



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. David S. Lake – Pastor

Dianne Runser – Director of Music Ministry

November 29, 2015

First Sunday in Advent/Consecration Sunday

WORSHIP HOST: 8:15 – Krista Brown 10:45 – Tracy Hawley

GATHERING & WELCOME

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

L: The Peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Please pass the Peace of Christ to your neighbor.

MOMENTS OF INFORMALITY

THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

MUSIC OF PREPARATION “Brightest and Best”

ADVENT READING (after Music of Preparation))

ALL: COME, LORD JESUS. AMEN

Wreath Lighters: 8:15 – Connie Bickerstaff and Nellie Wiancko

10:45 – Barb Worthington

ADVENT SONG

**Until Jesus comes, until Jesus comes,
I’ll be watching and waiting until Jesus comes.
(repeat)**

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Did you see the moon last night?

P: Yeah, and how about the stars?

L: I hear the sea is really going crazy.

P: What do you think it all means?

L: It could be the end of the world.

P: Or maybe just the end as we know it.

L: I read once it’s a sign that someone’s coming.

P: Yeah, the Promised One.

All: Be alert and watch out, now and always.

***OPENING PRAYER**

O God, the times and signs are confusing. During this time of worship, help us know your ways, and see clearly the coming of the Promised One. Lead us in your truth and teach us. For we wait with hopeful expectation: to see; to know; to believe. To you we lift our souls in trust and love, knowing you will hold them in your loving hands. Amen

***HYMN OF PRAISE No. 196**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Children come forward during the last verse.

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

(Our Children’s Collection this morning will be used for the “Outreach Christmas Gift Cards.” Please see the announcement for more details.)

ANTHEM 10:45 - "Emmanuel" - Chancel Choir

RESPONSIVE READING No. 756 Psalm 25

PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “Aria”

*** CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY**

(tune: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”)

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,
Glory to the Holy Spirit, glory to the Three-in-One.
Here we offer to you gladly all the gifts that you impart,
As we glory in your Presence, giving from a grateful heart.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKS**

Dear God of our salvation, we rejoice in your steadfast love. You lead us by your Holy Spirit in paths of righteousness and peace. Draw us closer to you and teach us your way. May our thankfulness overflow in generosity to friends, neighbors, and strangers. Extend the reach of our congregation so that our offerings will help others learn of your grace and goodness. We pray in the name of Jesus, our redeemer. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER HYMN No. 171

“There’s Something About That Name”*(sing twice)*

The Altar is open during the hymn.

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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

***SCRIPTURE (NRSV) 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

MESSAGE

STEWARDSHIP “LOVE YOUR ENEMY”

***HYMN OF PARTING No. 211**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

***BENEDICTION**

***MUSIC OF PARTING “People, Look East”**

***Those who are able, please stand.**

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday Worship – 28 Sunday 8:15 – 53 10:45 – 101

SERVING YOU SUNDAY, November 29th

USHERS: 8:15 – Men’s Group 10:45 – Lou Berta

SOUND TEAM: 8:15 – Fritz Runser
10:45 – Josh Burger & Penny Brant

NURSERY: Our Child Care Center (birth through age 5) will be open today during the 10:45 service. The Attendants today will be Kathy & Alyssa Wagner.

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers are presented in memory of Nathan Ives from Virginia Ives and family.

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

Today, November 29

1st Sunday of Advent

Consecration Sunday

8:00 Prayer Time

8:15 Worship

9:30 Sunday School for all ages

Sign up for the Children’s

Christmas Play

(see announcement)

10:45 Worship

12:15 SonShiners

2:00 FISH & CHIPS

Tuesday, December 1

Office Closed

5:30 Gym in use

6:15 TOPS

7:00 Outreach

7:30 NA

Wednesday, December 2

7:00 Lay Leadership (Nominating)

7:00 Yoga

Thursday, December 3

6:15 C Bells

7:00 Disciple

7:15 Choir

Friday, December 4

Irwin Cookie Tour

Gym in use

Saturday, December 5

Gym in use

6:00 Alternative Worship

Next Sunday, December 6

2nd Sunday of Advent

Communion Sunday

8:00 Prayer Time

8:15 Worship

9:30 Sunday School for all ages

10:45 Worship

12:15 SonShiners

2:00 – 4:00 Gingerbread Houses

(see announcement)

2:00 FISH & CHIPS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN’S COLLECTIONS: The Children’s Collection this week will be given to the Outreach committee for the Angel Tree Families. Instead of preparing food baskets as in the past, they will purchase gift cards for the Angel Tree families.

UMCOR 11/15 - \$196.50

11/22 - \$167.75

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN’S PLAY: On November 22nd and 29th, Lisa O'Reilly will be in the Sunday School wing after class (before the 10:45 service) and will have a sign up sheet for children to sign up for a part in the Christmas Eve children's play. There a variety of parts available this year for lots of different ages! Not all parts need a costume, however, for those that do, one will be provided. Look for more information in the bulletin and for flyers in the Sunday School wing as Christmas Eve approaches. Thank you so much again for your help and participation!

Gingerbread Houses 2015!!! The Nurture Committee is sponsoring the 3rd annual Gingerbread House Extravaganza on December 6, 2015 from 2-4 pm! There will be a sign-up sheet coming around to pre-register for the event. As in the past you have to be pre-registered to be able to make



a house. The Gingerbread pieces and “glue” will be provided all we ask is that you bring a bag of candy to decorate with and one to share; you will also need a large cookie sheet or board to use as a base. We are looking for bakers and icing makers, if you can use your talents to do either of these please see Eric or Becky Platt (412-816-1906) to volunteer your services.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTERS: There is a sign-up list in the sanctuary for those friends and family who wish to light the candles of the advent wreath. If you would like to participate, please sign the sheet with the date and time you will be available to help.



HARVESTERS CHRISTMAS PARTY: All Harvesters, past, present, and future are invited. The party will be held on Saturday, December 12th at 6:00 PM at the home of Tom & Sandy Lehner. We will order pizza at \$5.00/person.

Food, fellowship, and the stealing of gifts!_ 😊

For further details and to RSVP, please call 724-864-0823.

POINSETTIAS: Today is the last day to order Christmas Poinsettias. Please use the pink order form when ordering. The poinsettias will be available for pick-up after the 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Service.

IRWIN MALE CHORUS: The Irwin Male Chorus, under the direction of Forrest Moore, will present a concert of sacred and seasonal music in our sanctuary on Sunday, December 13 at 7:00 PM. The public is invited. Cookies are needed for the reception in our gym following the concert. Cookies may be brought to the kitchen on Sunday morning.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY: Please sign up to have your picture family or individual picture taken for the directory. Right now, only 28 families have signed up. We need many more participants to make this a worthwhile venture. The sign-up list is in the narthex.

NEW CHRISTMAS TREES NEEDED FOR THE SANCTUARY

The 9-foot Christmas trees in our sanctuary need to be replaced after this season. We have people who will be scouring the after-Christmas sales for the best buy, however, we need donations to purchase the new trees. If you would like to donate towards the Christmas trees, perhaps as a memorial donation, please place your donation in a pew envelope and put in the offering tray or send your donation to the church office. Please mark “Trees” on the envelope or your check. Thanks for your help.

FRUIT SALE: The Finance Committee is sponsoring a fruit sale this year. All proceeds from the sale will help with the Unified Budget. Please use the purple order form found in your Newsletter or on the table in the Narthex for you order. Orders are due Sunday, January 10, 2016.

Coming Soon...”Gifts of the Talents Sale” will be held on Sunday, December 6th. Tables will be set up in the narthex and in front of Pastor David’s office for those of you wanting to place any items that you have made – using the “seed money” offered at the chancel rail on November 8th and creating something to sell using the gifts/talents that God has given you! Thank you for your continued participation! Our Pumpkin Patch Sale last Saturday night and Sunday morning totaled \$201.00!

HANGING AND “UNHANGING” OF THE GREENS: Thank you to all the people who helped to decorate our church for the Advent and Christmas season last week. It was truly a festive time.

We will be taking down the decorations on Sunday, January 10, 2016. We always get more people to decorate than we do to put everything away. (Just like at home, isn’t it?) Please come and help us put Christmas “to bed”.

ANGEL TREE The Outreach Committee has put up the Angel Tree just in time for Black Friday shopping! Please consider being a Christmas angel for a local family by providing a child with a Christmas present. Just take an angel from the tree and shop! You are asked not to spend more than \$25.00 on the gift. This year you will also notice cookies hanging on the tree. Instead of Christmas food baskets, we will be giving families gift cards to do their own grocery shopping and pick their family favorites. All donations are due back to church on Sunday, December 20th. Angel tree gifts should be wrapped with the angel tag attached. Thank you for helping. Any questions, please contact Missy Davis (724-863-9758).

LOVE YOUR ENEMY...”Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32) It’s not easy to forgive! Have you secretly been at “war” with someone? Beginning today, make a concerted effort to find common ground with that person. Start treating them as you would a friend, not an enemy.



In Rick Warren’s book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, it states: “Our weaknesses encourage fellowship with others. While strength breeds an independent spirit (I don’t need anyone else), our limitations show how much we need each other. By weaving weak strands of our lives together, a rope of great strength is created. Christians, like snowflakes, are frail, but when they stick together they can stop traffic!”

Have you ever influenced someone so they are now saved for Jesus? Keep telling others that Good News...those you love and those that require great effort to love! Pray for honesty, understanding, forgiveness and peace in your most challenging relationships! “How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity.” (Psalm 133:1)

Today is Consecration Sunday! Pledge cards that were mailed to you last week will be brought to the altar during both services. If you forgot to bring your pledge card back today, there additional ones located in the narthex for you to fill out. Prayerfully consider what your giving will be for 2016. Remember...”giving” is not always monetary. Some of us find it impossible to increase our giving, while some of us can. We must complete our end of the covenant by returning the pledge card. Even a blank, signed card that is returned has completed the prospect’s covenant! What percentage of your income is God calling you to give? “Freely you have received, freely give. (Matthew 10:8)
