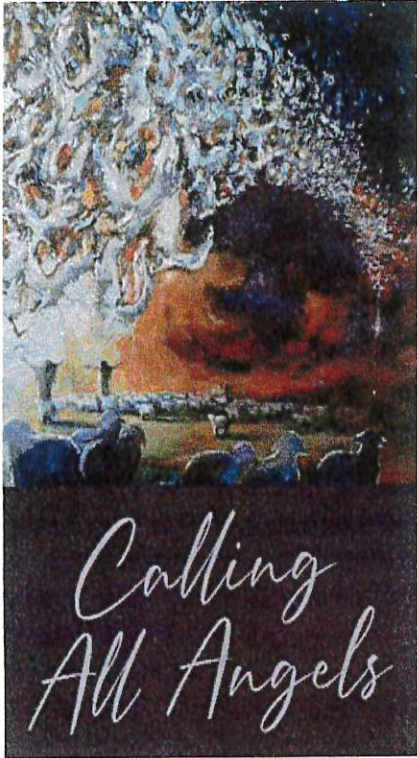




WELCOMING AND ACCEPTING ALL PEOPLE ALONG A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND SERVICE.

“Welcoming and accepting all people” – is a reminder of our Welcome Statement and genuine hospitality, in the present tense so it is always relevant. “along” – is an invitation to join together side by side. “*journey of faith*” – implies that arrival is a myth; we are always growing “*service*” – is a natural outcome of faith and inseparable from our commitment to discipleship.

ADVENT 2024



“Do not be afraid” is the most frequently repeated message in Scripture, appearing at least 365 times from Genesis to Revelation. The message must be important! Clearly faith cannot thrive when fear is in charge. Maybe that’s why some of the most awe-inspiring expressions of this message appear in the Gospel stories leading up to Jesus’ birth. Angelic beings appear several times preceding the nativity story to those who are awaiting this blessed event – whether they know it or not yet – and each time, the angels bear the same memo: do not be afraid. The primary origin story of our faith insists and relies on this compelling refrain: let go of your fear, and amazing things will follow.

During our Advent season in worship this year we will listen to the messages delivered from four angelic beings in the nativity stories and sit with the transformative power of their call to leave fear behind and forge on in faith. Our resource is a study written by Rev. Erin Wathen (United Church of Christ pastor in Louisville, Kentucky) entitled, *Calling All Angels: an advent study of fearlessness and strength*. In addition to morning worship, the adult faith formation class will utilize the material at 9:30AM weekly for further reflection and study.

Sundays in December

We hope you will join us in worship for this timely message of hope on the following Sundays:

- Dec. 1** Scripture Reading: Luke 1:5-25
“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent”
- Dec. 8** Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38
“Call and Response”
- Dec. 15** Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25
“The Hopes and Fears of All the Years”
- Dec. 22** Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20
“Sacred Disruptions”
- Dec. 29** Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:13-15
“Escape to Egypt”

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

December 11th @ 5 PM

Chili and cornbread will be served. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity; whether it be giving your time, giving suggestions, providing donations, etc., we will happily accept. Please contact Daniell Sanders, phone number 417-396-9519.

INTERFAITH COOKING CIRCLE

Interfaith Cooking Circle will meet on Sunday, December 22 at 2:15pm at the Islamic Society of Joplin.

CROSSLINES MINISTRIES

December Challenge is:
Canned Pasta
No volunteer day due to holiday

We collected 40 baby wipes in November and Country Quilters donated 229lbs of food!
Thank you for your faithful support of Crosslines!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sojourners Christian Church will meet for **worship at 5PM** of Lessons and Carols and Communion. Following the service there will be a **light meal** hosted by the Cullumbers. They will serve taco soup with fixings and cheese tortellini soup with crackers as a vegetarian option. Table service will be provided. While open to all, we hope RSVPs will be made to either Shari at 317-408-2384 or to Jim at 317-695-8267, so we have plenty of soup and tables. We welcome others to pitch in with finger sandwiches, cheese or fruit trays, or cookies, though this is not required. It would be helpful to us if reservations were in by Dec 22nd. Peace Lutheran Church will have their service at 6:30PM and we are always welcome to attend their service.

CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE



EAST PEACE (CMEP) is a coalition of more than 30 national Church communions and organizations (including Disciples through

Global Ministries) working to encourage US policies that actively promote a comprehensive resolution to conflicts in the Middle East with a focus on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. CMEP works to mobilize US Christians to embrace a holistic perspective and to be advocates of equality, human rights, security, and justice for Israelis, Palestinians, and all people of the Middle East.

If you are interested in supporting the work of CMEP, go to cmeop.org/donate or mail your check to Churches for Middle East Peace, 110 Maryland Ave., NE #505, Washington, DC 20002.

**NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, MEAL AND CAROLING
December 15th @ Noon**

Our annual congregational meeting to approve the budget and elect leadership for the coming year will be held following worship on Sunday, December 15, followed by our monthly fellowship potluck and caroling party.

Suggested food list for Soup and Sandwiches, Sunday Dec 15.

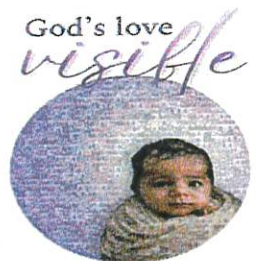
Soup--C, D-G

Sandwiches--H-P, Q-V

Desserts--W, A-B

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

We will receive a special offering on December 15 and 22 to support the ministries of our region, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America. We are staffed at the region by four team ministers: Paul Koch, Ron Routledge, Phil Snider and David Woodard. CCMA's mission is to resource and support congregations, individually and collectively, as they seek to be more faithful, effective, and sustainable in the mission to which God calls us. Your contributions to the CCMA region will be greatly appreciated.



2024 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

HOLIDAY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

- We will be joining with Peace Lutheran Church to collect mittens and scarves, hats, and warm socks for Bright Futures this December. Your donations may be brought to the church and pinned on the tree in the welcome area during the month of December.
- The Outreach Ministry Team will be providing a meal for MSSU students who are housed in the dorms without food service during the winter break. The meal will be provided on January 2 or 3 and will require that we take the prepared food to campus along with eating utensils and return to the church to do any necessary clean up. If you would like to donate or help with this effort, contact Pastor Colleen or Megan Bever, phone number 765-210-5046.
- Peace Lutheran Church is hosting a **Longest Night: Winter Solstice** evening prayer worship service (songs, readings, and prayers oriented toward Advent and Christmas) along with some fellowship time where people may bring whatever food they consider easy to share: Christmas cookies, chips, crockpot meatballs, cheese tray, etc. on Friday, December 20. Time tbd.

Prayer Requests

Joys: Baby Ezra Xavier Deleon (Wolfenbarger); Baby Patrick (Karen McKenzie's grandson)

Medical: Doug Duncan; Lisa Wise; Matt Paige (Coit); Terry Plossl

Sympathy: Charlyn Hubbard; John Ballard (Foster); John Havens (Nicodemus); Kelli Blanton (Davenport/Plossl)

Military:

Michael Crofford; Corey Irwin; Josh Robb; Gary Wald

Ongoing:

Connie Abraham; Dave Gilmore (Ratliff); Debi Lorenz; John Asher; Carol Bach; Judy Ballard; Kittie Blankenship; Gloria Brady (Abraham); Dayton and Daislee Cohen; Timicia Curtis; Lois Demaree; Bailee Evans; Margie Fitterling; Kyle Ford (Wolfenbarger); Alyxis Hefty; Darius Hughlett (Wilson); Daryl Hughlett; Roland Hughlett; Bethany James; James Knudtson; Lamley Family; Shirley Martin; Brett McCreary; Sara Metts; Missionary families (Huff, Reaves, Wilson); Arlene Nash; Nancy Nauser (Fitterling); Bethany Newman; Jim Owen; Matthew Paulda; Josh Petty; Reese Prater; Todd Prater; Cameron Ransom; Nancy Righthouse; Jayne Sanders; Sue Smith; Lou Starks; Connie Sullivan; Mike Tesh; Roger Traver; Michelle Vorhees; Michael Wallace (Randall); Tova Wallace-Lee; Karen Patchin Watson; Birdie Woods; Mary Lou York, and all unspoken requests.

Other: Colby Kluthe; AOA search

Global Ministries Focus:

December 1	Turkey
December 8	Honduras
December 15	Hong Kong
December 22	Afghanistan
December 29	Middle East Region



RESPONSIBILITIES

Elders

December 1	Ellen Broglio
December 8	Patt Hinds
December 15	Mike Fitterling
December 22	Jim Cullumber
December 29	Leanna Carrol

Diaconate

December 1	Communion Prep—Jessica Fletcher-Fierro & Sherry Crumbliss Homebound—Susan Wolfenbarger
December 8	Communion Prep—Les Davenport & Sherry Crumbliss Homebound—Tom Hamm
December 15	Communion Prep—Carolyn Theil & Judy Akeman Homebound—Don Smith
December 22	Communion Prep—Megan Bever & Susan Wolfenbarger Homebound—Tom Wheeler
December 24	Communion Prep—Connie Abraham & Sherry Crumbliss
December 29	Communion Prep—Connie Abraham & Sherry Crumbliss

Camera & Sound

December 1	Sandy Meadows & Darryl Coit
December 8	Judy Schneider & Don Smith
December 15	Jennifer Reaves & Ken Moser
December 22	Judy Schneider & Ray Reaves
December 24	Jennifer Reaves & Ken Moser
December 29	Sandy Meadows & Don Smith

Kid's Church Preschool thru 6th Grades

December 1	Robb Jones & Kayci Evans
December 8	Abi Jones & Mike Fitterling
December 15	Children in Family Worship
December 22	Karen McKenzie & Jessica Fletcher-Fierro
December 29	Karen Kemp & James Knudston

Children Worship & Wonder

December 1	Karen Kemp & Judy Schneider
December 8	Karen Fitterling & Taylor Reaves
December 15	Children in Family Worship
December 22	Laney Reaves & Taylor Reaves
December 29	Children in Family Worship

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

2 Spencer Cullumber
2 Will Delehanty
2 Shirley Martin
13 Timicia Curtis
16 Briar Jones
20 Alecia Ratliff
24 Susan Wolfenbarger
30 Leanna Carrol
30 Kayci Evans

Anniversaries

18 Mike & Margie Fitterling

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 am Adult Faith Formation 10:20 am Fellowship 12 pm Finish Advent Decorating 10:45 am Worship/CW&W/Kid's Church	2	3 5:30 pm WW 6:30pm Worship Mtg. @ Theil home	4 9:30 am CWF 6 pm Choir	5	6	7
8 8am Elders 9:30 am Adult Faith Formation 10:20 am Fellowship 10:45 am Worship/CW&W/Kid's Church 4 pm-6 pm Family Connection	9	10 5:30 pm WW 6:30 pm In-person Board Mtg.	11 5pm Fellowship Meal 6 pm Choir	12	13	14
15 Christmas Offering #1 9:30 am Adult Faith Formation 10:15 am Kids Bells 10:20 am Fellowship 10:20 am PLC WGS Mtg. 10:45 am Worship Noon (after worship) Congregational Mtg. Potluck & Caroling 4 pm - 6 pm Family Connection	16	17 9 am - 4 pm Quilters 5:30 pm WW	18 6 pm Choir	19	20 Longest Night - PLC	21
22 Christmas Offering #2 8 am Elders 9:30 am Adult Faith Formation 10:20 am Fellowship 10:20 am PLC Council Mtg. 10:45 am Worship/CW&W/Kid's Church 2:15 pm Interfaith Cooking Circle (ISJ) 4 pm - 6 pm Family Connection	23	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 5 pm Christmas Eve Service (Sojourners) 6 pm Fellowship Meal 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service (PLC)	25 Christmas Office Closed	26	27	28
29 10:45 am Worship 4 pm - 6 pm Family Connection	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3	4

All activities at Sojourners Christian Church unless specified otherwise.

Our new website address is: www.sojournerschristianchurch.org