

December 13, 2020

** (Indicates, please stand as able)

Prelude "Sheep May Safely Graze" by JS Bach/Lani Smith
Steve Gurk and Carol Stewart, piano/organ duet

Greeting/Life of the Church Rev. Andy Wagner

** Call to Worship

L: Come apart to this place of rest and renewal;
Let your spirits rejoice in the presence of God.

**P: We will sing of God's steadfast love for all people.
We will proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.**

L: God looks with favor on the humble and lowly.
God's covenant does not focus on rank or position.

**P: God strengthens those who are weak.
The proud are scattered in the thoughts of their hearts.**

L: Blessed are those who walk in God's light.
Blessed are all who say 'yes' to God's call.

**P: Let the heavens proclaim the wonders of God.
Let all the earth rejoice in Christ's coming.**

**Opening Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (v.1,2,4) UMH#220

Opening Prayer (unison)

**Shepherding God, whose signs are everywhere, restore in us
your light that we may discern what you are about. Shine upon
this assembly to give life to our tired routines. Fill our longing
hearts with quiet confidence. Awaken the child in us to
experience your revelation. By your presence with us, deepen
the prayers we utter, and turn our fears to eager anticipation.
Touch us to lend strength and confidence as we reach out to
one another for help and healing. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles Bob & Donna McColaugh

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, and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.**

Ministry of Music "A Tiny Child Will Come..." by Don Besig
Ladies Trio: Joyce Smith, Pam Colbrunn & Stephanie Leupp

**Gospel Lesson Luke 2:8-20

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

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sermon "Discovering Joy with the Shepherds" Rev. Andy Wagner

** Closing Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" (v.1,2,3) UMH#238

** Sending Forth

** Postlude "While By My Sheep" arr. by Don Hustad



*Altar Flowers are given by Gary and Chris Allen
in memory of their granddaughter, Jennifer.*



Monday 14	Cub Scouts	6:10 pm	Rm 15 A-B
	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	Rm 15 C
Tuesday 15	Dorcas Circle	1:00 pm	Rm 15 C
	Xenia HS Winter Guard	3:30 pm	FCC
Wednesday 16	DEADLINE FOR 12/20/20 BULLETIN		
Thursday 17	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Rm 16 A-B
Friday 18	Xenia HS Winter Guard	3:30 pm	FCC
Saturday 19			
Sunday 20	Traditional Worship	9:00 am	Sanctuary
	Sunday School	10:00 am	Rm 6, 12, 15 C, 16 A-B Parlor, Library
	Contemporary Worship	11:00 am	FCC

Sunday School Studies

Explorers meet in Room 6, Leader Char Lee study of **"Faithful-Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph by Adam Hamilton.**

Double I meet in 15C, Leader Wayne Cook study of **"Daniel - Spiritual Living in a Secular World" by Douglas Connelly.**

Open Doors meet in Parlor, Leader Sandy Pramer study **"What Do You Want for Christmas?" by James Moore.**

Friends & Followers meet in the Library, Leader Chad Mossing.

Grades 6-12 will meet in Rm 16 A-B, Leader Joyce Smith.

Preschool – Grade 5 Join the children in Rm 12 under the leadership of Karen Mossing, and Kylie Fleming for Bible Stories and activities to reinforce the Bible Story of the day.



Rev. Andy Wagner

(937) 372-7601 ext. 13

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

December 13, 2020

Worship Team

Ushers

Rob Smith, Rick Smith, Dick Strous
Ed Stidham, Jim Osburn

Liturgist

Mike Engle

Acolytes

Micah Fleming & Morgan Fleming

Organist

Carol Stewart

Gospel Lesson – Luke 2:8-20

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Announcements

TODAY IS COINS FOR MISSIONS SUNDAY: Please place your coins in the buckets provided. Coins will go to the following Ministries supported by the FCUMC mission and outreach team: Bridges of Hope, Fish Pantry and Wings of the Morning.

LAST DAY TO ORDER POINSETTIAS IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 14:

Poinsettia order forms will be available at each service and in the office. The cost is \$10. Please complete the order form: choose red, white or pink; write the donor name(s) and to whom it is given in honor of or memory of. They will be available for pick-up after the 9pm Christmas Eve service or any time the church is open following Christmas.

ATTENTION ALL MEN: The Men of Faith will meet on December 21st at 6:00 PM in rooms 16 A&B. Each person will bring their own meal and beverage. We will have a social time during the meal. Business portion will be installing of the officers for 2021 and reports on other new and old business. We will then sing Christmas Carols followed by communion in the Chapel. Come at 7:00 PM if you want to come just for the program and communion. BRING A FRIEND!



Week 3 – The Candle of Joy

Reader One: We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate, because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again.

Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, "God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit." No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

Reader One: We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season – not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle with joy.

Gospel Lesson – Luke 2:8-20

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