

December 5, 2021

(**Indicates, please stand as able)

Prelude "A Christmas Processional" Carol Stewart
arr. by Marilyn Ham

Greeting/Life of the Church Pastor Andy Wagner

**Call to Worship

L: The day of God is coming; lift up your voices. Cry out with the strength God provides.

P: We await God's coming day with anticipation. We seek the peace and patience God provides.

L: Comfort, comfort my people, says our God. Speak tenderly to my suffering people.

P: We will prepare the way for One who is coming. We look forward to baptism in the Spirit.

L: God will feed us like a shepherd. God will gather us in gentle, caring arms.

P: God's hand is upon us in blessing; We are welcomed by God's steadfast love.

**Opening Hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" UMH#213

Opening Prayer (unison)

Righteous and holy God, your glory is revealed to us day by day as valleys of despair are lifted up and mountainous problems are leveled. In your presence, we see more than our immediate situation. We catch a glimpse of your eternal purposes. So come among us now and speak your word of hope. Feed us with your truth, and equip us to welcome Christ's coming. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath John & Sharon Sherer

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.

Worship with Tithes and Offerings Carol Stewart
Offertory "The Christmas Drummer" arr. by Marilyn Ham

**Doxology UMH #95

**Prayer of Dedication Pastor Andy Wagner

While we are waiting and preparing for Christ to appear, we are seeking, O God, to ask as faithful followers. May our offerings extend the promise of salvation to people whose lives are broken by neglect, abuse, bad choices, and sinful ways. May these gifts offer hope to all whose suffering and loss seem too heavy to bear. May our church be a listing, caring presence for all its members, and through us for all those we meet in our work and leisure. Amen.

Ministry of Music Carol Stewart
"Sweet, Holy Child" arr. by Marilyn Ham

Scripture Lesson Malachi 3: 1-4

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

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sermon "A Glimmer of Hope" Pastor Andy Wagner

The Sacrament of Holy Communion UMH#13

**Closing Hymn "The First Noel" UMH#245

**Sending Forth

**Postlude Carol Stewart

"Joy to the World" George Frederick Handel/Marilynn Ham



Altar Flowers are given by Carolyn Knight, Kenneth and Pat Schenck, and Myrna Fuller, in memory of Frieda Stern.

DECEMBER

Monday 6	Cub Scouts	6:00 pm	Rm 15 A-B
	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	Rm 15C
	Stephen Ministry	7:00 pm	Library
Tuesday 7	Xenia Winter Guard	3:30 pm	FCC
	Girl Scouts	6:00 pm	Rm 15 A,B,C, 16 A-B
	Disciple Bible Study	6:30 pm	Rm 6
Wednesday 8	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 9	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Parlor
	Grief Support	2:00 pm	Parlor
Friday 10	Concert Set Up	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	Xenia Winter Guard	3:30 pm	FCC
Saturday 11	Concert Rehearsal	9:00 am	Sanctuary
Sunday 12	Traditional Worship	9:00 am	Sanctuary
	Sunday School	10:00 am	Rm 11, 15 C, 16A, Parlor, Library
	Contemporary Worship	11:00 am	FCC
	Community Christmas		
	Concert Band	3:00 pm	Sanctuary
	Family Night	5:00 pm	FCC, Kitchen

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.



A Glimmer of Hope

FAITH
Community

Sharing Faith, Building Community

Rev. Andy Wagner
(937) 372-7601 ext. 13

pastorandy@fcum.org ♦ www.fcum.org

Like and Follow us on Facebook @ FCUM.Xenia

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

December 5, 2021

Worship Team

Ushers	Bob Whipp, Rick Smith, Edward Stidham, Grant Smith
Greeters	Doug & Julie Wickline
Liturgist	Vic Toney
Acolytes	Morgan Fleming, AJ Trent
Organist	Carol Stewart
Bell Director	Jim McPeek
Choir Director	Bob Colaner

Scripture Lesson – Malachi 3: 1-4

The Coming Messenger

3 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. **2** But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; **3** he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. **4** Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.



Week 2 – The Candle of Hope

Psalm 42 asks, "Why are you Cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God."

Psalm 146 promises, "Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God."

Our hope is not in the empty promises of this world but in the sure and certain hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ. In his name we light the candle of hope.

Let us pray.

God of promise, our hope is in you. When this world tempts us to despair, restore to us the hope of your kingdom that we may find blessing in you. Amen.

Announcements

HOPE OFFERED: While Advent is often a time of joy and light, once again this year everything is different. Our lives have been upended. Grief to some degree has come to everyone's home. It has been difficult for most of us. Many can relate to the feelings of loss because everyone has seen our version of normalcy change. We are surrounded by loneliness, grief, fear, and sickness. We are all trying to figure it out. Join us for our Blue Christmas service on **Sunday, December 5th**. There will be harp music starting at **2:15** and the service will begin at **2:30** followed by a time of fellowship. As we search for comfort, hope, and ultimately the peace that the love of God imparts, we remember that it is God who lights a candle in our darkness and holds us close until we are able to shine.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The Community Christmas Concert Band will present its annual Christmas concert on **Sunday, December 12, 3:00 – 4:00pm** 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 **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. These items will be delivered to them in January. 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.

BRING YOUR COINS NEXT WEEK!: December 12 is coins for missions Sunday. 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.

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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES NOW AVAILABLE: Your 2022 box of weekly giving envelopes can be picked up in the narthex after church services or during regular office hours during the week.

FEELING BLESSED: I want to thank Faith Community Church for all the nice cards, prayers, and thoughts that I received during my knee procedure. You all are the best! Thanks so much for your kindness, Marie Ford

NURSERY CARE: We are happy to announce that we will be providing nursery care during Advent for both services and Sunday school. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747.

Next Sermon – Sunday, December 12

"When Light Shines"
Gospel Lesson

Pastor Andy Wagner
Luke 3: 7-18

Scripture Lesson – Malachi 3: 1-4

The Coming Messenger

3 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. **2** But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; **3** he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. **4** Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.



Week 2 – The Candle of Hope

Psalm 42 asks, "Why are you Cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God."

Psalm 146 promises, "Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God."

Our hope is not in the empty promises of this world but in the sure and certain hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ. In his name we light the candle of hope.

Let us pray.

God of promise, our hope is in you. When this world tempts us to despair, restore to us the hope of your kingdom that we may find blessing in you. Amen.

Announcements

HOPE OFFERED: While Advent is often a time of joy and light, once again this year everything is different. Our lives have been upended. Grief to some degree has come to everyone's home. It has been difficult for most of us. Many can relate to the feelings of loss because everyone has seen our version of normalcy change. We are surrounded by loneliness, grief, fear, and sickness. We are all trying to figure it out. Join us for our Blue Christmas service on **Sunday, December 5th**. There will be harp music starting at **2:15** and the service will begin at **2:30** followed by a time of fellowship. As we search for comfort, hope, and ultimately the peace that the love of God imparts, we remember that it is God who lights a candle in our darkness and holds us close until we are able to shine.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The Community Christmas Concert Band will present its annual Christmas concert on **Sunday, December 12, 3:00 – 4:00pm** 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 **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. These items will be delivered to them in January. 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.

BRING YOUR COINS NEXT WEEK! **December 12** is coins for missions Sunday. 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.

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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES NOW AVAILABLE: Your 2022 box of weekly giving envelopes can be picked up in the narthex after church services or during regular office hours during the week.

FEELING BLESSED: I want to thank Faith Community Church for all the nice cards, prayers, and thoughts that I received during my knee procedure. You all are the best! Thanks so much for your kindness, Marie Ford

NURSERY CARE: We are happy to announce that we will be providing nursery care during Advent for both services and Sunday school. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747.

Next Sermon – Sunday, December 12

"When Light Shines"
Gospel Lesson

Pastor Andy Wagner
Luke 3: 7-18