



# *Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church*

1760 Pine Hollow Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
Phone: 412-331-2863 Website: <https://www.kenmawrchurch.org>

## December 22, 2024

*Declaring God's Grace & Demonstrating God's Love,  
as Directed by God's Word*

# *Welcome to Worship!*

It gives me joy to welcome each one of you to Ken Mawr on this fourth Sunday of Advent. Gabriel's announcement of an impending pregnancy was not really the answer to Mary's prayers. This is not Hannah or Sarah or Rachel who have long lived with the bitter disappointment of infertility. Far from it! In fact, Gabriel's words do not so much solve a problem for Mary as they create a problem. This simply was not the right time for Mary to have a baby. At least, so she thought. But this is at least partly the whole point of the story. It's not about Mary's timing or plans but is simply and entirely about God's timing, God's plans, and God's work. God is intervening in this world, rearranging schedules and realigning lives because that's what it will take to get God's miraculous work of redemption accomplished. *-Pastor Karl*

## **Today at KMUPC**

- **Coffee, tea or hot chocolate** are available on the lower level at the coffee counter next to the Welcome Room.
- **Restrooms** are on the Sanctuary level, through the front Sanctuary doors, turn right at the office door and follow signs toward the elevator. Additional restrooms are on the first floor at the bottom of the steps and in the lower hallway.
- **Nursery room** is open and available on the lower level, turn right at the bottom of the steps, turn left in the children's department, the nursery room is the last door on the right. There are changing tables, rocking chairs and toys. There is a speaker in this room to hear the service. Please feel free to use this space for you and your child. Please see the information for registration for nursery care during the services.
- **Children's church** is offered for children Preschool age to Grade 4 after Time with the Children during the 11:00 a.m. service. **There is a 3-4 year old room and 5 – grade 4 room.** The children will return to the sanctuary during the last hymn.
- **Elders/Deacons of the month** are available to help you with general questions and information. The Elder of the Month is usually in the church office throughout the morning.

# The Service of Worship

## GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

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Welcome

Advent Candle Lighting

Preparing for Worship

“Waiting, Watching, Wondering”

Responsive Call to Worship

In anticipation we gather.

**With expectation we wait.**

We gather to watch for the coming of the good news  
into our world and into our lives.

**We wait to see the fullness of God's vision.**

O God, open the doors to our hearts, that this year  
we may have room for the birth of Jesus.

**O God, as we marvel over all that you are doing, overwhelm us  
with so much wonder that words of praise spring forth from our lips!**

In this time of waiting, let true worship begin in our hearts.

**Let our praises rise up to the heavens!**

Let our celebrations spread new hope over a tired world!

**Let us all gather our dreams and lives to worship God!**

Prayer of Adoration

## GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD

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\*Hymn of Praise

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

**Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.**

**Sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold! the Child of our longing.**

**Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,  
to open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.**

**To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
whose humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing.**

**Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,  
the thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and injustice.**

**In deepest night Christ's coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.  
One without voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in wonder,  
the weak are raised above the strong, and weapons are broken asunder.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;  
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,  
may God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.**

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\*Prayer of Confession

**God of love, all year long we pursue power and recognition, yet you come to us in weakness. All season long we covet possessions and material gifts, when you alone offer what is everlasting. Through the work of our Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth, correct us, forgive us, and heal us. Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels, and remake our lives, so that we may tell of your transforming love. Through Christ our Lord, we sincerely pray. Amen.**

\*Assurance of God's Forgiveness

\*Congregational Response

**All ye who are of tender heart, forgiving others take your part.  
Sing his praises, Alleluia! Ye, who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on him cast your care!  
O praise him! O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him with humbleness!  
O praise him, Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, three in One,  
O praise him! O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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Time with the Children (Kids spell love T-I-M-E)

*Children PreK – Grade 4 are invited to children's church.  
They will rejoin their families during the last hymn.*

Prayers of the People & The 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Congregational Prayer Response #203

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.**

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Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

**GOD'S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED**

Scripture

Luke 1:26-45

*26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. 39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." (NRSV)*

\*Our Advent Prayer

**O Sun of Righteousness, promised of the prophet; pierce with the pure light of your presence the shadows of strife and evil that envelop all humankind. Come with your healing peace.**

**Awaken us from the trance of self-centeredness. Cleanse and quicken us during these days of preparation so that on the Holy Night of Christ’s birth we may join our voices with those of the angel host, singing “Glory to God” and “Peace on earth.”**

**Amen.**

**GO IN GOD’S NAME**

\*Sending Hymn #188

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

**Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echo back their joyous strains.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say, what may the tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem, and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

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\*Benediction

*Thank you for worshiping with us.*

## CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR  
COMMISSIONED PASTOR  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
TREASURER/ACCOUNTANT  
ASSISTANT TREASURER  
LIVE STREAM TECHNICIAN  
AUDIO/PERCUSSION  
J.A.M. DIRECTOR  
YOUTH 412 DIRECTOR  
CUSTODIAN

Rev. Dr. Karl McDonald  
Louise Schoppe  
Tiffany Kelly  
Kelly McCurdy  
Lori Ryan  
Cameron Brown  
Adam Kantz  
Chrissy Pelzer  
Katie Herman  
P.J. O'Reilly

## VOLUNTEERS IN MINISTRY

CLERK OF SESSION  
MODERATOR OF DEACONS  
MUSIC DIRECTOR  
NURSERY COORDINATOR  
ELDER OF THE MONTH  
DEACONS OF THE MONTH

Diane Kuffner  
Cheryl Simchak  
Jayne McDonald  
Tina Ernst  
Jim Heckethorn  
Dan Koller/Val Kamenar/Tony Tresky

## ~ THANK YOU ~

**Children's Church:** Louise Schoppe  
**Advent Readers/Acolyte:** Mabel Benson and Danielle Harris  
**Bass:** Mitchell Fleischman  
**Counters:** Tim Chimera and Bill and Linda Kent  
**Van Driver:** Tony Tresky  
**Flower Delivery:** Tina Ernst and Michael Baldauff



**Helping Hands** first work day will be on January 16 from 10AM – 3PM. Please join us for any amount of time you have available to lend a helping hand with projects here at church. January – Kitchen cleaning

## TODAY AT KMUPC

**December 22, 2024**

Worship Services .....	8:30 and 11:00
Sunday School .....	9:45
Children's Church.....	11:00

## LOOKING AHEAD

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, 4:00, 7:00 and 10:00

December 24-27 – Office Closed

December 29 – Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 / No Sunday School or Children's Church

January 1 – Office Closed

January 11 – Deacons take down decorations

January 12 – Ordination and Installation of Officers

January 12 – Week of Hope Mission trip meeting (Middle School/High School)

**TODAY'S BENEVOLENCE:** Deacon's Fund. What does it mean to be a servant? For the Board of Deacons here at KMUPC it means helping those in need inside and outside the church. It means delivering chancel flowers that have decorated our sanctuary on a Sunday morning. It means a card ministry to individuals, families, shut-ins, new members, families celebrating weddings, births, graduations and other significant milestones. It means festively decorating the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. It means serving funeral lunches to families that have experienced loss...and it means much more.

*The flowers today are given by Bill and Linda Hieber in honor and appreciation of our military men and women and in honor of our grandchildren: Jared, Gabrielle and Cassidy Hieber, Magnus and his wife, Ali Hieber and by Gwynn Lind in honor of my parent's 81st wedding anniversary.*

If you would like to donate chancel flowers for 2025, please contact Tiffany in the church office 412-331-2863 or email at [kenmawrsecretary@comcast.net](mailto:kenmawrsecretary@comcast.net). The flower calendar does **not** automatically renew. Cost \$25.

