NATRONA HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Richard Harbaugh Order of Worship, Sunday, December 24, 2023, 10 AM

"There was no room for them in the inn: This happened in a public place, with other travelers and residents. 'Men were trafficking, and little children playing, and women gossiping beside the well – and lo! The kingdom of heaven was among them.'"

-Morrison

GATHERING TO WORSHIP THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PRELUDE – red hymnal #135

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – The Goldberg Family

Today we relight the green candle of creation which represents life. We relight the violet candle of the incarnation which represents royalty. We relight the red candle of the crucifixion which represents sacrifice. Now we light the blue candle of the resurrection which represents eternal life—the life we have through the coming of, the death of and the raising of God's son, Jesus Christ.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are always looking for evidence that God is with us.

PEOPLE: THAT SIGN IS IN THE ONE TO COME—THE ONE THAT GOD IS SENDING.

Leader: We want to know for sure that everything is in God's care.

PEOPLE: AND SO WE CRY TO THE HEAVENS IN OUR DISTRESS. OUR CRIES ARE

HEARD! GOD IS RESPONDING IN LOVE AND HOPE.

Leader: Let us come before God with expectant hearts and spirits!

PEOPLE: LET US BE READY TO RECEIVE THE BLESSED GIFT OF THE SAVIOR. AMEN.

*PROCLAIMING PRAISE AND WORSHIP

"Good Christian Men Rejoice"
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*THE TIME OF CHRISTIAN GREETING

THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

DEDICATION

THE RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

(Please pass the friendship pads down the pew. We invite all to sign names and write down contact info. Please pass the book back to the middle aisle when you're finished. Thanks!)

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY – Roy and Ross Nelson

"What Child Is This?"

*THE DOXOLOGY

*THE OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE WORD

THE SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-20

THEME "Christmas Memories"

CHRISTMAS MEMORY #1 – Rick Harbaugh

THE CHRISTMAS HYMN #1 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" No. 131 (vs. 1)

CHRISTMAS MEMORY #2 – Marcy Korb

THE CHRISTMAS HYMN #2 "The First Noel" No. 136 (vs. 1)

CHRISTMAS MEMORY #3 – Deb Lehew

THE CHRISTMAS HYMN #3 "Angels We Have Heard on High" No. 132 (vs. 1)

SCATTERING TO SERVE OUR RISEN SAVIOR

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Emmanuel" No. 134

THE POSTLUDE – red hymnal #164

"One Small Child"

*Please stand if you are able	
"That there was no room in the inn	was symbolic of what was to happen to Jesus. The
only place where there was r	oom for him was on a cross." —Barclay
PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:	
-Pianist: Margie Shoop	-Praise Band Leader: Kevin Rudolph
-Online Filming: Marcy Korb	-Sound & Production: Ed Heintz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church, and thank you for joining us as we worship on the fourth Sunday of this Advent season.

THE BULLETIN COVER was created by Jesse Ankney, a member of youth group.

LIGHTING OUR ADVENT CANDLES this week is the Goldberg family. Jen is in her 30th year at Highlands, where she is the district's Communications Coordinator. She volunteers in our church nursery and is also a member of our Weekday Nursery School Board. Dan is the East/Central U.S. Sales Manager for Syntech Systems/Fuelmaster. They have two sons. Braden will graduate in May 2024 from his 5-year program in Architectural Engineering at Penn State and will be working for a national construction company in Pittsburgh. Carson is a senior at Highlands High School, and he committed to Pitt Greensburg to continue his academic and baseball career next fall. Thank you for lighting our candles this morning!

PLEASE NOTE: Children's Church will NOT be held today and the Church Nursery will also be closed, so all of our volunteers can attend worship with their families. Thank you!

GIVE A GIFT FROM THE HEART this holiday season! "A gift is pure when it is given from the heart to the right person at the right time and at the right place, and when we expect nothing in return." Your gift doesn't have to be from a store, it can come directly from your heart.

A DIVINE CHRISTMAS GHOST STORY's third book has just been released. The first three books of the six titles in the holiday series can be ordered through the church office. These books, written by Rev. Cam Malcolm, are similar in genre to Charles Dickens' *Christmas Carol*. Also, copies of Cam's book "Mary Magdalene: New Testament Eve" can be ordered through the church office. All four books can be purchased for \$19.95 apiece.

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS are held on Sunday evenings for those in 5th through 12th grades. If you have any questions, please contact Toni Brooks at 724-766-1950.

- 12/24 & 12/31 No Youth Group—Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
- 1/07 Regular Meeting
- 1/12-15 Youth Group Retreat
- 1/14 No Youth Group

THERE ARE NO BIBLE BUNCH or Middle School After-School Youth Group meetings on Thursday, December 28th. Meetings will resume on Thursday, January 4th, 2024.

THERE IS NO INFORMAL Service on Thursday, December 28th.

ALL DONATIONS FOR 2023 must be received by the office no later than Sunday, December 31st. Any donations received after this date will be credited to your 2024 statement. Thank you for your understanding.

THE 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE ON THE TABLES IN THE NARTHEX. If your envelopes are missing, or you would like to start receiving them, please contact the office at 724-224-7338 or nhpcsecretary@aol.com.

YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER - MARIANNA'S HOAGIES & PIZZAS: You again have an opportunity to bless *two* ministries in the church with *one* fundraiser. First the proceeds of your purchase will go to help our youth to be able to help pay for their portion of retreat and activity fees. And secondly you can purchase additional hoagies to donate to the Women's Conference *This is Us...Armed with Praise* that will be held on January 27th. We provide a soup and sandwich lunch and these will be our sandwiches. The cost for hoagies and pizzas are \$10. Orders and money are due 1/7/24. Pick up will be 1/24/24 10:00am-10:30am and 5pm-5:30pm. There is an order form in the narthex or you can email Toni at nhpcyg@yahoo.com with your order and for Venmo or Zelle payment options. Thank you for your support of our ministries here at NHPC!

JOIN US IN PRAISING OUR GREAT GOD! This year we are going to arm ourselves with the power of praise. Come expecting to experience the presence of God and the love of Christ that is palpable in the presence of your sisters in Christ at the *This Is Us* Women's Conference January 27th,



2024. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/this-is-usarmed-with-praise-registration-684794868887?aff=oddtdtcreator

COMING UP: Sunday, December 24th – 10 AM Worship; 7 PM Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 28th – No Informal Service Saturday, January 27th – Women's Conference

CLERK OF SESSION: Deb Lehew - 724-664-1256

ELDERS: -Donna Crowe - 724-882-5003 -Kevin Gourley - 724-596-2169

-Doug Deemer – 412-335-0185 -Marcy Korb – 412-334-1173 -Chad Gourley – 412-443-0682 -Jack Miller – 724-272-4787

WEEKLY FINANCIAL BUDGET TO RECEIPTS:

 DATE
 NEEDED
 RECEIPTS

 Dec. 10
 \$ 3,486.59
 \$ 1,407.80

SCAN THE QR CODE to make a donation from your phone!



WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS: DECEMBER 24 – DECEMBER 31

*The Church Office will be closed this week. However, if you have an immediate need please call 724-224-7338, as we will be answering the phone during the week.

TODAY:

10:00AM – Worship Service

7:00PM – Christmas Eve Service

NEXT SUNDAY, December 31ST:

10:00AM – Worship Service