



***A thriving faith community
engaged in compassionate service.***



December 14, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Live Streaming on Facebook plus On Demand on YouTube

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www.facebook.com/orchardparkpresbyterianchurch

The Staff of Orchard Park Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Wylie V. Hughes, Pastor

The Rev. Allyn Foster, Pastoral Assistant

The Rev. Mario Eugene, Pastoral Assistant for Youth and Young Adults

Program/Administrative/Support Staff

Linda Babcock, Director of Education and Mission

Perry Babcock, Audio Visual Technician

Christine Cotton, Office Manager

Barry & Heather Dietsch, Music Directors

Dan Hay, Building and Grounds Coordinator

Jessica Merry, Business Manager

Amanda Putnam, Sunday Morning Christian Education Assistant

Xanda Weiss, Audio Visual Technician and Grapevine Coordinator

Order of Service

*Please rise in body or spirit

Gathering Music

When Will He Come?

Joseph Martin

Prelude

O Tannenbaum

Vince Guaraldi

Greetings

Advent Candle Lighting – Joy (Lorentz Family)

Reader 1: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

Reader 2: I see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. I see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. I see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.

Reader 1: You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us.

Reader 2: Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

(Light candle.)

ALL: Thanks be to God for that good news! Amen.

Introit

O Come, Take Heart

Plainsong/Strickland

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."

People: Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"

Leader: Mary said, "How can this be?"

People: We often say, "But God, I am afraid."

Leader: Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

People: So may we trust the Inviter.

Leader: May we heed God's invitation.

People: May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.

Leader: Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

***Opening Hymn #105**

Savior of the Nations, Come

***Invitation to Confession**

Leader: Friends, often in life, when we make mistakes, we want to keep those mistakes to ourselves. We don't want to advertise our blunders. We don't want to highlight our failings. We can be tempted to brush those things under the rug and move on.

But when it comes to God, there is nothing we need to brush under the rug. God welcomes and loves our full, honest, messy selves-blunders and all. So let us go before God in prayer, trusting that there is nothing we need to hide from our Creator. Let us pray.

***Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Courageous God, you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding "yes," we often hide our face. We dig our heels in. We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark courage in us. Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope, we pray, amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: Family of faith, no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news:

People: We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve. May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call. Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Leader: Having been reconciled to God in Jesus Christ, let us now share the signs of that reconciliation with one another. The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. (Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you saying "Peace be with you".)

Special Music

Cantabile
April Dunlap-Piano and Angel Rhodes-Violin

Niccolo Paganini

Children's Time

Service of Baptism

Rowan Lee Sherk
child of Ryan Sherk and Amanda Putnam

Question for the Congregation

Leader: Do we, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Rowan by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ, and to be a faithful member of Christ's church?

People: We do.

Blessing of the Water

Baptism

Announcements

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10; O.T. pg. 698

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-39; N. T. pg. 56

Sermon

In Spite Of.....Yes!

Rev. Allyn Foster

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Listen now as we pray in the way Jesus taught us:

People: : Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

Amen
Sanctuary Choir

Astorga

The Offering

Offertory

Advent Celebration
Sanctuary Choir

Joseph Martin

***Doxology #606
(Melody)**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ,
all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune
God, whom we adore. Amen.*

***Closing Hymn #99**

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

*Benediction

Leader: In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear.

All: In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with us; we go in peace and we will not be afraid. Amen.

Choral Benediction

A Blessing of Light
Sanctuary Choir

Joseph Martin

Postlude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Arr. James Mansfield

Liturgy is adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Thank you to April Dunlap and Angel Rhodes for sharing their gifts of music with us today.

WELCOME! We are glad you have joined us to worship God. If you are a visitor, we invite you to introduce yourself to our Elder of the Day, Robert Mustard, who will be available after worship.

The **LITURGIST** today is TJ Quinn.

Please sign the **FRIENDSHIP PAD** as it makes its way down your row. If you are a visitor or have recently changed your address, please include this and any other information you wish to share.

The **PRAYER BOARD** is located in the Reception Room at the name tag table. You are invited to use a slip of paper to write or draw your prayer and clip it to the board. The Prayer Board will be brought into worship; however, the prayers will not be read aloud or shared. This is a unique and special opportunity for children and adults to be able to express their joys and/or concerns.

THREE WAYS TO WORSHIP! In Person, live streamed at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and then the service (which is being recorded as we worship in person) will be available beginning Sunday afternoons on the OPPC You Tube channel which can be accessed directly from YouTube or our webpage: www.oppchurch.org. **Please be aware that the worship service is being recorded as well as live streamed and will be broadcast via the internet.**

WE WELCOME KIDS IN WORSHIP as together we are the whole people of God! Worship Bags are available in the Reception Room at the CE Table. The **NURSERY** will be staffed **AFTER Children's Time** for infants through three years old. **PLAY & PRAY** for kids 4 years old through first grade also begins **AFTER Children's Time**. Volunteers will lead the children out to their respective classrooms and remain with the kids until after worship is over. Please pick up your child from the classroom so the teachers can also be a part of Coffee Hour.

The **FLOWERS** on the Communion Table are given by Julie (Fortenbaugh) Chapman and Bob Fortenbaugh in loving memory of their father Robert L. Fortenbaugh.

Next week, **December 21, is SANDWICH SUNDAY!** Please bring your individually wrapped sandwich(s) to worship with you and drop them off at the table at The Welcome Center. Later that morning the sandwiches will be delivered to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy to feed the hungry.

The Christian Education Ministry Team has begun preparations for **A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SOMETHING on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 at the ONE SERVICE at 10:30 am**. Kids of all ages lead the worship service and the sermon portion will be The Nativity Story. This is a wonderful opportunity for OPPC folks to invite their neighbors and friends to attend. Cookie Reception to follow after worship.

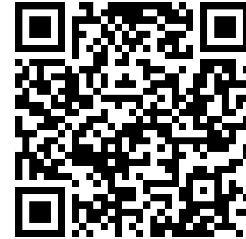
Thank you to everyone who participated in the **2025 GIVING TREE** by purchasing gift cards for Families Promise and/or grocery bags for the Blessing Box or items for The Genesis Center children and the Buffalo affiliate of NAMI who provide Christmas cheer for kids who cannot be home for the holidays with their families. **TODAY is the final day to purchase cards**. The gift distribution begins this week for the agencies the Mission Ministry Team chose as recipients. Check back next week for our Giving Tree total.

We have just a couple of slots available if anyone wishes to serve the meal at **THE GENESIS CENTER this coming FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 from 3:45 - 6:00 PM.** Please see Linda Babcock if you are interested.

FAMILIES WITH KIDS OF ALL AGES - please pick up the **2026 Winter Sunday Morning Schedule** at the CE Table in the Reception Room.

The **CHURCH OFFICE** will be **closed December 25th and 26th** in observance of Christmas. The office will reopen on Monday, December 29.

THE OFFERING is one way of many ways for us to respond to God. Monetary gifts to support the ministry of OPPC are greatly appreciated. **Secure online giving is now available.** Scan the QR Code with your cell phone and you will be directed to our Online Giving Site. You can also give by Text as well: 844-980-1625, enter your dollar amount and hit enter.



Join the OPPC Sanctuary choir
and guests for a night filled with music
Ceremony of Candles
A Cantata for Advent and Christmas
By Joseph M. Martin
December 19, 7pm
Orchard Park Presbyterian Church
Free Admission
Free Will Donation
to benefit Family Promise
Cookie Reception to Follow

Three lit candles of varying heights are shown on a white, snowy surface. The background is dark with white snowflake patterns.

Christmas Services at OPPC

A Special Christmas Something
December 21, 10:30am ~ One Service

<i>Journey to the Manger</i>	<i>Candlelight Christmas Eve</i>
December 24, 4pm Outdoor Service, Weather permitting	December 24, 10pm Live Music begins at 9:30pm Communion

Lessons & Carols December 28, 10:30am ~ One Service

