



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 27, 2015

First Sunday after Christmas

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 **“He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child”**

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Holy, loved children of God, put on compassion and kindness this day.

P: **Wrapped in the garment of love, we gather to worship God.**

L: Holy, loved children of God, with humility clothe yourselves in gentleness, and patience.

P: **Wrapped in the garment of love, we gather as the family of God.**

L: Holy, loved children of God, bring you gratitude and your joy to worship.

P: **Wrapped in the garment of love, we gather to sing praise to God.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of wisdom and grace, may your Spirit grow within us, that we may grow in wisdom and truth all the days of our lives. Teach us your ways, that we may walk the path of Christ and lead others into your light.

Clothe us, gracious God, with compassion and kindness, with humility and gentleness, that others may see in us the truth of your love. Bind us together in love and unity, that our church may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace. Amen

***HYMN OF PRAISE No. 246**

“Joy to the World”

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 “Touched by a Child” - Connie Bickerstaff

10:45 “Touched by a Child” - Chancel Choir

RESPONSIVE READING No. 861

Psalm 148

PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “On Christmas Day in the Morning”

***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**

Gracious God, we praise you for the greatest gift, salvation in your Son Jesus. In him, we find deep and abiding joy. As we dedicate our offerings, we devote ourselves to your service. Help us to live faithfully, growing in wisdom in the light of the miracle of Christmas. Thank you for giving us opportunities to bring tidings of joy to our neighbors through the ministries of this congregation. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER HYMN No. 249 “There’s a Song in the Air”

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) Colossians 3:12-17**

MESSAGE

***HYMN OF PARTING No. 251 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”**

***BENEDICTION**

***MUSIC OF PARTING “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

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

We express our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of:

Dolores Steck who passed away on Wednesday, December 16th.
Marie Zavora who passed away on Wednesday, December 16th.

May God’s comfort and strength be with these families.

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

Today, 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

Monday, December 28
Office closed

Tuesday, December 29
Office closed

7:30 NA
Wednesday, December 30
Office closes at noon

Thursday, December 31
Office closes at noon

Friday, January 1
New Years Day
Office closed

Saturday, January 2
6:00 Alternative Worship

Next Sunday, January 3
Epiphany Sunday
8:00 Prayer Time
8:15 Worship
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:45 Worship
12:15 Church Council Meeting
12:30 Choir Christmas Party
2:00 FISH & CHIPS

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.

“American Red Cross” 12/20 - \$

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

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.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: Two attendants are needed each Sunday to look after the children, ages 0 – 5 years (some a little older), so that their parents may enjoy the 10:45 AM worship service. It is not necessary for you to be in the nursery every week. With several volunteers available, there is a rotating schedule so you may only be in the nursery a few time throughout the year unless you request to be there more often.

Volunteers working with children in our church are required by law to have clearances on file in the church office. The forms are on the desk in the office and there is no charge for volunteers. If you are interested in helping as a Nursery attendant, either on a regular basis or just to fill in when someone can't be here, or have any further questions, please contact Kim Platt at 724-863-6838.

“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.

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.

DIRECTORY PICTURES: We will continue taking pictures for the new directory today and next week (January 3) after each worship service. If you attend church here, even if you are not a member, please have your picture taken so that everyone can know your name. If you know someone who is a member, but who cannot attend worship right now (illness, military service, school, etc.) please let Dianne Runser know who they are so arrangements can be made.

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.

“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.

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.