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BECOMING LIKE CHRIST – MAKING HIM KNOWN



COME WORSHIP THE LORD!

PREPARATION OF OUR MINDS

(Entering worship, let us prepare our hearts, reflecting on this.)

When you are presented with the truth of Christ’s birth, God’s declaration of who he is, the testimony of his miracles and ministry, and his own self-testimony, you cannot be neutral about Jesus. Spiritually you either rise or fall with your response to him...You either worship him or mock him. You either confess your need for him, or you turn in independence away from him. – Paul David Tripp



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CHURCH

December Scripture: (Luke 1:47-48)

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. (NIV)

PRAISE TO AN AWESOME GOD

CHORAL INTROIT (The Sherman Church Choir)

CALL TO WORSHIP - ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Scripture: Matthew 1:20-21; 2:1

Leader: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love. The love of God is made known in the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

People: “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13).

Leader: May the love of Christ fill our hearts as we prepare for His coming.

People: We light this candle of love, celebrating the love of Christ.

The fourth candle is lit.

Advent Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

*HYMN: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Hymnal #133 v.1 -4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*OLD TESTAMENT READING: Deuteronomy 5:28-33

Bible p. 178

*GOSPEL: James 1:22-27

Bible p.1196

OFFERING SENTENCE AND PRAYER (1 Corinthians 8:9)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

OFFERTORY: The Sherman Church Choir

(Children are dismissed for Sunday School)

Hymnal #808

DOXOLOGY:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

*HYMN: “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

Hymnal #170

PREACHING THE WORD

SERMON: “Characters of Christmas: Joseph”

Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-19

PROCLAIMING THE GLORY OF CHRIST

*HYMN: “The First Noel, the Angel Did Say”.

Hymnal #162 (v.1,2,3,6)

*BENEDICTION and THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE

(*Congregation, please stand if able.)

FOLLOWING OUR WORSHIP SERVICE
JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP

NEXT WEEK: The scripture for next week is 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5. Sara Coons is preaching.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

- Eliza Capehart, serving in the United States Air Force.
- John Langworthy, back injury.
- Brian Barnier, health.
- Jim Beddows, health.
- Nicole Thorp, health.
- Amos Munch, health.
- Jim and Christine Munch, health.
- Roberta Judd, health.
- Christopher Siebert, healing of foot.
- Jill Finch, health
- Betty Beatty, health
- Rev. Daniel Morton, health
- Mark Gerber, health
- Penny LeMasurier, health
- James L., health
- Betty Freeman, health
- Chris Freeman, Strength in the care of her mother

OUR MISSIONARIES:

Mesa Global: Robert & Nina Bruneau; 4C Church Re-Planting: Green Mountain Church, Chester, VT,; Lion of Judah Academy, Hope Academy of the Bronx.

DEACONS of the church are always available to meet with you, pray with you, and hear your concerns.

PRAYER IS ALWAYS OUR MISSION

Prayer is a vital part of our ministry at The Sherman Church.
You are invited to join in prayer each Thursday to pray for our church on a telephone conference call by **Dialing 667-770-1484; when prompted use access code 357664#.**

You may also make a prayer request anytime by calling the church office. Our Church Administrator will ensure the prayer request is communicated to our Pastor and Deacons. Outside of office hours (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM) or for an emergency prayer or pastoral request contact the Chair of Deacons (deacon@shermanchurch.org or 860-921-1952) or the Pastor (pastor@shermanchurch.org or 860-350-5151). Let us join together in prayer!

FIRE EXITS are located at the rear of the sanctuary through the double doors and at the front through the doors on both sides of the altar.

THE SHERMAN CHURCH

Gathered In 1744

Continuing to invite all to know the love of Jesus

A MEMBER CHURCH OF THE CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

6 Church Road | Sherman, CT 06784

860-354-6114

info@shermanchurch.org | Shermanchurch.org



DECEMBER 22, 2024

Gathered In 1744

Continuing to invite all to know the love of Jesus

**JOIN TOGETHER FOR
A CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 24 AT 7:30 PM**

We will share in a Service of Lessons and Carols to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Our worship will end with the traditional offering of the candles of light into the world.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Dec 22, 10:00 AM – Worship on Christmas Sunday
Dec 24, 7:30 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**WHAT IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?
WHAT IS BELIEVER’S BAPTISM?**

These and many other questions about what it means to follow Jesus Christ are addressed in an Introduction to Discipleship and Church Membership that will begin in January. Look for dates and times in the January Emphasis. Speak with the pastor of membership or baptism is something you would like to consider.

CONFIRMATION: TAKING A STEP OF FAITH IN JESUS

In January a group of youth will begin learning about what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. This “Confirmation Group” will help them answer questions that they might have about Christ, the Church and how God can be part of their life. Meeting weekly, details on the dates are forthcoming. Check the January Emphasis.

GROWTH GROUPS CONTINUE IN JANUARY

Look for details on the next Growth Group. One session will meet at the same time as the Confirmation Group. At least one will meet online. More information is coming in the January Emphasis. We will dig into “Foundations of Faith” and how the birth of Jesus has transformed lives through faith in God’s Son.

OUR CHURCH:

Pastor:	Rev. John Loring Carpenter, Interim Pastor
Ministers:	The Congregation
Minister of Music:	Carolyn Kopsick
Moderator:	Edna Coons
Chair of Deacons:	Charles Mastroni
Co-Chair of Trustees:	Don Coons and Lynn Paulovicks
Flowers:	Christmas Committee
Announcements:	Aimée Suhie
Prayers of the People:	Debbie Thorp
Reader:	Tara Alemany
Coffee Hour Host:	Edna and Don Coons
Nursery:	Jill Finch
Usher:	Charles Mastroni

CALENDAR

December 22nd - December 28th, 2024
(Links for online meetings may be found at shermanchurch.org)

SUNDAY:
WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:00 A.M. (Also Live Streamed)

TUESDAY:
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE at 7:30PM

WEDNESDAY:
AA at 7:00 P.M - Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY:
PRAYER IN THE PARLOR at 6:45 P.M
Dial-in Number: 667-770-1484; when prompted access code 357664#.
AA at 7:00 P.M - Fellowship Hall



"The impersonal hand of government can never replace the helping hand of a neighbor." - Hubert Humphrey



CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERTORY

LOAVES & FISHES

OF NEW MILFORD

Our Christmas Eve collection will be for Loaves & Fishes food pantry, which has exciting news this winter after 10 years of planning. The brand-new facility (not quite open as of this writing) is located at 25 Bridge St., New Milford, built into the side of a hill on property that used to be Straub Plumbing & Heating. Sarah Straub was the board member with whom our church dealt making lunches each month since COVID. She passed away just recently.

The facility will house the food pantry with a professional, restaurant-quality kitchen. Board Chair Charles Bogie is looking for volunteers with food-safe certificates to monitor the cooking/serving. There is a dining room and over-flow dining room, all with lovely views of the tennis courts, ball fields and the Housatonic River. Downstairs is an office, a garden room, conference room, what they call a day room which may be used as warming/cooling stations in emergency. There are five bathrooms, two of them with showers.

Future plans include possibly a room for Catholic Charities, a domestic abuse counseling room, perhaps veterans outreach. The kitchen could be rented for cottage industries. Mr. Bogie said they hope to name the building The Sarah and Danny Straub Outreach Center, of which Loaves & Fishes would be a part.

Checks should be made out to The Sherman Church with L&F in the memo line. Online donations at www.shermanchurch.org can be made in the Tithes and Offerings tab with L&F in the Comments line.



Join the fun at the Sherman Church

Kids Cookie Decorating Party

Monday, December 23rd at 2PM
Sherman Congregational Church

Church Road, Sherman, CT
RSVP to Melinda 203-241-9216
By December 20th