



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642

724-863-6858

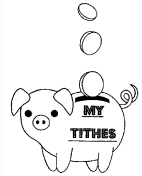
www.irwinfirstumc.org

irwinfirstumc@comcast.net

Like us on Facebook

Rev. Bruce R. Judy, Pastor - 724-747-6098 (call or text)

Dianne Runser – Director of Music Ministry



---

**December 11, 2016**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent - Joy**

**WORSHIP HOST: 8:15-Barb Worthington 10:45-Tracy Hawley**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Memory Verse for December**

**Philippians 4:13**

**“I can do all things thru Christ who strengthens me”**

\*\*\*\*\*

**GATHERING & WELCOME**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**\*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**

**“My Soul Will Magnify the Lord (the Magnificat)”**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP No. 199 “Canticle of Mary”**

**(Please ask the congregation to turn to page 199 in their hymnals.)**

**L:** My Soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

**P:** ... my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.

**L:** From this day all generations shall call me blessed:

**P:** ... the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is the name of the Lord, whose mercy is on those who fear God from generation to generation.

**L:** The arm of the Lord is strong, and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

**P:** God has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.

**L:** God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich empty away.

**P:** God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant, remembering the promise of mercy, the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children for ever.

**\*HYMN No. 203 “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”**

**ADVENT READING**

**WREATH LIGHTERS:**

**8:15 – The Bryan Family**

**10:45 – Adam, Mandy & Olivia Slivka**

**ADVENT SONG**

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

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENTS**

**No. 2233 "This Is Where Children Belong"**

*(Our Children's Collection this morning will be go to the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Fund. Please see the announcement details.)*

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Lillian Mae Bressan, daughter of Daniel & Julie Bressan

**BAPTISMAL COVENANT II (page 39)**

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

**ANTHEM 8:15 "As I Hold You"– Missy Andrison  
10:45 "The First Noel" – SonShiners**

**WORD OF GOD Isaiah 35:1-10**

## **PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY 8:15 –"Creator of the Stars of Night"  
10:45 - "As I Hold You" – Missy Andrison**

## **\*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**

**\*HYMN (insert) "Arise, Shine"**

## **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**

**SERMON SCRIPTURE Matthew 11:2-11**

**SERMON "Joy"**

**\*HYMN No. 218 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**

## **\*BENEDICTION**

**\*MUSIC OF PARTING "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

*The service is under the control of the Holy Spirit.  
The altar rail is always open.*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK**

**Saturday Worship – 20      Sunday 8:15 – 55      10:45 – 95**

**SERVING YOU TODAY**

**GREETERS:** 8:15 – Ed, Nellie & Krista Brown

10:45 – Lou & Jerry Berta

**USHERS TEAMS:** 8:15 – Men's Group      10:45 – Tom Lehner

**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. Our attendants today will be Stephanie Blissman & Michelle Bilinsky.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The Altar flowers this morning are presented by Donald Nystrom in memory of his wife, Gerry.

**ADVENT REFRESHMENTS AFTER SERVICES BY:**

8:15 – The Bryan Family & Beverly McDonald

10:45 – Penny Brant & Beverly McDonald

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHURCH CLEANING DAY-SAVE THE DATE  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 9:00 AM

Each volunteer will be assigned a project area to work on your own or in small groups. Please bring your bucket and rags! All help will be used and appreciated! We have a large old church and all areas need cleaned out and scrubbed down.

If you have questions, please contact Becky Rudy 724-493-3734

\*\*\*\*\*

**THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH**

**Office - 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM Monday thru Thursday**

**8:00 AM – Noon on Friday**

**Pastor Bruce – 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday**

724-747-6098 (call or text) or email at [preacherptl@gmail.com](mailto:preacherptl@gmail.com)

*Please feel free to contact Pastor Bruce if you are in need of a pastoral visit.*

**Today, Sunday, December 11**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

8:00 Prayer Time  
8:15 Worship  
9:30 Sunday School  
10:45 Worship  
12:15 SonShiners  
7:00 Irwin Male Chorus

**Monday, December 12**

10:00 UM Women  
6:30 Grief Support  
7:00 Dartball – Make-up

**Tuesday, December 13**

6:15 TOPS  
7:00 Trustees  
7:30 NA

**Wednesday, December 14**

7:00 Women's Book Study

**Thursday, December 15**

6:15 C Bells  
7:15 Choir

**Saturday, December 17**

6:00 Alternative Worship

**Next Sunday, December 18**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

8:00 Prayer Time  
8:15 Worship  
9:30 Sunday School  
10:45 Worship  
12:15 SonShiners



\*\*\*\*\*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*\*\*\*\*

**ALL 2016 CONTRIBUTIONS** must be in to the office by December 31, 2016 to be credited on your 2016 Annual Giving Statement. Contributions received after December 31, 2016 will be posted to your 2017 Annual Giving Statement.

*Also*, receipts for items that you have bought for the church and wish to be reimbursed for or have credit for on your annual giving statement must be turned in by January 8, 2017. After January 8<sup>th</sup> the 2016 financial records will be closed and all credits will go toward the 2017.

\*\*\*\*\*

**STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT:** Each year, the Staff Parish Relations Committee collects contributions from our congregation toward Christmas bonuses for our dedicated Church Staff. Please join the SPRC in showing our appreciation for their work by contributing using the envelopes marked "Staff Christmas." Envelopes will be available through Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

**CHILDREN'S COLLECTIONS:** The Children's Collection this week will be given to the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Fund. In 1891, Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee was distraught because so many poor individuals in San Francisco were going hungry. During the holiday season, he resolved to provide a free Christmas dinner for the destitute and poverty-stricken. He only had one major hurdle to overcome -- funding the project.

He remembered how at Stage Landing, where the boats came in, there was a large, iron kettle called "Simpson's Pot" into which passers-by tossed a coin or two to help the poor. The next day Captain McFee placed a similar pot at the Oakland Ferry Landing at the foot of Market Street. Beside the pot, he placed a sign that read, "Keep the Pot Boiling." He soon had the money to see that the needy people were properly fed at Christmas.

Six years later, the kettle idea spread from the west coast to the Boston area. Today in the U.S., The Salvation Army assists more than four-and-a-half million people during the Thanksgiving and Christmas time periods.

Captain McFee's kettle idea launched a tradition that has spread not only throughout the United States, but all across the world. Kettles are now used in such distant lands as Korea, Japan, Chile and many European countries. Everywhere, public contributions to Salvation Army kettles enable the organization to continue its year-round efforts at helping those who would otherwise be forgotten.

<http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/red-kettle-history>

*Shop with a Cop* 12/4 - \$216.15

\*\*\*\*\*

**ANGEL TREE** The Outreach Committee has put more angels on the tree. If you would like to help sponser a child's Christmas gifts this year, please take one (or more) of the angels.

All donations, gift cards & gifts, are due back to church on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Angel tree gifts should be wrapped with the angel tag attached. Thank you for helping. Any questions, please contact Missy Davis (724-863-9758).

\*\*\*\*\*

**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 11 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

### "THE HANDS TO WORK, HEARTS TO GOD MINISTRY"

We are looking for those who are able to quilt, knit and/or crochet. We meet every Sunday during the Sunday School hour. Items made will be dedicated and given to those who may need a prayer shawl, quilt, scarf, afghan, slippers, baby hat & blanket and/or pocket prayer shawl.

These items have been made with prayers and peaceful thoughts.... May you find God's warmth as you wear, wrap or hold it in your hand. If you know of someone who is in need of God's Loving Comfort, please take an item to them.

Those who are completing their projects, please obtain a prayer card in the "Comfort/Ministry Room" next to Pastor Bruce's office and attach to your item. You may also notify Burnetta Green or Cindi Painter for more information.

We will soon have a dedication of these items and they will be found on the quilt rack and in the pocket prayer shawl basket in front of the Pulpit in the Sanctuary.

Many thanks to those who have prayed for this ministry, made items, donated fabric/yarn, created and especially to those who will be delivering them.

Wishing you a Merry Blessed Christmas &a Happy and Healthy New Year! Hands to Work, Hearts to God Ministry

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES:** There is an insert in your bulletin today with a schedule for our Christmas season worship services. Please take it home, mark the dates and times on your calendar, and then share the insert with your family and friends.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN’S PLAY:** Please see Lisa O’Reilly if you are interested in signing your child up for the 5:30 Christmas Eve Service. She will be on the mezzanine level before and after Sunday School for the next few weeks. There will be one rehearsal on December 18th after the second service. The costumes will be available on December 11th and 18th outside of the Sunday School classes for pick-up. Costumes do not need to be worn for the rehearsal. Thank you so much to everyone for your continued support year after year! Lisa O’Reilly

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING AND OUR CHURCH IS RINGING IN THE SEASON!!!** Thank you to everyone that signed up to Ring Bells for the Salvation Army on **Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**. Our kettle will be located at Giant Eagle in North Huntingdon on the Kohl’s side of the store. If you didn’t sign up and would like to participate, you can still come out and help ring with another church member that day. We will be ringing from 10 AM to 8 PM that day. Sing while you ring...shoppers love to hear those Christmas carols!

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHRISTMAS CARD BOARDS:** Pastor Bruce has placed two easels in the Narthex for Christmas Cards. Please feel free to place a greeting card on the boards for everyone at church to enjoy. Don’t forget to check the board often to see the greetings from your church family and friends!

\*\*\*\*\*

**YOUTH MINISTER JOB OPENING:** Are you a motivated, grace-filled Christian looking for part-time work? Join our team at Irwin First United Methodist Church! This position is roughly 20 hours/week and includes planning/coordinating/promoting activities with our youth and their friends to increase their faith. Activities include weekly youth group meetings, periodic youth events (fellowship, service projects, retreats), and some assistance with high school Sunday School. Personal commitment to Christ; working with youth using creativity, understanding, & kindness; Biblical worldview; and strong organizational/communication/team-building skills are necessary. Music/guitar skills, preaching capabilities, and computer/multi-media skills are a plus. Future potential growth into additional areas of ministry are available if mutually agreeable! Please send resume & cover letter to:

Irwin First United Methodist Church, 310 Oak Street, Irwin, Pa 15642. Or email:

[fumc.debbie.offmgr@comcast.net](mailto:fumc.debbie.offmgr@comcast.net)

Any questions, please call the church office at 724-863-6858

\*\*\*\*\*

**LONGEST NIGHT/ BLUE CHRISTMAS**

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

**DECEMBER 21, 2016**



A Longest Night/Blue Christmas Worship Service will be held in our sanctuary on Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 PM. This is the longest night of the year. Following this date, daylight seems to be returning for more and more of each day. In the long, dark winter nights, memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences and situations can become overwhelming. On this night, we remember those for whom the holidays are not joyful; they are lonely, in mourning, feeling alienated and cast apart from family celebrations; they are experiencing depression and sadness and yet are often compelled to "put on a happy face" for others, denying their true feelings. People who are not having a very merry Christmas and friends who support them are invited to come and sit with one another in a liturgy that speaks of the love of God for the grieving.

In this service, we invite you to listen. We invite you to pray. We invite you to sing. We invite you to meditate upon the pain and anguish you may bring – and we invite you to offer your pain to the Christ child. And we trust that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ONGOING PROGRAMS

**STYLUS PENS:** The stylus pens are still available for purchase (\$2). Please see Dianne Runser or the salesperson in the narthex.

\*\*\*\*\*

**TAKE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY** - Discover what your gifts are in order to best serve God. Please answer the questions, sign the book, and return it to Pastor Bruce or the church office. The booklets are on the table in the Narthex.

\*\*\*\*\*

**“RIGHT NOW MEDIA” BIBLE STUDIES:** Free Bible studies to further your knowledge of God’s word. To participate in any of these studies, you need to email the church office at [fumc.jeanne.secrep@comcast.net](mailto:fumc.jeanne.secrep@comcast.net) with your request. The office will place your email address on the list of participants and give you instructions on how to log onto the account.

\*\*\*\*\*

**EMAIL REMINDERS:** If you would like to receive email reminders of church events, please email the church office ([irwinfirstumc@comcast.net](mailto:irwinfirstumc@comcast.net)) to get your email on the list. Please DO NOT hand write or call the office with the email address, as errors may occur. We want to make sure that we have the correct email.

\*\*\*\*\*

### STARTING IN JANUARY

For more information on the following programs, contact Pastor Bruce at 724-747-6098 (call or text) or email at [preacherptl@gmail.com](mailto:preacherptl@gmail.com)

**HEALING SERVICE** – the last Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM. This is a simple service that has prayer, sharing, devotions, anointing with oil, laying on of hands, and communion. Just drop what you are doing and come as you are.

**DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY SUPPORT GROUP:** Meetings will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM. Pastor Bruce has a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and real life experience with these diseases. He will facilitate. All meetings are confidential.

**BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR BRUCE:** A Bible study will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 1:00 PM.

\*\*\*\*\*