

# December 22, 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  
"Mary Did You Know?" Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene/Carol Tornquist  
Introit Chancel Choir  
"Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow" TFWS#2096

\*\*Call To Worship

Come, joy, lighten our spirits.

**Come, hope, lift us from despair.**

Come, peace, ease our frantic worry.

**Come, love, shine in all we do.**

Come, Jesus, be born in us.

**Come, Lord, set us free.**

\*\*Opening Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (v.1,2,4,7) UMH #211

Advent Candle Lighting Open Doors Class

*Reader One:* When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O Faith Community of Xenia, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

**Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.**

*Reader Two:* We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

Opening Prayer (unison)

**God of ancient days and future visions, we come into your presence to celebrate the joy of your Holy Spirit and the blessing of your Son, Christ Jesus. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, as you filled Elizabeth long ago. Sing through our songs of joy, as you sang through Mary. Speak through our words and our thoughts, that we may grow closer to the justice and the peace of Christ Jesus, who calls us here today. In Christ's holy and blessed name, 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 Carol Stewart

"Breath of Heaven" Amy Grant & Chris Eaton/Carol Tornquist

\*\*Doxology Emmanuel, Emmanuel UMH #204

\*\*Prayer of Dedication

**May these gifts glorify your name, Holy One. May the ministries we support bring justice and peace to your world. May they offer faith and hope to your people. In grateful joy, we pray. Amen.**

\*\*Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-55

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

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ministry of Music Chancel Choir

"A Christmas Proclamation" Charles Yannerella

Sermon "The Blessings of Home" Pastor Jeff Bandy

\*\*Closing Hymn "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" UMH #224

\*\*Sending Forth

Choral Benediction "Think on These" Chancel Choir

Postlude Carol Stewart

"Joy to the World" and "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"  
George Frederick Handel/Melody Bober



*The Altar Flowers are given by Doug & Julie Wickline in honor of Julie's parents, Paul & Virginia Pinkerton's 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.*

## Gospel Reading – Luke 1: 39-55 (NIV)

### Mary Visits Elizabeth

<sup>39</sup> At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup> where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" <sup>43</sup> But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

### Mary's Song

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.  
<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful  
<sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors."

#### 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 22, 2024 - Worship Team

Ushers	Bob Whipp, Rick Smith, Edward Stidham, Gerald Mahan
Greeters	Kirk Henning, Jane Henning
Liturgist	Elaine Hughes
Organist	Carol Stewart
Chancel Choir Director	Melody Kelley
Handbell Choir Director	Jim McPeck



Monday 23	Versiti Blood Drive Boy Scouts Cub Scouts	2:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	FCC FH 15C FH 15A-B
Tuesday 24 	Christmas Eve Music Christmas Eve Worship	8:30 pm 9:00 pm	Sanctuary Sanctuary
Wednesday 25	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED</b> 		
Thursday 26			
Friday 27			
Saturday 28			
Sunday 29	Sunday School Hospitality Time Worship Service	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am	Rm 8,11,CC16A, Parlor Narthex 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 Mosing for Bible Stories and activities to reinforce the Bible Story of the day.

### Next Sermon – Sunday, Dec 29

"Christmas Virtues"  
Scripture Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy  
Colossians 3:12-17 (NIV)

## December 22, 2024 Announcements

**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).

**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.

**VERSITI 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.




**CHRISTMAS EVE  
MUSIC 8:30PM  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 9:00PM**

**ALL ARE WELCOME  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

For those who ordered Poinsettias, you may pick them up in the Sanctuary **after the 9:00pm service on Christmas Eve** or in the church office on Thursday, Dec. 26, 9:00am-3:00pm or Friday, Dec. 27, 9:00am-12:00pm.





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