

Arch Street United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation
55 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
(S.E. corner of Broad & Arch Streets)
Telephone: 215.568.6250 | Fax: 215.568-2256
www.archstreetumc.org



December 20, 2015
11:00 AM Service

Senior Pastor, Reverend Robin Hynicka
Visitation Pastor, Reverend Reinhard Kruse
Deacons, Nikki Kelley Kleinberg, David Krueger,
Deaconess, Darlene Di Domineck
US2, Rachel Ternes
Music Director, Adam Haines
Secretaries, Carla Brickhouse, Anne McCormick
Building Supervisor, Frank Jones
Sextons, Russell Whaley/Devon Goodwin/
Joe Kalil/Toni McIlwaine,/LaDonna Cuffee

SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:00 AM

December 20, 2015

Fourth Sunday in Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "O Come All Ye Faithful" arr. Haines

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN "O Come All Ye Faithful" (verses 1,3,6,and 7)

*OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

One: My soul magnifies the Lord!

All: **And my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior!**

Scripture Lesson : Micah 5:2-5a

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

One: On this last Sunday of Advent, we hear another prophetic passage. In the midst of God's judgment upon Judah and Israel because of their injustice toward the lowly, Micah proclaims the coming of the Messiah. He foretells that Bethlehem, an insignificant village, should be his birthplace. From this village, David, a young shepherd boy, grows up to become the most beloved king in Israel's history. And a descendant of that king fulfills God's long-awaited promises of deliverance, not just for Israel, but for the whole world! Come, Lord Jesus, come!

One: In the brokenness of our world today: torn with war, poverty, hunger and injustice,

All: **Bring your restoration, O God, in us and through us.**

One: Today we hear God's call to repent, to turn to the One who is our peace.

All: **Come, "one of peace", and reign in our lives and world.**

One: The future Micah looked forward to is a vision of God's restoration of the whole human family.

All: **The advent of our Lord is at hand! We wait in anticipation and hope!**

LIGHT THE FOURTH CANDLE

One: Come, Lord Jesus.

All: **Come to brighten every corner of the world.**

HYMN #211 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (Verse 4)

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE** “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

*There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

Refrain: *Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived;
When we shall leave this place.*

CLAIMING OUR HOPE

SCRIPTURE READING

Warren Cederholm

Micah 5:2-5a

Hebrews 10:5-10

CHORAL ANTHEM

***GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 1:39-45

SERMON “Slice it Thin” Reverend Robin Hynicka

CALL TO PRAYER

HYMN #250 “Once in Royal David’s City”

SILENT MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY “Jacob Que tu es Habile” Jean-Francois Dandrieu

OFFERTORY RESPONSE #94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God all creatures here below;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN #240 “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Go Tell it on the Mountain” arr. Martha Mier

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

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Devices for the hearing impaired are available at the Chapel office.*



Worship Leader: Cathy Simpson
Greeters: Nancy Megley and Jim Bibber
Nursery Attendant: Joyce Mojher

Advent Wreath Litany written by the Rev. Greg Henneman, serving as a Church & Community Worker assigned as HEAL director, Church for All People in Columbus, Ohio.

Learn more and support his ministry at: m (advance #3022046)

Follow his blog: lookedwithcompassion.wordpress.com

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Calendar

December 20, 2015 to December 28, 2015

- SUN** 12/20 8:30 Worship Service, Chapel
9:45 Children's Sunday School
9:45 Adult Sunday School
9:45 Choir rehearsal, choir loft
11:00 Worship Service, Sanctuary
12:20 to 3 Deaconess Darlene, Sanctuary
1:00 Christmas Concert, Sanctuary
2:00 Unity Fellowship Church Service
5:30 Grace Café Devotions
6:00 Grace Café
- MON** 12/21 1:00 Tea & Talk
5:30 AA, Nichols Hall
- TUE** 12/22 12:00 Hour of Power, Sanctuary
- WED** 12/23 6:00 AA, Nichols Hall
- THUR** 12/24 **Christmas Eve**
5:30 AA, Nicholas Hall
7:30 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (prelude 7:00)
- FRI** 12/25 **Christmas Day**
8:00 Christmas Breakfast
- SUN** 12/27 8:30 Worship Service, Chapel
9:45 Children's Sunday School
9:45 Choir rehearsal, choir loft
11:00 Worship Service, Sanctuary
12:00 Get Acquainted Time, Chapel
12:20 to 3 Deaconess Darlene, Sanctuary
2:00 Unity Fellowship Church Service
5:30 Grace Café Devotions
6:00 Grace Café
- MON** 12/28 **OFFICE CLOSED**
5:30 AA, Nichols Hall

Please see the events page on our web site: www.archstreetumc.org
for the full calendar of happenings.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Christmas Concert

Please join us **today** at 1 PM for a concert of piano and cello, featuring our director of music Adam Haines and cellist Agnes Klein. The concert will include festive music as well as classical works. We ask that you bring a coat to donate, to help keep our members of Grace Cafe warm during the winter.



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service at Arch Street

Please join us on **Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th** at **7 PM** for an extended prelude, featuring trumpets, French horn, trombone and tuba, performing Christmas music.

The **Candlelight Service** will begin at **7:30 PM**. The music, Communion and the candlelight set the tone for welcoming God's grace provided in the birth of the baby Jesus.



Small Bible Study Groups

The Bible Study Groups have been meeting since October and most have completed the 7 week series. However, each group is welcome to adapt or extend the schedule to meet their specific needs. For more information on each group, especially concerning the rest of 2015, please contact the group leaders:

Robin Hynicka - robin@archstreetumc.org

Sarah Herman and Jessica Strom - Sherman2@eastern.edu

Warren Cederholm & Don Caskey - gablesbb@outlook.com

Wilhelmina Young - Thecatalyst212@yahoo.com

Molly & Khoi Dang - molly.dang@hotmail.com

The Bible Study sessions for the Winter 2016 season are scheduled to begin the week of February 7, 2016 and continue through the week of March 20, 2016. The basic format is centered on the passages of scripture used in Sunday worship; however each group is free to develop their own agenda and set of activities. The conveners will provide the space, time and support for folks to share what really matters. "What really matters to your heart?" is the leading question.

Does your child stay with you during the service?

If you would like to keep your young child occupied during the service see one of the ushers. There are activity bags in the front and back of the sanctuary for **young** children who are staying with their parents.

Grace Café News

Grace Café offers dinner for our homeless friends this evening. After a brief period of faith-sharing this evening, those gathered will enjoy a home-cooked meal prepared by our own Arch Street members this evening. There are lots of openings for hosts to bring food and prepare a meal for about 200 people. If you know of a group that would like to assist in this important mission, please have them contact Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck at darlene.didomineck@gmail.com

We couldn't have done it without us!

Thanks to Santa and all his helpers whose imagination, energy, and generosity helped make this year's Christmas Party a success.

I know we made the season brighter for moms and children. I hope your season is bright too!

Love, Betsy

Sunday School

All those interested in reading, reflecting on and discussing the Bible passages used in each week's sermon are invited to meet in the Chapel every Sunday at 9:45am. The scripture readings for today's class are 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Colossians 3:12-17, and Luke 2:41-52. The readings for NEXT week are. Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, and Matthew 2:1-12

A Look at Our Faithfulness

Combined attendance for **Sunday, December 13, 2015** was 141 and for Grace Café, 204. Your tithes, gifts and offerings help ASUMC make a difference in our community. Thank you.

#BlackChurchesMatter GoFundMe Campaign

The inspiring and powerful witness made by the folks of the Emanuel AME Church in the face of tragedy at the hands of blatant racism has moved us to say loud and clear that #BlackChurchesMatter. Additionally, we need to say louder and clearer that Black Churches in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church matter. The Urban Commission and Metro Ministries of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference have sponsored a [GoFundMe campaign](#) to support these churches and the work they do to spread a message of peace and racial equality in their communities. [DONATE NOW.](#)



Giving Arch Street Church a Facelift

"many hands make light work"

A group of people is forming at Arch St, who enjoy working on cosmetic projects around our church. We would be in consultation with our amazing building supervisor, Frank Jones, and meet once or twice a month to work on a very focused cosmetic project. One project, done well, at a time. Interested? Contact: **Marge Donnelly** donnely_386@msn.com



United Methodist Women 2016 Calendar of Events

Our next meeting will be on **Sunday January 10th**, when there will be a discussion of the book, Things your mother never told you; a woman's guide to sexuality by Kim Gaines

Eckert. Yes, this really is a selection of the United Methodist Women Reading Program in the category of Spiritual Growth. I will have copies in church on Sunday December 20, December 27, and January 3. It is also available in Kindle. **If you would like me to mail you a copy, please tell me and send me your address.** At this meeting, Sunday January 10, we will also make our pledges for the upcoming year, vote on our budget and pledge to mission, and discuss other mission activity we wish to support

Sunday, February 7: (We are meeting a week early to avoid Valentine's Day) UMW Meeting.

Sunday March 13th: UMW meeting and book discussion of I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai.(UMW reading program category: Leadership)

Sunday, April 10: UMW Meeting

Sunday May 1: (We are meeting a week early to avoid Mother's Day) and General Conference (which is May 10-20 in Portland, Oregon).

Book discussion of Just Mercy: a story of justice and redemption by Bryan Stevenson. (UMW Reading Program category Social Action).

Sunday June 7th: This is a week early to avoid the annual Pride March. Book discussion of Dreamers: An immigrant generation's fight for their American Dream by Ellen Truax.

In the summer we will have a potluck supper and then in September we will resume with a book discussion of The Underground Girls of Kabul.

POWER Outage? Not At All.

So many of Arch Street Church's members have responded to the many calls for support over the last few years for Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild (POWER). You have made phone calls to voters and knocked on their doors, donated money, visited legislators in their offices in City Hall and in Harrisburg, showed up at rallies and marches, participated in religious services for racial justice, and walked in the largest MLK parade in the country (to name a few POWER actions).

If you have been wondering why your help hasn't been requested lately and have been thinking that the organization responsible for wage increases and real hope for public education is on vacation, you will be glad to know that POWER is in a very active process of reflecting and renewing. While so much has been done, and POWER is now a recognized force for moral justice in the city and state, we can do better.

With help from an outside contractor and input from hundreds of POWER members (including from our church) a top to bottom appraisal is underway. A new board structure is being implemented. We are taking a hard look at organizational issues of race and gender. A need for better communication in all aspects has been acknowledged.

Last week new city councilwoman Helen Gym was the featured speaker at POWER's annual fundraiser. Mayor-elect Jim Kenney was there too and said he expects us to keep up the pressure on him to stay on track on the issues that matter to us.

So while we are not pounding the pavements, calling, attending workshops and meetings as intensely as a few months ago, our work has not stopped and won't stop until Philadelphians are working, wages allow for a life of dignity, and our children are offered an education equal to that of children in wealthy suburbs.

Thank you for your past help and in advance for your future efforts. If you would like more information from select POWER committees, please contact Nancy Megley at 215-749-2392.





PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers of Healing for *Pat Taylor, Deanna Cottom, Kathleen Stewart, D. Nicholas Tyrone Christy, Virgil Watson, Roxy Setzer, Jim Griscol, , Leo Gatewood, Gloria Young, Russell Whaley, Tanya Graves, Frank Lexa, Cheryl Roebuck, Dorothy Hurley, David Taylor, Dolores Farinre-Carey, J. J., Mr. Franco, Skylar, John Johnson, Len Metzler, Loretta Wootten, Evelyn Tinsley, Emily Jenson, Marsha Wittman, Jenny Jakacki, Laura Massey, Steve Whaley, Nuwoo Gbarbea, Tim Brazelton, Diann Rollins, Joan Wood, James Williams, Anthony Mastrando, Inez Barrett-Otey, Diana Amey, Casey Edwards, Temple Joiner, Ann Gennaro, Mark Fischer, Ida Bristoe, Maureen Norman, Jeanne Kostenbader, Donald Lathrop, Pamela Thomas, Rev. James Pittman, Sandra Parker, Marion Dabney, Patricia Pape, Yazid Jones, Ernie, John Tucker, Lou Brooks, Rob Koob, Jada Bascom, Minerva Clark, Vanessa & Yaddy Sellers, Nakia Rimmer, Don Allen, Anna Cole, Christopher Browne, Betty Flowerree, Troy McColley, Barton Burke, Thomas Onorato, Roy Samuel Layden, Dorothy Eady, Molly Villafane, Pamela Maupin, Mary Reece, Celestine Justin, Louis Harrigan, Mayra Malonada, Sheldon Nixon, Althea Sea, Dumis Randolph, Joanne Ferreri, Rosemary Schier, Margaret Smith, Carla Kelley*

Prayers of Encouragement *Darnaby Family, Bailey Family, Nate Parther, Grace, Jeff, Charles and David, Rev. Brett Charsky, Anthony Eugene Smith and his mother, Christina, Rashida Bryant, Shelly Folks, the Thompson/Norman family, Calvin Smith, Jr., John Kitterell, Deborah Seely, Caroline Lopopolo, Alexander Grant, Lynn Jamison, Lonnie Minor, Anana Tinnhé, Laura Harrigan, Anna Burton, Glenda Cooke, Connie Knight, Rick Taylor, the Robertson family, Dorothy Watson and family, the family of Lunette Ellis, for Joe, Rich, and Elaine Jenson and family.*

Prayers of Protection *for our service people and those living in parts of the world under conflict. Please pray for those who are hungry, ill, displaced, or living in poverty because of natural and human-made disasters, and for the workers who minister to them.*

ARCH STREET UMC VISION

Arch Street United Methodist Church will be a welcoming Christian community that inspires openness, understanding, healing and reconciliation both within the congregation and in the community-at-large.

ARCH STREET MISSION STATEMENT

Arch Street United Methodist Church's mission is to love God and neighbor by nurturing individuals on their spiritual journeys, encouraging creativity in faithful service, strengthening relationships and promoting justice.

GOD'S TABLE IS OPEN TO ALL.

THERE'S ROOM AT THE TABLE FOR YOU.

Arch Street United Methodist Church is a community of faith-keeping and faith-seeking people who embrace diversity in our congregation and community, and affirm the dignity and worth of every person as created in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for all of the gifts of God among us. Our welcome knows no boundaries, whether of age, racial or ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic or marital status, or physical or mental ability. We welcome all to share in the ministry, fellowship, and blessings of full participation as members of Christ's body.



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Parking

*Garage parking coupons are available from the Chapel office **only** for the Convention Center self-park next door. You must show your ticket and give your name at our office to receive your coupon*