

## December 11, 2022

(\*\*Indicates, please stand as able)

Prelude Handbell Choir  
"Good King Wenceslas" Ron Mallory

Greeting/Life of the Church Pastor Andy Wagner

\*\*Call to Worship

L: Behold! God is good, and has set a star in the heavens to guide us to the truth.

**P: We follow it with joy, knowing that God will give us strength to climb the hills, and sight to conquer the darkness.**

L: Behold! God is good, and has promised us a Savior to lead us to righteousness.

**A: We await the Savior's coming with gladness and with expectation that in the holy birth our lives may be renewed.**

\*\*Opening Prayer (unison)

**Gentle God, you know that for us, this is a season of hopes and fears. We are caught up in our excitement and plans. We worry whether everything will get done, and whether our relationships will blossom, bend, or break in the stress of the season. Slow us down, God, and help us to place our hope in you. Be our calm center, that we may be channels of peace to the people around us; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*\*Opening Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" UMH#220

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School

Children's Moments

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.**

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "The First Noel" John Carter

\*\*Doxology UMH #95

\*\*Prayer of Dedication

**Holy One, whose heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as sign of our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.**

\*\*Gospel Lesson Matthew 1: 18-25

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

**P: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Ministry of Music Handbell Choir  
"O Come Little Children" Anna Laura Page

Sermon Pastor Andy Wagner

"Angels of Christmas: The Angel to Joseph"

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

\*\*Sending Forth

Postlude "The Gift of Love" John Carter



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

# Gospel Lesson – Matthew 1: 18-25

## The Birth of Jesus Christ

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

### WELCOME VISITORS!

If you are visiting with us today, please take a moment to sign our attendance register located in each pew. We welcome you and hope you will come back and worship with us again soon.



Sharing Faith, Building Community

Rev. Andy Wagner

(937) 372-7601 ext. 13

[pastorandy@fcum.org](mailto:pastorandy@fcum.org) ♦ [www.fcum.org](http://www.fcum.org)

Like and Follow us on Facebook @ FCUM.Xenia

**We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation**

**December 11, 2022**

### Worship Team

Ushers	Bob Whipp, Edward Stidham Rick Smith, Gerald Mahan
Accolyte	Evelyn Mahan
Liturgist	Sandy Pramer
Guest Organist	Jim McPeek
Choir Director	Glen Shaw
Bells Director	Jim McPeek



Monday 12	Private Event Cub Scouts Boy Scouts SO Basketball Practice	6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Narthex FH 15 A-B FH 15 C FCC
Tuesday 13	Winter Guard Practice Magic Volleyball Practice Girl Scouts Leaders	3:30 pm 5:30 pm 6:00 pm	FCC FCC FH 15 A
Wednesday 14	Board/Staff Party Setup Handbell Practice Choir Practice	10:00 am 6:15 pm 7:30 pm	FCC Music Room Sanctuary
Thursday 15	Prayer Shawl Board/Staff Party	11:00 am 6:00 pm	Parlor FCC/Kitchen
Friday 16	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
Saturday 17			
Sunday 18	Sunday School Worship Service	9:15 am 10:30 am	Parlor, 11, 15C, Edge Sanctuary

### Sunday School Studies

**Double I** meet in 15C, Leader Wayne Cook, study of **"It's A Wonderful Life."**

**Open Doors** meet in Parlor, Leader Sandy Pramer study of **"Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph"** by Adam Hamilton.

**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.

### Next Sermon – Sunday, December 18

"Angels of Christmas: Angels to the Shepherds" Pastor Andy Wagner  
Gospel Lesson Luke 2: 1-14

## December 11, 2022 Announcements

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COINS:** Today 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.

**TODAY IS THE LAST CHANCE TO GET YOUR POINSETTIAS ORDER IN FOR CHRISTMAS:** Please place order form and payment in the offering plate and indicate how many plants and if you want Red, White, or Pink. The cost per plant is \$10.

**COMMUNITY CONCERT:** The Community Christmas Concert Band will present its annual concert on **TODAY at 3:00pm** in the Sanctuary. Both sacred and secular music will be performed. The program will be offered at no charge, but donations for the purchase of new music will be accepted. Please join us in this celebration of our Saviors birth.

**FAMILY NIGHT AT FAITH COMMUNITY:** Please join us **Today at 5:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall for our quarterly family night. We will share a meal of soup and Sloppy Joes. There will be good fellowship, singing of Christmas Carols, trivia, crafts and decorating sugar cookies.

**CAROLING OPPORTUNITY:** If you haven't had a chance to go caroling this year, several of us plan to meet at the church at **Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3:00pm**, to sing to our neighbors in the condos adjacent to the church. We expect to be done within an hour. Please join us and feel free to spread the word. All are welcome!

**MATERIALS TO HELP MAKE A DIFFICULT CHRISTMAS EASIER:** Our Stephen Ministry team wants you to know that there is literature available to help those who are grieving or who feel that Christmas might be difficult for them this year. Care Notes can be found in the narthex. There is also a table filled with helpful items in the narthex across from the parlor. Please help yourselves and consider taking some for others.

**MEN OF FAITH:** The Men of Faith will meet on **Monday, Dec. 19 at 6:00pm** in Room 16A & B (Community Center). All men are invited to join us. Each person may bring their own meal and beverage. We will have a social time during the meal. A short business meeting will follow at 6:30 PM followed by the installation of new officers for 2023. We will have Christmas Carol singing, and will close with Communion.

**WE NEED GREETERS:** Would you like to be a greeter on Sunday mornings? We have a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex and you can choose the days you would like to greet. Thank you for your service to the Lord.

**DO YOU HAVE A DESIRE TO HELP OTHERS? :** We're looking for a few people to help the Benevolence Team give out money to those less fortunate. For more information, please contact Bob Whipp at (937) 306-8281 or Robert.Whipp@yahoo.com.

**THANK YOU!** St. Paul UM local mission in Dayton, OH was thrilled when we delivered 160 gifts for their afterschool program and neighborhood children. You are truly a generous and wonderful congregation.

**PILL BOTTLES:** Unfortunately Matthew 25 Ministries will no longer be collecting pill bottles and we are not aware of anyone else who is at this time.



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### Week 3 – The Candle of Joy

**Reader One:** "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing . . . A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray . . . And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35:1-2, 8, 10).

**Reader Two:** The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God's house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.

**Reader One:** The Psalmist says, "Happy are these whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord . . . who made heaven and earth . . . who keeps faith . . . who executes justice . . . gives food . . . sets prisoners free . . . opens eyes . . . lifts up . . . watches over . . . upholds . . . The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 146)

**Reader Two:** We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. We are ascending to God's promise.



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