

# December 17, 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 Carol Stewart  
"Mary Did You Know?" Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene/Carol Tornquist

Introit Chancel Choir

\*\*Lighting the Candle of Joy  
Our mouths are full of laughter. Our hearts cry out in joy.  
**God has done great things for us. God's light has shined on us.**  
We are witnesses to the light.  
**The light shines brightly and fills us with gladness.**  
We light the candle of joy, ready to receive the light and share it with others.  
**God has done great things for us. God's light has shined on us.**

\*\*Opening Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH #196

Opening Prayer (unison)  
**Lord of impending Light, we rejoice in your compassion for us. You send us your light and your healing love so that we may become better representatives of you in this world which cries for justice and peace. Be with us this morning as we offer our praise and draw us in by the Spirit through your word that is shared with us. Amen.**

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (v.1,2) UMH #626

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 Dave Webber, trombone; Carol Stewart, piano  
"Away in a Manger" arr. by Albin C. Whitworth

\*\*Doxology UMH #95

\*\*Prayer of Dedication  
**Lord, you have blessed our lives in so many ways. Receive these tokens of our blessings and cause them to work in this world which you have loaned to us to make light shine in the darkness and peace an attainable goal in all conflicts. We offer these gifts in Jesus' name. Amen.**

\*\*Gospel Reading John 1:6-8 & 19-28

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

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

Ministry of Music Chancel Choir  
"How Far is it to Bethlehem" Traditional English Carol

Sermon "Light" Pastor Jeff Bandy

\*\*Closing Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (v.1-3) UMH#220

Sending Forth

Choral Benediction  
"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (v.1,3) UMH#213

Postlude Carol Stewart  
"Shine, Jesus, Shine" Graham Kendrick/Marilynn Ham



*The Altar Flowers are given by Don & Ann Wolf  
in honor of their 29<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.*

## Gospel Reading - John 1:6-8 & 19-28 (CEB)

<sup>6</sup> A man named John was sent from God. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. <sup>8</sup> He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

### John's Witness

<sup>19</sup> This is John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"

<sup>20</sup> John confessed (he didn't deny but confessed), "I'm not the Christ."

<sup>21</sup> They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

John said, "I'm not."

"Are you the prophet?"

John answered, "No."

<sup>22</sup> They asked, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup> John replied,

*"I am a voice crying out in the wilderness,*

*Make the Lord's path straight,*

*just as the prophet Isaiah said."*

<sup>24</sup> Those sent by the Pharisees <sup>25</sup> asked, "Why do you baptize if you aren't the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

<sup>26</sup> John answered, "I baptize with water. Someone greater stands among you, whom you don't recognize. <sup>27</sup> He comes after me, but I'm not worthy to untie his sandal straps." <sup>28</sup> This encounter took place across the Jordan in Bethany where John was baptizing.

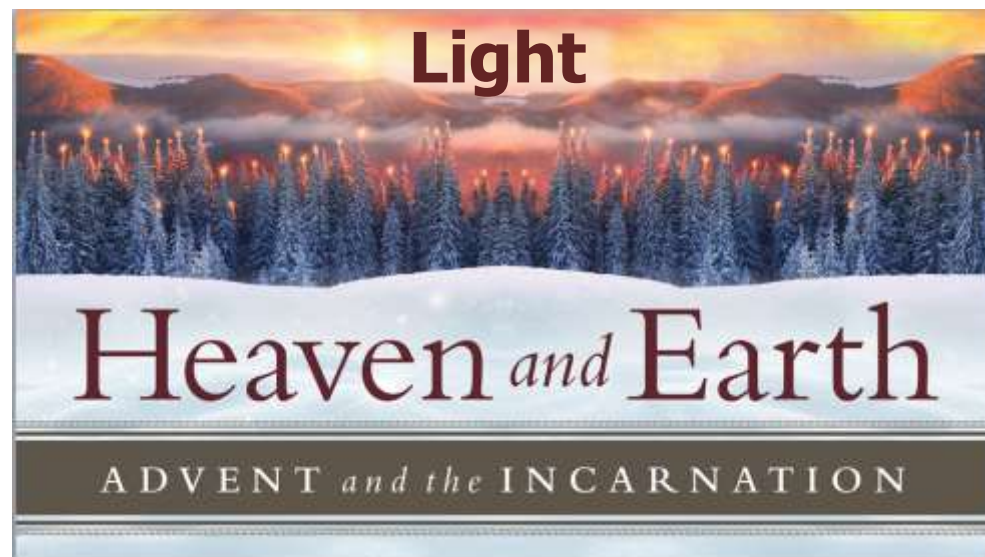
### WELCOME VISITORS!

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.

### Next Sermon – Christmas Eve, December 24

"Rejoice"  
Gospel Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy  
Luke 1:39-56



### Rev. Jeff Bandy

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

Office: (937) 372-7601 ext. 13

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

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**We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation**

## December 17, 2023 - Worship Team

Ushers

Bob Whipp, Rick Smith,  
Edward Stidham, Gerald Mahan

Greeters

Bruce Spitler, Debbie Spitler

Liturgist

Julie Wickline

Organist

Carol Stewart

Bells Director

Jim McPeck

Choir Director

Melody Kelley



Monday 18	Women United Circle	1:30 pm	Parlor
	Community Blood Drive	2:00 pm	FCC
	Men of Faith	6:00 pm	16 A-B
	Cub Scouts	6:30 pm	FH 15 A-B
	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15 C
Tuesday 19	Bible Study	10:00 am	Parlor
	Dorcas Circle	1:00 pm	FH 15 A
	Mission Outreach	3:30 pm	Parlor
	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
	Girl Scouts	6:00 pm	FH 15A,B,C, 16A
Wednesday 20	Handbell Practice	6:15 pm	Music Room
	Choir Practice	7:30 pm	Sanctuary/Chapel
Thursday 21	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Parlor
	Magic Volleyball Practice	5:45 pm	FCC
	Staff Christmas Party	6:00 pm	FH 15A-B, Kitchen
Friday 22	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
	Girl Scouts Christmas Party	5:00 pm	FH 15A, Kitchen
Saturday 23			
Sunday 24			
	Hospitality Time	10:00 am	Narthex
	Worship Service	10:30 am	Sanctuary
	Candlelight Service	8:30 pm	Sanctuary

### Sunday Children's Church – Ages 3-8

December 17 theme - The Visitors at the Nativity

### Sunday School Studies

**Advent Class** will meet Dec. 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, Leaders Julie Wickline & Joyce Smith.

**Preschool – Grade 5** will meet 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.

## December 17, 2023 Announcements

**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](http://www.donortime.com) or (937) 461-3220. Remember that your donation can save as many as THREE lives! We only have 23 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.

**MAB SHOE DRIVE:** Sharon Boothe is hosting a Charity Shoe Drive through **Monday, Dec. 18** in memory of her son Matthew Boothe. New shoes only can be dropped off at the Thrift Store at 65 Dayton Ave in Xenia. The shoes will be Christmas gifts to men and women in recovery. For more information call Sharon at (937) 768-8631.

**MARY & MARTHA GATHERING:** Thank you to all the ladies who attended the December Mary & Martha gathering. The night was FESTIVE and FUN! Please join us for our next gathering for a SUPER FUN night on **Monday, Jan. 8 from 6:00-8:00pm.** We all know how we like to make New Year resolutions so our dinner theme will be "New recipe for the New year"! If you don't have time to make something, please don't let this stop you from coming. Questions, call Laurie Krakowiak @ (937) 694-8114 or Barbara Mills @ (937) 414-4108.



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

### PLEASE NOTE:

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, Dec. 24.  
The church will be closed on Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25.



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## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN BY:**



Janet Adkins & Family in memory of Gale Adkins  
Gary & Chris Allen in honor of Corey Allen & Family and Diana Burdick & Family, and in memory of Bill & Doris Allen and Steve & Marion Matyi  
Carolyn Bailey in memory of John Bailey  
Jeff & Suzanne Bandy in honor of Edith Everett and George & Sandra Witenko, and in memory of Phil Everett and James Bandy  
Sue Ann Beam in memory of family & friends  
Sharon Boothe in memory of Matthew Boothe and Hayden & Elinor Milligan  
Wayne & Rhonda Cook in honor of Betty Preston and in memory of Harold & Esther Cook and Kenneth Preston  
Jackie Foster in memory of Ray Foster  
John & Elaine Grayson in memory of their parents LeRoy & Clara Marsh and Charles & Isabelle Grayson  
Carol Kennedy in memory of Jim Kennedy  
Laurie Krakowiak in gratitude of Mary & Martha's Community of Women  
Bob & Donna McColaugh in memory of Bob & Marjean McColaugh and Dean & Ruth LeFevre  
Barbara Mills in honor of her beautiful family  
Richard A. Montgomery in honor of friends and in memory of parents  
Chad Mossing in honor of Karen Mossing and Julie Wickline  
Betsy & Mike Murray in honor of our children and grandchildren and in memory of our parents  
Kim Nelson in memory of Kevin Nelson  
Harry & Alice Osman in memory of their loved ones  
Phil & Lucy Parsons in honor of our children and in memory of our parents  
Diana Russo & John Russo Jr. in honor of Marguerite & Jack Newhouse  
Janet Schellin in honor of family and friends  
Rick & Joyce Smith in honor of children and grandchildren and in memory of Robert & Mary Whittington and Carlton & Dorothy Smith  
Luke & Billie Snell in memory of Rev. William & Rena Williams and Murray & Pauline Snell  
Bruce & Debbie Spitler in memory of Bob & Pat Spitler and Earl & Jean Grolle  
Beverly Walton in memory of Dan Riley, Ray & Virginia Barker, and Phillis & Charles Walton

**You may pick up your Poinsettias in the Sanctuary  
after the 9:00pm service on Christmas Eve.**



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