

# December 21, 2025

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

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

Special Gathering Music

"Gesu Bambino" by Pietro Yon

David Webber, trombone solo

"Lord of the Dance"

Steve Mackey, vocal solo

Introit

"The Holly and the Ivy"

Handbell Choir

Kevin McChesney

Greeting/Life of the Church

Prelude

Mary Ann Spahr, harp solo

"O Come O Come Emmanuel" and "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent"

"O Come O Come Emmanuel" Jason Mahan, vocal solo

Advent Candle Lighting

Dessa Retherford, Kelan Cramer

Reader: Throughout our journey this season, we have come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

**All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.**

Reader: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

Musical Call to Worship

"Carols at the Manger"

Chancel Choir

Mark Shepperd

\*\*Opening Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH #230 (v. 1,3,4)

Opening Prayer (unison)

**In this season of love, hope and family, grant us joy and peace this day. You offered signs to Joseph and Mary long ago—signs that their son would be the Messiah, Emmanuel. May your light shine on us here, that we might understand the signs in our lives. We come with open hearts and minds to hear of your love coming into the world. We come to hear of a young woman with child, a foster father with trust in God, a match you made in heaven to shepherd a tiny boy to his destiny. Holy God, show us your peace as we make ready for your light in the world! Amen.**

Special Music

"Breath of Heaven" Pam Colbrunn, vocal solo  
Eaton/Grant

\*\*Hymn

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed" UMH# 203 (v. 1,4)

Special Music

"What Child Is This" Mary Ann Spahr, harp solo  
arr. by R. Barnwell

Sunday School Students Display the Nativity

"Away In a Manger"

Special Music

"Welcome to Our World" Teri Gray, vocal solo  
Chris Rice

Offering/Offertory

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" Carol Stewart  
James Southbridge

\*\*Doxology

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel" UMH#204

\*\*Prayer of Dedication

**Lord of Heaven, accept these gifts from our hearts, that they may fulfill the purposes of your people. As Christ's light shines upon us, we rejoice in the opportunity to share our abundance with others. Bless these offerings to the Christ child and to our resurrected Lord. Amen.**

Ministry of Music

"Silent Night" Handbell Choir  
Michael Helman

\*\*Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Ministry of Music

"Do You Hear What I Hear" Chancel Choir  
Noel Regney and Gloria Shain

Meditation

"From Nazareth to Bethlehem" Pastor Jeff Bandy

Special Music

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Erika Stone & Children

\*\*Closing Hymn

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" UMH #218 (v. 1,2,4)

\*\*Sending Forth

Postlude

"Toccata on 'Adeste Fideles'" Carol Stewart  
David H. Hegarty

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We would like to thank the Brass Ensemble for their beautiful accompaniment during our hymns.

## Scripture Reading – Luke 2:1-7 (NRSVUE)

### The Birth of Jesus

**2** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.



### 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**

### 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 21, 2025 - Worship Team

Ushers	Bob Whipp, Rick Smith, Ed Stidham, Gerald Mahan
Greeter	Dr. Dick Byers, Tammy Byers
Liturgist	Chad Mossing
Organist	Carol Stewart
Director of Music	Teri Gray
Handbell Choir Director	Jim McPeek



Monday 22	Versiti Blood Drive SPRC Cub Scouts Boy Scouts	2:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	FCC Library FH 15A-B FH 15C
Tuesday 23	Tuesday Bible Study Winter Guard Practice	10:00 am 3:30 pm	Parlor FCC
Wednesday 24 	Christmas Eve Music Christmas Eve Service	8:30 pm 9:00 pm	Sanctuary Sanctuary
Thursday 25 	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY    OFFICE    CLOSED</b>		
Friday 26	<b>OFFICE    CLOSED</b>		
Saturday 27			
Sunday 28	Sunday School Hospitality Time Worship Service	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am	Rm 8, 11, CC 16A, Parlor Narthex Sanctuary

For Advent, all Sunday School Classes will study: **“The Journey – Walking the Road to Bethlehem”** by Adam Hamilton.

**Next Sunday – Hymn Sing  
December 28, 2024**

## December 21, 2025 Announcements

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**CAROLING OPPORTUNITY:** We plan to meet at the church on **TODAY, Sunday, Dec. 21 at 3:00pm**, to sing to our neighbors in the condos adjacent to the church. We expect to be done within an hour. Please join us and feel free to spread the word. All ages are welcome!

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**BLOOD DRIVE:** Make an appointment to donate for **Monday, Dec. 22, 2:00-6:00pm in FCC** by going to [www.VersitiDayton.org](http://www.VersitiDayton.org) or call 800-388-GIVE (4483). 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. A light meal will be provided for all donors by the Open Doors Sunday School Class. Remember that your donation can save as many as **THREE** lives!

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**CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** On **Wednesday, 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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**CHRISTMAS OFFERING:** Throughout Advent/Christmas our special offering designated for the season will support our new partnership with the Mongolian Mission Initiative of the UMC and our local Benevolence Fund.

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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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**2026 LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY FOR CLERGY & LAITY OF SCIOTO RIVER AND GREAT MIAMI RIVER DISTRICTS:** Mark your calendars for **Saturday, Jan. 24, 9:30am-3:00pm at XENIA FAITH COMMUNITY UMC**. Keynote speaker, Superintendent Kelly Brown from the West Plains District of the East Ohio Conference. Rev. Brown is co-author of the book Church Ecology: Creating a Leadership Pathway for Your Church with Rev. Ken Willard. Breakout sessions include Discipleship, Finance, Children and Youth Ministries, Staff/Pastor Parish Relations, Enneagram training, Fresh Expressions, Immigration and more. Register at <https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/event/scioto-river-great-miami-river-districts-leadership-training-day>. You'll have 3 sessions of workshops to choose from. The opportunity to do that will be available next week when all of the details have been finalized.

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**CLOSING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER:** If the church is going to be closed during the week or for Sunday Worship Services it will be listed on WHIO (TV7, 1290AM/95.7FM), WDTN (TV2,CW26), WKEF/WRGT (ABC22/FOX45) and our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/FCUM.Xenia](http://www.facebook.com/FCUM.Xenia).

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## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN BY:**



Janet Adkins & Family in memory of Gale Adkins & other loved ones  
 Gary & Chris Allen in honor of Corey Allen & Family and Diana Burdick & Family, and in memory of Bill & Doris Allen and Steve & Marion Matyi  
 Carolyn Bailey in memory of John Bailey  
 Jeff & Suzanne Bandy in honor of George & Sandra Witenko, and in memory of memory of Phil & Edith Lynn Everett, and James Bandy  
 Sue Ann Beam in loving memory of family & friends  
 Mike & Sharon Boothe in memory of their parents and son, Matt  
 Stephanie Branch in honor of The Congregation of Old Town UMC  
 Rand & Marcia Brannen in honor of Ryan McGuiness, USMC and in memory of John & Betty Jane Brannen and John & Thelma Reuber  
 Dr. Richard & Tammy Byers in honor of the church  
 Dr. Paul Dillaplain & Elaine Hughes in memory their parents  
 Teresa Gray in memory of her parents and her cousin, Cathy Hill  
 John & Elaine Grayson in memory of their parents  
 Jeff & Cyndi Heller in memory of Marge & John Brown, Harold & Dorothy Simison, and Richard Heller  
 Steve Houser and in memory of L. Joan Houser and Richard E. Houser  
 Bob & Donna McColaugh in memory of Robert & Marjean McColaugh and Dean & Ruth LeFevre  
 Chad & Karen Mossing in honor of Family and Friends  
 Mike & Betsy Murray in honor of their children and grandchildren and in memory of their parents  
 Alice Osman in memory of Harry Osman  
 Phil & Lucy Parsons in honor of their children & grandchildren and in memory of their parents & grandparents  
 Dessa Retherford in memory of Clara Little and Harold Retherford  
 Mary Russell, Kathe & Bob Byrne in memory of Larry Russell  
 Diana Russo and John Russo, Jr. in memory of John Russo, Sr., and Marguerite & Jack Newhouse  
 Rick & Joyce Smith in honor of children and grandchildren and in memory of Robert & Mary Whittington and Carlton & Dorothy Smith  
 Luke & Billie Snell in memory of Rev. William & Rena Williams and Murray & Pauline Snell  
 Sally Wallace in honor of Becky & Matt Greene and family, Josh & Kristi Wallace and family, and in memory of Jane & Wendell McCoy

**You may pick up your Poinsettias after the service on Christmas Eve.**



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