



**December 4, 2022**  
**9:00 am**

***Welcome to worship today! Thanks for coming!***

*Succasunna United Methodist Church is a caring fellowship called to love and serve according to Jesus' example, welcome all people, worship God, and grow as Christian disciples.*

***LOVE. SERVE. GROW.***

**THEME 2022**

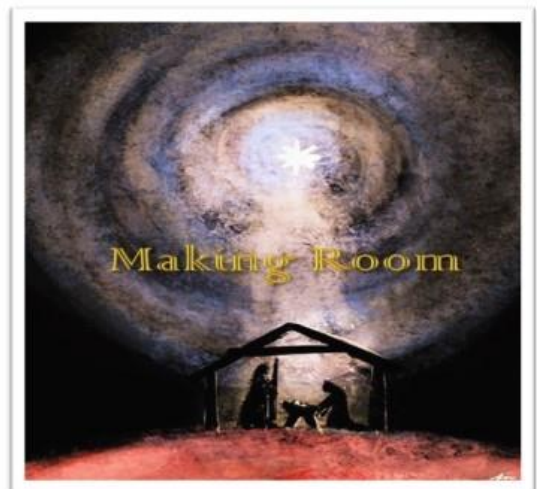
"And Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP  
Pastor Stephen

PRAISE SONGS  
Praise Band

GREET EACH OTHER

WHAT'S GOING ON?  
Linda Diffley



## **\*Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

The Gasikowski Family

**Leader:** For many of us, the call to head home is one of joy and of hope. We can't wait to reconnect with family, with history and tradition, with a wonderful time of freedom and loving support. We can't wait to go home. There are those who fear going home, however, and there are times when going home brings back memories that are not so good, not so healing. We are reminded of when we didn't fit in, when we didn't measure up, when we weren't loved like we needed to be loved. Home can be a difficult place for some.

**People:** The prophet Malachi tells us that even when we are in the hottest of fires, there is a presence who can make us better, who can refine and purify. John the Baptist tells us that the road home is always under construction, mountains leveled, and valleys filled in, to make smooth the path that leads us to our true destination, where we can live in peace and unity with all.

### ***Light the second candle on the Advent wreath***

**Leader:** Today we light the candle of peace, as a sign of our assurance that though the road is hard, we believe it is worth the journey. It is time to go home. *(Let us pray together).*

**Dear God, thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for those in our world today who seek to act for peace. Help us look for ways to be peacemakers at home, at church, and at school. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS  
ACTS 20:22-24  
LUKE 10:27

Linda Diffley

MESSAGE

"Being a Stranger in Foreign Lands"

Fred W. Curry Jr.

*President / Director of Rice & Beans Ministry*

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Stephen

**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.**

\*RECEIVING OF THE COMMUNION

*Please come forward to receive elements as Praise Band is singing*

\*SENDING SONG

Praise Band

\*BLESSING

Fred W. Curry Jr.

***Please join us after this service for Fellowship Hour in Fellowship Hall. We will be signing Christmas cards for our church family shut-ins and those that have moved from this area in the past year. The Congregational Care Team will be hosting and offering homemade cookies and holiday breads to enjoy. In addition, as part of our new Advent international missions project, we will be selling 'Life Beads' which are jewelry made by women at the Abaana's Hope Mission in northern Uganda. 100% of the proceeds will go to this mission.***

***The flowers today are given by Linda Diffley  
in memory of loved ones.***

### **Scriptures for Daily Reflection**

Monday, December 5 : Psalm 21; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Tuesday, December 6: : Psalm 21; Romans 15:14-21

Wednesday, December 7: Psalm 21; Matthew 12:33-37

Thursday, December 8: Psalm 146:5-10; 2 Peter 3:1-10

Friday, December 9: Psalm 146:5-10; 2 Peter 3:11-18

Saturday, December 10: : Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 3:1-18

### **ADVENT BIBLE STUDY – Wednesdays, Dec. 7, 14 & 21 at 7:00 pm**

Join us for an Advent Bible Study, based on the book by Dr. Robb, "Making Room: Sharing the Love of Christmas". You can participate in any of the remaining sessions. All are welcome!

### **GIVING TREE – thru December 11**

We are participating in providing presents for 12 families in Roxbury supporting Roxbury Social Services. The Giving Tree is in the sanctuary and presents are due Dec. 11. Please let Janet Fischlein or Elena Case know that you've taken a tag off the tree.

### **GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST –**

The houses were voted for during Home for the Holiday's, and the winner will be announced today!

### **THRIFT SHOP HOLIDAY BAZAAR – going on now thru December 21.**

The Thrift Shop holiday bazaar is going on now and will continue through Wednesday, December 21. Stop in on Wednesdays from 9:30 am – 11:45am and see the incredible selection of gifts and decorations they have for sale.

### **CITY RELIEF WINTER COAT COLLECTION – until Sunday, December 18**

The Missions team is collecting winter coats for our Missions partner City Relief which will ultimately be distributed to Outreach locations in Newark, Paterson, and New York City. The coats can be used but in good shape, clean and working properly (no broken zippers or missing buttons). Please drop off any donations in the Wesley Sunday School room or in the blue plastic bin at the back of the church. The deadline for donations is Sunday, December 18th.

### **MITTEN TREE – until January 8**

The Social Justice Ministry Team is handling the Mitten Tree this year. The tree will remain up until January 8<sup>th</sup> and will support the homeless in our community.

### **A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM – An Advent event, Sunday, December 11, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

All ages are welcome to join us for this fun event that will take us through stations with hands-on activities, games, and stories that share the wonder of Jesus' birth and build the faith of all ages.

### **PLEDGE CARD**

Thank you for your continued support of our missions and ministries! Please remember to complete your "Estimate of Giving" cards and place in the offering box or mail them to the office. Please know that all cards remain confidential.

### **CUMAC MISSION – thru December**

We will be continuing to collect dry pasta and canned (not glass) spaghetti sauce. If you would prefer to provide a monetary donation instead for those items, your donation would be appreciated. Please mark 'CUMAC' on any donations for them provided to the church. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Diffley, Missions Chairperson.

### **FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD**

If you send out Christmas cards with a family photo on it, we'd love to have one to include in our Christmas Eve worship services. Please send it to the church office.

### **PATHWAYS SURVEY**

Please take a few minutes to complete the Pathways Survey that will be sent out again after service.

### **SUMC STAFF**

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Caryn Porter, Administrative Assistant  
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