

December 24, 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
Toccata on "Adeste Fideles" arr. by David H. Hegarty

Introit Chancel Choir

**Lighting the Candle of Peace

Glory to God who strengthens us with Christ's presence, who announces the secret that was kept quiet for a long time.

The news this day is all good. We can't help singing!

Christ is coming, God with us. God is eternal, and God is faithful.

The news this day is all good. We can't help singing!

We light the candle of peace, rejoicing in God's presence. Glory to God, who alone is wise. Glory to God, who is coming down to us!

The news this day is all good. We can't help singing!

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

**Gospel Reading Part 1 Luke 1:26-38

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

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Opening Prayer (unison)

Come to us, Promised One, in this season of waiting. Set our hearts ablaze with the glory of your salvation. Set our minds afire with the richness of your word. Reveal to us the secret of your ways; for you alone are wise, you alone are worthy of our thanks and praise. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "That Boy-Child of Mary" (v.1,2,4) UMH #241

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 Erica Stone, vocal and guitar solo
"Can't Wait for Day" Erika Stone

**Doxology UMH #95

**Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, your goodness and mercy are without limit. With thankful hearts, we bring our offering before you this day. Use these gifts to lift up the lowly, fill the hungry with good things, and bring hope to all who call on your name. In Jesus's name, we pray. Amen.

**Gospel Reading Part 2 Luke 1:39-56

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

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ministry of Music Chancel Choir
"Only a Baby Came" Natalie Sleeth

Sermon "Rejoice" Pastor Jeff Bandy

**Closing Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (v.1,3,6) UMH#234

Sending Forth

Choral Benediction "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (v.1) UMH#557

Postlude Carol Stewart
"Joy to the World" arr. by Norman Johnson



Altar Flowers are given by Fred & Cheryl Whitan in memory of their parents, Paula F. & Edward J. Theroux, and Elaine I. & Kenneth L. Whitan.

Gospel Reading - Luke 1:26-38, 39-56 (CEB)

Jesus' birth foretold

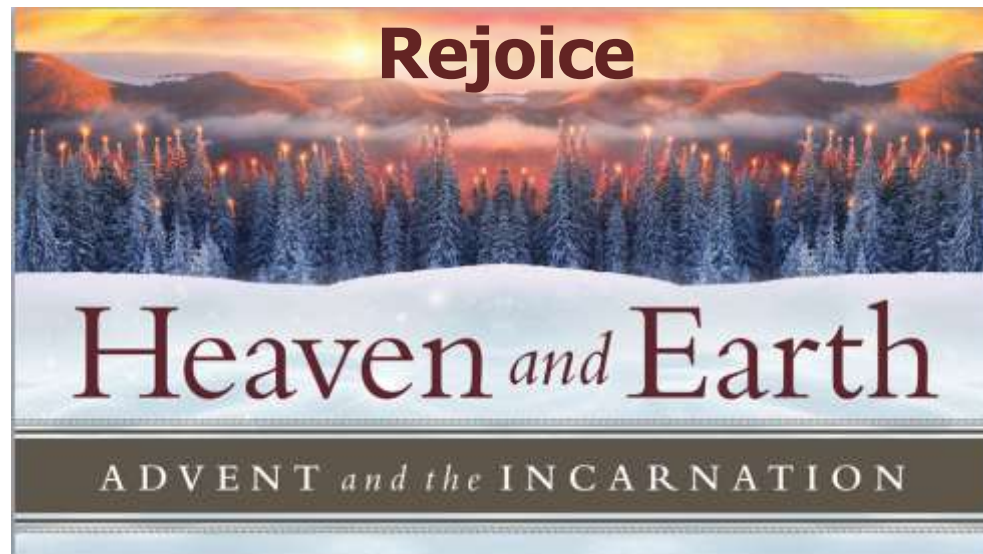
²⁶ When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹ She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you." ³¹ Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. ³³ He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom." ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?" ³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. ³⁶ Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. ³⁷ Nothing is impossible for God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Mary visits Elizabeth

³⁹ Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. ⁴⁰ She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. ⁴³ Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

Mary praises God

⁴⁶ Mary said, "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! ⁴⁷ In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. ⁴⁸ He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored ⁴⁹ because the mighty one has done great things for me. Holy is his name. ⁵⁰ He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations. ⁵² He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, ⁵⁵ just as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever." ⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then returned to her home.



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

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023 - Worship Team

Ushers	Bob Whipp, Rick Smith, Edward Stidham, Gerald Mahan
Greeters	Mike Engle, Lynn Engle
Liturgist	Suzanne Bandy
Organist	Carol Stewart
Bells Director	Jim McPeck
Choir Director	Melody Kelley



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN BY:



Monday 25 	MERRY CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED		
Tuesday 26	Bible Study Winter Guard Practice	10:00 am 3:30 pm	Parlor FCC
Wednesday 27	Choir Practice No Bell Practice	7:30 pm	Sanctuary/Chapel
Thursday 28	Prayer Shawl Magic Volleyball Practice	11:00 am 5:45 pm	Parlor FCC
Friday 29	Xenia Percussion Camp	9:00 am	FCC
Saturday 30			
Sunday 31 	Sunday School Hospitality Time Worship Service	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am	Parlor, FH 15C, 11, 16A Narthex Sanctuary



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.

Next Sermon – New Year's Eve, December 31

"Let Freedom Ring"
Scripture Lesson

Guest Speaker, Suzanne Bandy
Galatians 4: 4-7

The church will be closed on New Year's Day, **Monday, Jan 1.**

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.

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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