

December 20, 2020

** (Indicates, please stand as able)

Prelude "Mary Did You Know" by Lowry and Greene/Tornquist

Greeting/Life of the Church Rev. Andy Wagner

** Call to Worship

L: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

P: The time of pregnant expectation of new life.

L: Now is the season of hope unfolding.

P: The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.

L: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

P: May our souls magnify God's name and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

A: Rejoice! God comes to bring the birthday of life and hope. Amen.

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

Opening Prayer (unison)

Gracious God, your servant Mary discovered new life growing within her and knew it to be your promised presence. In tender reverence for the holy mystery of your Incarnation, may we be as a womb for your blessed presence, ready to receive and nourish your Word in our lives, open to the stirrings of your Spirit within us. May we faithfully bear your love in the world, that by your grace Christ may be born in us. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Wayne & Rhonda Cook

Prayer Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH#230

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

John Sherer, solo
"Sweet Little Jesus Boy" by Robert MacGimsey

**Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

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

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sermon "Discovering Faith with Mary" Rev. Andy Wagner

** Closing Hymn "There's a Song in the Air" (v.1,2,4) UMH#249

** Sending Forth

** Postlude Toccata on "Adeste Fideles" by David H. Hegarty



*Altar Flowers are given by Paul & Virginia Pinkerton in memory of
Monroe & Catherine Pyles and Forest & May Pinkerton.*



Monday 21	Men of Faith	6:00 pm	Rm 16 A-B
	Cub Scouts	6:10 pm	Rm 15 A-B
	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	Rm 15 C
Tuesday 22	Xenia HS Winter Guard	3:30 pm	FCC
Wednesday 23	DEADLINE FOR 12/27/20 BULLETIN		
	Christmas Eve Eve		
Thursday 24	Candlelight Service	6:30pm	Sanctuary
	Christmas Eve		
	Candlelight Service	9:00pm	Sanctuary
Friday 25	 Office Closed		
Saturday 26			
Sunday 27	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 **"Dickens, A Christmas Carol."**

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.

From Uh-oh to Ah-ha! A Journey of Christmas Discovery



Week 4
Discovering Faith
with Mary



Rev. Andy Wagner

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

December 20, 2020

Worship Team

Ushers

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

Liturgist

Julie Wickline

Acolytes

Micah Fleming & Morgan Fleming

Organist

Carol Stewart

Gospel Lesson – Luke 1:26-38

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



Week 4 – The Candle of Faith

Reader One: Our lists are long, even in this strange mess where we live these days. And we want to do it right, we want to be safe, but we want to be able to enjoy the season. We've got work to do to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what is broken, to mend relationships, and to prepare for Christmas.

Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah reminded us that there is work to be done. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." When God comes in, then healing is to be found, but we need to make the way; we need to open the door into our lives.

Reader One: So, we light these candles as a sign of our faith that the God we worship is not far from us and that by faith God will come and dwell with us. We light these candles in faith that God is in our midst.

Announcements

PLEDGE ENVELOPES NOW AVAILABLE: This year's pledge envelopes can be picked up in the narthex during the 9:00 am service and in the community center during the 11:00am service.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE NOW ONLINE: We know that the Christmas season is not full of joy for all. This video is for those who are missing someone important this season. Know that no matter how hard life is, there is always hope. Embrace the season, and celebrate those you miss, let them live on in those that remember them. Go to www.fcum.org and click on watch services online or go to www.YouTube.com and search for Faith Community United Methodists Xenia.

Blue Christmas Bonus Music: For those that do not wish to participate in the traditional Blue Christmas service this is purely music great for quiet meditation or just something to listen to. Find joy in everything, even in the darkest rooms there is always joy in God.

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!

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