

December 1, 2024

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
"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" Longfellow-Calkins/Stickles

**Call to Worship

Children of God, pay attention!

The days are surely coming!

Children of God, prepare your hearts!

The days are surely coming and are already here!

Children of God, be alert and listen!

We come to prepare our hearts, to listen, and to follow God's call to build the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

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

Advent Candle Lighting Children's Class
Reader One: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah" (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

Congregation: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.

Reader Two: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God's kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

Opening Prayer (unison)

Lord, our hope is in you. Restore our wonder in this season of your birth. Reawaken our belief in your eternal message of faith, hope and love. As we enter the season of Advent, we know we can get busy with other tasks. Keep our focus on you. For you are our light, our star, our hope. Amen.

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "My Hope Is Built" UMH #368

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 Carol Stewart

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

**Doxology "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" UMH #204

**Prayer of Dedication

You gave us the gift of your son. You gave us the gift of your love and forgiveness. As we bring our gifts to you, may we always remember that your love and mercy are boundless. May we expand the generosity in our spirits to include those who have less. Let us see and hear our neighbors and love them as you loved us. Amen

Ministry of Music Victor Hess
Christy Nockels

"Advent Hymn"

Scripture Reading

Romans 5:1-4

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

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sermon "Dare to Hope" Mike & Lynn Engle

Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Closing Hymn "O Come All Ye Faithful" UMH #234

**Sending Forth

Postlude Carol Stewart
arr. by Tedd Smith



*The Altar Flowers are given by Rick & Joyce Smith
in honor of their 55th Wedding Anniversary.*

Scripture Reading – Romans 5: 1-4 (NIV)

Peace and Hope

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.



Rev. Jeff Bandy

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

Office: (937) 372-7601 ext. 13

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Like and Follow us on Facebook @ FCUM.Xenia

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 1, 2024 - Worship Team

Ushers	Bob Whipp, Rick Smith, Edward Stidham, Gerald Mahan
Greeters	Pam Whipp
Liturgist	Judy Mahan
Organist	Carol Stewart
Chancel Choir Director	Melody Kelley
Handbell Choir Director	Jim McPeek



Monday 2	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15C
	Cub Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15A-B
	Stephen Ministry	7:00 pm	Library
Tuesday 3	Tuesday Bible Study	10:00 am	Parlor
	Mission Outreach	3:30 pm	Parlor
	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
	Girl Scouts	6:00 pm	FH 15 A,B,C, CC16A
	Magic Volleyball Practice	6:00 pm	FCC
Wednesday 4	Trustees	6:30 pm	Parlor
	Handbell Practice	6:15 pm	Music Room
Thursday 5	Choir Practice	7:30 pm	Sanctuary
	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Parlor
Friday 6	Woman's Club of Xenia	1:30 pm	Parlor
	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
Saturday 7	Christmas Concert Practice	9:00 am	FH 15A-C
	Double I Dinner	6:00 pm	FH A, Kitchen
Sunday 8	Sunday School	9:00 am	Rm 8,11,CC16A, Parlor
	Hospitality Time	10:00 am	Narthex
	Worship Service	10:30 am	Sanctuary

Sunday School Studies

Double I will meet in Rm 8, Leader Lucy Parsons, study of "**Colossians and Philemon**" by **Martha Reapsome**.

Open Doors will meet in the Parlor, Leader Sandy Pramer, study of "**Troublesome Bible Passages**" by **Douglas E. Wingeier and David Lowes Watson**.

Grades 6-12 will meet in CC 16A-B, Leaders Vic Hess 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.

Next Sermon – Sunday, Dec 8

"Time To Go Home"
Gospel Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy
Luke 21: 25-36 (NIV)

December 1, 2024 Announcements

BRING YOUR COINS NEXT WEEK: Coins for missions Sunday is **Sunday, Dec. 8**. Coins will go to the following Ministries supported by the FCUMC mission and outreach team: Bridges of Hope, Fish Pantry and Family Promise.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: The Christmas season offerings collected will go into the General Fund (unless marked otherwise). Offerings collected on Christmas Eve will be split evenly between the Benevolence Fund and the Greene Co. Fish Food Pantry (unless marked otherwise).

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 consider spreading God's love by choosing an ornament from the tree in the narthex and selecting a small gift (\$5-\$10) and returning gifts unwrapped by **Sunday, Dec. 1**.

CAROLS AND COOKIES: Come enjoy a light dinner and then decorate a cookie and sing some carols to welcome the season of Advent on **Sunday, Dec. 1, 5:00-7:00pm in FH 15A-B**. Soup and sandwiches provided by the church. Bring a side or dessert to share. We will also be playing Christmas trivia.

COMMUNITY CONCERT: The Community Christmas Concert Band will present its annual concert on **Sunday, Dec. 8 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.

MARY & MARTHA GATHERING: Please join us on **Monday, Dec. 9, 6:00-8:00pm in FCC** for a relaxed Christmas celebration! If you have a festive holiday sweater/sweatshirt, please wear and enjoy a fun time of activities. Please bring a dish to share that gives you a memory of your holidays. If you have any questions, please contact either Laurie Krakowiak at (937) 694-8114 or Barbara Mills at (937) 414-4108 (RSVP for childcare with Laurie).

WOMEN'S GROUPS: WOMEN UNITED CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, Dec. 16 at 1:30pm** in the Parlor. DORCAS CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, Dec. 17 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. 16 at 6:00 pm** in CC 16A-B. 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.

BLOOD DRIVE: You can make a reservation for your preferred appointment time to donate by going to www.donortime.com or (937) 461-3220 for **Monday, Dec. 23, 2:00pm to 6:00pm in FCC**. Remember that your donation can save as many as THREE lives! Please consider donating during this critical time, since they will only be collecting half a day on Christmas Eve and be closed Christmas Day they will be at a critical stage that week.



Monday 2	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15C
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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.

Next Sermon – Sunday, Nov. 24

"Being Thankful"
Scripture Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy
1 Timothy 2:1-7 (NIV)

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