

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday | 9:00 AM to 1 PM | Office (219) 926 - 1586
 www.porterumchurch.org | facebook.com/PorterUMC
 porterumchurch@gmail.com
 Pastor Dee Miller, hours available by appointment

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, 23	9:00 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	4 th Sunday of Advent Worship
Week of 12/24 through 12/30		OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS
Monday, 24	3:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday, 26	8:00 PM	AA Meeting

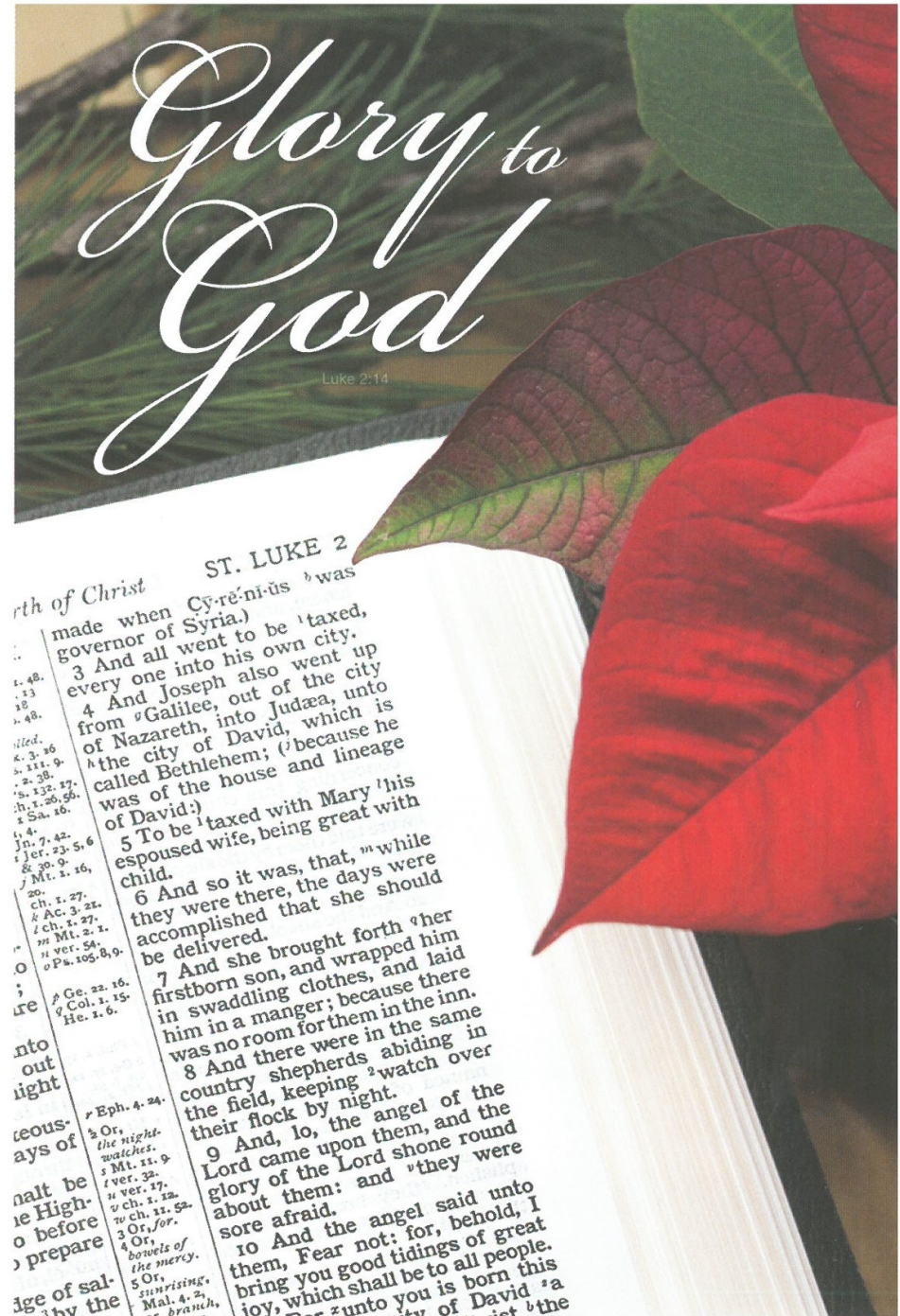
Upcoming Schedule

Sunday, 30	9:00 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Worship Service
Tuesday, 1		OFFICE CLOSED - NEW YEAR
Wednesday, 2	8:00 PM	AA Meeting
Saturday, 5	7:00 PM	Models Club

FINANCIAL SUMMARY, WEEK OF DECEMBER 16, 2018

2018 Non-discretionary Budget:	\$ 62,761.00
2018 Total Budget Offering (through October)	\$ 42,382.45
Weekly giving required to meet this projection:	\$ 1,206.94
December 16 th budget offering:	\$ 624.00
On-Line offering for week:	\$ 55.00
Budget giving surplus (deficit) for the week:	\$ (527.94)
December 16 th Debt Reduction offering:	\$ 0.00
Budget surplus (deficit) after debt reduction:	\$ (527.94)

We thank you for your continued support in helping us meet our budget and for your ongoing commitment to the work of Jesus Christ through Porter UMC!



Porter United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 23, 2018

CHIMES WITH BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF LOVE

PRELUDE *Anna Kalbe*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP *Pastor Dee Miller*
Brief Announcements

POSITIVE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK (In Unison) *Sandy Allmon*
"Oh, Emmanuel...I am filled with joy because of Your coming.
Guide my feet on the way of peace."

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES *See insert*
Marcia Wood & Women - The Candle of Peace

SONG: "The Advent Candle Song" (Verses 1 - 4 with chorus)

***OPENING HYMN** *See Insert*
"Like a Child"

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *Sandy Allmon*

L: We come to glorify God, to rejoice in the One who saves us.

C: God comes, so we might believe, so we might be blessed.

L: Our hearts leap for joy! For God is coming to us in a Child.

C: God comes to those who hunger for hope, for those who thirst for grace.

L: Holy is the One who comes in God's name, who fulfills every promise of God.

ALL: God comes to walk with those who follow in faith, to bring peace to a shattered world.

***CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER (In Unison)** *Sandy Allmon*

We confess we are not the people You hope us to be, Advent God. The very ones You favor? All too often, we ignore them, or worse, fill them with ridicule. The ones You knock off their pedestals? We continue to admire them, seeking to emulate their ways. The drumbeat for more and more? We live into that rhythm so easily, we risk being sent away empty. Forgive us,

Mighty God, who comes in the weakness of a baby. Look with grace upon us, so we might see Your love shining down. We could live secure in Your hope, we could be the ones of peace for our world, we could learn to do Your will, if we but welcome Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into our hearts and into our lives. Amen.

followed by "GLORIA PATRI" *UMH #70*

PASSING THE PEACE: "Meet & Greet" *All*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT *Pastor Dee Miller*

RESPONSIVE READING *Sandy Allmon*
Luke 1:47 - 55 *See insert*

RECEIVING JOYS AND CONCERNS *Pastor Dee Miller*

PASTORAL PRAYER

followed by The Lord's Prayer

WORSHIP OF GIVING: Tithes, Offerings & Gifts *All*

"Let the River Flow" ** *Screen*
*followed by "The Doxology" *** *Screen*

THE EPISTLE *Sandy Allmon*

Hebrews 10:5 - 10

SERMON: Luke 1:39 - 45 *Pastor Dee Miller*

"Blessed to Be Blessed"

VIDEO: "Mary, Did You Know?" by Pentatonix

***CLOSING HYMN** *UMH #215*

"To a Maid Engaged to Joseph"

- Closing Words & Benediction -

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING *All*

"Grace, Love and Fellowship" **

**Indicates STANDING if you are able.*

*** Video Presentation*

Prayer Requests

Joys:

The kids in last week's Christmas program were a joy to see!

Pastor Dee - enjoyed visit with her grandchildren in Buffalo.

Jim Frieske is thankful for the new coat he received.

Recent Prayer Requests:

Judy Reales - health issues

Tony Reales - calmness during Judy's testing

Roman (Jim & Linda's great grandson) - health & healing

Chris (Dollie's husband) - hospitalized

Fern Duvall - health

Giovanti - 4 year old who has an immune deficiency & is also lacking clotting agents in blood; might need kidney transplant

Carolyn Coslet

Jeanette Burton - is having vertigo with the rocking again

JoAnn Burton (Judy Reales' mom)

Kim Allmon - prayers for a good biopsy outcome

Rick (Jim Green's nephew) - hospitalized in Phoenix

Joyce Miller - numerous health issues

Our church.

Les Babcock , William Kuhns, Judy Hoffman - health issues

Continue Prayers for:

Brenda Brueckheimer

Food Pantry is in need of monies and prayers.

Will (nephew of Jim Frieske) - cancer

Trisha Olsen (friend of Brenda B.) - colon cancer

Keenan Bush - stationed in Hawaii

Sharon (friend of Brenda Brueckheimer) - battling cancer

Tim Bower (Brenda B's brother-in-law) - non-Hodgkins

Judy Hoffman's son-in-law **Matthew** - undergoing chemo

Lighting of the 4TH Advent Candle: The Candle of Peace

The birth of a first baby is an exciting and frightening time. So much is new and there are many risks. Even in today's world of prenatal care and sterile hospital rooms, childbirth is never commonplace.

So consider the world of Mary and Joseph. Uprooted in her last weeks of pregnancy, they walked or perhaps rode a donkey eighty miles to the old family hometown. Not by choice, but by the decree of a greedy king who wanted to be sure he was getting all his taxes. And, on arriving, they could find no room or bed available, so had to grab the only accommodations they could find — the corner of an animal shelter.

What gamut of emotions did they feel as these unexpected circumstances developed? We can be fairly certain they felt — as they reflected on their plight — a quiet assurance — an inner peace — knowing God would protect them and their child because they were in the center of his will. Sometimes all we can do is release the whole situation to God, and trust him to work things out. For Mary and Joseph, that must have been the key to peace.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1 – 7, 14 - 19

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Prayer (In Unison): Father, You have promised us the "peace that passes all understanding," and we claim that peace now. Whatever the unsettling circumstances beyond our control, help us release our lives and plans to You, believing that You can be trusted to do what is in our best interest. And that brings us peace. We pray in the name of our caring Lord, Amen.

Song: "The Advent Candle Song"
(Verses 1, 2, 3, & 4)

See this insert

Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)



1. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, one: Now the
 2. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, two: Think of
 3. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, three: Think of
 4. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, four: Think of
 5. Light the Christ - mas can - dles, now: Sing of



wait - ing has be - gun; we have start - ed
 hum - ble shep - herds, who filled with won - der
 heaven - ly har - mo - ny; an - gels sing - ing
 joy for - ev - er - more; Christ Child in a
 don - key, sheep, and cow; birth - day can - dles



on our way, time to think of Christ - mas day.
 at the sight of the child of Christ - mas night.
 "Peace on earth" at the bless - ed Sav - ior's birth.
 sta - ble born, gift of love that Christ - mas morn.
 for the King, let the al - le - lu - ias ring.

Refrain



Can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, shin - ing



in the cold win - ter night; can - dle, can - dle,



burn - ing bright, fill our hearts with Christ - mas light.

WORDS: Mary Lu Walker (Luke 2:1-20)
 MUSIC: Mary Lu Walker

ADVENT CANDLE SONG
77.77 with Refrain

© 1975 Mary Lu Walker

Announcements

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are given today by Marcia Wood in memory of Joseph Wood and Peggy Dalton, with proceeds benefitting the Food Pantry.

WESTCHESTER NEIGHBORS FOOD PANTRY

You only have 2 Sundays left (including today) in the month of December to bring in boxes of cold cereal. In January, we have been asked to collect bottles of liquid dishwashing soap. As always, thank you for giving generously throughout the year!

QUARTERLY CHILDREN'S MISSION: VNA PHOENIX CENTER

There's only 2 weeks left to give to the children's quarterly mission of the *VNA Phoenix Center*, a place where children and young adults who have lost someone in their lives and who need help processing their grief can go for support.

QUARTERLY MISSION: FRONTLINE

Time is running out to support *Frontline Foundations*, our last quarterly mission of 2018. Their goal is to serve as a source of hope to young men and women suffering from drug and alcohol abuse while also providing an effective treatment and recovery support system.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TOMORROW

We will be holding a Christmas Eve service at 3 p.m. tomorrow. **There will be NO 11 p.m. service** - if you'd like to attend a candlelight service, Chesterton 1st UMC will be having one.

CHURCH OFFICE TO BE CLOSED THIS WEEK

In celebration of the Christmas holiday, please remember the church office will be **CLOSED THIS WEEK**. Kim will be back in the office on Monday, December 31st to catch up on some things before closing on Tuesday, January 1st in celebration of the New Year.

MITTEN TREE ITEMS NEEDED

Winter accessories are needed to fill our sanctuary Christmas tree! We are looking for hats, scarves, mittens, children's socks and underwear. This will benefit local families in need. As always, we thank you for giving towards families in need throughout the year.

CHRISTMAS BY THE NUMBERS

HOW DO AMERICANS OBSERVE CHRISTMAS?



NEW YORK'S ROCKEFELLER CENTER has been raising and adorning its iconic tree for 80 CHRISTMASSES.



AMERICANS BUY 25-30 MILLION REAL TREES AND 8-12 MILLION ARTIFICIAL TREES EACH CHRISTMAS SEASON.

194,872

record number of lights on a Christmas tree, achieved in Belgium in 2010

350,000,000

number of future Christmas trees growing on U.S. farms

The most common Christmas tree species include the balsam fir, Douglas fir, Fraser fir, noble fir, Scotch pine, Virginia pine, white pine, Norway spruce and blue spruce.

\$11,026,900

value of the most expensively decorated Christmas tree, displayed in the Emirates Palace (UAE) in 2010

TOP CHRISTMAS TREE PRODUCERS:



BUT CHRISTMAS TREES ARE GROWN IN ALL 50 U.S. STATES.

U.S. TOWNS WITH CHRISTMAS-Y NAMES:

NORTH POLE, AK
SANTA CLAUS, GA
SANTA CLAUS, IN
NOEL, MO
RUDOLPH, WI
DASHER, GA
SNOWFLAKE, AZ
HOLLY SPRINGS, MI

THE U.S. PRODUCES 1.76 BILLION CANDY CANES EACH YEAR.

AMERICANS SEND 1.5 BILLION CHRISTMAS CARDS ANNUALLY.

ROUGHLY 30 PERCENT of the population visits a post office during the holidays.

Laid end to end, they would stretch for nearly 167,000 MILES AND COULD CIRCLE THE EQUATOR 6.7 TIMES.

American military installations overseas receive 30 MILLION POUNDS of holiday mail each year.



THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE SELLS OVER 1.3 BILLION WINTER HOLIDAY STAMPS A YEAR, amounting to 10 percent of annual stamp sales.

THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERS 15.8 BILLION cards, letters and packages between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.

Like a Child

1. Like a child love would send to re -
 (2. Like a) child we will meet, rag - ged
 (3. Like a) child born to pray and to

veal and to mend, like a child and a friend, Je - sus
 clothes, dirt - y feet, like a child on the street, Je - sus
 show us the way, like a child here to stay, Je - sus

comes. Like a child we may find claim - ing
 comes. Like a child we once knew com - ing
 comes. Like a child we re - ceive all that

Je - sus comes.

heart, soul, and mind, like a child strong and kind, Je - sus
 back in - to view, like a child born a - new, Je - sus
 love can con - ceive, like a child we be - lieve, Je - sus

comes. 1, 2 comes.
 comes. 3. Like a comes.

RESPONSIVE READING: Luke 1:47 - 55



L: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior

C: for He has looked with favor on the lowliness of His servant.

L: Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

C: for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name.

L: His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

C: He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

L: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

C: He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

L: He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy,

ALL: according to the promise He made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

In Honor Of:

Mildred Spencer & Lucille Fulton (Les & Pam Babcock)

In Memory Of:

Our parents, Kenneth & Ruth Tavernier and
Lester & Gertrude Babcock (Les & Pam Babcock)

Joseph Wood & Peggy Dalton (Marcia Wood)

My parents, Carl D. & Kay R. Copollo (Carl Copollo, Jr.)

Mary Weber & Ken Slater (Chet & Roxanne Micinski)

Liturgist reads the light print, congregation reads the bold.