION Going Home by Antonin Dvorak

SERMON The Fragility of Hope

Rev Roberto Che Espinoza, PhD

* CLOSING HYMN #252 Go Tell It on the Mountain

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE # Congregation left: Soli deo gloria

Congregation right: Soli deo gloria

Congregation left: To God alone all glory be Congregation right: To God alone all glory be

All: Amen, amen, amen.

POSTLUDE Let There Be Peace on Earth

*Please stand as you are able.

Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the Church Center following worship

Accessibility

Accessible parking and **ramp access** to the Church is available in the parking lot on West University St. **Hearing assistance** and **large print hymnals** are available. Ask the Usher for a Hearing Assistance device. The Hymnals are located at the back of the Sanctuary.

Prayer Concerns

Ding Jiaxi & Family, Chang Weiping & Family, Clayton Stutzman, Hugh Langelier, Wes Bentz, Lowin, Michelle Garcia Escobar, Vangelia Perryman, Esther & Marcus Epps, Kenneth Williams, Bob & Deb Lewis, Steve Crandall, Bob Condrate, the Burdick family, Joan & Brad Bowden, Chrystal Dodge, Vaughn Mussmon (Joan Schulze' niece's youngest son), Sally Hopkins, Mary-Lou & Jerry Cartledge.

Serving Today

| Lay Leader | Lana Meissner |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Flowers | Lana Meissner |
| Greeter(s) | Regina Burke |
| Coffee Hour | Anna McHale |
| Piano | Peter O'Connor |
| Usher | Dave Porter |
| Zoom Hosts | Iim Ninos |
| 200111 110363 | JIII 1 V IIIO3 |
| | ad—Pew Communion |
| | ad—Pew Communion |
| Looking Ahea | ad—Pew CommunionLana Meissner |
| Looking Ahea | ad—Pew CommunionLana MeissnerLana Meissner |
| Lay Leader | Lana MeissnerLana Meissnerthe Schulzes |

Usher.......John Meacham Zoom HostsJim Ninos

<u>December Leadership</u>: <u>Elder</u>:-Cathy Rees, <u>Trustee</u>-Michele Hluchy, <u>Deacon</u> -Erin Law, <u>Fellowship</u>-Cindy Tucker, <u>Christian Ed</u>-Deb Stephens.

<u>December Mission of the Month</u> Christmas Boxes/Fund for Local Relief

While the Christmas Boxes, turkeys and hams have been distributed, please remember that the Elders decided, with the agreement of Melissa Jusianiec (Christmas Box coordinator) that money's over and above what was needed for the purchase of turkeys or other items needed for the Christmas boxes go into a "Fund for Local Relief." If you wish to donate money to that fund please be sure to put a memo to that effect on your donation.

Make checks payable to UUC with Journey's End on the memo line or use the QR code.



Collection of Items for the Allegany County Unhoused

The UUC Board of Elders has agreed to help collect items for the unhoused in our county in cooperation with the Allegany Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (ACASA) and the Allegany County Democratic Committee. A collection bin is in the foyer of the Church Center until Jan 17. Local collection bins will also be placed at the Alfred Pharmacy, Box of Books Library, and AU Alumni Hall. High priority needs include the following **new items**:

Sweats (L and XL tops and bottoms) Hairbrushes
Long winter underwear Deodorant
Winter socks Aquaphor
Waterproof heavy gloves Blistex SPF 15
New hats and scarves Gatorade

Hand & foot warmers Listerine (alcohol free)

Cheese and cracker packets Wet-ones

Ouchless hair elastics

Financial Update:

As an independent church, not affiliated with any denomination, UUC is funded entirely by individual members and donors. We need a steady stream of financial support and volunteers to enable us to pay salaries and utilities and to help maintain our facilities and programs.

Operating Income is running behind budget by about 29%

Income through November 30: \$61,189.00

Income needed through November 30 to make budget: \$86,430.00



The Union University Church is a community of people from diverse religious backgrounds who seek to experience the breadth of God and through our unity to serve Christ always. We honor the image of God in all persons and seek to recognize the distinct and unique ways we each come to be human through relations with others.

212 Comfort, Comfort, O My People



- 1 Com fort, com fort, O my peo ple, speak of peace, now says our God.
- 2 Hark, the voice of one who's cry-ing in the des ert far and near,
- 3 O make straight what long was crook-ed, make the rough er plac es plain.

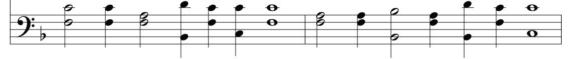




Com-fort those who sit in shad-ows, mourn-ing 'neath their sor-rows' load. bid - ding all to full re-pen-tance, since the king-dom now is here. Let your hearts be true and hum-ble, as be - fits a ho - ly reign.



Speak un - to Jer - u - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them. that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way! For glo - ry of our God now o'er earth is shed a-broad.





Tell of all the sins I cov-er, and that war-fare now is o - ver. Val-leys, rise in ex-al-ta-tion; hills, bow down in ad-o-ra-tion. And all flesh shall see the to-ken that God's word is nev-er bro-ken.



Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.

Text: based on Isaiah 40:1–5; Johannes Olearius (present-day Germany), "Tröstet, tröstet, meine Lieben," Geistliche Singe-Kunst, 1671; trans. Catherine Winkworth (England), Chorale Book for England, 1863, alt.

Music: Louis Bourgeois (present-day France), Genevan Psalter, Octante Trois Pseaumes de David, 1551; harm. adapt. from Claude Goudimel (present-day France), 150 Pseaumes de David, 1564

269 Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

ERMUNTRE DICH 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7





252 Go Tell It on the Mountain

