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

UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH

November 29 2026

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning after some time away, we're delighted you're here. Please stop at the back of the church after worship to receive a welcome packet and learn more about our church community.
***** Please stand as you are able

God Invites Us to Worship

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Luanne Crosby, Michele Hluchy
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

We Offer Prayers and Praise

TIME FOR THE YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART

Why a Wreath?

We Light the First Candle of the Advent Wreath

Advent begins in the dark. We are waiting in eagerness as each week the light grows.
We know Jesus is coming and that he is the Light of the world.
When God comes to us, we have a choice. Will we accept Christ's coming?
If we do, it changes everything.
We light this candle as a prayer and symbol of opening our hearts in acceptance to God's Love.
Arise shine! for our Light has come!

We Light the first candle

ADVENT SONG *Sing twice*
While we are waiting, come!
While we are waiting, come!
Jesus, our Lord, Immanuel,
While we are waiting, come!

PRAYER FOR GOD'S SPIRIT

*** HYMN Arise, Your Light Is Come # 123**

God Offers Grace that Abounds

WE CONFESS

GOD'S GRACE IS DECLARED
Through Christ, God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us for the forgiveness of sins. In Christ we are forgiven!
Thanks be to you, O Christ!

God Comes to Us Through the Spirit

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE **Luke 1: 26-38** *A Dramatic Reading*
Narrator, Lana Meissner
Angel, Melissa Jusianiec
Mary, Isabel Jusianiec

MESSAGE **The Pre- Advent Mystery**
Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan

We Respond to God's Love with Our Lives

*** CAROL The Angel Gabriel Called Mary Blessed # 221**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
We Remember: Kathleen Bohlen, Luanne's friend, struggling with cancer; Mary Perkin's family & healing for Cuylen; Joan Schulze's niece, Marnie Johnson; our friends Ramin & JoJo.

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERTORY *Bev Snyder*
Sweet Hour of Prayer

*** DOXOLOGY**
Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, ONE.

DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

God Goes with Us into the World

*** CLOSING HYMN**
O Come, O Come, Immanuel # 210 (vs 1, 6,7)

*** GOD'S LOVING BLESSING**

*** BENEDICTION RESPONSE**
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

POSTLUDE

**** Please stand as you are able***

Please stay for the Hanging of the Greens immediately following worship. Help is needed in the Sanctuary & the Church Center.

Serving Today: Greeter, Bob Heineman; **Lay Leader,** Lana Meissner; **Usher,** Porters; **Music,** Luanne Crosby; **Coffee Hour,** Hanging of the Greens; **Zoom,** Jim Ninos**.**

Serving Next Week, December 6: Greeter, Hope Briggs**; Lay Leader,** Nancy Evangelista**; Coffee Hour,** Diaconate**; Music,** Marc Smithers; **Zoom,** Jim Ninos.

Prayer Concerns: **Please keep these church members and friends in your prayers**
Ding Jiaxi & Family, Wes Bentz, Lowin, Michelle Garcia Escobar, Esther & Marcus Epps, Joan & Brad Bowden, Steve Crandall, Luanne Crosby's friend, Kathy Bohlen (cancer), Joan Schulze's niece, Marnie Johnson, the Schulze's brother-in-law, Lee Richie, Karrie Edwards, Dick Lang, Lynn Tucker, Mary Perkins family and healing for Cuylen.

November Benevolence of the Month

Journey's End Refugee Services - Welcoming with Open Arms The mission of Journey's End is to support the transition, integration, and long-term success of refugees and immigrants.

Winter Clothing Collection for Clara's Closet

Clara's Closet in Buffalo provides new or gently used coats, hats, & gloves to refugee and low-income men, women, and children in the Buffalo area. Please bring items to the Church Center where you will find donation boxes.

Holiday Luncheon

The holiday luncheon is scheduled for December 11 from 11:30 to 1:00. We will have a presale of plants to enjoy or give away to friends or all the facilities we send our plants to. We will also sell these plants during the day of our luncheon and offer baked goods and sweet treats for sale. This year we will have anthuriums for sale. Also known as flamingo flower, these lilies represent hospitality.
Jan Porter will be contacting our artistic Gretchen to create certificates to buy and give away. More details will be forthcoming as soon as we lock in more details about plants. Jan will be contacting you as workers, contributors of soups or pies, and as a crew for set up and clean up. She truly appreciates all that everyone gives to this event, our only fundraising activity.

Christmas Boxes

Melissa Jusianiec has already recruited sponsors for families receiving boxes. If you are providing the gift and food items for a family, this might be your benevolence donation. Each box also includes a turkey or ham, so monetary donations are needed to fund this expense. Home-baked cookies are also included in each Christmas box; **the deadline for cookies is December 13th.**

Food Pantry Cookies

Cookies for the Food Pantry will be packed on Dec. 17. Donations may be left in the church kitchen in labeled containers.

