



Pendleton Center
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Real Love. Real Hope.

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December 21 & 22, 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love

CURRENT SERMON SERIES



We are so often focused on the destination in our travels. “Where are you going?” is the most common question upon hearing that someone is heading out of town. This Advent season, we will pay attention not just to the destination of Christmas, but also to the places where events occurred that led to a starry night on which a child was born who would change the world. And we will ponder our own milestones—the progress and the potholes “on the way.”

WELCOME!

Whether this is your first time watching or you’re a member of our church family, we desire to welcome you and offer the opportunity for you to engage in worship and teachings from the Word of God.

If you’re new to Pendleton Center or need to update your info, please fill out a [Friendship Card](#). This helps us keep connected with you and let’s us know you were watching online with us today.

To learn more about our church, visit pendletonchurch.org.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

Centering Song

Opening Prayer & Advent Candle Lighting

Passing of the Peace

Opening Music

Offertory

Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading: *John 1:1-14*

Sermon: *"Bethlehem: A Place of Humility"* - Pastor Scott Johnson

Communion

Closing Song

Benediction

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please lift these people and circumstances to God in your prayers throughout the week

Prayer for Healing: Fran, Christa, Jeanne D, Barbara R, Larry, Jenna, Barb, Nancy, Wayne, Beverly S, Sue, Tom, Jan H

General Prayer Concerns: Dennis, Family, Finances, Health and wellness during the changing seasons, People's acceptance of difference

Ongoing Concerns: John B, Sherry L, Gary N, Those with cancer, Our church, Our country, Young drivers, Bless PCUMC, Peace in world

Random Prayer Selection: Dustin & Jacquie Weeks, Chris & Terri Krystofik, Dan & Yvonne Vivian, Michael & Christa Durshordwe, Dave & Sue Stout, Nicholas & April Goodrich, John & Amanda Hawkins, Joe & Bea Mattina, Dave & Sue Lester

Please be in prayer for these randomly selected names and those close to them.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

This Week's Birthdays

- 21 - Natalie Hilts
- 22 - Janis Fey, Bob Pusch, Jennifer Seegar
- 23 - Doug Gillon, Nancy Riexinger, Vienna Volpe
- 24 - Peggy Lockwood
- 25 - Richard Fischer, Brad Paxton
- 26 - Luke Anderson, Shawn Michalski
- 27 - Len Thornton
- 28 - Robyn Wagner

This Week's Anniversaries

- 27 - Wes & Susan Terry - '75
- 28 - Tom & Becky Heideman - '04, David & Julie O'Neill - '85

Bulletins and communion elements are sponsored by Sherry Waild, "In honor of Waneta Cunningham, Sandra Ponivar, and Dawn Noonan."

Please consider sponsoring our worship elements by signing up in the back of the sanctuary or at pendletonchurch.org/worship-sponsor. Leave a message or sponsor anonymously.

Mission Moment: Christmas

This week's Christmas Mission Moment is a general fund to support our missions at PCUMC. You can give by designating towards "Today's Mission Moment" on your giving envelope or by adding "Christmas" to your gift online at pendletonchurch.org/give.

Christmas Poinsettias Orders Due Today

Help decorate our sanctuary for Christmas Eve and take after to enjoy at home! Envelopes available in the back of the sanctuary or pendletonchurch.org/flowers.

The Wandering Wisemen

This advent season, enjoy the illustrated story of Gaspar, Melchior, Balthazar, and Hezekiah as they travel afar in search of the Christ child. Read how the Magi from the East, and their faithful camel, face daily adventures along the way to Bethlehem. Follow "[The Wandering Wisemen](#)" Facebook page or go to the link on the [PCUMC Facebook page](#). *Produced by Amy Folby and Hannah (Folby) McFarlin.*

Feeding Hope

Wednesday, January 8, 3:00 PM

We start the new year with a pasta dinner. We're looking for donations of penne pasta, spaghetti sauce, plastic forks (only), and sandwich bags. We start cooking in the church kitchen at 3:00 PM and leave to go downtown Buffalo at 6:30 to hand out the meals. A helping hand is always needed to at least make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Come join us - either to help cook, go downtown, or both.

Sandy Houck

Coats for the Cold

As we usually do after Christmas, we would like to gather up any gently used cold weather gear for those in our area who might be in need of warm clothing! Coats, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, ear muffs, and even heavy socks and boots will be collected during the month of January and taken to our sponsored clothing closet in Niagara Falls and distributed to the guests attending the Thursday Night Dinner. Thanks for your help!

DJ Mahar

Winter Youth Retreat

January 24-26 at Camp Findley

Our annual Youth Retreat is just around the corner, and our team has been working hard to plan an incredible weekend together. We are thrilled for an amazing, fun-filled weekend at Camp Findley! The retreat will be packed with fellowship, games, and snow tubing, all while we learn about God and grow in our relationships with Him and each other.

Sign up today at pendletonchurch.org/youth and for more information. The retreat will cost \$185 per person, which covers food, lodging, and snow tubing. Please submit your signed permission slip and payment by Sunday, January 19.

We look forward to sharing this memorable experience with all of you!

Adrienne Demmin

Youth Retreat Sponsors

We understand that some families may find the retreat cost difficult to pay, and we are looking for sponsors to help cover their expenses. Any contribution, whether a full scholarship or a smaller amount, will be gratefully accepted and appreciated. Select "Youth Retreat Scholarship" at pendletonchurch.org/give or mark it on your giving envelope. Thank you for supporting our youth! *Adrienne Demmin*

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Update

What a blessing it has been! Thank you so much to everyone who stayed after service to help pack the cartons. In total, 1,158 shoeboxes made their way to Eastern Hills church. A little more than 600 came from the PCUMC congregation! There was a bit of a decrease from last year (1,342, so 184 fewer) that came in, but don't be discouraged. A new drop-off location started this year a little north of us, so many places dropped off to them instead. A total of 16,902 shoeboxes were sent to the processing center from the Western New York area, that's a 10.5% increase! (The count for shoeboxes made online from our area is not available yet.) To God be the glory! Thank you!

Anna Smith



Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 & 11:00 PM

Join us for our special Christmas Eve services as we gather to rejoice in the birth of Christ, listen to the Word, and sing Christmas carols and Silent Night by candlelight.

Live stream & Jr. Church will be available at 7:00 PM.

UPCOMING EVENTS

More information about these events can be found at pendletonchurch.org.

BIBLE STUDIES & DEVOTIONS

Adult Sunday School

Sundays, 10:30a, Connection Room 3

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sundays, 10:30a, Connection Room 2

Closer Walk Wednesdays

Wednesdays, 12p, on Facebook

Thursday Bible Study

Thursdays, 11a & 7p, Connection Room 1

Loyal Ladies Bible Study

Thursdays, 1p, Connection Room 2
(Wed. when United Women in Faith meets)

ADULTS

Women's Book Club

Wednesday, 12/18, 6p, The Country Cottage

Niagara County Senior Lunch

Mondays, 10a, Fellowship Hall

Watercolor Classes

Tuesdays at 1p, Saturdays at 9a, Art Room

Country Line Dancing

1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7p, Gym

Beginner Pickleball

Wednesdays, 6:30p, Gym

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Youth Group (7-12th grade)

Sundays, 12/22, 1/12, 1/19, 6p, Gym

Hot Chocolate with God & S'mores

Fridays, 6p (Check calendar for dates)

Youth Retreat (7-12th grade)

January 24-26, Camp Findley

MUSIC

Pendletones Bell Choir

Wednesdays, 6p, Connection Room 1

Men of Hymn

Wednesdays, 7p, Choir Room

MISSIONS

Feeding Hope

Wednesday, 1/8, 3p, Kitchen

Intergenerational Angel Wings

Saturday, 1/11, 12-3p, Fellowship Hall

Niagara Falls Thursday Night Dinner

Thursdays, 5p, First UMC