

Church on the Cape
Rev. Greg Smith
December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent



Ivanov, Aleksandr Andreevich, 1806-1858. John the Baptist - study for painting "Christ Among the People", from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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Church on the Cape
United Methodist Church
Third Sunday of Advent / December 14, 2025

HYMN SING

Susie Goodwin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adrien Baracco

PRELUDE

“Christmas Prelude”
“Still, Still, Still & O Come, Little Children”
Austrian and German Folksongs
Arr. Susie Goodwin

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Miriam Therese Winter, UMH 198*)

Leader : My soul gives glory to my God.

People: My heart pours out its praise.

Leader: God lifted up my lowliness,

People: In many marvelous ways.

Leader: My God has done great things for me:

People: Yes, holy is God’s name.

Leader: All people will declare me blessed,

People: And blessings they shall claim.

Leader: Praise God, whose loving covenant,

People: Supports those in distress,

Leader: Remembering past promises,

People: With present faithfulness.

*HYMN **“Come, Thou Long -Expected Jesus”** UMH #196

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

ADVENT WREATH LITURGY

Leader: We come to feel joy this third Sunday of Advent!

People: Joy fills our hearts as we anticipate the coming of Christ.

Leader: Joy is God’s gift to us in a season of celebration.

People: God yearns to bring the gift of joy to every human heart.

FIRST LESSON ISAIAH 35:1-10

Leader: The wilderness will be glad!

People: And the desert will bloom with joy!

Leader: There will be a “Holy Highway,”

People: That will lead God’s people home!

Leader: Our hearts and souls sing with joy,

People: For God will bless us with peace and justice!

Leader: Now, let us prepare for the One who is to come.

People: Let us make straight the pathways in our lives.

Leader: Let us make smooth the roughest places in our lives.

People: Let us boldly speak words of comfort, peace and justice.

Leader: Let us rejoice in God's presence and promises!

People: Come, Lord, and fill our hearts with joy!

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 11:2-11

MESSAGE

"What are we looking for?"

*ADVENT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing, Shelter Island Presbyterian Church, NY*

We believe that God has come to us; that God brought us into being, that this God gave us breath and purpose, that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others.

We believe that God is coming to us; that God is not happy to leave us alone, that this God will come to us as a human being, that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours, that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy, that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.

We believe that God will come to us; that God will have the final word and that Word will be good, that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work, that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth, that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more, and we will gather together to sing an endless and perfect "Alleluia!"

OFFERTORY

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
Geistliche Kirchengesang; Lani Smith, arr.

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

UMH #218

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

"For Unto Us a Child is Born - Hallelujah"

G.F. Handel

Arr. Douglas Wagner and Susie Goodwin

Chimers

Chimers: Rev. Greg Smith, Marilyn Crocker, Janet Wade, Sharon Miesel, Nancy Chamberlin for Armit Pak, Amy Hall, Barbara Fuller, Mary Parker, Rev. Desmond Parker

Christmas Surprise Packages

My sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who contributed their donations (new items and gift cards) towards the Christmas gifts for the surprise packages in 2025. As always you made it a success with 168 packages sold out at noontime.

Thanks again,
Debora M. Berry

Christmas Eve Events

- At **4:00 p.m. on Christmas eve** we will have a "No-Rehearsal Christmas Pageant". This will not be your typical worship service or pageant! The children who attend will have a chance to choose their parts and participate in a play that we will craft as we go! We will hold the pageant in Bartlett Hall. Join us for the fun!
- At **8:00 p.m.** we will have a formal worship service featuring carols, Choral music, lessons and candle lighting. This service will be held in our Sanctuary and all are welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thank you Jane Smith and Judy Tripp for hosting coffee hour.
- Readers Needed—We will need volunteer readers for the 8:00 pm Christmas-eve Worship Service. Please contact Rev. Smith if you would like to do a reading.



PERFUME AND COLOGNE REMINDER

As a courtesy to others with respiratory and allergy sensitivities, please refrain from wearing fragrances to worship and while attending activities here at the church. Thank you.

PRELUDE FAIR UPDATE

A big round of applause for all the worker bees, bakers, set-up and take-down movers, and a special thank you to our money minders, Debora Berry and Marge Smith. From their hours of counting we are excited to report total Fair Sales of \$9,930. We also had a ton of fun along the way.

2025 Team Leaders: Susie Goodwin and Amy Hall

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Judy Cadieux	Patty Hutchins	Jean Moulton
Julie Chase	Bethany Hessel	Marybeth Munroe
Fran Celnar	Micki Kinney	Luverne Preble
Mary Heather Cookson	Lesa Kraft Angelos	Nancy Russo
Micke Cooper	Brett LaCour	Lettie Samuel
Risha Deary	Nicholas LaCour	Eric Schoener
Beth Dudley	Charity Perry Liutai	Jane Smith
Henry & Diane Dynia	Chloe McLaughlin	Chuck Wildes
Sally Ewton		



- 3 Diane Guertin
- 6 Steve Russell
- 7 Rich Parsons
- 8 Sandra St. Jean
- 9 Priscilla Campbell-Wyman
- 10 Janet Acker
- 15 Ann Hand & Judy Tripp
- 19 Isabella Simmons
- 20 Jody Chase
- 26 Roberta Sanborn
- 28 Tom Bradbury , Chase MacIver, Diana & Natalie Smith
- 31 Ginny Hammar

If you would like to add a name to the birthday list, please call or email the church office.
207-967-5787
office@churchonthecape.org

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

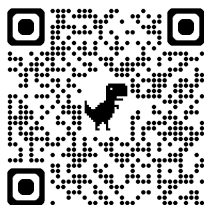
Sunday	9:45am	Hymn Sing
December 14	10:00am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:30am	SPRC
Monday	1:00 pm	Senior Moments Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
December 15	7:00pm	Church Council
Tuesday	11:30 am	Picnic Lunch (Bring Your Food)
December 16	12:30pm	Advent Bible Study
Wednesday	4:00pm	Senior Moments Concert
December 17	4:30pm	Bon Appetit
Thursday	5:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
December 18	6:00pm	Advent Bible Study

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday	9:45am	Hymn Sing
December 21	10:00am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday	11:30 am	Picnic Lunch (Bring Your Food)
December 23		
Wednesday	4:00 pm	Children's No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant
	8:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Thursday	10:00 am	Christmas Day Worship
December 25		Communion Service



Everyone is welcome at Church on the Cape, UMC, without exception. What matters most to us and what unites us as a vibrant, compassionate community of faith, is the assurance that we are all beloved children of God and of sacred worth to our Creator. Come as you are and join us on our faith journeys as we seek to make followers of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



Join us from wherever you call home:

If you like what you see here, we post our worship, music, children's messages and sermons online - you can find them via our website :

www.churchonthecape.org

CHURCH ON THE CAPE STAFF

Rev. Greg Smith	Pastor
Paul N. Stephan	Music Director
Mike Kelly	Streaming Coordinator
Ivan Collazo	Custodian
Jen Murray	Office Administrator
Jean Baracco	Head Usher
Adrien Baracco	Assistant Usher