

December 6, 2020

** (Indicates, please stand as able)

Prelude

Greeting/Life of the Church

Rev. Andy Wagner

** Call to Worship

L: The day of the Lord brings grace and blessing.

P: We come to this day with hearts prepared for praising.

L: The day of the Lord brings judgment and pardon.

P: We come to this day with souls set on praying.

L: The day of the Lord brings wisdom and light.

P: We come to this day with minds eager to listen for God's will.

L: In our praising, praying, listening, and responding,

P: We come to worship God.

**Opening Hymn "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" UMH#196

Opening Prayer (unison)

God of the journey, your invitation is to all to walk with you without fear of stumbling, your arm enough to steady the feeblest soul, your grace to rescue us should we fall. Grant us faith enough to take you at your word, to know that when our hearts are heavy and the destination seems so distant that you are there with us along the road. Forgive us those times when we doubt your Word, when we awake and feel alone. Draw us ever closer into your family that we might know your presence and sing your praises all the days of our lives. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Elaine & John Grayson

Prayer Hymn "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" UMH#218

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 and Gene Foiles, duet

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

by Craig Courtney

**Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

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

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sermon

"Discovering Peace with Joseph"

Rev. Andy Wagner

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

** Closing Hymn

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

UMH#240

** Sending Forth

** Postlude



Altar Flowers are given by Myrna Fuller, Kenneth & Pat Schenck and Carolyn Knight in memory of their mother, Freida Stern.

Altar Flowers are given in memory of Gordon and Barbara Eckstrand with love from their children.

Altar Flowers are given by Sylvia MacDuff in memory of her husband, Jack.



Monday 7	Cub Scouts	6:10 pm	Rm 15 A-B
	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	Rm 15 C
	Stephen Ministry	7:00 pm	Rm 16 A-B
Tuesday 8	UMW Executive Team	1:15 pm	Rm 15 C
	Xenia HS Winter Guard	3:30 pm	FCC
	SPRC	4:30 pm	Library
Wednesday 9	DEADLINE FOR 12/13/20 BULLETIN		
	Worship Design Team	4:00 pm	Library
Thursday 10	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Rm 16 A-B
	Membership Care	12:30 pm	Rm 16 A-B
	Grief Support	2:00 pm	Rm 16 A-B
Friday 11	Xenia HS Winter Guard	3:30 pm	FCC
Saturday 12			
Sunday 13	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 **"Yes, Lord I Have Sinned But I Have Several Excellent Excuses" 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 2
Discovering Peace
with Joseph



Rev. Andy Wagner

(937) 372-7601 ext. 13

pastorandy@fcum.org ♦ www.fcum.org

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

December 6, 2020

Worship Team

Ushers

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

Liturgist

Chad Mossing

Acolytes

Micah Fleming & Morgan Fleming

Organist

Carol Stewart

Gospel Lesson – Matthew 1:18-25

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Announcements

CONTEMPORARY SPECIAL MUSIC NEEDED: Interested in doing Special Music for our new Contemporary Services? Please see Pastor Ben before or after service on Sunday or contact him at 937-206-3793 or PastorBenWebster@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FAITH COMMUNITY!: A huge thank-you, to Faith Community, for being a blessing for the Christmas Project at St. Paul's. We shared our faith, love and support to our community by providing Christmas for many families.

IF YOU ARE OVER 70 AND HAVE AN IRA PLEASE READ THIS: If you are over 70 and have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) the IRS requires you to make an annual withdrawal that is based on a combination of your age and the value of your IRA at the end of the preceding year. This withdrawal, called a Required Minimum Distribution or RMD, is generally treated as Taxable Income. However, there is a provision in the law that allows you to have some or all of the RMD made directly to a qualifying charity such as Faith Community. The IRS calls this a Qualified Charitable Distribution and if you do this it is not taxable. Note that while the RMD was suspended in 2020 due to the virus, we have no reason to believe the suspension will be continued. Some at Faith Community are already using this provision, but if you are not you should consider it. Talk to your financial advisor or broker to get more details to see if it would work for you. If doing this results in tax savings, you should consider adding some or all of the savings to your pledge.

WOULD YOU LIKE US TO PRAY FOR YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONE? We have a prayer team that prays for concerns every day and would be blessed to add your request to that list. To place a prayer request you can go to our website (fcum.org) and click on the Prayer Request link which will take you to the request page. Fill out the form with your name and email address, complete the request section with the information you would like us to pray about and then click on SEND MESSAGE. All requests are confidential and will be on our prayer list for seven days. If you feel your request was answered, please let us know by using the prayer request form. We want to thank God for answering your request. If you don't have access to the internet, phone requests can be made by calling Bruce Pickelheimer at 937/376-2361 or email prayerchain@fcum.org



Week 2 – The Candle of Peace

Reader One: We live on the brink every day. We stand on the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and divine, between the mundane and the mystery. Too often, we forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. We forget that the love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us, right now.

Reader Two: Luke tells us that God's favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grandchild. But the messenger of God came and greeted her and said, "The Lord is with you." What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.

Reader One: We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding.

Gospel Lesson – Matthew 1:18-25

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