



THIRD SUNDAY OF

Advent



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

Ronald Slavin – Youth Pastor

Laura Willby – Contemporary Music Coordinator

December 13, 2020
The Third Sunday in Advent
December Memory Verse: John 16:33c.
“But take heart. I have overcome the world”

The service is under the control of the Holy Spirit.

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.

PRELUDE “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” – Cathedral Bells (10:45)

MOMENTS OF INFORMALITY

**THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

***CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 23**

L: ¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

P: ² **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures,**

L: ... leads me beside still waters, ³restores my life,

P: ... **leads me in the right paths for the sake of the Lord’s name.**

L: ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

P: ... **for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

L: ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

P: ... **you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.**

L: ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

P: ... **and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord as long as I live.**

***HYMN No. 234 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”, v. 1 & 3**

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Chorus

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory In the highest;

Chorus

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING - “DECK THE HALLS” - JOY

8:15 Adam, Mandy, Olivia Slivka

10:45 Kyle, Katrina, Charles, Michael Bryan

WREATH HYMN No. 211 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” v. 6

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Chorus

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

A NATIVITY MOMENT

WORD OF GOD 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²²reject every kind of evil.

²³May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Look Towards the Manger"

*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 No. 2071 "Jesus, Name above All Names"

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.

HYMN No. 2233 "Where Children Belong"

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:
This is where children belong.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

SPECIAL MUSIC "Alleluia! Song of Gladness" – Chancel Choir

JOYS AND CONCERNS

For our joys we say: "Praise the Lord."
For our concerns we say: "Lord, hear our prayers."

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

SERMON SCRIPTURE Luke 1:46b-55

Mary's Song

⁴⁶And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me — holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

L: The Word of God for the children of God.

P: Thanks be to God

SERMON "Count it Pure Joy"

HYMN No. 203 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed", v. 1 & 3

1. Hail to the Lord's anointed, Great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope like flowers, spring in His path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald go.
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

***BENEDICTION**

***MUSIC OF PARTING "A Joyous Song of Praise"**

(Please allow the ushers to direct you as you leave the sanctuary.)

***Please stand if you are able.**

ASSISTING WITH TODAY'S SERVICE

Worship Host – Robbyn Slavin

Song Leader – David Lyons

ALTAR FLOWERS: The altar flowers today are presented by Toni Fetter in memory of her husband, Chuck and her mother.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – 12/13/2020

ANGEL TREE - The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who will be helping to make Christmas brighter this year for the 87 children and their families who were a part of our Angel Tree! **All gifts are due back to the church today. If you haven't brought your gift or gift card back, please contact Anne.** She can be reached at home (724-744-7278), by email (annegiannetti@gmail.com), or by text (412-582-8397).

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 "Love Gift." Envelopes will be available through Sunday, December 20th.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness and generosity.



RESERVATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Due to pandemic, we are forced to take reservations for our Christmas Eve services. We must limit our attendance to 200 at each service. In the bulletin today is a RSVP slip. You may also go to the church website at www.irwinfirstumc.org or Facebook page at [Irwin First UMC](https://www.facebook.com/irwinfirstumc) to RSVP. Please have your reservations in by **December 15th** so that we can make preparation to accommodate everyone who wants to participate.

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

Feel free to contact Pastor Bruce at any time if you are in need of a pastoral visit.
724-747-6098 (call or text) or email at preacherptl@gmail.com

Sunday, December 13

3rd Sunday in Advent/Advent Gift Giving

8:15 In-Church & Drive-in Church
(Radio 87.9 FM)

9:30 Youth Sunday School (Grades 6-12),
Harvesters Adult Class,
Prayer Shawl Group, BYKOTA

9:30 Toddler – 5th Grade Sunday School
(see announcement)

10:45 In-Church & Drive-in Church
(Radio 87.9 FM) Facebook, YouTube, and
Zoom (Meeting ID# 633 303 454 Password
104289)

Monday, December 14

6:30 Cub Scouts

Tuesday, December 15

9-11:30 AM - Nativity set up

7:30 NA

Wednesday, December 16

RSVP's due for Christmas Eve Services

10:00 Prayer Group Meeting

(Zoom Meeting ID#311 4389 930, Password 3U22u3)

10:00 QC Meeting

1:00 Wednesday Bible Study on Zoom

(Meeting ID: 826 4011 6693, Passcode 400790)

5:00 Youth Center

6:00 Depression & Anxiety Support

Thursday, December 17

6:15 Cathedral Bells

6:30 girl Scouts

6:30 NA

7:15 Choir

Friday, December 18

6:00 Brown Bag Meal

Saturday, December 19

11:00 Lunch with Santa

6:00 PM Contemporary Service

Sunday, December 20

4th Sunday in Advent/Advent Gift Giving

8:15 In-Church & Drive-in Church

(Radio 87.9 FM)

9:30 Youth Sunday School (Grades 6-12),
Harvesters Adult Class,
Prayer Shawl Group, BYKOTA

9:30 Toddler – 5th Grade Sunday School
(see announcement)

10:45 In-Church & Drive-in Church

(Radio 87.9 FM) Facebook, YouTube, and Zoom

(Meeting ID# 633 303 454 Password 104289)

A PROGRESSIVE NATIVITY EXPERIENCE

Third Week of Advent

Last week we learned from Luke 2 of Caesar Augustus' Decree for all to return to their ancestral towns to register for the census and pay their taxes.

This Third Week of Advent, Joseph and Mary have left the village of Nazareth attempting to honor this Decree the entire Roman Empire. Let's imagine how hard this 100-mile journey was to Bethlehem, Mary being great with child. There were no paved roads, McDonalds, Starbucks. They were out there in the wilderness on a donkey on rough terrain. The prophecy in Micah 5:2 is coming true.



Mary and Nazareth proclaimed over try to imagine southward especially for There were no Bucks or Motel elements, riding prophesy from

“And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will

be the shepherd for my people Israel.”



As people were returning to their ancestral towns, life continued. . . the animals needed tended to, families needed food to eat, clothes to wear and the sheep needed a shepherd. Shepherds like the ones in our Sanctuary next to the altar. You can almost hear the young sheep “Baaing” for its mother.



And, from Matthew 2:1b-6, “*About the time Jesus was to be born, some wise men arrived in Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the new born king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.” “King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?” “In Bethlehem in*

Judea, they said.”

Please notice the wise men to the far left of the sanctuary. There isn’t much known about the wise men; how many, who they were and where they came from. But we mostly think there were three wise men probably due to the three gifts given to Jesus after his birth: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Advent Week 4 sneak peek: continues in Matthew 2

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS: During the weeks of December 20th to January 4th the church office will not be open every day. Please call the office before you make a trip to the church to be sure someone will be there to assist you.

Our church secretary will be out of the office from December 24th - January 4th. If you have announcements or items to be placed in the bulletin for December 26 & 27 and January 2 & 3, please have them in the office by Tuesday, December 22nd.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS WITH HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Please remember the following members and friends of our congregation who are in nursing homes or cannot get out of their homes. Make this an extra special time for them with a greeting from you and your family during the upcoming holidays.

June Guckert 660 Kimlyn Road <u>N Huntingdon, PA 15642</u>	Agnes Reynolds 46 Ridge Avenue <u>N Irwin, PA 15642</u>
LaVerne Frick Walden’s View 7990 State Rte. 30 <u>N Huntingdon PA 15642</u>	Marge Osterman The Grove at Irwin 249 Maus Drive <u>N Huntingdon, PA 15642</u>
Wanda Halavan Redstone Highlands Apt 384 12921 Redstone Drive <u>N Huntingdon, PA 15642</u>	Doris Collins Golden Heights 3522 Route 130 <u>Irwin, PA 15642</u>
Patty Hawk 206 Maple Street <u>Irwin, PA 15642</u>	Bobbie Jones 100 Western Avenue Apt 504 <u>Irwin, PA 15642</u>
Mary Greene 4023 Chiefton Road <u>Irwin, PA 15642</u>	Nancy Wallace 9864 McClellan Street <u>N Huntingdon, PA 15642</u>
James Remaley, Sr St. Anne’s Home Rm B001 685 Angela Drive <u>Greensburg, PA 15601</u>	

These addresses are correct to the best of our knowledge. If you find an incorrect address, please let the office know so we can change it in our records. Thank you.

Please let us know if there is someone you would like to add to the shut-in list.

TODDLER – 5TH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL: this age group has not yet returned to in-church Sunday school. Please use the contact information listed to participate in the Zoom classes:

Toddler Zoom Sunday School - 2-4 year old children - please email or call Dawn Capecci 412 651 2503, missdawn25@yahoo.com or Donna Weber 724 864 4954, donnam_weber@yahoo.com for more information and the Zoom instructions.

Preschool - 5th grade Sunday School - 9:30 AM on Zoom. For more information please contact Becky at 412-816-1906.

A Big Thank You to our Faithful Congregation! Our Stewardship Campaign has certainly been challenging with the COVID 19 year we are going through. Thankfully, our Congregation has disregarded obstacles and are continuing to "Invest in Hope" (2021 Stewardship Campaign Slogan is certainly appropriate!!) Nothing gets in the way of our love for the Lord and the ministries we have for His Glory. We have surpassed last year's commitments and to date 72 pledges have been turned in for 2021. (2020's pledges total turned in was 65) So, if you were unable to submit your pledge care, do so whenever you can over the next few weeks.

Thank You!

Respectively Submitted, The Stewardship Campaign Committee

THE UPPER ROOM: The January/February issue of The Upper Room are now available. They are a daily devotional filled with inspiring stories from Christians around the world. This is an easy way to make time for some scripture reading each day.

2021 CALENDARS: Once again this year, our friends at Ott Funeral Home have donated wall calendars to our church. The calendars contain beautiful pictures and a monthly Bible verse. They are on the table in the Narthex and you are welcome to take them. We send out a big thank you- to Ott Funeral Home for their generosity.

2020 OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS: We are coming to the end of 2020 and all 2020 contributions must be in to the office by December 31, 2020 to be credited on your 2020 Annual Giving Statement. Contributions received after December 31, 2020 will be posted to your 2021 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 also be turned in December 31, 2020. After December 31st the 2020 financial records will be closed and all credits will go toward the 2021.

MEDIA TEAM: Volunteers are needed to join our media team. Our worship services, and many of our meetings on Zoom, would not be possible without them. You will be trained to use the equipment and assist with the services and meetings. If you would like to become part of the team please call Pastor Bruce (724-747-6098) or Pastor Ron (724-691-7113).

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY: If you would have any prayer requests for any serious or pressing problem please contact Jean Barrett at (724-515-5524) or Bernie Johnston at (724-863-6967). This would be for immediate prayer concerns and should not be confused with the prayer list found in the bulletin. If you would like to be included as a prayer warrior, to pray for immediate concerns via text or email, please let us know. Thank you

CALLING ALL CLARK GRISWOLDS! This year the Crazy Christmas Club Committee (CCCC) is inviting everyone to decorate the outside of your house for Christmas for a friendly competition. (You can decorate the inside as well, we just won't be able to see it.) 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded to the house that shows the meaning of Christmas the best. If you are interested please provide your Name, Address and Contact Number by December 16th. The CCCC will go around on December 18th starting at 6:30pm and take pictures/video of your house and determine our winners. In this year where everything seems so unexpected, why not share some love, happiness, and the meaning of Christmas for the world (or neighborhood) to see?



SAFETY GUIDELINES: We are still practicing the COVID 19 safety guidelines set by the CDC for social distancing and wearing face masks. Thank you everyone for being so good about this and doing your part to protect yourself and others.

We encourage you to bring your own face mask when you come to the church. The disposable face masks that we have at the church should be used as a last resort as they are getting hard to come by and costly to purchase. And ... it's fun to see all the different mask designs!

Thank you for your cooperation.

Bible passages are taken from the New International Version (NIV) of the Holy Bible.

Call to Worship is taken from "The United Methodist Hymnal"

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CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY (tune: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly")

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211 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel CCLI Song # 4826282, Henry Sloane Coffin | John Mason Neale | Ryan Dahl | Thomas Helmore, © Words: Public Domain, Music: 2006 Dahl, Ryan (Admin. by PraiseCharts Publishing, Inc.) CCLI License # 1584024

234 O Come All Ye Faithful

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2071 Jesus Name Above All Names

CCLI Song # 21291Naida Hearn, © 1974, 1978 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.), All rights reserved. www.ccli.com, CCLI License # 1584024

203 Hail to The Lord's Anointed

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ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS: As you can see in "THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH" many of our services, Bible Study, and Prayer Group are all being broadcast using Zoom. If you would like to participate in these activities using Zoom, please follow the instructions below. Please contact Pastor Bruce or Ron if you have questions.

For computer or smartphone:

Go to Zoom.com Click-Join a meeting

When prompted enter Meeting ID, then a screen will pop up to enter password.

(The Meeting ID & Password are noted with the service or meeting)

You will enter the "meeting space". If you move your mouse to the bottom of the box, it will show you the different options, like chat and video.

For landline or cell phone (Audio only):

Dial 1-646-558-8656. Enter meeting number and follow the prompts.
(The Meeting ID & Password are noted with the service or meeting in
"This Week at our Church.")

The current **Daily Bread** is available for you to pick up! It will be in the adult assembly room. These are free and you can take as many as you need! One for each member in your family, each bathroom, stocking stuffers, friends, neighbors. Give them a gift to "Invest in Hope"!



THE SALVATION ARMY UNIT OF IRWIN has its own phone number. If you know anyone in need of our services please have them call 724-331-7832. The office hours for the unit are Wednesday mornings from 9:30 until 11:30.

HOSPITAL CALLS AND VISITS: If you or someone you know is in the hospital or would like a visit from the pastor please call the office or Pastor Bruce. *Remember, Pastor Bruce cannot provide care to our congregation if he doesn't know there is a need.*

Pastor Bruce receives calls or texts at his cell phone number 724-747-6098

***** **IN PERSONAL CARE & REHABILITATION FACILITIES** *****

Dorothy B. ~ Asbury Heights, Mt. Lebanon Marge O. ~ The Grove at Irwin
Wanda H. ~ Redstone, N. Huntingdon James R., Sr. ~ St. Anne's Home, Greensburg
Doris C. ~ Golden Heights (Harrison City) LaVerne F. ~ Walden's View

***** **CONTINUOUS PRAYERS** *****

Brent L., Kurt W. & Family, Cheryl M., Tim & Diane N., Rick H., Marlin A & Nancy P., Joe S., Joe L., Virginia, Jennifer N., Curt E., Cheryl H., Valerie M., Patty H., Jeanne R., Jeff M., Donna H., John B., Joe and Wava, Dean and Dorothy, Chris E., Rose N., Sara C., Jeanne and Larry A., Fred & Barb S., Mischa & Suzanne S., Diane B., Les H., John G., Noah C., Craig C., Red, Dawn, Amy P., Chuck K., Pat M., Jane I., Ashley, Stu S., Shawn S., Christa L., Rhonda, Beverly and Tom D., Laura, Marlin F., Stephanie S., Dave W., Bill & Elaine M., Kim V. Paul & Iva Lou B., Jackie S.
Bob & Natalie F. & Family (Missionaries in India)
Connie Wieck (Missionary)

***** **THIS MONTHS PRAYERS LIST** *****

*We will change the prayer list the first Sunday of each month.
Contact the church office at 724-863-6858 with names for the list.*

Vi, Tom and Peggy, Sandy L., George and Kelly, Paul and Michelle, Neil and Alma, Yvonne I. and family, Samantha, Lilliana P., Tiffany M., Joe K., Our Country & World, COVID 19 Concerns, Our Country and Leaders, Our world, Medical & Emergency Personnel, First Responders and Military, All Essential Workers, Teachers and Students, Businesses, The Unrest in Our Country, Helena & Marilyn, George and Lisa S., Joseph D., Sara T., Marilyn F., Ray S., The Lois Frye Family, Jerry L., Janice E., Judy L., Jim L., The Bill G. Family., The Jeff V. Family, The Diane Borza Family, Rolan & Janice W., Ethan D, Randy D, and Cindi D., Connie B., Audrey F.

***** **SERVICE PERSONNEL** *****

Brandon D. – Korea	Colby S. – Iraq	Sara D.
Angelo W. – Oklahoma City	Nicholas P. – Schofield Barracks, HI	Jeremy L.
David J. – Afghanistan	Amanda M. – Texas	Carl B.
James G. – Texas	Emery M. – Japan	Mark Russak
		Edward J. III



December 12, 2020
The Third Sunday in Advent
December Memory Verse: John 16:33c.
“But take heart. I have overcome the world”

Welcome

Announcements

Memory Verse

Advent Wreath Lighting & Opening Prayer

Worship music:

Hearts Waiting (Joy to the World)

Let Us Adore

Sharing of joys and concerns/ prayer

Offering

Worship music:

The First Noel

Prince of Heaven

Scripture & Message

Closing song:

My Soul Magnifies the Lord

Prayer Requests

I cried unto the Lord with my voice and he heard me out of his holy hill.

~ Psalm 3:4

You're Invited!

Lunch with Santa and Mrs. Claus

Saturday, December 19th • 11am-1pm

Due to the new PA state COVID 19 restrictions, the *Lunch with Santa and Mrs. Claus* will be a drive-thru event. Participants will receive a bag lunch, a gift, and be greeted by Santa and Mrs. Claus. At their discretion, parents may park and let their children have a picture taken with Santa (\$5.00.) No RSVP is required. Please wear your face mask and practice social distancing when possible. Participants should use the alley below the church.

or Pastor Ron 724-691-7113/
ronaldslavin@comcast.net

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310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA

724-863-6858 • www.irwinfirstumc.org

Blue Christmas Service

Monday, December 21st • 7 PM

Join us to remember
loved ones lost.
A time of healing and hope.

Please Wear a Mask

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310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA

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