

Welcome & Invocation

Call to Worship

One: Friends, are you ready?

**Many: The season passes so quickly,
and there is so much yet to do.**

One: Are you ready for God's new beginning?

**Many: Cards to be sent. Gifts to be wrapped.
Cooking and cleaning and all.**

One: Are you ready for a new world
and a new way of living?

**Many: Broken hearts to be mended.
Forgiveness to be offered and received.
Love to be shared.**

One: Friends, are you ready for Christmas?

**Many: Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Let God be with us as we prepare for the
dawn of love!**

Hymn We Hail You God's Anointed #104

Advent Candle Lighting

Prayer

**Holy God, we give you thanks for your loving
presence in our lives. Help us to return the love
you have freely given us by reaching out in love to
others. Amen.**

Scripture Matthew 1:18-25
Sermon

Hymn Now Is the Time Approaching #609

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Christmas Fund Offering

Prayer of Dedication

As much as we have our attention on the star and the manger just around the corner—and all that we want to do and say—may we not forget to let love in right now. May the gifts offered here be warmly received as a welcomed guest. May we feel the tenderness that comes from faithful giving. And grant that abundance comes when it is needed the most. Amen.

Announcements

Hymn	What Child Is This	#148
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Blessing

*Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries.
Without them humanity cannot survive.*

- Dalai Lama

Where there is love there is life.

- Mahatma Gandhi

Keep in Prayer

Pastor Wayne, Dan Lindenberger,
Lewis Poths, Linda Stark, Rollie Homan,
Jane Sanders (sister of Jean King),
Mike Hamer (brother of Val Ball),
Lonnie Hall (friend of Brandon Stewart)
Our Shut-ins: Eloise, Allen, Carol, Joan

Offering: May be left in the basket in the back.

Announcements

Worship Sponsor: Becky Sparks

Sunday School after worship today

Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight and Communion, 4:00pm

No Worship on December 28

Sunday, January 4

Second Sunday of Christmas
Sunday school after worship

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Welcome to the
Monroeville United Church of Christ

Changing Lives to Change the World

*“Behold, I
bring good
news of great
joy!”*

December 21, 2025