

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Gerald Gammon (330) 306-8965

Director of Music: Karen Fumerola

Organist: Barbara Edwards

*(*Please stand, if you are able, at each asterisk.)*

Welcome to our Sunday service. Please use the time during the Prelude to prepare yourself for worship in quiet reflection and prayer and allow others to do the same.

Prelude "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
(Lighting of the Candles) (Organ/Piano)

*Louis Redner/
arr. Ethel Smith*

Greeting

Pastor: "The peace of Christ be with you."

People: "And also with you."

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Gerald Gammon

Let us begin our worship today:

Choral Introit "Come On, Ring Those Bells"

Andrew Culverwell

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Cheryl Copeland

*Call to Worship:

Ron Schoch

Leader: Holy Father, You have blessed the world through Jesus!

All: Alleluia, God of grace!

Leader: Your beloved Son is the Savior of us all who believe in Him!

All: Alleluia, God of grace!

Leader: May we always bask in Your love, in this life and in the next.

All: Alleluia, God of grace!

Leader: Blessed are You, O God. May You live and reign forever!

All: We pray in Jesus' most holy name, amen.

*Carol #249 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*Unison Invocation:

All: God, You are the font of holiness. Help us to be obedient and loving children so that we may be pleasing in Your sight. Walk with us as we travel through life and strengthen our resolve to do Your bidding. May we bring Jesus into the world that so desperately needs Him. We pray in His most holy name, amen.

*Gloria Patri #812 "Glory Be to the Father"

Anthem

"Alleluia for Advent"

arr. Patrick Liebergen

Joys and Concerns/Time of Silent Prayer/The Lord's Prayer (debt and debtors)

Prayer Response #292 "O come to my heart"

Timothy Matthews

Offering Prayer/Giving of our Tithes and Offerings/Christmas Fund Offering

Offertory "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" *Felix Mendelssohn/arr. Ethel Smith*

*Doxology #815 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Apostles Creed (May be found in the back cover of the hymnal)

Carol

#265 "The First Noel" (Stanzas 1, 2, 3, 4)

Scripture

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 (pg. 281 O.T.)

Ron Schoch

Romans 16: 25-27 (pg. 165 N.T.)

"Celtic Alleluia" *Fintan O'Carroll & Christopher Walker*

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38 (pg. 56-57 N.T.)

Pastor: "This is the Word of our Lord"

All: "Thanks be to God."

Sermon

"Faithful and Obedient"

Rev. Gerald Gammon

*Carol

#269 "How Great Our Joy!"

*Benediction

Postlude

(reprisal) "Come On, Ring Those Bells"
(Organ/Piano)

Andrew Culverwell

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NOTE: Scripture readings are from NRSV Bible

ANNOUNCEMENTS

12/24/2023

Please call the church office or fill out a prayer card if you would like to put someone on the prayer chain or prayer list.

Thought for the Week: How do I reflect my faith in and obedience to God?

Next week: Liturgist/Lay Reader: Sheryl Cozad

All offerings to be credited to the 2023 fiscal year must be made no later than Sunday December 31. After December 31, even if the offering is placed in a 2023 envelope, it will be credited to the 2024 fiscal year.

Parish News: Please remember to pick up your January Parish News.

Sunday School: There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 24 or Sunday, December 31.

Thank You! Thank you for the wonderful gift! I appreciate your continued love and support, Merry Christmas one and all!
Pastor Gerry

Thank You Sharon Longworth! And all who helped make this year's Family Christmas party such a success!

Thank You: A Big Thank You to everyone who played a part in our Christmas Party on Sunday evening. We had a amazing time with good food, great company and our wonderful entertainment, Lock 4. God Bless you all! Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.
Sharon Longworth

Thank You: I want to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, phone calls, and your support during this difficult time.
Homer Wiland

Thank You: Thanks for generous gift and the beautiful poinsettia! Seasons Greetings!
Nancy Hamrick

Thank You: To a very generous congregation I say, "Thank you for the gas card, staff gifts, and beautiful poinsettia. Blessings to all!"
Junior & Karen Fumerola

Merry Christmas! The staff of the First United Church of Christ wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

	12/3/23	12/10/23	12/17/23	12/24/23	12/31/23
Attendance	26	30	28		
Benevolent					
Building Fund					
Current Expenses	\$1,121.25	\$1,190.50	\$ 696.72		
Floating Five	\$ 91.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 100.00		
Benevolence	\$ 55.00				
Poinsettias	\$ 49.50				
Bake Sale			\$ 225.00		
TOTAL	\$1,316.75	\$1,320.50	\$1,021.72		

November Income	November Expenditures	November Net
\$4,307.50	\$8,115.12	-\$3,807.62

Prayer List		Shut-ins
American People	Peggy Marshall	Donna Beavers
Donna Beavers	Larry Mattison	Ruth Gilbert
Becky Callahan	Norma Patchin	Betty Howren
Betsy Chapley	Mary Sabol	Dick Leiby
Dave Davis	Barb Ware	Marilyn Leiby
Darlene Davis	Layes Wood	Glenn Mark
Rodger Davis		Norma Patchin
Phil Fletcher	Those affected by the conflicts throughout the world.	Barb Sponaugle
Ruth Gilbert		
Greg Lee		
Dean Mahalick		
		Lyon/Busko Family
		Wiland Family
		Williams Family

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, December 24	10:45 morning service and 6:30 pm Christmas Eve
Monday, Dec. 25 & 26	Office Closed
Wednesday, Jan. 3	Men's Fellowship breakfast 9:00 a.m.
Monday, Jan. 8	Elders/Deacons 6:15 p.m./Consistory 7:00 p.m.