

The Lord's Day  
Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2023  
Sandy Creek United Wesleyan Church  
Reverend Brian Snyder: 315-387-3199  
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Sandy Creek, NY 13145  
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## Today's Prayer

Heavenly Father, fill my heart with the fresh wonder of what that first Christmas means for me today. Thank you that today or in the future, any need I have can be fulfilled by you, Jesus. Let Joy flood into my soul as I lean on you to be my Wonderful Counselor, my Mighty God, my Everlasting Father, and my Prince of Peace! Help me to look with expectation to what you will do in my life and fill me with your Joy!

In Jesus Name, Amen

## The Morning Message

Reverend Brian Snyder

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR

John Shatraw • Betty Lou and Ron Pickett • Beverly Snyder  
Daniel Shirley • Dorice Stewart • Stanley Perzan • Emma  
Burt Goodnough • Nancy Casler • Julie Pierce • Brian Groff  
Carl & Danielle • Mrs. Mavery • Mary Hesford • Ron Latella  
Helen Potter • Laura Paddock • Jared Eldridge • Dan Race  
Bonnie VanDyke • Mark Freeden • George Steven • Randy  
Norm Kepner • Lynn & Stan • Shaun Hull • Patricia Myers  
Doris Bates • Donna Thurston • Stanley Kepner • Karen Ross

**MISSIONARIES:** Mozambique: Rev. Jim Pickett

**ALL MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL**

**NEXT WEEK: SUNDAY, December 24, 2023**

**Greeters:** Kelly Blair / Bill Butman

**Security:** Stephanie Gillette / Steve Berkman / Cristina Davis

## Food for Senior Care Boxes is due back today.

**Today, Dec. 17, 3:00 PM:** Christmas Caroling weather permitting

**Today, Dec. 17, after Caroling:** Teens Christmas Party at James and Brooke's house.

**Monday, December 18, 9:00 AM:** Friendship Shop—Wrapping gifts at Methodist Church

**Monday, December 18, 6:00 PM:** Packing Senior Care Boxes

**Tuesday, December 19, 9:00 AM:** Men's Bible Study

**Wednesday, December 20, 6:00 PM:** Men's Bible Study

**Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 PM:** Prayer Study-Talking with God thru Prayer

**Sunday, December 24, 6:00 PM:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Monday, December 25, 10:00 AM:** Christmas Day Service

**Are you interested in walking in the gym during the winter months, please sign up at the Welcome Desk.**

## Joy

The season of Advent is about re-orienting our lives, turning towards the God who comes to us. It's about following John's call to repentance, his call to change our lives and turn towards God. And there is great Joy in that call.

There is freedom, liberation and Joy in letting go of the world's standards, letting go of measuring success and value by the size of bank accounts or the number of likes and shares or the fullness of a calendar. There is Joy, eternal Joy in recognizing the truth that God and God alone is our salvation.

God is at work, purifying us, working in our lives, showing us how to live, giving meaning to our lives. Following God is not just about doing good works, as if the more extra food you give away or the more spare coats you take to Goodwill the more God will love you. God already loves you, and the evidence is that God's not done with you or me.

In the meantime, as we wait, our response is to do God's work in the here and now, to go against the world's patterns of selfishness, hoarding and instead to give away the extra we have, to use our power and privilege for good, to love and serve our neighbors, knowing and trusting that our salvation is in God alone.

And in that, there is Joy. Christ is coming.

# Joy

FEAR NOT: FOR, BEHOLD,  
I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY.

LUKE 2:10

