

December 4, 2022

(**Indicates, please stand as able)

Prelude

Greeting/Life of the Church

Pastor Andy Wagner

**Call to Worship

L: Come apart to this place of rest and renewal; Let your spirits rejoice in the presence of God.

P: We will sing of God's steadfast love for all people. We will proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.

L: God looks with favor on the humble and lowly. God's covenant does not focus on rank or position.

P: God strengthens those who are weak. The proud are scattered in the thoughts of their hearts.

L: Blessed are those who walk in God's light. Blessed are all who say 'yes' to God's call.

A: Let the heavens proclaim the wonders of God. Let all the earth rejoice in Christ's coming.

**Invocation (unison)

God of unseen angels and unheard greetings, whose love for humankind continues even when we are inattentive, favor us now with a message we cannot ignore. Reign among us that we may respond to your call and serve with faithfulness in the ways you envision for us. Make us instruments of your peace. Amen.

**Opening Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH#230

Lighting of the Advent Wreath John & Elaine Grayson

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "Away in a Manger" UMH#217

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

**Doxology UMH #95

**Prayer of Dedication

Our best we give to you, loving God, for you have given your best to us in the mystery of the incarnation. May our offerings proclaim Jesus in ways that will be received with joy. Send your Word to the world in this season through our caring service. May we share it with one another in ways that help us all to grow. We are your servants. The gifts we dedicate are already yours. Thank you for all the ways you have provided for us. Amen.

**Gospel Lesson Luke 1: 26-38

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

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ministry of Music "Born 'Neath a Star" Cynthia Gray
Pam Colbrunn, Glen Shaw, Pastor Andy, vocal trio; Jim McPeek, piano

Sermon Pastor Andy Wagner

"The Angels of Christmas: Gabriel to Mary"

The Sacrament of Holy Communion UMH#13

**Closing Hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" UMH #240

**Sending Forth

Postlude



The Altar Flowers are given by Myrna Fuller, Kenneth & Pat Schenck, and Carolyn Knight in memory of Freda Sperrn.

Gospel Lesson – Luke 1: 26-38

Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered 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 called holy — the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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.



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 4, 2022

Worship Team

Ushers	Bob Whipp, Edward Stidham Rick Smith, Gerald Mahan
Greeters	Sharon Baxter, Joan Baxter
Acolyte	Alaina Skaggs
Liturgist	Julie Wickline
Guest Organist	Jim McPeek
Choir Director	Glen Shaw
Bells Director	Jim McPeek



Monday 5	Cub Scouts	6:30 pm	FH 15 A-B
	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15 C
	Stephen Ministry	7:00 pm	Library
Tuesday 6	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
	Magic Volleyball Practice	5:30 pm	FCC
	Girl Scouts	6:00 pm	FH 15 A,B,C, 16A-B
	Trustees	6:30 pm	Rm 8
	SPRC	7:00 pm	Library
Wednesday 7	Handbell Practice	6:15 pm	Music Room
	Choir Practice	7:30 pm	Sanctuary
Thursday 8	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Parlor
	Grief Support	2:00 pm	Parlor
Friday 9	Private Event Set Up	9:00 am	FH 15 A-C
	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
Saturday 10	Private Event	9:00 am	FH 15 A-C
Sunday 11	Sunday School	9:15 am	Parlor, 11, 15C, Edge
	Worship Service	10:30 am	Sanctuary
	Community Christmas		
	Concert Band	3:00 pm	Sanctuary
	Family Night	5:00 pm	FH 15 A-B

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 **"The Top 10 Hymns (and How They Were Inspired) by Alice William.**

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 11

"The Angels of Christmas: The Angel to Joseph" Pastor Andy Wagner
Gospel Lesson Matthew 1: 18-25

December 4, 2022 Announcements

ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS TREE: We will again be sharing Christmas joy with the children at St. Paul's after school program. The children will be able to visit a special shop to choose gifts to give to their families on Christmas. Please return your unwrapped gifts by **Sunday, Dec. 4.**

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE: **WHEN: Sunday, Dec. 4 10:00am - 12:00pm, WHERE:** Faith Community Narthex, **WHY:** To raise funds to purchase holiday craft supplies for the children in Xenia area shelters. Each plate or container will be sold for \$5.00.

HOPE OFFERED: While Advent is often a time of joy and light, for some this year everything is different. 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 **today, Sunday, Dec. 4th.** There will be harp music starting at **2:15pm** 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. Childcare will be provided.

BRING YOUR COINS NEXT WEEK: December 11 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.

GET YOUR POINSETTIAS ORDER IN FOR CHRISTMAS: It is time to order your Poinsettias for the Christmas services. The flowers truly beautify the church for all the worshipers. The order forms will be in the Narthex this week. Please place order form and payment in the offering plate or return to the church office by **Sunday, Dec. 11.** Please indicate how many plants and if you want Red, White, or Pink. The cost per plant is \$10. Make checks payable to Faith Community UMC, mark your check "Poinsettia", in the memo and/or on your envelope. We need to have this form and payment to record your order.

COMMUNITY CONCERT: The Community Christmas Concert Band will present its annual concert on **Sunday, Dec. 11, 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 on **Sunday, Dec. 11 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.

SIGN UP FOR 2023 ALTAR FLOWERS: The flower calendar for 2023 is on the table in the narthex. Your gift of Altar flowers enhances the worship service and reflects the beauty of God's World. If you sign up for flowers we can order them or you can order them from your favorite florist. You will receive a reminder call prior to the date. If you have any questions please call the office or Joyce Smith (937) 372-6576 or Betsy Murray (937) 372-8376.

OFFERING ENVELOPES NOW AVAILABLE: Your 2023 box of weekly giving envelopes can be picked up in the narthex after church services or during regular office hours during the week.



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Week 2 – The Candle of Peace

Reader One: "They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious" (Isaiah 11:9-10).

Reader Two: We are the followers of that root of Jesse Isaiah spoke of. We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us. Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim from sea to shining sea.

Reader One: "In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea proclaiming, 'Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'" And "bear fruit worthy of repentance" (Matthew 3:1, 2, 8).

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyful hope and the candle of proclaimed peace, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God's promise. But we also light them as a sign to the world, an announcement there are some who hold on to hope and there are some who work the ways of peace. We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our fervent prayer.



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