

WELCOME

We're delighted you're here!

Whether you are visiting with us for the first time or are a longtime member, you are welcome. Please use the Connect Cards available in the entryway for any information and prayer concerns you would like to share. Our lay leaders and staff are happy to answer any questions you might have.

Children and youth are important to us. We have a crib room for infants and toddlers on the lower level of the Education building during both worship services. Children are invited to spend part of the 9:30 service with their families, and they will be escorted to their class midway through worship. Sunday School for middle school and high school students takes place during the 11:00 service (also in the Education building).

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) celebrates communion weekly, and all are welcome to participate. Pre-packaged, gluten-free communion elements are also available in the entryway for those who prefer. Offering trays and additional information are also found there.

Thank you for worshipping with us!



RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

- Prayers of sympathy to the families of Adrienne Thomas and Steve Workman.
- Jane Scholtens is in rehab recovering from a fall, and is also grieving the death of her sister this week.
- Doris McNeeley's funeral will be 11:00 am this Tuesday at LeValley United Methodist Church in Ionia.
- We continue to pray for those with cancer, including: Chuck Bacle, Mike O'Brien, Irv Newberg, Chris Soyka, Sharon Sleeman, Wendy Johnston, Neil Topliffe

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY 12/16

Women's Bible Study | 9:00am (Room 112)
Adult Bible Study | 9:00am (Coffee House)
Choir Rehearsal | 6:30pm (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY 12/17

Kids Club | 5:00-6:00pm (Elementary Room)
Youth Group | 6:30-8:00pm (High School Room)
Pastor Judith's Bible Study | 6:30pm (Room 208)

THURSDAY 12/18

Operation Santa Claus Distribution Day
Adult Bible Study | 10:30am (Room 112)
Longest Night Service | 6:00pm (Sanctuary)
Board Meeting | 7:30pm (Centennial Hall)

FRIDAY 12/19

"Laughing Jesus" Talk Group | 7:30am (Coffee House)
Youth Friday Fun Night | 7:00-9:00pm (High School Room)

SATURDAY 12/20

Diversity & Inclusion | 9:00am (Coffee House)



Sign up for our emails and newsletter to stay up-to-date on what's happening at Cascade Christian Church. Scan the QR code or call the church office!

FINANCIAL GIVING

Monthly Giving to Date: \$20,827.25
December Budgeted Total: \$68,667.80

ATTENDANCE

on 12.07.25
9:30 Service: 97
11:00 Service: 38
Online: 57

cascadechristian.com

Office Hours | 9:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Thursday
Worship Services | Sundays at 9:30am & 11:00am
Phone | 616-949-1360
Email | office@cascadechristian.com



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome & Announcements

Time of Greeting

Song: *Joy to the World / The Joy*

Advent Candle Lighting: Emerging Joy

Musical Refrain

Morning Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Musical Refrain

Elder Stewardship Moment

Song: *What a Beautiful Name*

Sermon: “Joy That Surprises”

Luke 1:39-55

Communion Invitation, Prayer, Words of Institution

Partake in Communion

You are invited to come forward to be served, or bagged, gluten-free Communion elements are available near the sanctuary entrance.

Song: *Light of the World*

Invitation to Discipleship

Benediction

Senior Pastor: Rev. Judith Thomas
Worship Leader: Liisa Erskine
Elder: Kris Anderson
Deacons: Marsha Steensma, John Steensma, Darlene Scharfschwerdt



ANNOUNCEMENTS

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 18 | 6:00pm

We invite anyone who is grieving or struggling this holiday season to a Longest Night service on Thursday, December 18 in the Sanctuary. This is a quiet and somber service to offer space for those hurting, to express sorrows, to assure one another that Christ is with us even in the darkness, and to express hope in the light and dawn that is coming.

COMBINED SERVICE & CANTATA

Sunday, December 21 | 10:30am

We will have one combined service at 10:30 in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 21, where the choir will share their Christmas cantata, “Emmanuel: Celebrating Heaven’s Child”.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Wednesday, December 24

We hope you’ll plan to join us for one of our three Christmas Eve services.

- **3:00pm** | Family-friendly service with traditional carols in our Chapel. Childcare is provided for infants and toddlers.
- **5:00pm** | Traditional carols in our historic Chapel.
- **11:00pm** | Candlelight service in the Sanctuary.

HARK UP CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

Sunday, December 28 | 9:30am

Hark Up! will be back to lead worship during the contemporary worship service on Sunday, December 28 as we celebrate the birth of Christ with special music and sharing. In our Chapel service, we will have special music from our own Molly Cope, Liisa Erskine, and Nancy Gaskell.

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

This year, Operation Santa Claus is serving at least 70 families this year and we need your help! Scan the QR code to give, or give by check to Cascade Christian Church with "Operation Santa Claus" in the memo line.

We will also be helping to deliver gift bags to seniors again this year. If you are interested in helping make those deliveries and bring some Christmas joy to seniors in our community, contact Lois Van Veghel (616.446.8476).



COMMUNION PREP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are needing a few people to help with communion, some to prepare our Communion elements before the 9:30 service and some to clean up after the 11:00 service. If you are able to help before or after worship on Sundays, please contact the church office!

YOUTH EVENTS

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Wed. 12/17, 6:30pm

Middle & High School students are invited to bring a White Elephant Gift and enjoy some holiday cheer at our annual Christmas Party!

FRIDAY FUN NIGHT: Fri. 12/19, 7-9pm

We'll have our first Friday Fun Night of the year on December 19 to celebrate the beginning of Christmas break. Come to the church for games and pizza!

WINTER BREAK FUN DAY: Fri. 12/26, 4-8pm

In place of our normal Wednesday Night Youth Group this week, we'll meet on Friday for fun either outdoors (weather permitting) or indoors with hot cocoa, games, and perhaps a movie in the sanctuary? Hope to see you there!

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

BOARD MEETING: Thurs. 12/18, 7:30pm

This month's meeting is moved back to 7:30 due to the Longest Night service. All are welcome to attend, join us in person in Centennial Hall or contact the church office for the Zoom link.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: Sat. 12/20, 9am

Join us in the Coffee House for honest and meaningful discussion about how we as a church can have a distinctive and transformative response to racism and racial division.

SOUL WARMERS: 12/22, 2-4pm

Knitting, crocheting, and fellowship in Room 112. Beginner and experienced knitters are welcome!

SPECIAL OFFERING NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, we will receive our special Christmas offering that supports Regional Ministries: calling and nurturing leaders, strengthening congregations, guiding discernment, caring for clergy, and empowering new ministries and initiatives. Special offering envelopes are available in the entryways and will be included in next week’s bulletin. 100% of every gift will go to the work of the Living Waters (Michigan-Illinois-Wisconsin) Region.

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12.14.25 | 11:00

Welcome

TO CASCADE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)



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Prelude

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Time of Greeting

Hymn: *Emmanuel, #243*

Invocation & The Lord's Prayer

Glory Be to the Father, #813

Elder Stewardship Moment

Doxology, #815

Advent Candle Lighting & Musical Refrain

Morning Prayer

Sermon: "Joy That Surprises"

Luke 1:39-55

Invitation to the Table

Hymn: *Love Has Come, #256*

Prayer & Words of Institution

Partake in Communion

Invitation to Discipleship

Hymn: *Joy to the World, #270*

vs. 1, 2, 4

Benediction

God Be With You, #232

Senior Pastor: Rev. Judith Thomas

Organist: Nancy Gaskell

Elder: Sue O'Brien

Deacons: John Conway, Susan Pyle



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