

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BUCKLAND
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Church Phone: 625-9440 Pastor's Phone: (413) 634-5451
Rev. Richard T. Fournier, Pastor
Sandy Carter - Organist / Pianist

December 19, 2021 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Come, Lord Jesus, Love Divine"

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: Let us celebrate Christmas in the spirit of Christ, who came to us from the heart of God's own being and entered into the hearts of humanity.

People: Like Jesus we would seek in this season to give more than to receive, to love more than to be loved.

Pastor: We celebrate God's entering into our lives in human form, to bring light to all the world.

**People: May we lift up our voices to join the angel chorus:
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace and goodwill to all. Amen**

***HYMN** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 100 (vs. 1, 3 & 5)

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Dear God, for whatever in us reaches for your coming, we rejoice in your name. Praise for the fir tree and the candled dark. Praise for the hush and crunch on snow. Praise for the hidden hopes and the bold surprise. Praise for the Shepherd's crook, Mary's heart, and Joseph's dream. Praise for the bells and chimes and voices ringing out in song, Praise for God's holy child tabernacled in our flesh, Your Word addressed to all of us, and Your alleluia in our hearts. Amen

***GLORIA PATRI** "Glory Be to the Father" No. 575

FIRST SCRIPTURE Isaiah 7: 10-16 page 554

CHOIR ANTHEM "Ave Maria" - Johann Degan & Paul Ladd, Jr.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

UNISON PRAYER - (whole congregation)

Dear God we are thankful for Your Love which came to us in the birth of Jesus. We pray that this love may be born anew and find rest in the manger of our hearts. Help us to nurture that love until it grows strong, and we can feel it fully and share it generously with others. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE BY CHOIR "We Lift the Light of Love" -
Ken Bible & Oliver Holden

PRAYER REQUESTS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

PRAYER RESPONSE "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" No. 585

OFFERTORY "The Promise" - Traditional English Melody

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings" No. 572

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1: 1-17 and 18-25 page 783

MESSAGE "Some Surprises Along the Way" - Rich Fournier

***HYMN** "We Hail You God's Anointed" (insert)

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE** “Gloria, In Excelsis Deo” - Traditional
French Carol

***POSTLUDE**

*=All who are able, are invited to stand.

Announcements

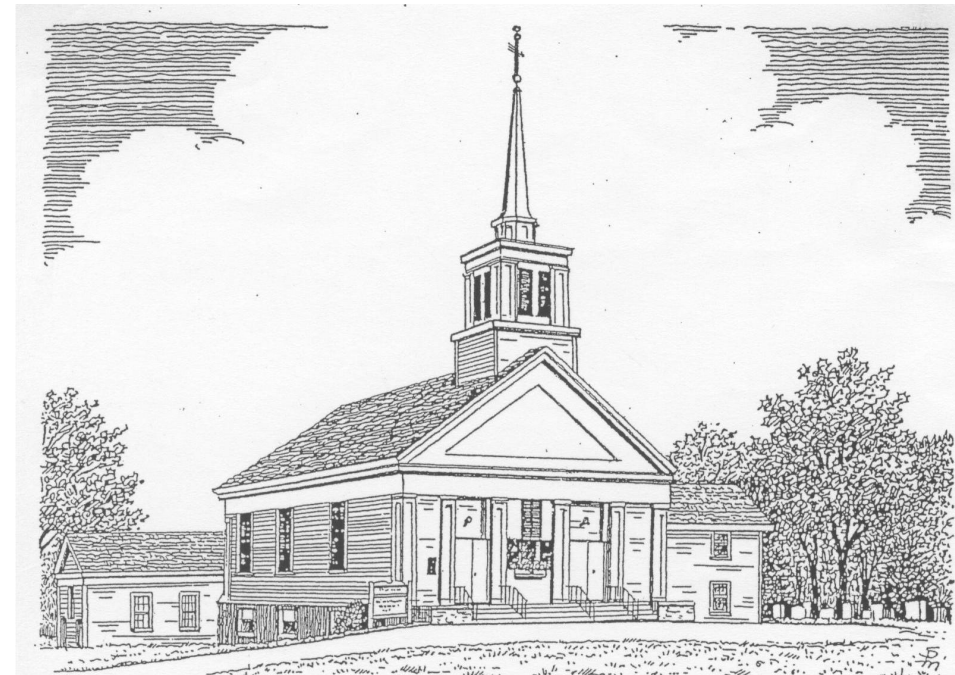
The beautiful flowers on the altar are in loving memory of William Paul Clark, born December 13, 2010, from Pat and Tom Clark and Jamie, Shane, and Lillya Chase.

Pat Clark is in charge of providing flowers for Sunday Morning Worship for the month of December. If anyone would like to provide flowers for some Sunday during December please call Pat at 413-625-2949.

Just a reminder that this month we are collecting peanut butter and jams and jellies for the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry.

HELP WANTED

If you know of someone who might be interested in the job of cleaning the church, please refer them to Judy Willis at 413-625-2649. It takes 1 – 2 hours per week and the rate of pay is currently \$14.00 per hour. Or, if you would like to volunteer, sign up with a friend to make it go faster and have fun. A list of duties will be provided. Please contact Judy Willis if you are interested in the job or volunteering.



Mary Lyon Church
First Congregational Church of Buckland
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