

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- ◆ 12/24: Christmas Eve Worship (7:00)
- ◆ 1/7: Coffee & Cocoa (11:30)
- ◆ 1/9: Women's Bible Study resumes (1:00), Trustees Meeting (6:00)
- ◆ 1/10: Wednesday Nighters resume (5:30)
- ◆ 1/13: Men's Breakfast (9:00)
- ◆ 1/14: Kids' Crafternoon (11:30)
- ◆ 1/16: Men's Bible Study begins (7:15 am), Women's Bible Study (1:00), Church Council (6:00)
- ◆ 1/19-21: Resurrection youth event
- ◆ 1/22: Finance Meeting (6:00)
- ◆ 1/27: Leader Training (10:00)

Wednesday Night Fellowship will resume on January 10, 2024

Food Pantry Items of the Month

For the month of January, the Food Pantry is collecting items to supplement food for our neighbors in need. The needed items are toilet paper, laundry detergent, and boxes of crackers in sleeves. 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: Novice Gross

Prayer List

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



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP GUIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prelude

"Joy to the World"

Arr. Diane Bish

First Things First

Lighting of the Advent Candle Paul & Leslie Knapp, Ben & Cathy Peeples

Invocation

Hymn of Praise "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" #3052

Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Loving God, we confess that we have been rushing headlong into Christmas.

People: It has been a busy time, as we have tried to fit our Christmas activities in and around our daily responsibilities of work and family.

Leader: Our minds are scattered, our bodies are tired, and we still have things to do.

People: We confess that we have been so caught up in our preparations that we have spent little time pondering the profound meaning of Your incarnation.

Leader: In the silence of this place, come to us, Emmanuel, and be born anew in our hearts.

People: Fill us with the joy of Your presence, so that we may reach out to all people with Your love and truly find ourselves ready to receive the Christ child, Your gift of love.

(a time for personal reflection)

Leader: Lift up your heads, faithful people, for our redemption is near. You are loved by God, now and forever, so rejoice in the good news of the Gospel:

People: Through Jesus Christ, God with us, we are forgiven and freed to try again. Thanks be to God! AMEN

Old Testament Reading Micah 5:2-5a

Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymn of Reflection "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #230

Mission Moment

Doxology #94

Gospel Reading Matthew 2:1-2, 13-18

Anthem "Only a Baby Came"

Sermon "Christmas in Bethlehem" Rev. Gary Ihfe

Hymn of Commitment "Make Room in Your Heart" Screen

Benediction

Benediction Response

Is there room in your heart
Is there room in your heart
For God to write His story
You can come as you are
It may set you apart
And trade your dreams for His glory
Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart

Dear FUMC Members,

Our Director of Senior High Youth Ministry, Antwann Yocum, has accepted a pastoral position with Depot City Church in Johnson City and will end his time at our church December 31. Since 2021, Antwann has provided much spiritual guidance and leadership to our senior high youth and others as well. His ability to lead our young people in their walk with Christ has been evident through their continued frequent participation in Wednesday Niter church classes, group trips, and work projects (just to name a few). We are grateful for Antwann's service and talents and we support him as he continues to fulfill his call to ministry. Though we will miss him and his family greatly, we extend praises and prayers for their future walk with Christ.

In the meantime, the plan is to have Bree Rhea, Reid Conner, and Jaliyah Woods working together to cover the ministry needs of the Senior High Youth along with the Junior High Youth.

On Sunday, January 7, the ETSU Wesley Foundation will host a FREE chili lunch to launch the Capital Campaign "Renewing our Faith, Restoring our Foundation." Drop in at 1100 Seminole Drive between 11:30 am & 1:30 pm to help honor the past and celebrate the future of this vital ministry. Friends, please help us spread the word about this upcoming event.

Save the date! The annual Leader Training Event will be hosted by the Three Rivers District on Saturday, January 27, 2024, at Wesley Memorial UMC from 10:00-3:00. Each leader will choose 4 workshops to attend and lunch is provided. Contact Pastor Jodie for more information.

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