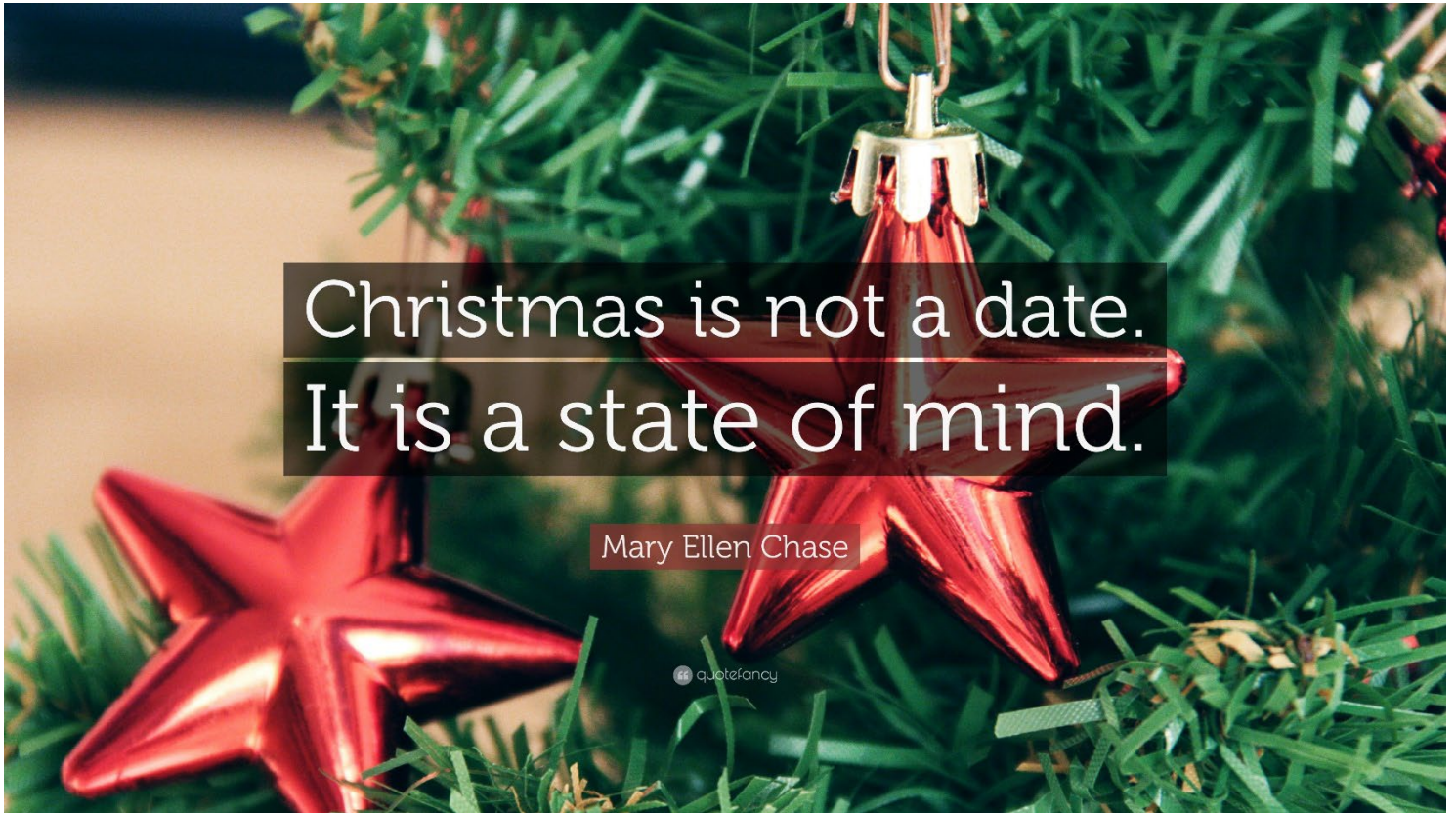


Bellport United Methodist Church

185 S. Country Rd., Bellport, N.Y. 11713 631-286-0525

December 24, 2024
**“Christmas Is Not Just a Date,
It Is a State of Mind”**



Welcome!

The Bellport UMC family welcomes visitors from all backgrounds. You are invited to join us for our fellowship hour following the service. For childcare, large print hymnals, or directions to our accessible access (elevator), please see any of our ushers. Our current newsletter and church brochure with upcoming events are available in the Entrance Area and Fellowship Hall. We hope you will feel God’s presence with us, and we invite you to join us again. We invite members and guests to sign in at the Entrance Area. Thank you!

Christmas Eve

Reverend Matthew Querns, Pastor

Lynn Hoag, Director of Music

Sheryl Moodt, Liturgist

Welcome visitors. Please sign our Guest Book!

*(All are invited to stand if comfortable doing so, where the * appears)*

GATHERING THOUGHTS

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him!” – John 3:17

♪ PRELUDE & QUIET MEDITATION

BRING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CHRISTMAS WELCOME

PROPHETIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

Sheryl Moodt

***GATHERING CAROL (UMH) #211** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Sheryl Moodt

Leader: Tonight, we light the Christmas Candle as a sign that God’s true light, Jesus, has entered into the world. *(Light all four candles and the white center candle)*

People: On this day, hope, love, joy, and peace unite in the innocence of the manger to show us the true meaning of salvation and of grace.

Leader: Tonight, we shout Merry Christmas! Let us live these words every day.

People: Welcome Emmanuel, God is truly with us!

A Christmas Tradition/Memory

Choral Response: *“Light the Christmas candle, now: sing of donkey, sheep, and cow; birthday candles for the King, let the alleluias ring. Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night; candle, Candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.”*

♪ *Song of Hope: (UMH) #218 vs. 1&4

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

CHRISTMAS PRAYER *(in unison)*

God, You brought us again to this glad season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Grant that His spirit may be born anew in our hearts today and every day and that we may joyfully welcome Him to live in us. Open our ears, so we may hear the angelic chorus of old. Open our lips, so we may sing with lifted heart. Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace, goodwill to all.

MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF CHRISTMAS GRACE

ANTHEM OF LOVE *Do You Hear What I Hear?* arr. by Harry Simeone

Rev. Matthew Querns, hand drum; Robin Montick, finger cymbals.

THE GOSPEL IN CAROLS

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Luke 2:1-4 | <i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i> | (#230 verses 1 & 4) |
| 2. Luke 2:5-7 | <i>What Child is This?</i> | (#219 verses 1 & 2) |
| 3. Luke 2:8-12 | <i>Hark! The Harold Angel Sing</i> | (#240 verses 1 & 3) |
| 4. Luke 2:13-14 | <i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i> | (#238 verses 1 & 4) |
| 5. Luke 2:15-20 | <i>Away in a Manger</i> | (#217 verses 1 & 3) |

PASTORAL PRAYER

PASSING THE CHRISTMAS PEACE

EPISTLE LESSON: (NRSV) Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. Matthew Querns

Christmas Is Not Just A Date, But A State Of Mind

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION MUSIC *Cantique de Noel/O Holy Night*

by Adolphe Adam

Leslie McBride, soprano; Dan Fogel, piano

WORSHIPPING WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY (UMH) #221 *In the Bleak Midwinter* (Verse 4)**

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

(Please, join us as we welcome the Christ-Child with candlelight. First, form a circle around the sanctuary. As the lights dim, Pastor Matthew will light the candles of those next to him. The light will grow around the circle. NOTE: tip the **unlit** candle into the **lit** candle. As the light grows, we will sing "Silent Night" verses 1-4 #239 ending with silence.)

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

SONG OF JOY: (UMH) #246 *Joy to the World

CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

MERRY CHRISTMAS