The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by

Carol Curry
In Memory of Lucille & Bert McCormick

Flower orders & donation costs for flowers ordered for worship are made using the “2015 Flower Reservation Chart” on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. Thank you to those providing flowers each week In Honor/In Memory of someone or an anniversary/birthday!

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO....
Monday, December 14th: Paul Means, Kurt Kemerer
Tuesday, December 15th: Lois Marsh, Christy Rickrode, Stephanie Rickrode
Wednesday, December 16th: Bailey Shields, Cheryl Roberts
Thursday, December 17th: Melanie Brown, Don Stevens, Chris Curvin
Friday, December 18th: Helen Burke, Carol Hersh, Nicole Makal, Kelsey Propst
Saturday, December 19th: Jan Risberg, Stephen Williams

If you see someone whose birthday is listed and you haven’t seen them in church recently, give them a call!

FAITHFULLY SERVING NORTHWOOD CHURCH TODAY
ACOLYTE:
(8:15) James Birch
(11:00) Aidan McDermott

GREETERS:
(8:15) Don Morrison
(11:00) Ann & Spencer Briggs

USHERS:
(8:15) Fred Heider, Earl Lusk
Dennis & Betty O’Shea
(9:30) Curtis & Vicki Krueger
(11:00) Pete & Evelyn Towns
Ed Puschmann

VAN DRIVER: Art Holloway

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
8:15 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr. Olds-5th Grade (15/16 School Year), Room 3, join us in the multi-age Sunday School worship class after the Children’s Message. Justine Ruisz

9:30 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr. Olds-VPK (15/16 School Year), Room 3, Amy Kemerer & Bree Greff

Kindergarten– 2nd Grades, Room 4
Students will start and stay in their classroom for the Sunday school hour. Nancy Turner & Billie Nesmith

3rd – 5th grade – Students will gather to worship for the whole service for the program. The teachers will be in the front Sanctuary rows and will be sitting with the students as a class. Your children are welcome to remain seated with you or join their class in the front pews.

11:00 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr. Olds – 5th grade (15/16 school year) Children are welcome to remain in worship or dismiss to room 3 for children’s worship.
Parents, if you wish for your children to receive communion please have them remain with you in the worship service on Communion Sunday. If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact Elder Dawn Winder, Chair of Worship Team.

9:30 AM MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
On the 1st Sunday we will meet in the Ignite service to enjoy worship and communion together. Middle and High Sunday School will be in the Youth Room on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
9:30 AM Serendipity Class
Join us in rooms 13&15 to continue our study of Revelation led by Bob Meier and Jeanette Holloway.

9:30 AM TCI Sunday School Class (Today’s Christian Issues)
TCI provides a respectful, civil and non-judgmental forum to explore the timely issues we face as Christians, citizens, parents and friends. We ground our discussions in Scripture and celebrate the diversity of ideas drawn from experiences and perspectives. TCI chooses topics from suggestions by participants and our leadership team. We fuel our always lively conversations with coffee and cookies in rooms 9&11.

11:00 AM Experiencing God Class
Join us in room 15 led by Vicki Krueger. All are welcome.
WE GATHER
(Let the congregation be silent, and in prayer as the music begins. Please silence electronic devices.)

CALL TO WORSHIP
OPENING VOLUNTARY
“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” arr. James Melby
(based on the last hymn today, #132)

(AColytes symbolically bring in the light of Christ & then take it out into the world.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
(Please complete the bulletin insert, “FRIENDSHIP SHEET,” and pass it toward the center aisle.)

*HYMN #88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” VENI EMMANUEL
(stanzas 1, 2, 5 and 6)

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY
Lighting the Candle
(8:15) Kim, Shauna & Sarah Flaherty
(11:00) Chris, Dee & Julie Bryant

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (all singing, seated)
The candle of joy reminds us to sing,
for God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
God of justice, we confess that often we gloss over the hard truth in the words of John the Baptist. We assume that he came to speak to those people far away and not us.

FAITH SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministries
(Children age 3 (by 9/15) through fifth grade are welcome to go to Room 3 for Children's Sunday School.)

WE UNITE IN PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER
“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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”

WE SHARE

CALL TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING “Comfort Ye” Joseph M. Martin
Rachelle Cox, Cindy Huffman, Robert Wood, Dick Casper

*DOXOLOGY
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #96 “On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry” WINCHESTER NEW
(stanzas 1, 2, 5 and 6)

WE HEAR THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Isaiah 12:1-6 (pages 558-559)
Luke 3:7-18 (page 834)

SERMON
“The Preaching Style of John” Chris Curvin, Pastor

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN #132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” IN DULCI JUBILO

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “People, Look East” Daryl Hollinger
(based on the Advent hymn, #105)

(You are invited to remain for the final act of worship, the closing voluntary. A closer look is welcomed if you wish to come stand next to the organ console.)

Stephanie Carson, Music Director
Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director

*Congregational will stand. If standing is difficult for you, feel free to remain seated.