

December 8, 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
"Still, Still, Still" Carol Stewart
arr. by Chip Davis

**Call To Worship

How shall we prepare for the coming of the Lord?

With hearts filled with love and peace.

How shall we prepare for the coming of Christ?

With prayers filled with adoration and devotion.

How shall we prepare for the coming of our savior?

With songs filled with joy and hope.

How shall we prepare for the coming of God's Son?

With worship filled with passion and spirit.

**Opening Hymn

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" (v.1-3) UMH #220

Advent Candle Lighting Double I Class

Reader One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

***Congregation:* In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Opening Prayer (unison)

God of our deliverance, you meet us in our need. You fill the valleys of our insecurities with hope and bring low the mountains of our pride and conceit. As we await your Son and the glory of your salvation, guide our feet in the ways of peace. Amen.

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (v.1&2) UMH #216

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

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Richard S. Willis/Harold De Cou

**Doxology "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" UMH #204

**Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, in this Advent season, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your call. Just as John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, may our gifts help prepare the way for your kingdom. Use these offerings to bring hope and peace. Help us to look beyond the surface, to see your work in surprising places and people. Bless our giving, that it may shine with the presence of Emmanuel. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

**Gospel Reading Luke 21:25-36

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

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ministry of Music Suzanne Bandy, Pam Colbrunn, Glen Shaw, vocal trio
"Born 'Neath a Star" Cynthia Gray

Sermon "Time to Go Home" Pastor Jeff Bandy

**Response to the Word "Psalm 25:1-10" UMH #757

**Closing Hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (v.1-3) UMH #384

**Sending Forth

Postlude Carol Stewart

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" Sy Miller, Jill Jackson/Charles H. Webb



*The Altar Flowers are given by Don & Ann Wolf
in honor of their 30th Wedding Anniversary.*

Gospel Reading – Luke 21: 25-36 (NIV)

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

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 ♦ www.fcum.org

Like and Follow us on Facebook @ FCUM.Xenia

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

December 8, 2024 - Worship Team

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



Monday 9	Mary & Martha Gathering Boy Scouts Cub Scouts	6:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	FCC FH 15C FH 15A-B
Tuesday 10	Tuesday Bible Study Winter Guard Practice Magic Volleyball Practice Girl Scouts Leaders	10:00 am 3:30 pm 6:00 pm 6:15 pm	Parlor FCC FCC FH 15 C
Wednesday 11	Handbell Practice	6:15 pm	Music Room
Thursday 12	Prayer Shawl Choir Practice	11:00 am 7:30 pm	Parlor Chapel/Sanctuary
Friday 13	Winter Guard Practice Girl Scouts Overnight	3:30 pm 6:00 pm	FCC FCC, FH 15A,Kit
Saturday 14	Girl Scouts Overnight Girl Scouts Cooking Badge	to9:00am 9:00 am	FCC, FH 15A,Kit FH 15A, Kit
Sunday 15	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 Mossing for Bible Stories and activities to reinforce the Bible Story of the day.

Next Sermon – Sunday, Dec 15

"The Joy of Home"
Scripture Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy
Isaiah 12: 2-6 (NIV)

December 8, 2024 Announcements

TODAY IS COINS FOR MISSIONS SUNDAY: 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: Unless marked otherwise, the Christmas season offerings collected will go into the General Fund. Offerings collected on Christmas Eve will be split evenly between the Benevolence Fund and the Greene Co. Fish Food Pantry.

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

MATERIALS TO HELP MAKE A DIFFICULT CHRISTMAS EASIER: Our Stephen Ministry team has 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 and there is a table filled with helpful items across from the parlor. Please help yourselves and consider taking some for others.

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).

SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY: On **Sunday, Dec. 15 at 10:30am** we will praise the Lord through a worship service filled with music of the Christmas season. We have invited a brass quintet, our bell choir, and our chancel choir to share their gifts with us, and we invite you to join us as we will have opportunities to share our voices as a congregation to sing a few hymns too.

MAB SHOE DRIVE: Sharon Boothe is hosting a Charity Shoe Drive in memory of her son Matthew Boothe. Now through **Sunday, Dec. 15**, new shoes only 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.

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.

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, 2:00-6:00pm 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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