



BARRINGTON
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

Welcome to Barrington United Methodist Church!

We are glad that you joined us for worship this morning! At Barrington United Methodist Church we believe that worship is the place where we receive the comfort, hope and strength to sustain us along our journey of faith. You are always welcome and always invited.

Rise in body or in spirit where designated by. * Please join in speaking the words in bold.

PRELUDE

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen in E Minor
Alexander Zintchenko, organist

D. Lanz

WELCOME

Pastor David

* A CALL TO WORSHIP

Dennis Rossow

Rejoice in the Lord always. For even in the shadows, God's light is never spent.

**We come to this hour seeking the joy that does not deny sorrow,
a joy born of God's faithful love.**

The Lord of hope, peace and joy is drawing near to dwell in our hearts.

May his presence awaken in us a deep and steady joy.

Come, let us worship the God who delights in us.

* OPENING HYMN #206 (UMH)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
(Please be seated after hymn.)

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor David

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

(9:00 AM) The Fumarolo Family (10:30 AM) The Schule/Smith Family

Hope is assertive and peace is subversive. But Joy is rebelliously provocative. Joy has the audacity to burst into a weary world. Joy refuses to wait until conditions improve or everything is perfect. But how can we rejoice in a time like this, when grief is real, divisions are deep, and the world still trembles with violence?

If angels once brought "good news of great joy" in the middle of a harsh and cruel empire, then we, too, can dare to rejoice, even now.

We light this candle because joy refuses to hide, even in hard times. Joy insists that we sing, dance, laugh, and weep with gratitude, because hope and peace are already taking root.

(Lighting of the third candle as Advent Song is sung)

ADVENT SONG

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.

UNISON ADVENT PRAYER

God of joy, tune our spirits to your song. Fill our hearts with laughter and delight. Let joy rise in places that have felt dead or numb. Bring morning after night, healing after heartbreak, joy after despair. Let joy rise in every generation gathered here. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor David

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dennis Rossow

Let us bring our confessions and shortcomings before the One who is merciful and kind, and who invites us into new beginnings.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dennis Rossow

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not always lived as people rooted in your joy.
We've allowed worry to overshadow trust, and resentment to darken gratitude.**

Forgive us for the ways we close our hearts to one another, to your Spirit, and to the joy you so freely give. Renew our spirits and restore our hope, that we may be ready to receive your surprising grace and to live as your faithful people. In the name of the One who is coming, we pray. Amen.

(A time of silent prayer.)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor David

Friends, hear this Good News: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor David

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.
The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

* HYMN #204 (UMH)

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
(Please be seated after hymn.)

SCRIPTURE READING Judges 13: 1-25 abridged (MEV) (9:00 AM) Dennis Rossow (10:30 AM) Coral Murray

Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, so the Lord gave them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. There was a certain man from Zorah, from the tribe of Dan. His name was Manoah. His wife was infertile and had borne no children. The angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed, you are infertile and have borne no children, yet you will conceive and bear a son. No razor may touch his head, for the boy will be a Nazirite to God from the womb. He will begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

Then the woman went to her husband and said, "A man of God came to me. He looked like a very fearsome angel of God. I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name. He said to me, 'You will conceive and bear a son.'

Then Manoah prayed to the Lord, "O my Lord, let the man of God whom You sent come again to us, so that he can teach us what we should do for the boy who will be born."

God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman. The woman hurried and ran to tell her husband, "The man who came to me the other day has appeared to me."

So Manoah got up and went after his wife. He came to the man and said to him, "Are you the man who spoke to my wife?" He said, "I am." Then Manoah said, "Now may your words come true!"

So the woman bore a son, and she called him Samson. The boy grew, and the Lord blessed him. The Spirit of the Lord began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

This is the Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON

"New Beginnings in Unexpected Places"

Pastor David Lagos-Fonseca

ANTHEM (9:00 AM)

Light of the World

Daigle

Crossroads Worship Band; Colin Moore, guest pianist

(10:30 AM)

Father Long Your People Waited

K. Lee Scott

Chancel Choir; Alex Zintchenko, conductor

Accompanied by: Dana Angel, harp; Colin Moore, pianist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dennis Rossow

THE LORD'S PRAYER #894

Dennis Rossow

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Dennis Rossow

CALL TO OFFERING

Pastor David

OFFERTORY

Alexander Zintchenko

* ADVENT DOXOLOGY

IRBY

Praise to God, the one who made us. Praise to Christ, the soon-born Son.

Praise the Spirit, ever with us. Praise the God-head, three in one.

Clear a path! Prepare the way! Advent leads to Christmas Day!

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND GRATITUDE

Pastor David

Generous God, take these offerings, bless them and use them to bring joy to places of despair and shadow. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

* HYMN #221 (UMH)

In the Bleak Midwinter

* BENEDICTION

Pastor David

POSTLUDE

O Magnum Mysterium (to Anne Akiko Meyers) in D Major

M. Lauridsen

Bob Hudson, violin; Alexander Zintchenko, piano

CREDITS:

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NOTES OF APPRECIATION:

We are thankful for our Lay Liturgists who faithfully prepare and lead the Prayers of the People each week. Your thoughtful words and voices enrich our worship. To learn more about this team and ways to get involved, please contact Dennis Rossow at DennisRossow@comcast.net

A big thank you to our guest pianist today, Colin Moore. He is studying jazz piano at Northern Illinois University.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO OFFER PRAYERS OF HOPE AND HEALING FOR:

THOSE IN A CARE FACILITY: Sherry Schairer (Chapters Living Barrington)

THOSE HOSPITALIZED: Paul Bergetz, husband of Jane (ICU)

THOSE UNDERGOING MEDICAL TREATMENT: Theresa and Charlie Brady and their granddaughter (friends of the Gradts), Brian Kotila

Al Sauer, Alton Parker (brother of Sydney Whitley), Paul Semanic, Ken Rossow, Marge Marlowe (sister of Nancy Jensen)

Scott Wilk (brother of Pam Kocian), Tim Ryan (brother of Sean Ryan), Gerry Deneen (friend of Kenneth Slack), Michele Evans

THOSE RECOVERING AT HOME: Phil Pardun

THOSE TO HOLD IN PRAYER: George Nikolaou (cousin of Walter VanPuyenbroeck), Vaughn Simon, Marilyn Helberg (surgery), Priscilla Akins, Ted and Pat Gradt, Paulette Todd, Rev. Duk Kwon, Barbara Taylor (friend of Lynn Pampalone), Anne Courter (hospice care) Lawrence Huff, son of John Todd, Adam (friend of Ashley P.), Matthew Jachim (son of Mike and Kathy), Ray Maxwell, Pastor Luis Vega

Prayer Requests:

We believe in the power of prayer and have a dedicated prayer team committed to praying your requests.

If you have a prayer request, please contact the church office, (847) 836-5540, Paula Gordon (pgordon@barringtonumc.com), or Julia Hooper (2juliahooper@gmail.com). You can also visit the church website or use your church app to submit a request. Please be sure to indicate if you would like your request to be printed in the Sunday bulletin.

Flowers for the Altar

Each Sunday there is an opportunity to provide flowers on the altar. If you are interested in providing an arrangement on a Sunday, please contact Paula Gordon either by email - (pgordon@barringtonumc.com), phoning the office - 847-836-5540, ext. 105, scanning the QR Code or by visiting our website barringtonumc.com





Hot Chocolate Bar

Today in The Well, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Enjoy hot chocolate with all the fixings, coffee, and yummy treats while sharing Christmas greetings and cheer.

Come early or stay late!

We can't wait to celebrate the season with you!

Heifer Living Gifts Market | Sundays, December 14, and 21 in the Narthex

For those friends, neighbors, business associates, or family members that are really hard to shop for, why not remember them with a duck or a chicken, honeybees, or an alpaca this year? Heifer Project's Living Gifts Market supports efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable community development. Giving an animal is like giving a small business, allowing families to feed themselves or sell eggs, or milk, or honey, or wool to send their kids to school. Look for Linda McGill or another mission team member in the BUMC lobby to purchase your living gift and select a Christmas card to send to family and friends.



Children this morning | Children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to JAM, "Jesus and Me," Sunday School after children's time in both services. Our theme this month is "Star Trip."

Youth Gatherings each Sunday | Middle and High School students are invited to join us each Sunday for a time of fun, connection, and growing in faith together. Bring your friends, bring your questions, and come ready for games, conversation, and community.

Middle School Youth – Meet in the Youth Room at 9:00 a.m.

High School Youth – Meet in the Youth Room at 10:30 a.m.

Come for the Sermon, stay for the Game | *Today in the Youth Roomn following Youth Sunday School*
The Bears take on the Browns this Sunday, and everyone's invited to the Youth Room to watch the game on the big screen following Youth Sunday School.

Youth Christmas Party | Sunday, December 21, from 5–8:30 p.m.

Middle and High School youth are invited to a festive and joy-filled Christmas Party. We'll share a delicious dinner, play some lively holiday games, and cozy up for a Christmas movie together. Come celebrate the season with friends, fun, and plenty of Christmas cheer!

Support for Displaced Carpentersville Families

Following the devastating November 29 apartment fire, 23 Carpentersville families have been displaced and are in urgent need of support. If you are able to help, monetary gifts are greatly appreciated. Checks may be made payable to Barrington UMC with "Carpentersville Fire Assistance" in the memo line, or you may give online at barringtonumc.com/give and select "Carpentersville Fire Assistance." Thank you!

Northern Illinois Food Bank

BUMC is committed to fighting food insecurity. Our teams serve monthly at the Northern Illinois Food Bank's Geneva warehouse on the first Tuesday from 1-3:30 p.m. and the third Tuesday from 9-11:30 a.m.—helping provide food to those in need. Join a team by scanning the QR code or contacting Pat Zeibart at psziebart@gmail.com.



Just breathe ... with friends Are you or have you been a long-term caregiver? Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Would you like a chance to be open about the pain? To know that you are not alone? We would like to walk with you. Beginning this winter, we will offer opportunities to gather conveniently with others in a caring Christian environment. Please let us know what would be helpful for you and when you can meet. Scan the QR code to express your interest.



Virtual Winter Learning Event

Opening worship, Sunday, January 11 | Closing worship, Sunday, January 25

Classes are two hours, twice a week, choose your class time/days:

Practicing Hope by Tabatha Holley

Monday/Wednesday (6:00-8:00)

Tuesday/Thursday (2:00-4:00)

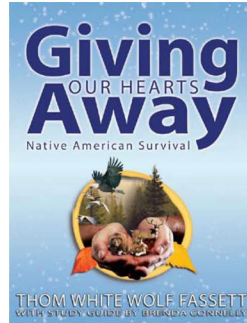
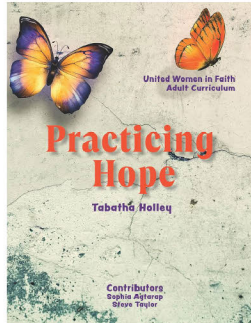
Tuesday/Thursday (6:00-8:00)

Giving Our Hearts Away:

Native American Survival

by Thom White Wolf Fassett

Monday/Wednesday (2:00-4:00)



Practicing Hope and *Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival* are the two studies for Winter Mission u, presented by United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference. The classes will be via Zoom, beginning with worship on Sunday, January 11. Sessions will meet twice a week, the weeks of January 11 and 18, at various times, and conclude with worship on Sunday, Jan. 18.

While Mission u is presented by United Women in Faith, it is open to all, men and women. Knowing many have a connection to Native American issues after attending or learning about the past mission trips, you are invited to consider the Native American study. If you would like to preview the text or more information about this opportunity, please contact Linda Osikowicz, Lmosikowicz@comcast.net.

Second Starlight Talent Showcase | Sunday, January 11, from noon to 3 p.m.

Come be amazed by the shining stars in our midst! Congregation members and friends are invited to share their gifts at the God's Squad's Starlight Showcase—a joyful celebration featuring a talent show, great entertainment, and a delicious meal. If you'd like to participate or learn how you can help, please contact Fred Kocian at fkocian@comcast.net

CELEBRATE THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS

at Barrington United Methodist Church

Wednesday, December 24

4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

98 Algonquin Road in Barrington

Sunday, December 21 at noon

Trinity Center, 1647 Ravine Lane in Carpentersville

98 Algonquin Road, Barrington, IL 60010-6145

barringtonumc.com

(847) 836-5540

