

Calendar of Events

First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2017

Sunday, December 31

Service of Worship - Sanctuary 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship - Baumann Fellowship Hall 11:00 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous Gathering - Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.

Monday, January 1

Church Offices closed
Alcoholics Anonymous - Christmas Party - Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 2

Staff Meeting - Pastor's Study 9:30 a.m.
Board of Fine Arts - Parlor 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 3

Paint & Palette - Fellowship Hall 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 4

Music Committee - Parlor 6:15 p.m.
Ski Patrol - Blue Door Room 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 5

Annual Reports are Due

Alcoholics Anonymous - Blue Door Room 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 6

OWL Parent and Student Orientation - Parlor 12:00 noon

Sunday, January 7

Service of Worship - Sanctuary 10:00 a.m.
Removal of the Christmas Tree and adornments following the worship
Fellowship - Baumann Fellowship Hall 11:00 a.m.
Handbell Rehearsal - Loft 11:30 a.m.
Youth Group - Parlor 4:00 p.m.

Monday, January 8

Paint and Palette - Fellowship Hall 10:00 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Blue Door Room

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST *Midland*
an open and affirming church



Please join the Board of Fine Arts on Sunday, January 7 immediately following the service of worship to take down the sanctuary decorations and the Christmas tree. Many hands make the job go quickly. We hope to see you there!

Rev. Roger C. Pancost, Pastor
December 31, 2017
First Sunday after Christmas

Order of Worship

Gathering Hymns

Praise to God, Your Praises Bring #430
All Beautiful the March of Days #434

Welcome to Worship

(Please sign the *Fellowship Pad* in the red folder at the end of the pew. Visitors, please give your address and phone number and sign our guest book located in the Narthex.)

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

Greet Each Other with the Peace of God

Prelude Gilbert Martin
Meditation on *Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine*

We Bring the Light of Christ into Our Midst

(Acolyte carries the Light to the Communion Table)

Call to Worship

L: Creative and Sustaining Spirit, you have brought us through another year of changing seasons as we have orbited our blazing, life-enabling, Sun-Star.

C: You are our Eternal Mother and Divine Father, continually revealing the abundance of resources and possibilities that your grace provides for us.

L: We gather in gratitude for the evolving nature of Creation that continually makes all things new.

C: Enable us to learn from the challenges of the year that is passing and to open our eyes, ears, mind and heart to the opportunities that will unfold in the year ahead.

* **Hymn** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* #25

(Asterisk indicates when you may stand. Please stand, as you are able, when the first notes of the hymn are played.)

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education

classes for grades 7-9 will begin in January 2018. There is a required meeting for students and grown-ups on Saturday, January 6 from 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. in the UCC Parlor. Lunch will be provided. Classes begin January 19, and will run through March 25. There are no required materials and no cost to participate. This OWL session is open to any student in grades 7-9, all are welcome. Please contact Jenn Ringgold for additional information, and to register by December 31.



Ushers Needed, Please Help! Some things at church seem to happen without a thought. Teams of ushers, each scheduled by a coordinator, serve UCC on a rotating basis throughout the year. This simple ministry may seem small, but is critically important to each Sunday worship service and a rewarding way to serve your congregation. We're looking for ushers to help a team that will serve this February, June and October. If interested, please contact Kyle Bagnall at kwbagnall@gmail.com or by calling (989) 859-4475.

The staff of the UCC, Midland wishes you a very Happy New Year!

*Roger Pancost,
Jenn Ringgold,
Jim Hohmeyer,
Edward Soehnlen,
Phil Jimenez,
Janet Davis*

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Acolyte: Izaak Ringgold
Liturgist: Beverly Curnutt
Organist: Edward Soehnlen
Director of Music: James Hohmeyer
Director of Educational Ministries: Jennifer Ringgold
Sound System Operator: Al Harrow
Rainbow Door Room: Laurie Bledsoe
SAFE Church Volunteer: Steve Ringgold



The **Rainbow Door Room** is available for infants and children age 3 and under. Families are invited to remain in worship with their babies, or are welcome to utilize the Rainbow Door Room space and listen to the service via the speaker system.



After Children's Moments Children age 3 and under are welcome in the sanctuary, or childcare is provided in the Rainbow Door Room across the hall. There will be a one room Sunday School for preschool through fifth grade meeting in the Red Door Room.

The special offering for December is the **Christmas Fund Offering** (formerly Veterans of the Cross). The proceeds provide gifts to clergy and lay employees in all stages of their ministry to and through the United Church of Christ. Envelopes will be available on the tables outside the sanctuary doors during the month of December, please give generously. For more information, please go to the website at <http://www.christmasfund.org>.



Please note: The church offices will be closed through the holidays. We will reopen on January 2, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. Email to janet@uccmidland.org will be monitored.

* **Unison Prayer**

L: Let us join heart and voice in prayer.

C: **Energizing Spirit, in whom we live and move and have our very being, we have the smell of life upon us; the acrid stench of smoldering ruins, collapsed dreams, dislocation, cut-throat competition, greed, mendacity, anxiety, anger, and self-pity. Like those who have gone before us we are a mixture of perpetrators, knowing that we have brought this on ourselves, and victims assaulted by others who rage against us and all that is good and just and generous. Standing in this strange and dangerous time, we thank you for those who trusted you and courageously risked unknown and untried ways. Their minority faith and risks opened the way to the future-now, making for evolving social progress, and providing us with a foundation upon which to stand. Enable us in our time to build wisely upon that which they provided with utter trust that nothing can separate us from your empowering and forgiving love, as we learned it from Jesus our exemplar of faith and service. Amen.**

* **Chorus Affirming God's Grace**

#547

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come:

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

Children's Moment Rev. Dr. Harold R. Slater

Musical Offering *Lullaby to a Rose* Joseph M. Martin
Peg and Bill Stokes

Scripture

Romans 8:18-25 Pew Bible, page #983
Matthew 13:44-50 Pew Bible, page #848

Message Rev. Dr. Harold R. Slater

The Journey of Becoming

* **Hymn** *O God of Earth and Altar* #582

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer ("Debts" and "Debtors")

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be 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,
and the power, and the glory, for ever.
Amen.**

Offertory Johann Pachelbel
From Heaven Above, to Earth I Come

* **Doxology** #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

* **Hymn** *God of Grace and God of Glory* #436

* **Benediction**

Postlude *In dulci jubilo* Arnatt/Powell

(Because the Postlude is an integral part of the service
we invite you to remain seated in silence.)

We Carry the Light of Christ into the World

(Acolyte carries the Light from the Communion Table)

- It is important for everyone to use the **microphone** during Announcements and Joys and Concerns.
- This church is equipped with a **hearing assistance system**. Please ask an usher for a receiver.
- **Large print** bulletins and copies of today's hymns are available for your use. Please ask an usher for a copy.



Please join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments after the service of worship. Church members are happy to greet you and answer any questions you may have. We hope you feel welcome here! Refreshments provided by the Board of Christian Community.