

# December 28, 2025

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  
"We Three Kings of Orient Are" John Hopkins/Todd Smith

### \*\*Call to Worship

Praise the God of mercy and love.

**Praise God with angels in the highest heavens.**

Praise Christ, who came as a child.

**Praise Christ with all God's children,  
young and old alike.**

Praise the Holy Spirit, who calls us here.

**Praise the Spirit from the depths of our souls.**

\*\*Opening Hymn "What Child Is This" UMH #219

### Opening Prayer (unison)

**Loving God, we come into your presence with joy in this holiday season. But we also come with sorrow for a world struggling in pain. Bring hope to our weary world. Bring love to our hearts. Bring joy to our lives. And help us bring hope, love, and joy, as we follow your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen.**

### Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "He Is Born" UMH #228

### Prayers of the Faithful & the Lord's Prayer

**Merciful God, we yearn to be merciful and gracious, as you have been merciful and gracious to us. Grant us the mercy to redeem our lives, and give us the strength to live as those who are redeemed. Help us resist the forces of evil and cruelty that kill our hope and destroy our souls. Fill us with your light and love, that we may overflow with mercy, compassion, help, and hope for our world. And now Gracious God receive our plea as you son taught us to cry out to you...**

**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 "March of the Kings" Carol Stewart  
Just as visitors from the East brought gifts to the Christ child, we too are invited to bring gifts to Christ's church in service of God's work in the world. Any gift of love is a gift of gold.

\*\*Doxology UMH #95

### \*\*Prayer of Dedication

**Generous God, thank you for the gift of Christ Jesus in our lives and in our world. Thank you for the gifts we return to you now. Bless these gifts, that they may support Christ's loving presence in our ministry, in our community, and in our world. Amen.**

\*\*Gospel Reading John 1:1-5 & 9-14

Special Music Joyce Smith and Teri Gray, vocal duet  
"Hallelujah, Hallelujah" Leonard Cohen/Jada Facer

Hymns of the Season (*Congregation Requests*) Teri Gray

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

### \*\*Sending Forth

In love and mercy, God sends us forth.

**In love and mercy, we go to serve.**

Let Christ lead the way.

Postlude Carol Stewart  
"Ding Dong! Merrily on High" arr. by Gordon Young



*The Altar flowers are given by Bob & Donna McColaugh  
in celebration of their 64<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.*

## Scripture Reading – John 1: 1-5, 9-14 (CEB)

### Story of the Word

- <sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.
- <sup>2</sup> The Word was with God in the beginning.
- <sup>3</sup> Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being
- <sup>4</sup> through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people.
- <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.
- <sup>9</sup> The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world.
- <sup>10</sup> The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light.
- <sup>11</sup> The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him.
- <sup>12</sup> But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, <sup>13</sup> born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God.
- <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
- <sup>15</sup> John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'"

#### 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 28, 2025 - Worship Team

Ushers	Bob Whipp, Rick Smith, Ed Stidham, Gerald Mahan
Greeter	Bruce Spitler, Debbie Spitler
Liturgist	Julie Wickline
Organist	Carol Stewart
Director of Music	Teri Gray
Handbell Choir Director	Jim McPeck



Monday 29			
Tuesday 30	Tuesday Bible Study	10:00 am	Parlor
	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
	Magic Volleyball Practice	6:00 pm	FCC
Wednesday 31			
Thursday 1	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
			
Friday 2			
Saturday 3			
Sunday 4	Sunday School	9:00 am	Rm 8, 11, CC 16A, Parlor
	Hospitality Time	10:00 am	Narthex
	Worship Service	10:30 am	Sanctuary

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

#### Next Sermon – Sunday, January 4

"Epiphany! Hope in Christ"  
Gospel Lesson

Pastor Jeff Bandy  
Ephesians 1:3-14 (NIV)

## December 28, 2025 Announcements

**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.

**THANK YOU!!!:** Our Congregation would like to thank everyone involved in the Special Music on Sunday, Dec. 21. It was so magical and soul touching and very much appreciated by all. If you weren't able to be here, please watch it online at <https://fcum.org/sermons/from-nazareth-to-bethlehem/>.

**IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN:** We need volunteers to help take down the Christmas Decorations in the Narthex and Sanctuary on **Monday, Jan. 5 at 10:00am.**

**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. Your \$15 fee covers a portion of your lunch and a \$5 donation to a ministry to be determined of the United Methodist Church. Please register before the **deadline of January 16.**


**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).

**CASSEROLE CARE-A-VAN:** Do you know of someone connected to our church who could benefit from our Casserole Care-a-van providing them with a few meals? If so, get with me so that I can let you know the information that I will need to get this set up with our amazing Casserole Care-a-van volunteers. Julie Wickline (937) 207-8289.

**LIONS CLUB DONATIONS:** We are still collecting Eye Glasses, Glasses Cases, Hearing Aids, and Cell Phones for the Lions Club. Please put them in the drawer marked Lions Club in the plastic storage cabinet in the narthex. If you have any questions please call Michelle Surgenor (937) 818-3096.

**WE ARE COLLECTING LOVE PACKAGES:** Items collected are Bibles, Reference Material, Books, Magazines, Daily Devotionals, Sunday School Materials, CDs, DVDs, BluRay, Bible games, biblical puzzles – anything that helps teach the gospel, especially to children. You can bring your items into the office or place them in the blue bin in the Narthex by the Education Wing.



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