

Large Print Bulletins are available in the back of the Sanctuary

# Denmark Manor United Church of Christ

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Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2016

Please remember to turn off your cell phones during the Worship Service. Thank you.

## Preparation Music

(Please be seated and prepare yourself for worship)

The Entrance of the Light

Welcome

Moments of Concerns and Announcements

## \*Gathering Music

Please join the choir in singing:

**All: Christ is the light, Christ is the light!**

**Goodbye to darkness, goodbye to night.**

**In the eastern sky the stars are shining bright,**

**Oh, glory hallelujah children, Christ is the light! (repeat)**

## Opening Prayer

**\*Hymn #173 "You Have Come Down to the Lake Shore"**

Reading of Scripture: Luke 4:21-30

## Call to Reconciliation

Reconciliation Prayer

**All: Steadfast Lord, we acknowledge that we have not been faithful to you as you have been faithful to us. Fill us with hope and faith so that we may renew our promises to you every day as we seek to serve you. Amen.**

Silence

Kyrie # 750

**All: Lord have mercy upon us.**

**Christ have mercy upon us.**

**Lord have mercy upon us.**

Words of Assurance

\*Act of Praise..... #760

(Please stand)

**All: Amen we praise your name, O God! (Sing Amen)**

**Amen we praise your name, O God! (Sing Amen)**

**Amen, Amen! Amen, Amen!**

**Amen we praise your name, O God!**

\*The Passing of the Peace

Pastor: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

**All: And also with you.**

Please share a greeting of Christian love with those sitting around you.

Children's Time: "We Are the Church Together"

Sermon: "Lip Service or Life Service?"

Anthem: "Your Precious Word"

Our Morning Prayers

The Candle of Remembrance is lit in honor of A1C Kevin J. Thompson and as a prayer for all military personnel and first responders, especially those in harm's way.

Call to Prayer "Pray"

Pray\_\_\_, pray\_\_\_, pray\_\_\_ for peace within our world\_\_\_\_\_.

Pray\_\_\_, pray\_\_\_, pray\_\_\_ for peace within our souls\_\_\_\_\_.

Pray\_\_\_, pray\_\_\_, pray\_\_\_ for love and unity\_\_\_\_\_;

Quiet our busy hearts, Pray\_\_\_, pray\_\_\_, pray\_\_\_ .

Pray\_\_\_, pray\_\_\_, pray\_\_\_



Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer  
Prayer of Our Savior (spoken)

**All: 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 forever. Amen**

Our Time of Sharing

Invitation to the Offering, The Sharing of Gifts

Offering Music

\*Offertory Response “We Are Giving in the Light of God” (526)

**All: We are giving in the light of God,**

**We are giving in the light of God** (Repeat previous 2 lines)

**We are giving, giving, we are giving, Oo,**

**We are giving in the light of God** (Repeat previous 2 lines)

Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn #539 “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant”

\*The Benediction

\*Benediction Response:

Please join the choir in singing...

**“Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child” (#136)**

\*Postlude

The Kindle Fire Tablets are available for our younger children to use during worship. There are also busy boxes at the back of the sanctuary and childcare downstairs for those for whom attending the entire of worship hour is difficult. Don’t forget that all of our younger children are encouraged to attend our “Little Disciples Class” downstairs at 10:30AM each Sunday.

Dan Walk is participating in today’s service along with...

The Congregation.....Disciples of Christ  
Rev. Meredith Ann Hutchison.....Pastor  
Irina Thomas.....Organist and Keyboard  
Rheba Salac.....Administrative Assistant  
Wade Anderson.....Sexton

**The ANNUAL MEETING of the Congregation will be today, immediately following worship.** All members are urged to be present at this meeting and guests are most certainly welcome. We will be discussing on-line giving, social events and the upcoming Lenten worship services as well as other business that may come before the congregation. If you have something that you would like to bring up at the meeting, it would be helpful if you would let Don McIlvaine know in advance of the meeting so that we can give it an appropriate amount of time for discussion.

**Did you know** that whether you are on the membership rolls or not, it helps the deacons keep track of giving if you use the offering envelopes provided to you? If you have not received offering envelopes for 2016, please place a note in the offering plate and we will make sure that you get a set. The deacons ask you to remember, whether you attend church or not, the ministry of the church goes on. Please be a good steward and make up for those Sundays when you have been unable to attend. Also, we provide church mailboxes at the back of the sanctuary (in the stairwell exit into the newer building) for newsletters, messages and other notices. This allows us to save on postage. **Please check your church mail box every Sunday.**

Mission project

During this season of Epiphany, which tradition holds is when the Magi brought gifts to the Christ child, we too are bringing gifts. Throughout this month, we will be helping the Blackburn Center aid those who are survivors of domestic violence by collecting paper products (facial tissue, bath tissue, paper towels, 13 gallon kitchen trash bags, 33 gallon trash bags, 2 gallon jumbo zipper bags) as well as laundry and kitchen detergent, laundry baskets and Giant Eagle or Walmart gift cards. If anyone wishes to make a cash donation, we will use the funds to purchase the gift cards. Thanks from Joyfa Kelly and our Mission Team to our always generous congregation.

In case of bad weather and cancellation of worship, we will be listed on WPXI (Channel 11) TV or at [www.wpxi.com](http://www.wpxi.com) as well as on the WPXI Weather App.

This week:

Monday-Consistory 7:00PM

Thursday-Choir 7:00PM

Friday- **Launch into Lent** with the Northern Westmoreland Association Cluster at **Hill's Church**. This will be a U2Charist, using the music of U2 for the celebration of communion-7:30PM (If you need a ride to this event, please let Pastor Meredith know.)  
Saturday-Bible Study at Murrysville Panera 9:00AM

Next Sunday there will be a fellowship time following worship in the Fellowship Hall.

#### Looking Ahead:

Ash Wednesday will be celebrated here at Denmark Manor next week on February 10 at 7:30PM with a solemn celebration of confession, ashes and Holy Communion.

Attendance for January 24: 43  
Offering for January 24: \$1,448.00

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### **From the Congregations Weekly of the United Church of Christ**

**“Who is needed to fulfill your mission?”** By J. Bennett Guess

In mid-December, I attended an “Allies for Equality” reception, sponsored by Equality Ohio, honoring the work of Raymond Bobgan, executive artistic director of Cleveland Public Theatre. CPT, not far from my home, is an edgy theatre known for staging productions that prompt conversations on issues of inclusion and social justice.

While there, I introduced myself to Ray and thanked him for his leadership in raising consciousness and promoting compassion in our city. In the course of conversation, I shared that I am a United Church of Christ minister, and he responded with sincere joy, “So much of my early success in Cleveland I owe to the UCC!”

He explained that, two decades ago, when he was looking for a rehearsal and production venue for a then-fledgling theatre company, he approached the Rev. Laurie Hafner, then-pastor of Cleveland's Pilgrim UCC, about the possibility of renting space.

“Pastor Laurie told me that we could use the church's old unused theatre at no charge, completely rent free, if we didn't mind cleaning

it up and getting it ready,” he said, “and she seemed as genuinely excited about offering it to us as we were about having it.”

He recounted how he was almost arguing with Laurie, telling her that the church's generosity far exceeded his wildest expectations, to which she replied: “Our church was founded with the stated mission of serving the educational, cultural and spiritual needs of the community. We need you, as a cultural organization, to help us fulfill our mission.”

Knowing Laurie as I do, that sentiment — “we need you to help us fulfill our mission” — comes as no surprise. That's how she rolls. Now the senior pastor of Coral Gables UCC near Miami, Laurie approaches every situation with far-sighted, we-can-do-this enthusiasm. She realizes — more than most — that under-utilized churches cost way more than giving space away. The congregation's missional integrity might just be at stake.

Laurie could have responded with church-focused pragmatism; she could have insisted on a strictly leasor-leasee relationship. She could have nickel-and-dimed Ray's company to address the short-term budget needs of the congregation. Or, she could have just politely said, “No.” After all, what's a start-up theatre got to do with ministry, right?

In time, Ray's company did become a financial asset to the church and, yes, the relationship was formalized legally so each party felt secure in the partnership. But most importantly, more people found their way into Pilgrim, felt at home there, saw some great plays, met some neighbors, and went away thinking more deeply about love, justice and compassion. Some people, perhaps, showed up on a Sunday morning, or maybe not. That wasn't the point.

The point was this: Either way, thanks to both Ray and Laurie, Pilgrim was one step closer to fulfilling its mission.

**SPARKING MINISTRY CONVERSATIONS** - What is your church's missional mindset related to building use? Is it budget-driven or mission-focused? Is ultimate success measured by how the church benefits, or by how the wider community is served?

*About the Author . . . The Rev. J. Bennett Guess is executive minister of the UCC's Local Church Ministries and, as luck has it, is a proud member of Pilgrim UCC in Cleveland.*