

December 10, 2023

Please take a moment to sign our attendance register located in each pew.

(**Indicates, please stand as able)

Greeting/Life of the Church

Prelude "An Advent Peal" Handbell Choir
John Leavitt

**Lighting the Candle of Love

A voice cries out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord!

We are ready to be surprised. We long for something new.

Every valley will be lifted up, every mountain will be leveled.

We long for you, God. We turn to you because you first turned toward us.

We light the candle of love, preparing our hearts and lives for God's Advent.

A voice cries out in the wilderness: Comfort my people. Prepare the way of the Lord!

**Opening Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" UMH #211

Opening Prayer (unison)

While we are waiting, come to us, O God. Reveal your presence in our time of worship. Guide our steps in our speaking and our doing. Flow through our lives, our church, and our world with your steadfast love, unending faithfulness, righteous justice, and mysterious peace. In patient anticipation we pray. Amen.

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" UMH #216

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.

Offering/Offertory "Coventry Carol" Carol Stewart
arr. by Peter Schickele

**Doxology UMH #95

**Prayer of Dedication

God of Hope, as we bring our tithes and offerings to you, we pray that our giving continues to point to Christ who comes in love and compassion. May our giving in this season reflect our hope in the promise of a new heaven and a new earth. We pray this in the name of the Messiah, Jesus our Savior. Amen.

**Gospel Reading Mark 1:1-8

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" Johann Shulz/Michael Helman

Sermon "Surprised" Pastor Jeff Bandy

**Closing Hymn "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" (v.1-3) UMH#203

**Sending Forth

Postlude "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Carol Stewart
UMH #211



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

Scripture Reading - Mark 1:1-8 (CEB)

Beginning of good news

¹ The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, ² happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger before you.

He will prepare your way,

³ *a voice shouting in the wilderness:*

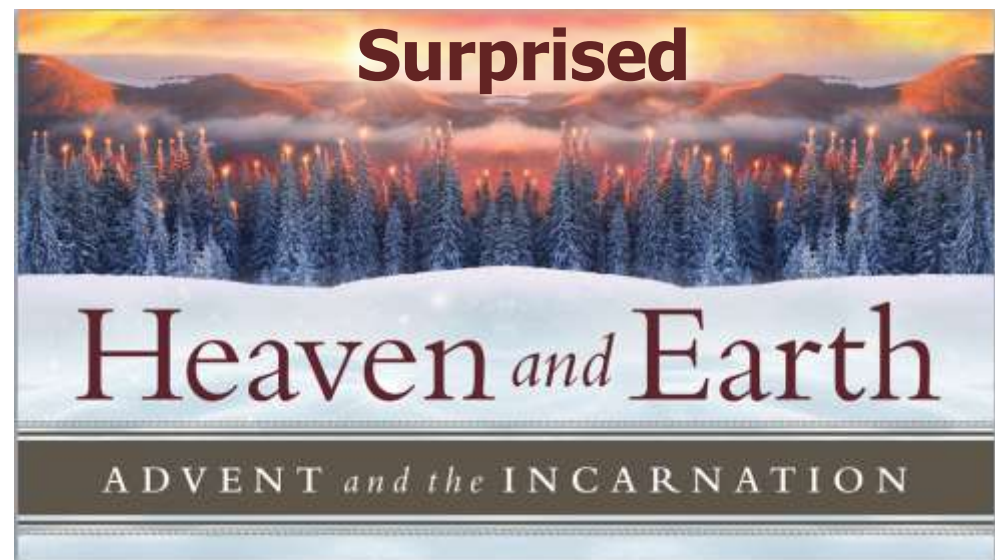
*"Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight."*

John's preaching

⁴ John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. ⁵ Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. ⁶ John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

WELCOME VISITORS!

If you are visiting with us today, we welcome you and hope you will come back and worship with us again soon. We would love to get to know you, please take a moment to provide your information in the attendance register located in each pew.



Rev. Jeff Bandy

Office Hours M, T, TH 9:00am-3:00pm & by Appt.

Office: (937) 372-7601 ext. 13

pastorjeff@fcum.org ♦ www.fcum.org

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

December 10, 2023 - Worship Team

Ushers	Bob Whipp, Rick Smith, Edward Stidham, Gerald Mahan
Greeters	John Grayson, Elaine Grayson
Liturgist	Mike Engle
Organist	Carol Stewart
Bells Director	Jim McPeek
Choir Director	Melody Kelley



Monday 11	Mary & Martha Gathering Cub Scouts Boy Scouts	6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	FCC FH 15 A-B FH 15 C
Tuesday 12	Bible Study Winter Guard Practice Girl Scouts Leaders	10:00 am 3:30 pm 6:00 pm	Parlor FCC FH 15 A
Wednesday 13	Handbell Practice Choir Practice	6:15 pm 7:30 pm	Music Room Sanctuary/Chapel
Thursday 14	Prayer Shawl Grief Support Magic Volleyball Practice Christian Education	10:00 am 2:00 pm 5:45 pm 7:00 pm	Parlor Parlor FCC Rm 8
Friday 15	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
Saturday 16			
Sunday 17	Sunday School Hospitality Time Worship Service	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am	FH 15A-B, 11, 16A Narthex Sanctuary

Sunday Children's Church – Ages 3-8

December 10 theme - The names of Jesus
December 17 theme - The Visitors at the Nativity

Sunday School Studies

Advent Class will meet Dec. 10 and 17 in FH 15A-B, leader Lynn Engle, study of **Historical aspects and Biblical texts of Handel's Messiah.**

Double I and Open Doors will be joining the Advent Class.

Grades 6-12 will meet in Rm 16 A, Leader Julie Wickline.

Preschool – Grade 5 will meet in Rm 11 under the leadership of Kiley Fleming and Karen Mosing for Bible Stories and activities to reinforce the Bible Story of the day.

Next Sermon – December 17

"Light"
Gospel Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy
John 1: 6-8, 19-28

December 10, 2023 Announcements

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 Family Promise.

THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT BAND will present its annual concert **TODAY, Sunday, Dec. 10 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 Savior's birth.

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS: Please place order form and payment in the offering plate or return to the church office by **Monday, Dec 11.**

MARY & MARTHA GATHERING: Thank you to all the ladies who attended the kick-off of Mary & Martha. The night was full of FOOD, FAITH & FUN! Please join us for our next gathering on **Monday, Dec. 11, 6:00-8:00pm.** We all know how busy this time of year can get so let's all share a dish that is quick and easy to make (or grab something from the store, chips and salsa, veggies and hummus, etc). We are calling it the Holiday Hustle! Questions, call Laurie Krakowiak @ (937) 694-8114 or Barbara Mills @ (937) 414-4108.

BLOOD DRIVE: We will have a blood drive in the Community Center on **Monday, Dec. 18, 2:00pm to 6:00pm.** You can make a reservation for your preferred appointment time to donate by going to www.donortime.com or (937) 461-3220. Remember that your donation can save as many as THREE lives! We only have 8 people signed up so far out of 60 appointment slots. Please consider donating during this critical time.

WOMEN'S GROUPS: WOMEN UNITED CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, Dec. 18 at 1:30pm** in the Parlor. DORCAS CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 1:00pm** in FH 15A. All women are welcome to attend either group.

MEN OF FAITH: The Men of Faith will meet on **Monday, Dec. 18 at 6:00 pm** in Room 16A-B (Community Center). All men are invited to join us. Pizza will be served. We will have a social time during the meal. We will have a Christmas focused study followed by a meeting celebrating the year's activities. All men are urged to attend. You can find more information in our Men of Faith pamphlet in the Narthex.



This year's Christmas Offering will go to the Benevolence Fund, let's bring the Hope of Christmas to many families this coming year.



Monday 11	Mary & Martha Gathering	6:00 pm	FCC
	Cub Scouts	6:30 pm	FH 15 A-B
	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15 C
Tuesday 12	Bible Study	10:00 am	Parlor
	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
	Girl Scouts Leaders	6:00 pm	FH 15 A
Wednesday 13	Handbell Practice	6:15 pm	Music Room
	Choir Practice	7:30 pm	Sanctuary/Chapel
Thursday 14	Prayer Shawl	10:00 am	Parlor
	Grief Support	2:00 pm	Parlor
	Magic Volleyball Practice	5:45 pm	FCC
	Christian Education	7:00 pm	Rm 8
Friday 15	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
Saturday 16			
Sunday 17	Sunday School	9:00 am	FH 15A-B, 11, 16A
	Hospitality Time	10:00 am	Narthex
	Worship Service	10:30 am	Sanctuary

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