

Sunday December 23, 2018 The Fourth Sunday of Advent "The Celebrating Heart"

Welcome.

Thanks for joining us today in worship. We hope you find City Church to be a warm, welcoming community—regardless of your background, beliefs, or life situation. To that end, we recognize that certain parts of the service may feel unfamiliar, so we've provided brief explanations throughout this guide.

Our worship is "liturgical." The Greek word "leitourgia" means a public work, the work of the people. Liturgical worship begins with God's call upon us, his meeting with us, speaking among us, and ministering to us. The flow of our liturgy aims at drawing us further into the life of the Trinity and then moving us outward into our world.

On pages 19-22, you'll find information about our community. We hope this helps you get to know us better and that, in turn, we can get to know you better. Help us welcome you by filling out the contact sheet on the back page and placing it in the offering basket or in our hands after the worship service.

All to say, we are glad you are here and look forward to meeting you.

— The Pastoral Staff *Tuck Bartholomew, Chris Currie, Jonathan Davis*

Sunday Info

UCity

- **Nursery, Room 111** Children 4 24 months for the duration of the service
- **Children's, Church Room 112–113** Children ages 2 through 5th grade dismiss just before the sermon. 1st – 5th graders will return prior to communion.
- Adult Ed Class, Upstairs Library On break until Jan 13
- Accessibility A wheelchair ramp and elevator are on site. A Greeter can assist you.
- **Coffee** is available in the SE hallway at 10:15am and before Adult Ed classes when offered.

Fairmount

- Nursery, 2nd floor Blue Room Children 4 36 months for the duration of the service
- **Children's Church, 2nd floor Green Room** Children ages 3 through 5th grade dismiss just before the sermon. 1st – 5th graders will return prior to communion.
- Accessibility A wheelchair ramp is on site. A greeter can assist you.

Reflection

"The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before.... What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you. And you begin to grasp what it was you missed, like Moses in the cleft of the rock, watching God's [back] fade in the distance. So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon."

- Jan L. Richardson, Night Visions

Church Calendar

ADVENT

CHRISTMAS EPIPHANY LENT EASTER PENTECOST ORDINARY TIME Advent is a season of hopeful expectation and preparation, as the Church anticipates the coming of Christ – both at his birth in Bethlehem many years ago, and at his future, final coming to judge the world at the end of time. During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the Lord, so that when he comes, he may find us watching and waiting.

GOD SUMMONS US AS HIS PEOPLE

As we meet together each week, we recognize in the preparation that God, through his word and Spirit, gathers us into his presence and calls us into his life and mission.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is kept.

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. *All* **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!**

Opening song

Mary's Song Wendell Kimbrough the Lord; 1. My soul mag-ni - fies re - joi - ces in_ my spi - rit God! 2. He scat-ters the proud and rich; lifts up the hum-ble and weak. he 3. From now to the end of time, the na-tions will know me as_ blest My sa vior has__ seen his ser - vant in_ The kings of the___ earth. he casts from their for God made pro - mise has new his of____ 1. ታ. and be - hold the things he done: need, great has wel-comes to feast. thrones, and the hun gry he cy through A - bra - ham's love and_ mer seed. _ 2.,3. Oh, be - hold, sa - vior has come! And my soul will tell of his my praise for has come to the he who is strong weak and, at he will of last, reign as king our peace. ©2014 Wendell Kimbrough

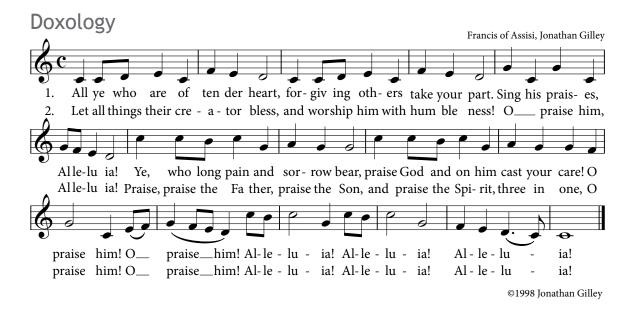
The Opening of Worship

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, who leads us like a flock!

 All Stir up your might, and come to save us! You have fed your people with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

from Psalm 80

Prayer of Adoration and Thanksgiving



Confession of sin

 All Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek: give us humble and contrite hearts.
 Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb: be planted also in our hearts and lives.
 Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary, that she might become the God-bearer: fill us with your heavenly gifts.
 Lord, have mercy; forgive us and heal us.

Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will, and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

GOD SANCTIFIES US TO HIMSELF

Throughout Scripture, when people find themselves in God's presence, they sense how far short they fall and become aware of their own shame and brokenness. In the same way, we make a confession of sin, *both as a community* and also silently as individuals. In this, we remember that God is always ready, by his mercy and grace, to forgive us.

Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving

My Savior's Love

Jennie Lee Riddle, JJ and Dave Heller



^{© 2009} Jennie Lee Riddle, JJ Heller and Dave Heller, CCLI # 5359590



Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Children attending kindergarten and younger are invited to go to their classes at this time. 1st - 5th graders are invited to Children's Church and will return during the Offering.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD

In the public reading of the word of God and its exposition in the sermon, God shares the story of his saving mission in Jesus, encouraging us to join in that mission and orienting us again to his priorities.

The Word of God

New Testament reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." ⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Luke 1:46-55

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. All **Praise to you, O Christ.** Sermon "The Celebrating Heart" – Rev. Chris Currie

Offering and Presentation of Gifts

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich" - 2 Corinthians 8:8-9

Creed

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. The offering is an opportunity to participate in the ministry of City Church. Online giving is available at citychurchphilly. com/give. If you are visiting, please don't feel obligated to give we're grateful simply for your presence here today. Having offered ourselves up in faith through the creed, affirming the power of God's redemption, we lift up the church, our world, and other needs to God in prayer for his provision and healing.

Prayers

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

God our Savior, we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor, the cold, the hungry, and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression; the sick, the lonely, and those who mourn; those in despair or in the shadow of death. Grant them healing and hope in you. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Messiah Jesus, in your mercy, grant that the leaders of the nations may work for the establishment of justice, freedom, and peace the world over. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Spirit of truth, grant that we may bear faithful witness to the hope of the gospel in a divided world; bind your church together with peace and unity, that the whole earth may live to praise your name. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

And for what else should we pray?

Members of the congregation may add their own intercessions at this time, ending with,

For this, O Lord, we pray: *All* Lord, hear our prayer.

Now gathering our prayers into one, let us pray boldly as our Savior has taught us:

All 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 and ever.
Amen.

Communion

All

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

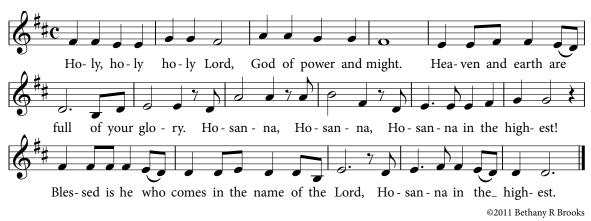
All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic Prayer

And now we give you thanks, almighty God and everlasting Father, because your Son our Lord was awaited by the prophets, announced by an angel, conceived by a virgin, and proclaimed at last to men and women of every race. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and singing: GOD STRENGTHENS US AT HIS TABLE

Communion, also called the Lord's *Supper, is the family* meal of Christians. *We invite all baptized* followers of Jesus *Christ to participate. If you are not a* follower of Jesus or are not prepared to *share in the meal.* we encourage you to spend this time in prayer ("Prayers for Reflection" are included below). We hope this time is helpful to you as you consider your *relationship* with *Iesus Christ and with* his people, the church. Sanctus



The minister concludes the Eucharistic Prayer.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The minister speaks the Words of Institution.

Memorial Acclamation

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

All Therefore, let us keep the feast.

We use wine in Communion. Nonalcoholic white grape juice and a glutenfree option are also available if preferred. Please discard your Communion cup as you leave worship.

Prayers for Reflection

Prayer for those searching

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and lead me to the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weak and sinful, but through you, I am loved and accepted. I thank you for taking my place in death in order to offer me forgiveness and renewal. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and faithfully follow you in life.

Communion Song Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Joseph Simpson Cook, Piae Cantiones



Prayer after Communion

All Heavenly Father,

who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised savior: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing and Sending

Savior of the Nations, Come

St. Ambrose, Calvisius, Luther, Seerveld Sa vior of self, 1. show the na tions, come; your the 2. Not by hu pow'r seed did the wo - man's man or Ma with child, 3. rv then was found still а vir - gin, 4. Christ laid down passed through dark Geth his ma ie sty, -5. Christ glo in in ter - cede for your crea - tures' ry gin's vir -Mar vel. hea ven. der.____ earth son. won _ con ly womb ceive; on by the Spi rit's_ breath _ mild. chaste and God had fa - vored with_ grace her ma ne. Though he left his Fa ther's_ home, se _ suf - f'ring pow'r need. Let your re sur rec ting_ ο that God chose such_ birth. our а was the Word of God_ made flesh. to re ceive the Prince of Peace. -Christ now sits God's_ own throne. on soon com plete the vic t'ry hour.

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GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

We have responded to God's call, heard his word, offered ourselves to his service, and received strength at his table. Now, at the close of worship, God sends us out to carry forward the gospel story.

Benediction

May God the Son come among us in power and reveal in our midst the promise of his glory; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Dismissal

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

West Philly

Stacy Bartholomew: liturgist Tuck Bartholomew: celebrant

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice Melissa Choi: voice Matt Engle: bass Anthony Nigro: saxophone Mike Szekely: drums

Fairmount

Arlene Navarro: liturgist Chris Currie: celebrant

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice Matt Engle: bass Anthony Nigro: saxophone Mike Szekely: drums

CONNECT

COMMUNITY GROUPS range in size from 10-15 people and meet weekly in the home of a group member for spiritual formation and friendship. We encourage you to visit multiple groups to see which one might be a good fit. Contact a leader if you plan to visit. Contact Jonathan Davis, jona-than@citychurchphilly.com if you have questions.

West Philly

- 50th & Springfield, Tuesdays 7_{РМ} Jessie Taylor, jessie.f.taylor@gmail.com
- 49th & Chancellor, Tuesdays 7_{РМ} Candy Cason, candy.cason@gmail.com
- 46th & Cedar, Tuesdays 7:30_{PM} Jade Avelis, jade.avelis@gmail.com
- 48th & Baltimore at Linda's, Wed 6:30^{PM} Janet Nygren, janetnygren@gmail.com
- 49th & Baltimore, Thursdays 6_{PM} Vieen Leung, vieenleung@gmail.com
- 48th & Baltimore at Dick's, Thursdays 6:30_{PM} Joel Bassett, jbassett4@gmail.com
- 51st & Chestnut, Fridays 6_{РМ} Jason Turner, jason.h.turner@gmail.com

Fairmount

- 21st & Parrish, Wednesdays 7_{РМ} Chaney Widmer, chaney.widmer@gmail.com
- 24th & Brown, Thursdays 7_{РМ} Katie Wildes, km.young.wildes@gmail.com
- 22nd & Poplar, Fridays 6:30_{РМ} Liz Voboril, voborils@gmail.com

South Philly

• 12th & Wharton, Wednesdays 7:30_{РМ} Kirstin Peth, kirstin.peth@gmail.com

Roxborough

• Tuesdays 6:30^{рм} Cale Weatherly, cale.weatherly@gmail.com

FAMILY MINISTRIES comes alongside families as they disciple their children, seeking to help them cultivate friendships, connect with the wider church community, and grow into maturity as people of faith.

- Children's Ministry Our children's classes use gospelcentered curriculum with scripture, stories, and activities to allow them opportunities to form spiritual friendships with their peers and teachers. See page 2 for site-specific details. Contact Ginger Hayes, ginger@ citychurchphilly.com.
- City Church Youth, Sundays 12:30-2:30pm. Students and Volunteer Leaders gather at a Woodland Presbyterian Church (42 & Pine) for fellowship, bible study, and prayer. Lunch is provided each week. Contact Jonathan Davis, jonathan@citychurchphilly. com.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS Ekklesia is our mid-week, liturgically oriented, worship space for college students. We meet together to pray, sing, confess, and hear from God's Word. Contact Natalie Harvey, natalie@citychurchphilly.com.

55+ is a group of older people attending City Church who gather monthly after Sunday services for a shared meal and shared prayer. Contact Ginny Toliver, ginny. toliver@verizon.net.

WOMEN'S DAYTIME BOOK

STUDY Tuesdays 9:30AM, Childcare available. Contact Eeva, eevaduddleston@gmail.com.

GROW

SERVE

City Church is a community committed to

growing in our life of joy and peace through communion with God in Christ. God uses many means to form his children into his likeness. As a church family, City Church focuses on eight practices that Christians historically have embraced for their growth. At right are a few links to help you get started.

- Read about our approach to Spiritual Formation | citychurchphilly.com/spiritualformation
- Sign up to receive Daily Prayer in your inbox citychurchphilly.com/daily-prayer
- Check out current and upcoming Adult Ed classes | citychurchphilly.com/adult-ed

Church	City	World
 Prepare the space for worship by joining one of our hospitality teams: setup, communion, coffee, greeters, and scripture readers. Contact Dan Cason (UCity), dan@citychurchphilly.com Ryan McCormick(Fairmount), rmmccormick@outlook.com Serve our children and youth. Contact Ginger Hayes (children), ginger@citychurchphilly.com Jonathan Davis (youth), jonathan@citychurchphilly.com 	 Serve dinners with University City Hospitality Coalition on Friday evenings at Woodland Presbyterian Church, 42nd & Pine. Contact Julia Snyder, julia.a.snyder@gmail.com Tutor 1st graders at Lea Elementary. Contact Stacy Bartholomew, stacy. bartholomew@gmail.com Read with K-3rd grade students or serve a meal at Family Homework Night in Brewerytown - Thursdays at United Missionary Baptist Church. Contact Chris Currie, chris@citychurchphilly.com 	 Assist refugees with needs such as housing, employment, transportation, community resources, education, and social services through our partnership with HIAS Pennsylvania. Contact Esuga Abaya, esugaabaya@gmail.com Host international students for dinner. Contact Lyn Newbrander, Inewbrander@isionline.org
	GIVE	
The intentional financial partie	rination of • Place cash or	check in the offering basket

The intentional financial participation of those who consider City Church their church home is vital. If you are not already tithing regularly, please prayerfully consider doing so. Our desire in giving is not only to meet our own needs but to be able to serve others in our city and neighborhoods. Here are a few ways that you can contribute financially to City Church:

- Place cash or check in the offering basket on Sundays
- Give online | citychurchphilly.com/give
- Text any amount to 84321, follow the link, and select City Church Philadelphia
- Checks may be mailed or arranged through Electronic Bill Pay to be sent to: City Church, PO Box 30902, Philadelphia, PA 19104

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Worship Service, 5 pm, West Catholic

Fairmount and U City will have a joint Christmas Eve worship service this year, at 5 pm at West Catholic High School.

- Year-End Giving Update: \$75K Match! We've received a matching gift for all contributions between now and December 31, 2018, up to \$75K. If you'd like to check your church giving record you can do so at citychurchphilly.com/ give or by emailing office@citychurchphilly.com. Please be in prayer for our giving, and for the many different ministry objectives funded by your generosity.
- Jan Term Classes During the Epiphany season, we pause our weekly community group gatherings and take time for study and reflection. We offer multiple classes and seminars on a variety of topics. Choose one (or more!) that may be of interest to you. Register online: citychurchphilly.com/jan-term.
- **Manuscript Study: The Book of Joel** *Tuesdays, 1/8-1/29, 7-9 pm* This class, led by Tom and Janet Nygren, Candy Cason, and David Wynne, will take a deep dive into the prophetic book of Joel. Each week we will spend time studying individually, discussing in small groups, and learning from one another. The prophet Joel uses an economic disaster in his time as a metaphor that serves to look at the hope of God's restoration for his people in the midst of calamity. We hope you will join us to wrestle together over what this prophet has to teach us today.

Conversations that Heal: Strengthen Your Marriage in Stressful Times (Co-Hosted with Liberti Church) *Wednesdays, 1/9 - 1/23, 7:30-9:30 pm* This is a marriage workshop led by Gwen & Rod White. Gwen has been the Director of Circle Counseling for over 20 years, and her husband Rod is the Founding Pastor of Circle of Hope. They have been married to each other for 43 years and have a track record of care for married people and wisdom towards traversing the terrain of marriage. If you and your spouse are unable to attend all 3 sessions, you can still participate; each week will function like a stand-alone session. Cost is \$20/couple.

Continued on next page...

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January

7 Jan Term begins27 Youth Chili Cookoff

February

9 Parenting Conference

March

6 Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm (UCity)22-24 Men's Retreat

- **Vintage Saints & Sinners** *Thursdays, 1/10-1/31, 7 pm* This class will feature both a wine-tasting component ("vintage"), and a history/biography component ("saints and sinners"). Each week, Chris Currie will introduce figures from Christian history and discuss how their stories might inspire or inform our own, and resident sommelier Su Jin Kim will introduce us to wines from the native regions of the featured "saints." Bring a friend!
- **Joy to the World!** *Sundays, 1/13-2/3, 9:15 am* Did you know that between City Church and Woodland Presbyterian, we support 10+ global partners? Each week, we'll "meet" a different global partner, learn what challenges and opportunities they are facing, and pray for their work. This class is led by the Global Outreach team.
- **Book Study: Child Proof: Parenting By Faith Not Formula, by Julie Lowe** *Sundays, 1/13-2/3, 3:15 pm* Julie Lowe, counselor, parent, and author of Child Proof is coming to City Church to lead a parenting conference on Saturday, February 9. We'll discuss her book and began to think through how it might shape and encourage us as parents and what questions we have for Julie when she's with us! Discussion facilitated by Liz Voboril.

Staff

Tuck Bartholomew

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Jonathan Davis

Assistant Pastor jonathan@citychurchphilly.com 678.458.7614

Natalie Harvey University Ministry natalie@citychurchphilly.com 724.504.7589

Ginger Hayes

Children's Ministry ginger@citychurchphilly.com 917.583.2316

Instagram @citychurchphilly Twitter @citychurchphl Facebook @city.church.philadelphia

Help us welcome you.

Name(s):
Children & their ages:
If undergrad or grad student, school & year:
Address:
Phone number(s):
Email(s):
Would you like to receive our weekly e-newsletter? Yes No
Please contact me about:
Community Groups
Neighborhood Service Opportunities
Volunteering on Sundays
□ Children's & Youth Ministries
Meeting with a Pastor
Other:
Anything else you would like us to know about you?

Please tear off this back page and place in the offering basket.

