

Motley Crew

what a motley crew
to welcome you into the world!

a horse stamping its feet
to keep warm;
a cow murmuring
because you've disturbed her calf;
a dog whimpering and twitching,
chasing, in his dreams,
the cat in the corner of the barn,
who stares wondering
what all the fuss is about.

(of course, it's no surprise
they are there, at that moment:
since they sprang from this Child's imagination
at creation's birth)

and then the folks
who show up from
Bethlehem's welcome wagon?

loners
(why else do they spend their nights
on cold, rocky hillsides);
introverts
(who else enjoys a job where
you never meet another person);
the strong, silent type
(why else would they want to spend
all their time with sheep?!?)

and yet, there they go:
running and grabbing everyone
like they are best friends,
almost shouting:

"You won't believe who we just met!"

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WELCOME VISITORS!

We are delighted to have you in our service this morning! Every Sunday, we are privileged to have people attending our church for the first time and we want you to feel welcome among us. **Please stop by the Welcome Center right after service. We have a special gift for you.**

PLEASE SIGN THE FELLOWSHIP BOOK found in the pews. We would like to know of your presence this morning. **PLEASE SHARE PRAYER JOYS/CONCERNS** on the Prayer card; they will be included in the Prayers of the People during the 9:15 service, and added to the Prayer Chain if submitted at the 11:30 service.

A PERSONAL SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED IS AVAILABLE. WORSHIP BULLETINS FOR CHILDREN are available. Contact an usher for assistance.

TAPES OF THIS SUNDAY'S SERMON are available. Contact the church office or Art Sattler.

If you are in need of **Pastoral Care** or know someone who is, please call Rev. Pat at the church (419-475-4436) or at her home (419-841-7954).

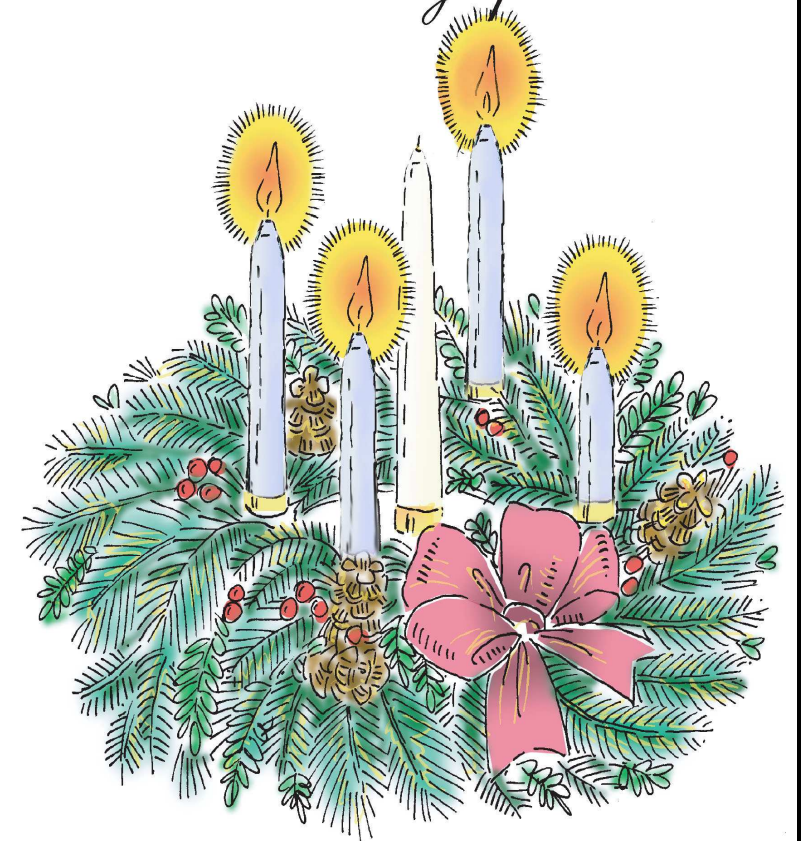
Fairgreen Presbyterian Church

***3220 Laskey Road
Toledo, Ohio 43613
419-475-4436***

Email: fairgreen.church@sbcglobal.net

**December 24, 2006
9:15 AM**

Fourth Sunday of Advent





9:15 AM



Welcome to worship with the Fairgreen family! The * symbol means, "All who are able, please stand." † indicates when latecomers may be seated.

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

PRELUDE Shannon Smith

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Please sign fellowship book found in pews.

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

SILENT REFLECTION

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

CHORAL INTROIT **"Prepare Ye the Way"** Geneva Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP ~ The Candle Lighting Liturgy Bill, William & Michael Henning
Mary Beth Henning, Liturgist

Reader I: This is the fourth Sunday in Advent, the time of preparing for the coming of Christ our Savior. Today our words are Let it be. We remember that we are to wait, prepare, and witness. Now, as Christ's arrival nears, we are reminded of Mary's words, "Let it be." It is not up to us to dictate to God how Christ will come into our world and lives, for God continually surprises us. Let God's will be done in each of us.

Liturgist: Isaiah 9: 2-7
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulder; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless



The poinsettias decorating the sanctuary today are given in Dedication to:

- In loving memory of our parents.....Rick & Kay Amendola
- "Joy to the World".....Jeff & Denice Skinner
- In loving memory of Edna Mae Kinzie
- and Philip and Regena Anderson.....Len & Jan Anderson
- In loving memory of Matthew, Karen and Bill.....Dick & Gayle Bell
- "O Come, O Come Emmanuel".....Isabella Wu
- In loving memory of Mary and Elmer Taylor.....Marilyn McAfee
- In loving memory of Gerald and Elizabeth Herren
- and Andy and Charlotte Kononen.....Gary & Karen Herren
- "O Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!".....Chuck & Pat Gibson
- In loving memory of Estella Hall.....Sally Kille
- In loving memory of our parents.....Don & Jackie Campbell
- "Joy to the World".....Ken & Mary Ellen Campbell
- In loving memory of our son, Kent.....George & Janet Kadesch
- In memory of our special loved ones who
- live in our hearts.....The Bandfield Family
- In loving memory of our parents.....William & Suzanne Fotoples
- "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!".....Web & Woody Cole

The Chancel Guild thanks all who have made our sanctuary beautiful this Advent Season. Poinsettia plants may be taken home after the 7:30pm Christmas Eve service. Any plants left after the service will be delivered to shut-ins.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Van Can Sunday ~ Today is “Van Go” Sunday. Your monthly contributions will help defray the cost of gasoline for the van. The van has been used for so many different events in the church. Please help us by stopping by the Welcome Center and placing your donation in the “Van Can”. Thank you!

Give Kroger Gift Cards for Christmas and support IHN ~ Kroger’s will donate 5% of your purchases to Interfaith Hospitality Network each time you refill a gift card. Please see Jan Anderson to purchase a \$10 gift card that can be refilled using cash, check, or credit card at customer service or at any cashier.

Christmas Holiday Office Hours ~ The church office will be closed on Monday & Tuesday, December 25 & 26, 2006. The office will reopen on Wednesday, December 27 at 8:30am and will be open from 8:30-1pm from Wednesday through Friday. The office will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2007 and will then have regular office hours (8:30-1pm) from Tuesday through Friday.

Elders/Deacons Orientation Class ~ Tuesday, January 2, 2007 at 7pm in the Commons.

Session Retreat ~ This retreat is for all Session members incoming, outgoing and those still serving their term of office. The dates are Friday, January 5 (7pm) through Saturday, January 6 (5pm) at the Lial Center in Whitehouse, Ohio. All those planning on attending will need to call the church office to confirm by Wednesday, December 27, 2006.

Adult Volleyball ~ There will be no adult volleyball on Monday December 25 & January 1st. We will resume volleyball on Monday, January 8, 2007 from 7-9pm.

Offering Envelopes ~ You can pick up your offering envelopes today at the close of the service. They will be located on the table in the Narthex.

peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader 1: We relight our candles which remind us to *wait,* to prepare,* to witness.** Now we complete our circle, lighting the candle which proclaims, “*Let it be.*” * Christ is the light of our world, and we have only to open ourselves and he will come to us.

* denotes the lighting of the candles

Reader 2: Let us pray. Gracious God, our time of waiting is almost over. We pray that we have prepared well, that we have proclaimed and witnesses to Christ’s coming, and that we are now willing to let Christ enter our hearts and lives. Amen.

*HYMN # 12

“People Look East”

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Pat

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you kept your promise to bring light into the world and to guide our steps into the paths of peace. You sent us Jesus and from him we receive salvation. Yet we confess to being less than faithful in our response. We have been tentative and cautious rather than bold and generous; we have feared what people will think rather than speak a prophetic word like John the Baptist; we have packed our calendars with busyness and neglected your gift of overwhelming love as we watch and wait.

Redeeming God, may your coming once again reorder our priorities, renew our commitments and refashion our witness. During this season of hope, enter in and fill us with your love. Amen.

*SILENT CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Pat

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“The Gloria Patri” (#579)

THE WORD OF GOD

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Rev. Pat

Children will remain in service. No Kids for Christ.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Mary Beth Henning

FIRST READING

Psalm 134 ~ A Psalm of Ascent

pg. 971(OT) in the pew bible

ANTHEM

“And the Glory of the Lord”

Geneva Choir

SECOND READING

Luke 2: 1-20

pg.1590(NT) in the pew bible

SERMON

“Do You Believe?”

Rev. Pat Lawrence Shafer

OUR RESPONSE

*HYMN # 53

“What Child Is This?”

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD
OFFERING

Mary Beth Henning

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Away In A Manger”

Isabel Bosley-Smith

*DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

**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. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Mary Beth Henning

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts) pg.16 in the hymnal (traditional)

*HYMN # 59

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

POSTLUDE

Shannon Smith

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE— “May The Lord”

**May the Lord, mighty God,
Grant you peace, perfect peace,
Lift up your eyes and see God’s face,
May the Lord, mighty God,**

**bless and keep you forever.
courage in every endeavor
full of grace forever;
bless and keep you forever.**

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 25-31, 2006

Monday, December 25 -

Merry Christmas!; Church Office Closed; No Adult Volleyball

Tuesday, December 26 -

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27 - Church Office Opens at 8:30am

Thursday, December 28 - Praise Band practice and potluck at 6:30pm

Friday, December 29 -

No Food Pantry

Sunday, December 31 -

Services 9:15 & 11:30 with Communion at the second service; New Years Eve Day/ First Sunday after Christmas

CHURCH SCHOOL — 10:30 - 11:20 SUNDAY

Beginners Sunday School Class (3, 4, & 5 yr. olds & 1st grade).....Rm. 104

Grades 2,3, 4, 5.....Rm. 106

Junior High (grades, 6, 7, 8).....Junior High Room (downstairs)

Senior High (grades 9-12).....Senior High Room (downstairs)

FOR ADULTS:

Bible Study.....Lounge

Faith Sharing Class.....Library Room 102

Nursery Room Available.....Rm.105

Kids for Christ—after Time With The Younger Church during 9:15am worship

(3years old through 2nd grade)..... Rm. 110

There will be **Coffee Hour and Fellowship** in the **Commons** at **10:30am**.

Information for the Newsletter should be received by the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Visit **THE CARD TABLE** in the narthex to sign or request cards to remember members of the Fairgreen family. Are you in need of prayer? The **FAIRGREEN PRAYER CHAIN** is here for you. Call Leone Sattler at 419-474-1723 or Darlene in the church office at 419-475-4436 or indicate that you have a request for the Prayer Chain on your Prayer card.

Number who worshiped with us on December 17, 2006: 120

TODAY’S GREETERS & WELL WISHERS 9:15: Kay Amendola

TODAY’S USHERS: Bill Henning, Capt., Michael & William Henning, Bob Martz

NEXT SUNDAY’S USHERS: Kay Amendola, Capt., Dan Yeager, Joe Murray, Ed Wolff

NEXT SUNDAY’S GREETERS: Fred King