

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please visit our church website at [www.sycamorechurch.org](http://www.sycamorechurch.org) for more information on our ministries, special events, and Bible Studies. You are also welcome to visit our Café located across from the Sanctuary to explore the many opportunities available at SPC, and feel free to use the contact information listed.

### ADULT MINISTRIES

**Dr. Timothy McQuade** ([tmcquade@sycamorechurch.org](mailto:tmcquade@sycamorechurch.org))

**Our Gift to You...** look for copies of *The Case for Christmas* by Lee Strobel at the Spiritual Growth Resource Center during Advent. \*Copies are free, but supplies are limited.

**Advent Study with Rev. McQuade:** Hark! Join Dr. McQuade at 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. in the Media Center as he walks you through Advent and the Christmas story.

### FAMILY MINISTRIES

**Rebecca Behbehani** ([rbehbehani@sycamorechurch.org](mailto:rbehbehani@sycamorechurch.org))

**Advent Bags - prepare your hearts for Christmas as a family** - Advent bags are available in the Family Room. They include 4 candles, scripture readings, a family service project, and a reflection.

**Family Photo Christmas Cards** - we would love to have yours to use for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, so if you are having one taken, please email it to Rebecca, or place it in her mailbox.

**Be part of the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service:** We need families to help read and children to be part of the living nativity scene. If you are available, please contact Rebecca Behbehani.

**Sundays, December 24 and December 31,** there will be no Sunday School or Parenting Classes at 9:00 a.m.; however, there will be nursery and structured childcare available for the 10:00 a.m. worship services.

**Matthew 25 Ministries** Come serve with us as a family on January 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sign up in the Café or online, so M25M can give us age appropriate activities.

**Married People Date Night** - January 27, 6:00–8:00 p.m. Join us for a special night out with your spouse; hors d'oeuvres and dessert provided. Childcare is available. Sign up in the Café or online.

### Children's Ministries (Infant through Grade 5)

**Jan Ferris** ([jferris@sycamorechurch.org](mailto:jferris@sycamorechurch.org))

**NOTE:** children (PS-K) attending *Structured Childcare* in Room 116 following the Children's Message at 10:00 a.m., must have a **nametag** \*located in friendship pads. Please adhere tag to the front of your child's clothing. Include first name, last name, and grade. *Thank you!*

### Student Ministries (Grades 6 through 12)

**Drew Hood** ([dhood@sycamorechurch.org](mailto:dhood@sycamorechurch.org))

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** (grades 6-12) meets in The Loft beginning at 9:00 a.m.

**WORSHIP SERVICE** - Please worship with your family or friends, OR volunteer with kids (Nursery-Kindergarten).

### HIGH SCHOOL

**Sunday, December 17: TODAY,** Christmas Party including food and gift exchange at SPC and ice skating at Fountain Square; parents needed to chaperone. Cost is \$10.00 per person.

**Springhill** - Signups are happening...talk to Drew Hood.

## CURRENT CHURCH EVENTS

**GRACIOUS GIFTS COOKBOOKS** pre-wrapped and for sale in the Café today. Perfect holiday gift only \$25.00, so pick one up on your way out!

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** - TODAY, Sunday, December 17. Informational brochures are available in the Café, and envelopes are in the pews.

**CHRISTMAS BASKET PROJECT:** We are still in need of funds for Kroger gift cards. If you did not have an opportunity to donate, there is still time. Envelopes are available in the Café or church office. Thank you.

**DECEMBER R.O.M.E.O. LUNCHEON** - Thursday, December 21, 12:15 p.m. at Flipdaddy's (12071 Mason Montgomery Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45249). Please sign up in the Café, so we know how many seats to reserve. **Contact:** [Richard\\_L\\_Rogers@yahoo.com](mailto:Richard_L_Rogers@yahoo.com) or 513-713-7140.

**SYCAMORE COMMUNITY SINGERS CONCERT** - two performances, December 20 and 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the SPC Sanctuary. Tickets are \$5.00 per person.

**HOLIDAY HOURS:** SPC will be closed on December 25 and 26 due to the Christmas Holiday and on January 1 in observance of New Year's Day.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** - please check in the Café for your 2018 offering envelopes. If you are a weekly/monthly contributor and would like envelopes, please email Stephanie McGill at [smcgill@sycamorechurch.org](mailto:smcgill@sycamorechurch.org).

**PB & Jam January 27, 10:00 & 11:30 a.m.;** Part of the SPC Worship Series. Perfect opportunity for younger kids to hear and play instruments. To learn more or to get tickets visit: [lintonmusic.org/pbj-sessions](http://lintonmusic.org/pbj-sessions)

**JOIN the Guatemala Mission Partnership Development Team** - February 1-9, 2018 at The Q'anjob'al Presbytery in San Juan Ixcay, Guatemala. Discover the benefits of partners in Mission for SPC. If you are looking for a unique place to serve and would like to be involved in an SPC mission, here is your opportunity. Please contact Ron Cowgill (513 604-7049, [rcowgill@me.com](mailto:rcowgill@me.com)) or Dr. Tim McQuade (513 683-0254, [tmcquade@sycamorechurch.org](mailto:tmcquade@sycamorechurch.org)) by December 27, 2017



The Flowers in the Sanctuary today were given by Ted Kalsbeek and family in loving memory of Lewise Kalsbeek.

Flowers were also given by Mark and Rebecca Mathias in memory of Mark's parents, Reverend C. Frederick Mathias and Clea Mathias.



## Christmas Eve Services



**10:00 AM**

**Sunday Worship Service; Tim McQuade**

**4:00 PM**

**Family Service; Rebecca Behbehani**

**7:00 PM**

**Candlelight Service (Choir); Larry Kent**

**9:00 PM**

**Candlelight Service (Chancel Bells); Larry Kent**

# Welcome to Worship!

10:00 a.m.

December 17, 2017



*Called to be an inviting community where  
God is glorified, lives are lifted,  
and Christ's spirit of fellowship awaits.*

SYCAMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
11800 MASON ROAD ♦ CINCINNATI, OH 45249  
513.683.0254 513.683.0364 (fax)

WWW.SYCAMORECHURCH.ORG  
DR. LAWRENCE W. KENT ♦ DR. TIMOTHY MCQUADE

**Thank you for worshiping with us this morning.**

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

**December 17, 2017** **10:00 a.m.**

*\*Indicates those able please stand.*

As a courtesy to others in worship, please turn off all cell phones.

**\*\*Please help create space to welcome fellow Christians in being seated.**

**\*\*Please sign the Friendship Pad, and pass it to those in your pew.**

~ **WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME** ~

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Larry Kent

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES OF HOPE, LOVE, AND JOY Heather Lewis  
Longing for a day when all disaster is gone and no one is outcast, we light this candle of Joy in anticipation of God's love renewed in us.  
*(Sing Verses 1, 2, 3 of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel")*

**INVITATION TO A MIRACLE** Joseph M. Martin

PRELUDE *"Invitation to a Miracle"*  
SPC Christmas Orchestra; Sujin Kim, Director

CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

**People: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Leader: Forgive us for living as though you are not among us, O God, and that your good promises mean nothing.

**People: Renew us with your Spirit's fire, that we may bear good fruit of justice, mercy, peace, and gladness – through our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Griffin Gates  
Eli Haning  
Lila Stueve

**\*\*Children in PS-K wishing to utilize our structured childcare, please meet the leaders at the back of the Sanctuary at this time. Thank you!**

ANTHEMS *"A Processional of Hope"*  
*"Joy Arising"*  
*"Your Light Has Come"*  
Chancel Choir; Sujin Kim, Director (with Orchestra)

~ **WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD** ~

SERMON "First Person Christmas"  
3) **Mary**

ANTHEMS *"My Soul Rejoices in the Lord"* (Lisa Wade, solo)  
*"A Celtic Cradle Carol"* (Linda Hill, solo)  
*"Alleluia! Christ is Born!"*  
Chancel Choir; Sujin Kim, Director (with Orchestra)

~ **WE RESPOND TO THE WORD** ~

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY *"Would I Miss the Miracle?"*  
*"A Gloria Gathering"*  
(Lisa Wade, Linda Mills, and Linda Hill, Descant)  
Chancel Choir; Sujin Kim, Director (with Orchestra);

~ **THE SENDING** ~

HYMN 41 *"O Come All Ye Faithful"*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *"O Come All Ye Faithful"*  
SPC Christmas Orchestra

**ORCHESTRA**

**Violin I:** *Siryung Park, Soohyun Kim*  
**Violin II:** *Jiong Kim, Kanako Shimasaki*  
**Viola:** *Wooram Kwon, Susan Scheib\**  
**Cello:** *Colin Lambert, Katherine Scott\**  
**Flute:** *Jennifer King, Izzy Augustin\**  
**Oboe:** *Jacob Martin*  
**Clarinet:** *Zach Stump*  
**Bassoon:** *Noel Garcia*  
**Horn:** *Eleni Georgiadis*  
**Trumpet:** *Stephen Wadsack*  
**Trombone:** *Tyler Simms*  
**Harp:** *Elizabeth Landis*  
**Percussion:** *Rebecca Villarreal, Jacob Dike*  
**Piano:** *John Combs*

\*SPC Members

**CHOIR**

**Soprano**  
Joyce Beamer, Marilyn Brown, Cathy Fears, Sandy Fielman, Linda Hill, Ellen Litton, Linda Mills, Barb Niehuss, Bonnie Schneider, Jan Stahl, Lisa Wade, Marilyn Waisblum

**Alto**  
Carol Abbott, Chris Crawford, Sally Gates, Sue Lundy, Marilyn Poe, Cathy Slatterly

**Tenor**  
Ann Fournier, Gordon Fournier, Bob Stevens

**Bass**  
Ken Buck, Mark Camp, Larry Crawford, Jerry Leighton, John Schneider, Rick Slack, Marvin Stotz, Don Stuart

**Narration**  
Jan Ferris, Jack Taylor

**Librarian**  
Linda Hill, Bonnie Schneider

**SERMON APPLICATION**

- ◆ What do you think might have been the most challenging part of Mary's role?
- ◆ Do you see Mary as being more of a humble spirit or a progressive lady?
- ◆ What do you think of when Mary states that she is the "handmaid of the Lord?"

**WELCOME FRIENDS!**

**SPECIAL ASSISTANCE** - Large print editions of *The Presbyterian Hymnal* are available at the back of the Sanctuary. Please ask an usher for assistance.

**ASSISTIVE LISTENING** - Our sanctuary is equipped with TeleCoil assistive listening loops. Simply turn on your T-Coil equipped hearing aid to connect. In addition, battery operated receivers and ear devices are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.



**GUEST INFORMATION** is available at the Welcome Center in the Café. For additional information, call the church office at 683-0254 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday.

**REQUESTS FOR PRAYER:** Prayer Request Cards are available in the pews; complete and place them in the offering plate; or, email [jstevens@sycamorechurch.org](mailto:jstevens@sycamorechurch.org)

**DEDICATED EDUCATION HOUR** is at 9:00 a.m. EVERYONE, infant through adult, is encouraged and welcome to participate.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES** - We offer childcare in the nursery for infants and toddlers through 2 years of age beginning at 9:45 a.m. Each Sunday we offer a children's message during the service followed by *Structured Childcare* in Rm. 116 for children in PS-K. Faithful adult leaders lead the children to Room 116, and parents pick them up immediately following worship.

**STUDENT MINISTRIES - (6th - 12th grades)** - Student Ministries welcomes students to participate in our activities. Calendars are available on the Family Ministries clipboards in the Family Room.

**ADULT MINISTRIES** - Please check the Adult Ministry display in the Café for class times/locations and other programs, or simply sign up for more information.

**NEW MEMBER CLASSES** - Our next class is scheduled for **February 24, 2018**. For more information or to sign up, call the church office (683-0254) or visit us online at [www.sycamorechurch.org](http://www.sycamorechurch.org).

**THE FLOWER CHART** is located in the Café with detailed instructions on how to order. The cost of Sanctuary flowers is \$50, which is due Tuesday prior to the requested date.

**THE DEACONS OF THE MONTH** for December are Jeanne Oughterson (513-520-8803) and Bill Barnhill (513-683-9133).

**\*\****(If you brought a prayer need with you today, you are invited to remain in your seat, or come to the front row (pulpit side) following the service, and a member of our prayer support team will come to you. Our prayer partners this day are Dana Wilber and Jeanne Oughterson.)*