

Mary (Mimi) Biedron retired in 2023 after serving North Church for twenty-five years. She was installed as Senior Minister of North Congregational Church in February 2011, after serving as Associate Minister of North Church since 1998. Mimi and her husband, Glenn, have three adult daughters. She is a graduate of the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (Master of Divinity – 1999, Doctor of Ministry – 2015), and the University of Michigan (BA 1975). She has served as president of the Southeast Michigan Congregational Clergy and moderator of the Southeastern Michigan Association of Congregational Churches. She also served as Historian for the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, and board member of the Congregational Library and Archives. Mimi was the long-time Coordinator of the Farmington/Farmington Hills/West Bloomfield CROP Walk and is past president of the Farmington Area Interfaith Association.

As a Congregational church, Meadowbrook traces its roots to the Pilgrims. We continue to explore our faith as a people free to interpret God's Word according to the dictates of our own conscience and in mutual support and love of one another. Not bound by any one creed or statement of faith, Congregationalists are gathered around a local church covenant in which we promise to serve alongside one another as followers of Jesus Christ.

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MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



December 21, 2025
4th Sunday in Advent

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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PRELUDE "Coventry Carol" (Traditional) Dave Howland

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Mimi Biedron

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.
*Congregation: **And also with you.***
Leader: Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

CHORAL INTROIT

A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high, that will not fail or leave me, as earthly riches fly.

**Stand in body or spirit*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Hebrews 12:1-2) *(read responsively)* Jody Scheller

Leader: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,
*Congregation: **and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,***
Leader: looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, disregarding its shame,
*Congregation: **and has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God.***

***GATHERING HYMN** "The First Nowell" #108 v. 1-3, 6

***INVOCATION** *(in unison)* Jody Scheller

God of Advent, as trees are lighted, as people rush to shop and send greetings, as Christmas songs are heard everywhere, keep us close to you. May all that we do in this season shine forth with your love. We are your people. Love through us. Let Christ be seen in us. We pray in Jesus' name . . .

***THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(using Debts and Debtors)*

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. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING: Love The Kanak Family

*Congregation: **God of love, shine your light in us and through us. Help us to live as your people full of life, love, and the light of Christ. Amen.***

ADVENT RESPONSE: "When God Is a Child" #109 v. 4

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 11:1-5 | Page #640 OT Jody Scheller

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
*Congregation: **Thanks be to God.***

ANTHEM "Walk in Light" by Karen Marroli Chancel Choir

A TIME OF SILENCE & MORNING PRAYER Rev. Dr. Mimi Biedron

CHORAL AMEN

OFFERTORY "'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" arr. by Joseph Martin Dave Howland

***DOXOLOGY** (sing in unison) #563

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavn'ly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

SERMON SCRIPTURE READING: John 1:14-18 Rev. Dr. Mimi Biedron

CHORAL RESPONSE
O fill us with your word, O Lord that we may know your grace and love. O fill us with your word that we may grow in understanding.

MESSAGE "Jesus, Emmanuel" Rev. Dr. Mimi Biedron

***RECESSIONAL HYMN** "Of the Father's Love Begotten" #63

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Dr. Mimi Biedron

POSTLUDE "Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella" arr. by Owen Griffin Dave Howland

MUSICIANS: Dave Howland, Danny Reeves and Chancel Choir
TECHNICIAN: Moe Elmasry | **GREETER:** Denise Pearson | **LITURGIST:** Jody Scheller

We welcome back Rev. Dr. Mimi Biedron this morning. Please join us in Fellowship Hall following worship for a time of refreshment and fellowship. Hosts are Lee and Lisa Gross.