



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642

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Rev. David S. Lake – Pastor

Dianne Runser – Director of Music Ministry

December 20, 2015

Fourth Sunday in Advent

WORSHIP HOST: 8:15 – Krista Brown

10:45 – Melanie and Lindsay Smith

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 “A La Nanita Nana”

ADVENT READING

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus. Amen

WREATH LIGHTERS:

8:15 - Neil Kucherer, Rebecca Valeri

10:45 - Mary Reed, Bernie Johnston, June Johnston

ADVENT SONG

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice!

P: With joyful hearts, we draw living water from the wellspring of God's salvation.

L: With loud singing, we return to a home of love.

P: With loud shouts, we return to our God.

L: Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Redeemer God, with laughter in our mouths and joy in our hearts, we draw living water from the wellspring of your salvation. For you save the lame and gather the outcast, turning their shame into praise. You gather the lost and bring the exile home at last. Who is like you in all the earth? There are none that compare to you, O God. In your presence, we dwell secure. In your love, we find the power to transform the world. Amen

***HYMN OF PRAISE No. 234** **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**
Children come forward during the last verse.

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

(Our Children’s Collection this morning will be used for the “American Red Cross.” Please see the announcement for more details.)

ANTHEM **8:15 “Jesus, Messiah” – Deb Andrison**
10:45 “Jesus, Messiah” - Chancel Choir

RESPONSIVE READING No. 774 **Psalm 40**

SCRIPTURE READING **Luke 1:39-45**

PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY **“Love Came Down at Christmas”**

***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**

Faithful God, you astound us with your miracles! We rejoice that you sent your Son Jesus to bring light and salvation. We are grateful for your great wisdom and love in your actions toward humankind. Help us to be more like Mary, believing your Word and trusting in the fulfillment of your promises. We dedicate our tithes and offerings for the mission of this church, so that more people will find hope in waiting on Jesus the Christ. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER HYMN No. 230 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
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)** **Hebrews 10:5-10**

MESSAGE

***HYMN OF PARTING No. 240**
“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

***BENEDICTION**

***MUSIC OF PARTING
“Christmas Bells”**

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

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday Worship – 23 Sunday 8:15 – 63 10:45 – 106

SERVING YOU SUNDAY, December 20th

GREETERS: 8:15 – Nellie Wiancko

10:45 – Sara Campbell & Burnetta Green

USHERS: 8:15 – Virginia Ives 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. The Attendants today will be Sandy Lehner & Lindsay Smith.

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

**Today, December 20
4th Sunday of Advent**

8:00 Prayer Time
8:15 Worship
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:45 Worship
12:15 Christmas Play Rehearsal
2:00 FISH & CHIPS

Monday, December 21

Office closes at noon
7:00 Blue Christmas Service

Tuesday, December 22

Office closes at noon
7:30 NA

Wednesday, December 23

Office closes at noon
5:30 Gym in use
7:00 Yoga

Thursday, December 24

Office closes at noon
5:30 Children’s Christmas Service
9:00 Alternative Worship
Christmas Service
7:30 Candlelight Service
11:00 Candlelight Service

Friday, December 25

**Christmas Day
Office closed**

Saturday, December 26

6:00 Alternative Worship
Next Sunday, December 27
1st Sunday after Christmas

8:00 Prayer Time
8:15 Worship
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:45 Worship
12:15 SonShiners
2:00 FISH & CHIPS

***** The Church Office will be closed December 28th & 29th. *****

A SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING will be held on Sunday, January 3, 2016 after the 10:45 worship service. The sole purpose of this meeting is to approve the 2016 budget. No other business will be conducted at the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S COLLECTIONS: The Children's Collection this week will be given to the American Red Cross. The American Red Cross exists to provide compassionate care to those in need. Our network of generous donors, volunteers and employees share a mission of preventing and relieving suffering, here at home and around the world, through five key service areas:

Disaster Relief: The Red Cross responds to approximately 70,000 disasters in the United States every year, ranging from home fires that affect a single family to hurricanes that affect tens of thousands, to earthquakes that impact millions.

Supporting America's Military Families: The Red Cross helps military members, veterans and their families prepare for, cope with, and respond to the challenges of military service. Emergency communications, training, support to wounded warriors and veterans, and access to community resources help an average of 150,000 military families and veterans annually.

Lifesaving Blood: Your donations of blood are what make the American Red Cross the largest single supplier of blood and blood products in the U.S. Each year, nearly 4 million people donate blood through the Red Cross, helping to provide more than 40% of America's blood supply.

Health and Safety Services: The Red Cross is the nation's leading provider of health and safety courses, such as CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard training. Each year, more than 9 million Americans participate in our training programs, including first responders, educators, babysitters, and people who want to be prepared to help others in an emergency.

International Services: The American Red Cross is part of the world's largest humanitarian network with 13 million volunteers in 187 countries. Working together, we help respond to disasters, build safer communities, and teach the rules of war. Each year, we reach an average of more than 100 million people across the globe.

"Salvation Army Red Kettle Fund" 12/13 - \$202.52

<http://www.redcross.org/what-we-do>

THE UPPER ROOM: The January/February issue of the Upper Room is now available in both regular and large print. Start your year off right with a daily meditation with the Lord. Pick one up today.

ANGEL TREE All donations are due back to church on today. Angel tree gifts should be wrapped with the angel tag attached. If you haven't returned your gifts today, please call Missy Davis (724-863-9758) to let her know. Thank you for helping.

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. Envelopes marked "Staff Christmas" are in the pews. Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

DIRECTORY PICTURES: Please sign up to have your picture family or individual picture taken for the directory. The sign-up list is on a cork board in the narthex. Those having pictures taken today should come to the front of the sanctuary after each service. If you have not signed-up, but wish to have your picture taken today, you may do so. Please wait until those who registered have had their pictures taken.

"HANDS TO WORK, HEARTS TO GOD" – Please note, the "Hands to work, Hearts to God" quilt rack can be found in the Little Parlor/Comfort Room (near the Pastor's office) during this Christmas Season. Please feel free to take a prayer scarf, quilt, or shawl for your loved one(s) who may need a touch of love & comfort.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DARTBALL TEAM! The American League (the league FUMC is a part of) won the All Star Games. For more information on the Dartball team, contact Alan Painter.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S PLAY AT THE 5:30 SERVICE: If your child has a part that requires a costume, I will be handing them out after the Sunday School hour today right outside of the Sunday School classrooms. *We will have one rehearsal directly following the 10:45 service today* We are still in need of children to fill a few more parts. Please see me in the Sunday School wing if you would like to be a part of the play this year! Thank you! Lisa O'Reilly

**Healing Hearts at Wounded Knee
Western PA participates in this Global Wide Ceremony
Tuesday, December 29, 2015
6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
August Wilson Center for African American Culture
980 Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222**

All are welcome to participate in this sacred ceremony led by indigenous brothers and sisters as we “bring our wounds out of denial and work together to heal them hand in hand, heart to heart, invoking the sacred to be with us as we walk down this deeply compassionate reverential road together.” Such healing enables us to be open to next steps we may take that our world may be more just. Arising from inspiration from Indigenous peoples, we seek to connect hearts, minds, and hands with others around the globe in the uniting of all peoples, all communities, and all nations in a series of World Wide Global Ceremonies: Ceremonies to heal massacre, heal holocaust, heal racism, and heal the deepest, most heartfelt, soul wrenching wounds of humanity throughout time.”

The date of December 29, 2015 has been chosen for these ceremonies because it is the 125th anniversary of the “Massacre at Wounded Knee”. (www.healingheartsatwoundedknee.com)

The Pgh Design Team includes: Miguel Sague, Naomi Bowyer, Dezrea D’Alessandro, Johnny Creed Coe, Neil Straub, Glenna Wilson, Kelly Smith, Dawn Hargraves, Bobbie Williams, Tom Menditto, William Meekins, Jr. and Bob Wilson

This event is being sponsored by the Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee of the Western Pa Conference of the United Methodist Church.

For more information contact Bob Wilson at a49always@gmail.com or 412.559.1589.

**Longest Night/ Blue Christmas Worship Service
December 21, 2015**

A Longest Night/Blue Christmas Worship Service will be held in our sanctuary on Monday, 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.

NEW CHRISTMAS TREES NEEDED FOR THE SANCTUARY

The 9-foot Christmas trees in our sanctuary look beautiful as always. However, they were erected this year with tape and a lot of prayer! They will 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.

2016 CALENDARS: There are 2016 calendars on the table in the Narthex. Our church information and worship service hours are printed on the cover. We thank Ott's Funeral Home for their generosity in having them printed for our church.

“UNHANGING” OF THE GREENS: 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”.

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.

NEED SOME LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFTS? There are still some homemade gifts on display in front of Pastor David's office. If you'd like to purchase any, place your money in the envelope provided on the table and deposit it in the church door slot. Mark the envelope “Talents Sale”.

The Finance Committee thanks everyone that supported the Gifts of the Talents Sale on December 6th. Our sales totaled \$304.50. Look for more events happening in the upcoming months! You can use your talents to give back to the church in the coming year. Think of how you can be a part of this ministry!

“GIFTS IN A JAR” – There are “Gifts in a Jar” soups, chili & more from our Seed Money Project in the Assembly Room by the Pastor's office. Please use the provided envelopes for your gift donation and place it in the church office mail slot. Checks may be made out to Irwin “FUMC”, with a note in the memo section “Seed Money Project – Gifts in a Jar.” Thank you.
