

# December 15, 2024

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

(\*\*Indicates, please stand as able)

Instrumental Prelude "In the Bleak Midwinter" Brass Quintet  
"March Christmas"  
"We Three Kings"

Greeting/Life of the Church Pastor Jeff Bandy

Instrumental Call to Worship Handbell Choir  
"Go Tell It on the Mountain" Barbara Kinyon

\*\*Opening Hymn with Brass and Organ  
"Angels We Have Heard on High" (v.1-3) UMH #238

\*\*Advent Candle Lighting Youth Class

*Reader One:* No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

**Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled community with hope, peace, and joy.**

*Reader Two:* We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

\*\* Hymn with Brass and Organ  
"O Come All Ye Faithful" (v.1,3,6) UMH #234

Opening Prayer (unison) Pastor Jeff Bandy

**God of love and joy, thank you for your presence in our lives. During this time of worship, draw us closer to you and to one another. May we grow in our love for you and for our neighbor. May we lay aside our worries, trusting that you hear what lies in our hearts. May we dwell in your peace and be guided by the one who is to come, your Son, Jesus Christ. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

Children's Moments "Friendly Beasts" Children & Youth  
Special Music "Christmas Sanctus" Chancel Choir  
Offering/Offertory "I Saw Three Ships" Brass Quintet  
\*\*Doxology "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" UMH #204

\*\*Prayer of Dedication

**Abundant God, we give you thanks for these gifts. May you bless them and use them to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bring comfort to those in need. And may we offer our very selves as we proclaim your good news of love and grace for all people. Amen.**

Special Music Handbell Choir  
"Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. Anna Laura Page

Scripture Reading Isaiah 12:2-6

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

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

Ministry of Music Chancel Choir  
"Child of Hope, Child of Peace" Lloyd Larson

Meditation "The Joy of Home" Pastor Jeff Bandy

\*\*Closing Hymn with Brass and Organ  
"Hark the Herald Angels Sing" UMH #240

\*\*Sending Forth

Postlude "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" Brass Quintet



*The Altar Flowers are given by Robert and Amy Schalle in memory of Amy's sister, Sue Fox.*

## Scripture Reading – Isaiah 12: 2-6 (NIV)

- <sup>2</sup>“Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust and not be afraid.  
The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my song;  
he has become my salvation.”
- <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.
- <sup>4</sup>In that day you will say:
- “Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done,  
and proclaim that his name is exalted.
- <sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;  
let this be known to all the world.
- <sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,  
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

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

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**We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation**

## December 15, 2024 - Worship Team

Ushers	Bob Whipp, Rick Smith, Edward Stidham, Gerald Mahan
Greeters	Pam Whipp
Liturgist	Suzanne Bandy
Organist	Carol Stewart
Chancel Choir Director	Melody Kelley
Handbell Choir Director	Jim McPeck
Brass Director	Michael DiCuirci Sr.



Monday 16	Women United Circle	1:00 pm	Parlor
	Men of Faith	6:00 pm	CC 16A
	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15C
	Cub Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15A-B
Tuesday 17	Tuesday Bible Study	10:00 am	Parlor
	Dorcas Circle	1:00 pm	FH 15A
	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
	Magic Volleyball Practice	6:00 pm	FCC
	Girl Scouts	6:00 pm	FH 15 A,B,C, CC16A
Wednesday 18	Handbell Practice	6:15 pm	Music Room
	Choir Practice	7:30 pm	Chapel/Sanctuary
Thursday 19	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Parlor
Friday 20	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
Saturday 21			
Sunday 22	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 "**Where Heaven Touches Earth**" by **Rob Weber**.

**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 Mossing for Bible Stories and activities to reinforce the Bible Story of the day.

### Next Sermon – Sunday, Dec 22

"The Blessings of Home"  
Gospel Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy  
Luke 1: 39-55 (NIV)

## December 15, 2024 Announcements

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**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).  
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**MATERIALS TO HELP MAKE A DIFFICULT CHRISTMAS EASIER:** Our Stephen Ministry team wants you to know that there is literature available to help those who are grieving or who feel that Christmas might be difficult for them this year. Care Notes can be found in the narthex. There is also a table filled with helpful items in the narthex across from the parlor. Please help yourselves and consider taking some for others.  
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**MAB SHOE DRIVE:** Sharon Boothe is hosting a Charity Shoe Drive in memory of her son Matthew Boothe. **TODAY is the last day new shoes can be dropped off at 502 Chestnut St. in Xenia.** The shoes will be Christmas gifts to men and women in recovery. For more information call Sharon at (937) 768-8631.  
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**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. 16.**  
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**WOMEN'S GROUPS:** WOMEN UNITED CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, Dec. 16 at 1:00pm** 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.  
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**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.  
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**BLUE CHRISTMAS:** The **First Lutheran Church at 287 West Main St., Xenia** is hosting a Worship Service for the Longest Night on **Saturday, Dec. 21:** Workshop at **5:00pm**, Simple Supper at **6:00pm**, and the Blue Christmas Service at **7:00pm**. It will be a contemplative service of healing and hope for those who grieve and hurt this holiday season.  
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**BLOOD DRIVE:** 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 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.  
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**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** On **Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 9:00pm** we will have a Candlelight worship service and as always, special music will begin a half hour before the service. The celebration will be filled with hymns, special music, and scripture readings that share the wonderful revelation of the birth of our Lord and Savior.  
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