

# December 31, 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 "A Christmas Processional" Carol Stewart  
arr. by Marilynn Ham

\*\*Call to Worship

We have welcomed the Christ child and declared the glory of God's salvation that comes to live among us. And yet, still, we wait.

**We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.**

We prepare to welcome a new year, thankful for how God has brought us through the past year and anxious to discover what the new year might bring.

**We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.**

We join generations who learned and taught us how to listen, notice, and discern divine love at work in the world.

**We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.**

Come, let us worship God, whose love endures from generation to generation, guiding us from one year to the next.

**Come, let us worship as we live in anticipation of God's kingdom on earth as it is heaven. Amen.**

\*\*Opening Hymn "Savior of the Nations, Come" (v.1,2,3) UMH #214

Opening Prayer (unison)

**God of grace and God of glory, as a new year breaks forth, let us give thanks for all that you are and all that we are in you.**

**Let us release the things that hold us captive-our pains, our grudges, our anger, the strongholds of our beings. May we be freed to love, show kindness, and live with joy knowing that you live in us and us in you. Amen.**

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "What Child Is This" UMH #219

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 "While By My Sheep" Carol Stewart  
arr. by Don Hustad

\*\*Doxology

UMH #95

\*\*Prayer of Dedication

**God of hope and joy, the gifts we offer to you pale when our minds try to grasp all we have been given in this season: wholeness in our woundedness, hope in our despair, peace in our turmoil, forgiveness in our rebellion. You gave us light in our darkness and hope in our discouragement. Help us embrace your extravagant generosity as we give ourselves to others. In our Savior's holy name, we pray. Amen.**

Ministry of Music "Go Tell It on the Mountain" Victor Hess, vocal solo  
arr. by Randa Kirshbaum

Scripture Reading Galatians 4: 4-7

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

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

Sermon "Let Freedom Ring" Guest Speaker, Suzanne Bandy

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer UMH #607

**I am no longer my own, but thine.**

**Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.**

**Put me to doing, put me to suffering.**

**Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,**

**exalted for thee or brought low for thee.**

**Let me be full, let me be empty.**

**Let me have all things, let me have nothing.**

**I freely and heartily yield all things**

**to thy pleasure and disposal.**

**And now, O glorious and blessed God,**

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,**

**thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.**

**And the covenant which I have made on earth,**

**let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

\*\*Closing Hymn "There's a Song in the Air" UMH#249

\*\*Sending Forth

Postlude "Christmas Rejoicing (Medley)" Carol Stewart  
arr. by Marilyn Ham



*Altar Flowers are given in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Robert Crawford, in loving memory from his family.*

## Gospel Reading - Galatians 4: 4-7 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.



*Let  
Freedom  
Ring*



### Rev. Jeff Bandy

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

Office: (937) 372-7601 ext. 13

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**We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation**


### 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.

## December 31, 2023 - Worship Team

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



Monday 1	 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR OFFICE CLOSED</b>		
Tuesday 2	Bible Study	10:00 am	Parlor
	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
	Magic Volleyball Practice	6:00 pm	FCC
	Girl Scouts	6:00 pm	FH 15A,B,C, 16A
	Trustees	6:30 pm	Parlor
	SPRC	7:00 pm	Library
Wednesday 3	Handbell Practice	6:15 pm	Music Room
	Choir Practice	7:30 pm	Sanctuary/Chapel
Thursday 4	Percussion Practice Camp	9:00 am	FCC
	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Parlor
	Woman's Club of Xenia	1:30 pm	Parlor
	Magic Volleyball Practice	6:00 pm	FCC
Friday 5	Percussion Practice Camp	9:00 am	FCC
	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
Saturday 6			
Sunday 7	Sunday School	9:00 am	Parlor, 11, 15C, 16A
	Hospitality Time	10:00 am	Narthex
	Worship Service	10:30 am	Sanctuary

### Sunday School Studies

**Double I** meet in 15C, Leader Wayne Cook, study of "The Songs of Advent."

**Open Doors** will meet in the Parlor, Leader Sandy Pramer study of "Ten Women of the Bible" by Max Lucado.

**Grades 6-12** will meet in Rm 16 A, Leader Julie Wickline and Joyce Smith.

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

## December 31, 2023 Announcements

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**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.

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**MEN OF FAITH:** The Men of Faith will meet on **Monday, Jan. 15 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 then join the community sponsored Martin Luther King event. All men are urged to attend. You can find more information in our Men of Faith pamphlet in the Narthex.

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**WOMEN'S GROUPS:** WOMEN UNITED CIRCLE will not meet in January or February. DORCAS CIRCLE will not meet January – March.

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**WOULD YOU LIKE US TO PRAY FOR YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONE?** To place a prayer request you can go to our website ([fcum.org](http://fcum.org)) and click on the Prayer Request link. Fill out the form with your name and email address, complete the request section with the information you would like us to pray about and then click on SEND MESSAGE. All requests are confidential and will be on our prayer list for seven days. If you feel your request was answered, please let us know by using the prayer request form. We want to thank God for answering your request. You may also email [prayerchain@fcum.org](mailto:prayerchain@fcum.org). If you don't have access to the internet, phone requests can be made by calling Rosi Mackey at (937) 902-9022.


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**SIGN UP FOR 2024 ALTAR FLOWERS:** The flower calendar for 2024 is on the bulletin board 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.

### Next Sermon – January 7, 2024

"Magi In Us"  
Gospel Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy  
Matthew 2: 1-12 (NIV)



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