



# *Midnight Christmas Eve Service*

## *December 24, 2024*

### *11:15 pm*

### *Christian Education*

#### *Adult & Children's Christian Education - 8:30am*

#### *Recovery Road by Andy Stanley (January-February 2025)*

Unemployment is up. Stocks are down. And everybody's pointing fingers. If you are like most Americans, you're wondering what's going on in Washington. And you're probably wondering what you're supposed to do while you wait for somebody to fix things. Well, here's an idea. What if we don't wait around for somebody else? What if we go ahead and start fixing it ourselves? What if We the People tried to get this country on the road to recovery? Sound like a good idea? Then you're ready for Recovery Road.

Jan 5 - We the People

Jan 12 - Taking Inventory

Jan 19 - The Credibility Factor

Jan 26 - Declaration of Independence

Feb 2 - The Spending Crisis

#### *Dinner Church*

*Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.* (There will be **NO** Sunday morning worship svc.)

Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish and/or a dessert to share. The meal will be Pork and Sauerkraut and Mashed Potatoes. Also, fried chicken and Pork (**NOT** cooked in the sauerkraut) will also be served. The theme will be Christmas Carols!

*The decision was made to **NOT** hold a Pork and Sauerkraut luncheon after worship on January 5th but to serve this meal instead at DINNER CHURCH on December 29th.*

#### *Removing Christmas Decorations*

*Saturday, January 11th at 9 AM* we will need many hands to take down and pack away the Christmas decorations. Providing the weather is favorable, a brunch of hot and cold dishes will be provided and served by Pastor Laura.



### *Starview United Church of Christ*

*"We are a Christian community that welcomes all people to grow through the love of and service to God and neighbor."*

*- Mission Statement of Starview UCC*

**December 24, 2024**  
**11:15 PM Christmas Eve Service**

**PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING**

**Mr. Kevin Crone**

**GREETING and LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Pastor: After counting the weeks of Advent, we find ourselves standing before the stable; waiting to witness the emerging Light. (Light candle)

**Congregation: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light!**  
(Light candle)

Pastor: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them the Light shines!  
(Light candle)

**Congregation: The true Light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**  
(Light candle)

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and lived among us. (Light candle)

**All: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace and good will.**

**HYMN** *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* **Blue Hymnal, #153**

**SCRIPTURE READING** **Luke 2:1-20**

**HOMILY** **Rev. Laura Baker**

**HYMN** *Angels We Have Heard on High* **Blue Hymnal, #155**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Pastor: With joy, we praise you, Gracious God, for you created all things. You created us in your image and kept covenant with us – even when we rebelled against you. Your prophets promised that you would send a Messiah – to do what we could not do for ourselves – provide salvation. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus, to be born of Mary; a light to shine in our darkness. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He ate with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw the world to him, yet we neglected to heed his call to walk in love. Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was around a table with his friends. He took bread, gave you thanks, O God, broke it...and gave it to them, saying:

**Congregation: “Take and eat; this is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance me.”**

Pastor: As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine and said:

**Congregation: “Take and drink. This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Pour out your Spirit on these your gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your faithful disciples. Amen.

**DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS**  
**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**All people: Most gracious God, we give you thanks for inviting us to share this meal as your family. Strengthen us to be a blessing to one another, and a blessing to all the world, glorifying you in all things, though Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light!

**Congregation: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them the Light shines!**

Pastor: The true Light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**Congregation: And the Word became flesh and lived among us.**

*Pastor Baker will light a candle from the Christ candle and then light the liturgist’s candle. They will then light the candle of the first person at each table. Toddlers may “snap” their light sticks as the candlelight approaches them. Please be careful as you pass the light of Christ to your neighbor and as you extinguish your candle following the singing.*

**HYMN** *Silent Night, Holy Night*

*Silent Night, Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright;  
‘Round yon virgin mother and Child, Holy Infant so tender and mild;  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent Night, Holy Night! Darkness flies, all is light;  
Shepherds hear the angels sing: Alleluia! Hail the King!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.*

*Silent Night, Holy Night! Wondrous Star, lend thy light!  
With the angels let us sing, “Alleluia to our King!”  
Christ, our Savior, is born, Christ, our Savior, is born!*

**TOLLING OF TWELVE BELLS & JESUS IS LAID IN THE MANGER**

**COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

Pastor: In darkness we arrived.

**Congregation: In light we now leave.**

Pastor: Though once we stumbled,

**Congregation: we now walk with confidence.**

**Pastor:** Rise up and go, for the grace of God has appeared,  
bringing salvation to all.

**All people: May the light of Christ lead us forevermore.**

**POSTLUDE**