

December 22, 2019

** (Indicates, please stand as able)

Prelude "The Gift of Love" arr. by Marilyn Ham

Greeting/Life of the Church Rev. Andy Wagner

(We invite members & guests to provide your name & contact information in the attendance pad as it is passed through the row.)

Sharing the Peace of Christ

**Introit Chancel Choir

** Call to Worship

L: In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.

P: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

L: Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.

P: He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

L: Come now, all who thirst, and drink of the water of life.

P: Come now, all who hunger, and be filled with good things.

L: Come now, all who seek, and encounter the abundant love of the almighty God.

P: We come to worship the God of love who casts out fear.

A: Let us praise God together.

**Opening Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vs. 1,3,5) UMH #234

Hymn of Preparation "People, Look East" (vs. 1&4) UMH #202

**Gospel Lesson 1 John 4:7-19

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Opening Prayer (unison)

Loving God, whom we praise and glorify as disciples of Jesus Christ, cleanse us today by your Word so we may rejoice with pure hearts and aspire to the perfection of your love. Prune away the dead debris of our fears and failures so we may become productive branches in the church, reaching out to feed a world starving for genuine love and yearning for community. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Molly Mossing, Moira Ackenhausen, Ciara Horney, Grace Smith

Hymn of Response "Crown Him King of Kings" (see insert)

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "What Child Is This" UMH #219

Prayers of the Faithful & the 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Jesus Loves Me" William Bradbury/Melody Baber

** Doxology UMH #95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly hosts; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication Rev. Andy Wagner

Anthem "O Blessed Jesus Child" Chancel Choir
Robert Lau

Message "The Redemption of Scrooge – Part 4"
"From Fear to Love" Rev. Andy Wagner

**Closing Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH #230

** Taking the Light into the World

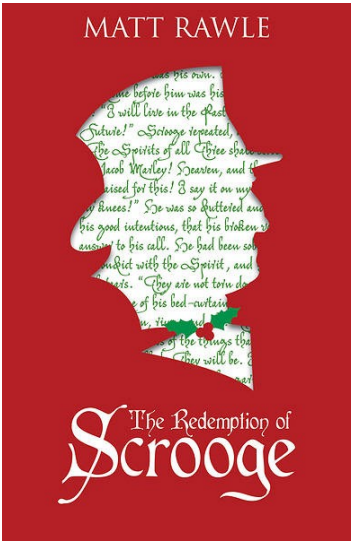
** Benediction

** Choral Response

** Postlude "I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"
Martin Smith/Jerry Ray

*Altar Flowers are given in celebration of the
(52nd) Anniversary of Paul and Virginia Pinkerton.
Altar Flowers are given by Don Luttrell and family in memory
of Joan Luttrell; wife, mother and grandmother.*

Monday 23	PRESCHOOL CLOSED ALL WEEK		
	Christmas Eve, Eve Dinner	5:00 pm	Rm 15 A-C
	Christmas Eve, Eve Service	6:00 pm	Sanctuary
	Cub Scouts	6:30 pm	Rm 5, 11, 12, 15 A,B
	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	Rm 15 C
Tuesday 24	DEADLINE FOR 12/29/19 BULLETIN		
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	9:00 pm	Sanctuary
Wednesday 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS (Office Closed)		
Thursday 26	Bible Study	10:00 am	Parlor
	Prayer Shawl	11:30 am	Parlor
Friday 27	Girl Scouts Sleepover	6:00 pm	FCC, Rm 15 A-C
Saturday 28	Double I	5:00 pm	FH 15A, Kit
Sunday 29	Sunday School	9:00 am	Preschool through Grade 5, Rm 12 & Grades 6-12, Rm 8
	Fellowship & Coffee	10:00 am	FH 15 A & B
	Worship	10:30 am	Sanctuary



Faith Community United Methodist Church
“Worship Together, Grow Together, Serve Together”

December 22, 2019

Rev. Andy Wagner
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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Sunday School Studies

- Explorers** meet in Room 6, Leaders Char Lee & Cheryl Vahle study of **“30 Life Principles” by Charles F. Stanley.**
- Double I** meet in 15C, Leader Wayne Cook study of **“Because of Bethlehem” by Max Lucado** during Lent.
- Open Doors** meet in Parlor studying **The Wonder of Christmas by Ed Robb & Rob Renfro.**
- Friends & Followers** meet in the Library, Leader is Chad Mossing will be studying **Didn’t See It Coming.**
- Grades 6-12** will meet in The Edge, Leader Joyce Smith.

Worship Team

- Ushers** Ed Stidham, Robert Smith, Rick Smith, Dick Strous, Jim Osburn
- Greeters** Vicki Beegle & Shirley Newton
- Liturgist** Julie Wickline
- Acolytes** Catherine Mossing & Molly Mossing
- Organist** Carol Stewart

Gospel Lesson – 1 John 4:7-19

God's Love and Ours

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

Next Sermon – Sunday, December 29:

“Who Has the Lead?”

Rev. Andy Wagner

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

Altar Flowers for 2020: The flower calendar for the New Year 2020 is on the table in the narthex. There are changes starting the first of the year. This is going to be handled through the church office. You will be responsible for ordering your altar arrangement and delivery to the church on Friday morning or you can pick it up and bring it to the church. It will be refrigerated until Sunday. Someone from the office will call the week before to get the information for the bulletin and remind you about ordering the flowers. You can order from Flower Stop at 372-1436 in Xenia or Furst Florist in Dayton at 223-1213 or any place you choose.

Let's Keep It Clean: The Trustees request your help and cooperation keeping the Narthex and Sanctuary clean and free of stains. Please do not bring food or drinks other than water from the Fellowship Time, Sunday School classes or outside the church into the Narthex or Sanctuary. We have already had to clean up some spills. Your help and cooperation is appreciated.

Door Mats: The Trustees would like to purchase 4 new mats to put outside the entrance doors to the narthex, office and community center. They would like to have the Methodist flame and say Welcome and possibly have the church name. We are trying to do all we can to protect the new flooring. (If you would be interested in donating to help offset the cost, please mark your check or envelope Door Mats.)

Cookies: We are in need of cookies for the Christmas Eve-Eve Dinner; if you are able to bake please bring them to the church office tomorrow between 9am-3pm. Please contact Joyce or Betsy if you have any questions.