

December 12, 2021

(**Indicates, please stand as able)

Prelude "The Holly and The Ivy" Handbell Choir
arr. by Kevin McChesney

Greeting/Life of the Church Pastor Andy Wagner
This Sunday is Coins for Mission Sunday. Coins go to the following
Ministries supported by the FCUMC mission and outreach team:
Bridges of Hope, Fish Pantry, and Wings of the Morning.

Introit Chancel Choir

**Call to Worship

L: Rejoice, give thanks; call on God's name; the Holy One is in our
midst.

**P: How good it is to come home to God's house! How good it
is to gather in Christ's presence!**

L: Sing aloud! Exult with all your heart; the Sovereign One has done
glorious things.

**P: We offer up our anxieties, seeking God's peace. We face
our plenty, eager to share.**

L: Shout your praise! Express your joy! The God of our salvation
welcomes us.

**P: God's love is renewing us in these moments; God's
strength is becoming our song.**

**Opening Hymn "Away in a Manger" UMH#217

Opening Prayer (unison)

**God of life and love, whose good news often comes in strange
packages, open our eyes and ears to see and hear your
message. Open our hearts to embrace one another in our
caring. Help us to share generously and to receive graciously
the gifts we have received from your hand. Guide us to honest,
peaceful, joyous relationships, that your will may be done
among us. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Mike and Lynn Engle

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.**

Worship with Tithes and Offerings Handbell Choir
Offertory "We Three Kings" John Hopkins, Jr./Cynthia Dobrinski

**Doxology UMH #95

**Prayer of Dedication Pastor Andy Wagner

**We rejoice, O God of peace, in the privilege of giving without
fear. You come to us daily with blessings too numerous to count.
You are the Holy One whose presence relieves our anxieties,
feeds our hungers, and stirs our compassion. Through our
offerings, we express our gratitude. As we give of ourselves, we
respond to your call to bear fruit and to make your name known
among the nations. Thank you for accepting all we offer. Amen.**

Ministry of Music Chancel Choir
"Venite Adoremus" arr. by Robert Colaner

**Gospel Lesson Luke 3: 7-18

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

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sermon "When Light Shines" Pastor Andy Wagner

**Closing Hymn "There's a Song in the Air" UMH#249

Sending Forth

Choral Benediction Chancel Choir

**Postlude "Angels We Have Heard on High" Carol Stewart
arr. by Tedd Smith



*Altar Flowers are given by Ed Stidham
in honor of Margaret Stidham's birthday.*

DECEMBER

Monday 13	Women of Faith	1:00 pm	Rm 15 C
	Cub Scouts	6:00 pm	Rm 15 A-B
	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	Rm 15C
Tuesday 14	Staff Luncheon	11:00 am	Rm 15 C
	Dorcas Circle	1:00 pm	Rm 15 A-B
	Xenia Winter Guard	3:30 pm	FCC
	Girl Scouts Leaders	6:00 pm	Rm 15 A
	Disciple Bible Study	6:30 pm	Rm 6
Wednesday 15	Cancer Support	12:00 pm	Parlor
	Disciple Bible Study	2:00 pm	Rm 6
	Handbell Practice	6:15 pm	Music Room
	Praise Band Practice	7:00 pm	FCC
	Choir Practice	7:30 pm	Sanctuary
Thursday 16	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Parlor
Friday 17	Xenia Winter Guard	3:30 pm	FCC
	Girl Scouts Game Night	6:00 pm	FH 15A-C, FCC, Kit
Saturday 18			
Sunday 19	Traditional Worship	9:00 am	Sanctuary
	Sunday School	10:00 am	Rm 11, 15 C, 16A, Parlor, Library
	Contemporary Worship	11:00 am	FCC

Sunday School Studies

Double I meet in 15C, Leader Wayne Cook, study of **"The Heart That Grew Three Sizes."**

Open Doors meet in Parlor, Leader Sandy Pramer study **"The Heart That Grew Three Sizes."**

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 11 under the leadership of Kiley Fleming and Karen Mossing for Bible Stories and activities to reinforce the Bible Story of the day.



When Light Shines

FAITH
Community

Sharing Faith, Building Community

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 12, 2021

Worship Team

Ushers	Bob Whipp, Rick Smith, Edward Stidham, Grant Smith
Liturgist	Sandy Pramer
Acolytes	Evelyn Mahan
Organist	Carol Stewart
Bell Director	Jim McPeek
Choir Director	Bob Colaner

Gospel Lesson – Luke 3: 7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Next Sermon – Sunday, December 19

“Leaping for Joy”
Gospel Lesson

Pastor Andy Wagner
Luke 1: 39-45

Announcements

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The Community Christmas Concert Band will present its annual Christmas concert on **TODAY, December 12, 3:00 – 4:30pm** in the Sanctuary and perform both sacred and secular music. There will be no admission charge but donations for new music will be accepted. Please come and help us celebrate the birth of our Savior.

FAMILY NIGHT AT FAITH COMMUNITY: Please join us **TODAY, December 12th at 5:00 pm** in the Community Center for our quarterly family night. We will share a simple meal, fellowship, have a family picture taken, decorate sugar cookies and make an ornament! There will be singing of Christmas Carols! All are welcome! We are also collecting donations for our shut ins. Please bring your donations to the church and put them under the Christmas tree in the Narthex. Suggested items include: lotion, tissues, pens and pencils, note pads, and word search books.

Announcements Continued on other side



Week 3 – The Candle of Love

In one of the most popular Bible verses, John 3:16 tells us, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.”

In one of his letter, John also tells us, “God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. We love because he first loved us.”

So much of what this world calls love is fickle and full of self-interest. That is not true love. True love is the kind shown by God in the birth of Jesus, coming into this world for our salvation. With hearts overflowing at the announcement of Christ’s birth, we light the candle of love.

Let us pray.

God of love, we thank you for the love you revealed in the stable of Bethlehem and the love you fulfilled on the cross of Calvary. May our love for one another be a reflection of your love for us. Amen.

Announcements Cont.

THANK YOU BOB AND GLEN: For the past few months we have been blessed to have Bob Colaner with us as interim choir director. As he’s shared his many gifts, we have been able to once again add choir participation to our worship. This Sunday will be his last Sunday. As he passes the baton to Glen Shaw who once again has graciously agreed to serve as choir director, we thank them both.

AN OPPORTUNITY: SPRC invites you to join us on **Tuesday, December 14th**, from 1 pm-2pm for a time of fellowship as we honor Karen Beyer for her contributions as our church treasurer. Since she left us to become a caregiver to her granddaughter, she’s been able to travel. Come to hear about what she’s been doing, visit, and thank Karen.

Gospel Lesson – Luke 3: 7-18

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