

## A GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

December 29, 2024

10:00 am

CHIMES

PRELUDE

Connor Ricotta

GATHERING MUSIC "A Joyous Carol of the Bells" Senior Choir

WELCOME

Rev. Shiela Swanger

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather this morning ready to listen.

**People: Open our ears, Lord.**

Leader: We gather this morning ready to learn.

**People: Open our minds, Lord.**

Leader: We gather this morning ready to love.

**People: Open our hearts, Lord.**

Leader: We gather this morning ready to worship.

**People: Open our spirits to receive you, Lord.**

Leader: We gather to praise the Lord Almighty!

OPENING PRAYER (*read in unison*)

**God of love, we long to hear your voice, but sometimes block our ears to the true words of love you speak into our lives.**

**You offer words of love and acceptance, but we find reason to ignore them or withhold them from others.**

**Be tolerant and forgive us in your love.**

**For we yearn to find your perfect bond of unity in our relationships with one another and with the world. Amen.**

ANTHEM

"Sing Joy"

Senior Choir

† HYMN

"We Three Kings"

#254

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12 CEB

MESSAGE

Rev. Shiela Swanger

The Story of Baboushka (An old Russian grandmother)

OFFERING

† OFFERING HYMN (found in the front of your hymnal)

OFFERING PRAYER (*read in unison*)

**God of generosity, may your peace and your love seep into our hearts and our offerings, that we might become shining examples of your light in a dark and hurting world.**

**Thank you for your many gifts—this gift of community, the enthusiasm for learning, the power of generosity, and the gift of love.**

**May our gifts and our very lives bring your blessings to the world. Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND  
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Shiela Swanger

ANNOUNCEMENTS

† HYMN "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" #251

BLESSING

Rev. Shiela Swanger

† RESPONSE

Shalom (peace)

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.

May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.

In all your living and through your loving,

Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

POSTLUDE

Connor Ricotta

† **Please stand for these portions of the service if you are able.**

**WELCOME!** If you come as a visitor, it is our hope you will leave as a friend! Whether you are a newcomer to the community or to GUMC, we feel honored to have you. We invite you to a time of fellowship in the Fellowship Hall after today's service. We hope to see you next week at either our 8:30 am Worship and Praise Service, or our 10:30 am Traditional Service.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Jean Farthing, Bill Guthrie, Ron Huff, Vineta Johnson, and Joan Pope

**CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:** Brad Farthing, Vineta Johnson, Joe Kane, Jane Krenzer, Shirley Pascuzzo, Marion Taylor, and Ginny Youtzy

**PRAYER ROOM:** Our Prayer Room (Room 2) is a space for quiet, private contemplation. It is open for your use on Sunday mornings and whenever the church building is open.

**GUMC PRAYER CHAIN:** Do you have a prayer request, joy or concern? Call Brenda Mastin (443-9132), to activate the GUMC prayer chain.

## **CHURCH HAPPENINGS**

**DEC. 29 - JAN. 5**

*The office will be closed through Friday, January 3. Pastor Beth may be reached by phone (585-721-0661) in case of emergency.*

### **Monday, December 30**

12:30 pm Lunch Good Grief - Fellowship Hall

### **Tuesday, December 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE**

9:00 pm Watchnight Service - Sanctuary

9:30 pm New Year's Eve Fellowship - Fellowship Hall

### **Wednesday, January 1**

8:00 am Prayer Breakfast - Wesley Room

11:00 am Morgan Estates Worship

### **Thursday, January 2**

1:00 pm Parish Welcoming Committee - Wesley Room

### **Friday, January 3**

1:00 pm Panic and Anxiety Support Group - Room 3

### **Saturday, January 4**

9:00 am Red Cross Blood Drive - Fellowship Hall

9:30 am UWF Reading Group - Wesley Room

### **Sunday, January 5**

7:30 am Praise Team Warm-up

8:00 am The Prayer Room (Room 2) is open throughout the morning for a quiet time of prayer.

**8:30 am WORSHIP & PRAISE SERVICE – Sanctuary**

9:30 am Fellowship Hour – Fellowship Hall

9:35 am Adult Sunday School - Wesley Room

Youth Choir - Room 2

**10:30 am TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE – Sanctuary**

### **USHERS**

1/5

1/12

### **8:30 SERVICE**

Bill Lewis

Lynne Heineman

### **10:30 SERVICE**

Brenda Mastin & Ray Ingram

Doug & Nancy Meyer

### **LECTORS (10:30)**

1/5

1/12

Julie Buehler

Bill Lewis

### **MINISTER**

Rev. Beth Malone

### **LAY LEADERS**

Bill Lewis

Peggy Oltz

### **SUPPORT TEAM**

*Administrative Assistant* - Kathy Rosier

*Custodian* – Dave Woodworth

*Nursery Attendant* - Marissa Ross

### **MUSIC TEAM**

*Director of Music* - Cynthia Towler

*Accompanist* – Connor Ricotta

*Praise Band* - Randy Bigelow

*Bell Choir* – Sandi Szymanski

*Youth Choir* - Beth Feuerstein

### **USHERS**

Linda Meyer & Fred Parker

# Geneseo United Methodist Church



Following in Jesus' footsteps as a  
welcoming, caring, giving, and  
prayerful community of faith.

First Sunday After Christmas  
December 29, 2024