

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- ◆ 12/3: First Sunday of Advent, Coffee & Cocoa after worship
- ◆ 12/9: Women's Christmas Brunch (10:00)
- ◆ 12/10: Youth Christmas Play (10:30) Taste of First (4:00)
- ◆ 12/12: ELC Christmas Program (5:30), Circle of Hope Christmas Party (7:00)
- ◆ 12/13: Children & Youth Christmas Parties (5:30)
- ◆ 12/17: Choir Christmas Cantata (10:30)
- ◆ 12/24: Christmas Eve Worship (7:00)

Take a minute and share some coffee or cocoa in the parlor after worship today. This is an easy opportunity to catch up with old friends or make new friends!

Food Pantry Items of the Month

For the month of December, the Food Pantry is collecting items to supplement food for our neighbors in need. The needed items are instant potatoes, canned yams, turkey gravy mix, boxed stuffing mix, and other holiday foods. In addition, the food pantry can always use canned meat & canned fruit. Donations can be placed in the boxes in the narthex and the connector.

Prayer Cover: Steve Gross

Prayer List

Randy & Pat Adams
Gina Billings
Bob & Carla Brown
Catherine Cartus
Karl Cavanary
Penny Cole
Family of Dr. Jerry Cole
Drew Cradic
John & Michelle Cradic
Vernon Crawford
Eddie Deakins
Jackie Denny
Paul Duncan
Phyllis Eckerson
Vivian Eckerson
Tom Eorgan
Cecilia Fleckstein
Jim Furches
Betty & Earl Gouge
Pam Hagen
Nora & Tony Haynes
Cindy Holmes
Molly Huff
Scott Huff
Keith & Jean Jones
Joyce Josie
Deni Kiehl
Tammy Kosa
Linda Kostreva
Karen Martin
Bonnie Marrs
Bob & Wanda May
Dan McGuire
Kent & Midge Merrill
Jim & CarolAnne Milliken
Tom Palmer
Ruby Payne
Bob & Athena Peebles
Carolyn Peeples
Bonnie Sampson
Bobby Seay
Bill Spence
John & Susan Trotter
Anna Grace West
Family of Janice Williams
Manna House



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP GUIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prelude "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Arr. Mark Hayes

First Things First

Lighting of the Advent Candle The wayfinders

Invocation

Hymn of Praise "Prepare the Way, O Zion" Screen

Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Our Father, during this Advent season, protect us from the sins which are so common at this time.

People: We confess to the sin of greed, for we are too often swept away by the commercialism of Christmas.

Leader: We confess to the sin of exclusiveness, for we act too often as though Christ came only for us.

People: We confess to the sin of cynicism, for we are too often blinded by the holiday lights, and fail to slow down and show respect for what is sacred.

Leader: We confess to the sin of failing to communicate words of love in this time when Your love and joy should be our first thought.

People: We confess to the sin of anger and impatience, for we permit ourselves to be upset by the pressures and frustrations of the season. For these and our other sins of Advent, we ask for Your protection and forgiveness.

(a time for personal reflection)

Leader: God hears our prayers and looks on us with mercy.
Our hope is in God's unending faithfulness. My
friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

People: God's love is made known in Christ Jesus, and
through Him our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to
God! AMEN

New Testament Reading 1 Corinthians 1:25-28

Morning Prayer

Hymn of Reflection "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" #196

Mission Moment

Doxology #94

Gospel Reading Luke 1:26-38

Anthem "Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God"

Sermon "Mary of Nazareth" Rev. Jodie Ihfe

Celebration of Holy Communion

Hymn of Commitment "Hope for Everyone" Screen

Benediction

Benediction Response

We are waiting on the promise
For the one who lights the darkness
Bending low to be among us
Bring Your glory in the highest
Jesus

All of heaven shouts
There's hope for everyone
Heaven shouts there's hope for everyone
Heaven shouts there's hope for everyone
Heaven shouts there's hope for everyone

Camp Bays Mountain is hosting Christmas Camp again this year! Overnight camp for 3rd-9th graders is Friday, 12/8, at 6:30 pm until Saturday, 12/9, at 6:30 pm. Day camp for 1st-9th graders is Saturday, 12/9, from 8:30 am until 6:30 pm. Campers will enjoy lots of fun activities while learning about the meaning of Advent and Christmas. If you are interested in sending your 1st-9th grader to Christmas Camp, you can sign up at www.campbaysmountain.com or talk to one of the pastors.

Due to the Christmas holiday, the next distribution date for the Food Pantry and Clare's Closet will be December 16.

The Taste of First will be next Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in hosting a table (as an individual, class, or group), please contact the church office at 423-928-9222 or office@1stchurchjc.org to sign up by Friday, December 8. Hosts are responsible for providing the food and table decorations for their respective tables. Everyone is welcome to attend even if you aren't hosting a table.

Please consider taking a tag from the Family Promise Christmas tree in the narthex and purchasing the suggested gifts for the families in the program. Please return the wrapped gifts no later than Sunday, December 17.

wednesday Night Fellowship

Program: The Land of Jesus' Birth

Menu: taco salad, dessert

Dinner begins at 5:30 and classes begin at 6:30.

Please make reservations by **Monday, 12/4 at noon** by returning the slip found in the pew pads or by contacting the church office.

Offering boxes are located at the front and rear of the sanctuary and in the narthex.