

**BLUFF POINT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
NOVEMBER 30, 2014  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE**

**The Hanging of the Greens is a service for the first Sunday in Advent. It is based on the English tradition of decorating the home with wreaths, garlands, a Christmas tree, and evergreens for Advent and Christmas. In a church setting, it readies the sanctuary and church members for the season.**

**WELCOME AND GREETING**

**ORGAN PRELUDE – “Joy To The World” –  
Charlie Findley, organist**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE - #204 “Emmanuel”**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP –**

L.How shall we prepare this house for the birth of Jesus?

**P.With branches of cedar, the tree of excellence and strength.**

L.How shall we prepare this house for the eternal Christ?

**P.With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.**

L.How shall we prepare this house for the prophet of Galilee?

**P.With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.**

L.How shall we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God?

**P.By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.**

L.For in the story of Jesus we see revealed the transforming power of God .We are reminded anew of God’s vision of wholeness, justice, and peace for all of creation.

**P.Thanks be to God.**

**CONGREGATION PRAYER:**

Our Father, we long for the simple beauty of Christmas – for all the old familiar melodies, words, and symbols that remind us of that great miracle when He who had made all things came one night as a babe, to lie in the crook of a woman’s arm. But in that longing, let us even more yearn for your renewed presence among us even as we celebrate and expect the Coming of your Son. And we do pray, Lord Jesus, that as we begin this four-week journey of expectation and hope, we may do it in a manner well pleasing to You. May we remember Your birth and feel Your presence among us even yet. May the loving kindness of this Advent Season and the true Spirit of Christmas not only creep into our hearts this season, but there abide. May the joy and spirit of Christmas remain with us now and forever. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

**THE MEANING OF THE SERVICE**

**THE SANCTUARY EVERGREENS**

**MEN’S GROUP – “Come, Emmanuel” , Ron Miller, pianist**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE -** Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

**CHORAL ANTHEM:** “Advent Carol of Hope”

**CHILDREN’S TIME –** *The Legend of the Poinsettia*

**SOLO –** “Breath of Heaven” – Aimee Perry, Elly Stempien, pianist

**PARAMENTS AND ADVENT COLORS**

**SPECIAL MUSIC – “Pie Jesu” –** Robin DeSantis and Jeff Stempien, flutes, Elly Stempien, accompanist

**ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES**

**FIRST CANDLE LIT –** Children will come forward to light candle  
**PRAYER –**

**Loving God, as we enter this Advent Season, We open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

CHORAL ANTHEM – “Advent Grace”

THE CHRISTMAS TREE – people place ornaments on tree

SPECIAL MUSIC – “*Glad Tidings*” – Ron Miller, pianist

BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE –

Loving God, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, whose life lights a path for all who follow him. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. In Jesus’ name.  
Amen.

HANGING OF THE WREATHS

SPECIAL MUSIC – “*Good Christian Men, Rejoice*” – Jeff and Elly Stempien, trumpet and piano duet

THE NATIVITY – Children come forward

HYMN - #217 “*Away In the Manger, vs.3*”

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: “Christmas Dreams” Charlie Findley

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – We dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, of love, of peace. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen.

HYMN: #196 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” vs.1

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE – “*Go Tell It On the Mountain*” – Charlie Findley”

### SERVING CHRIST THIS WEEK

Organist: Cindy Heggie

Choir Director: Aimee Perry

Liturgist: Bill Sutherland

Greeters: John and Laurie Prinzivalli

Ushers: Andy and Gail Kenneda

Scripture Reader: Michele Covert

Fellowship: Helen and Dana Schillinger

Sunday School: No Sunday School

Nursery: No Nursery

Counters: Chris Bailey and Aimee Perry

### SERVING NEXT WEEK: (12/714

Organist: Cindy Heggie

Choir Director: Aimee Perry

Liturgist: Ron Salyer

Greeters: Blanche and Dorwin Fingar

Ushers: Ann Shepardson and Marilyn Sands

Scripture Reader: Ron Salyer

Fellowship: Bev Dean, Ron Sergent and Waneta Nielsen

Sunday School: Sarah Stackhouse

Nursery: Sherri Hunt and Michele Covert

Counters: Bill Sutherland and Elly Stempien

### This Week Schedule:

Tues. UMW luncheon, Noon at Antique Inn

Choir Rehearsal, Tues. 7pm

Wed. Bible Study, 10am

### DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR:

#### **NEXT SUNDAY AT 3PM**

DEC.14<sup>TH</sup> – Christmas Caroling – We will meet at church at 3pm and go to Clinton Crest, Penn Yan Manor and Homestead. If you live in town, please meet us at Clinton Crest at 3:15pm. We will conclude by going to the Living Well for cookies and hot cocoa. If anyone would like to make cookies please let Pastor Judy know.

DEC. 21<sup>ST</sup> – OUR CHILDREN’S SUNDAY WORSHIP PROGRAM

**DEC.24<sup>TH</sup> – OUR TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE. - 7PM**

**BLUFF POINT  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**P.O. BOX 134  
KEUKA PARK, NY 14478**

**REV. JUDY D. WHITE- WUNDER, PASTOR**  
607-215-5193 (CELL)  
EMAIL: [pastor@BluffPointUMC.com](mailto:pastor@BluffPointUMC.com)

**PRAYER REQUEST**  
[prayers@BluffPointUMC.com](mailto:prayers@BluffPointUMC.com)

**WEBSITE: BluffPointUMC.com**

**“THE LITTLE COUNTRY  
CHURCH WITH A BIG HEART”**

**We are so grateful to all those who participated in  
our “HANGING OF THE GREENS” service.**

**To the musicians, the worship team, the children  
and those who participated in the worship  
rotation.**

**We also thank John Prinzivalli for preparing our  
dinner which will follow our service.**

**May this advent season be one of hope, love, joy  
and peace.**

**God bless you all.**

