



**DECEMBER**

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Church Office e mail: [eucmech@yahoo.com](mailto:eucmech@yahoo.com)

**Sunday Schedule:**

**Sunday School-9:45 am**

**Worship-11:00 am**

The doors of this Church are open wide.

We welcome every man, woman, youth and child who is disturbed by a sense of need, who hungers for a nobler life, who seeks a better world and who aspires to faithfully follow Jesus.

We summon you:

To the beauty of the worship of God-

To the service of bewildered humanity-

To a friendly fellowship with others who seek the best-

To the dangerous adventure of building a new world.

**Emmanuel United Church**  
Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney, Interim Pastor  
Ben McCormack, Organist  
Mary Beth Fusco, Choir Director  
**December 7, 2008**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

Ringling of the Bell  
Prelude, *Ben McCormack*  
Gathering Song "Blessed be Your Name, (*Redman*)  
Welcome and Announcements



Call to Worship

Welcome on this second Sunday of Advent, as we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Messiah's birth.

**We gather in the hope of God's promised future.**

Make yourselves ready for the coming of the Prince of Peace.

**The world aches and our own hearts hunger for the peace that only God can give.**

Come, worship God who is the source and ground of all our peace.

**We come to the One who is the source of our life and our peace.**

**AMEN.**

\*Hymn 191, "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Comfort us now, most holy God.  
Speak tenderly to us and hear our cry.

**For all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.**

Lord, we come to you broken and repentant.

**O God, heal our brokenness and forgive us our sins.**

Lift us, O Lord, from the depths of despair.  
We repent, and ask that our sins be forgiven.

**Almighty God, forgive us for our sins.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Candle of Joy - Kris Matney, Jess Ferson, Pastor Jerrie  
Hymn 185, *Emmanuel*, 2x

**SHARING OUR GIFTS AND TALENTS**

Offering and Offertory Music

\*Doxology (No. 623) and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem, "Away in a Manger", (*unknown, Kirkpatrick*)

*Sarah Fraser, Tenor Saxophone, Ben McCormack, Clarinet*  
Time with Our Children

**PRAYING AND GIVING THANKS TO GOD**

Sharing of Joys, Concerns and Celebrations

Silent Prayer

Prayers of the People and 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, 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

**LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD**

Reading from the Word: # 638 - "The Incarnate Christ"

\*Hymn 202, "What Child Is This?"

Message: "Ready or Not, Here He Comes"

**MEETING AT CHRIST'S TABLE**

\*Communion Hymn 222 "A Communion Hymn for Christmas" v. 1,4,5

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

\*Hymn 138 "Blest Be the Tie that Binds", vs. 1

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*you are invited to stand

**Altar flowers today are given by the McCormack Family  
In loving memory of Grandpa Plue**

Please remember to keep your cell phones and iPods turned off during worship. Thank you

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome each of you to worship today, and hope you receive a blessing from the service. We especially welcome visitors, as we celebrate the Lord's Supper this morning. All who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are welcome to the table. If you are visiting with us today, please sign our guest book located in the back and pick up a church brochure.



### **Thought for the week:**

"God must have loved the plain people. He made so many of them."

**Abraham Lincoln**



### What's Happening at Emmanuel United Church

**Today:** 9:45-Sunday School  
1:00-Worship, Communion

**Wednesday:** 7:00- Choir

**Thursday** 7:00- Bible Study

**Next Sunday:** 9:45-Sunday School  
11:00-Worship, Youth Group Movie and  
Board of Elders meeting following worship

**Today is the Second Sunday of Advent.** This season provides many opportunities:

Do you have a favorite **Advent/Christmas** song you would like to sing in worship?

Would you like to be a reader for the **Advent candle lighting** one Sunday?

Would you like to participate in an **Advent Bible study**?

Are you interested in leading a Children's message during worship?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please let Pastor Jerrie know. Thank-you!

Please be sure to take a copy of the December newsletter on your way out of church today. You can also get the newsletter on the church website: [www.eucmech.org](http://www.eucmech.org)

Pastor Jerrie will be in the office Tuesday-Friday mornings this week. Abby Bee will be here Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10-1pm. **Reports from the various boards and committees** are due at the end of December to be ready for the parish Annual report.

Pastor Jerrie is offering an Advent Bible study on Thursday evenings during December, on the book, *"Let Us Go Over to Bethlehem"*. We will begin this Thursday at 7:00 at the church. Everyone is invited.

If you do not already have a **Commitment/Pledge Card**, you will find them on the back table. Please turn them in as soon as possible, as the 2009 budget will be prepared soon. Thank-you for your support of Emmanuel United Church during the coming year!

Gifts for the **Chamber Angels** project are due today. Thank You!

A big "Thank-you" to everyone who participated in the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, and the Chamber Angels ministry. Your generosity is much appreciated!

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**The Christmas pageant, "A Not So Silent Night"** will be December 21st, during worship. Be sure to be here for this special Sunday.

### YOUTH MINISTRY

**Next week after worship** is the combined Adult and Youth Group movie and discussion. Bring \$5 for pizza. We will meet in the Round Room. See Vera for more information.

### ONGOING MINISTRIES

**Greeters** are needed for Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Thank You! We especially need greeters for the Advent season.

**Altar flowers** are a wonderful way to celebrate and honor a loved one. You may donate flowers by signing up on the flower chart on the back table. The cost is \$10 for both vases and you may send money to the church office or drop it in the collection plate.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS AND INFORMATION

The **Dorothy Welch Choral Society Holiday Concert** will be December 14th, at 3 p.m. at Assumption/St. Paul Church on Main St. The concert is free.

**The First Presbyterian Church**, Glens Falls will host a community **Messiah Sing-Along**, on Sunday December 21st at 3 p.m.. Singers are asked to bring a score, if possible and RSVP to 793-2521. A suggested donation of \$10 will benefit the Try-County United Way's heat assistance initiative and the church's music program.

### MECHANICVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER FUND-RAISER

The Mechanicville Community Center, at 6 S. Main St., offers a variety of services for all ages throughout the community. We are probably most familiar with the food cupboard that we contribute to, but the Center also provides many other services, such as a youth development program, after-school care, summer youth programs, mental health services, domestic violence advocacy programs, and elder care. The Center also provides space for many community programs and sponsors events such as the Firecracker Run and the Community Tree Lighting.

The Community Center is a private, not-for-profit agency which was founded in 1969 as a teen drop in center. Over the years its mission has expanded to meet the needs of the community. Each year, nearly 7,000 community members make more than 60,000 visits to the Center, and more than 100 volunteers provide over 6000 hours of service in various programs. The Center has been a United Way agency for over 25 years, and is one of eleven United Way of Northeastern N.Y. recognized Family Resource Centers, and the only one in Saratoga County.

There is a special campaign taking place in memory of Margaret Mehan, a former teacher and resident of Mechanicville. All donations are matched by a \$1200 contribution from an anonymous donor, and will be used for the community food program. If you would like to contribute to this, please include a notation "in memory of Margaret Mehan." Other contributions will be used for the variety of programs that the Community Center sponsors. Thank-you for your donations to this very important community ministry.