



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642

724-863-6858

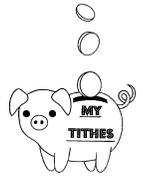
www.irwinfirstumc.org

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 4, 2016

2nd Sunday in Advent

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 "Fullness of Grace"

***CALL TO WORSHIP No. 208 Canticle of Zechariah**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who has come to set the chosen people free.

**The Lord has raised up for us
a mighty Savior from the house of David.**

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all who hate us;

**to show mercy to our forebears
and to remember the holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship without fear,

holy and righteous in the Lord's sight,

all the days of our life. R

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

to give God's people knowledge of salvation

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

and to guide our feet into the way of peace. R

***HYMN No. 213** “Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates”

ADVENT READING

WREATH LIGHTERS:

8:15 – Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kirsch

10:45 – Peggy Kooser & Bettie Heydt

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 given to Shop with a Cop. Please see the announcement for more details.)

ANTHEM 8:15 “Come Again Emmanuel”

Connie Bickerstaff & Dianne Runser

10:45 “Come Again Emmanuel” – Chancel Choir

WORD OF GOD Isaiah 11:1-10

PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

***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. 204** “Emmanuel”

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 3:1-12

SERMON “Peace”

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION II

THE INVITATION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SACRAMENT

All are welcome. Please follow the directions of the ushers.

***HYMN No. 196** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

***BENEDICTION**

***MUSIC OF PARTING** “Variations of ‘Hyfrydol’”

*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 – Connie Fontana & Barbara Ceresa

10:45 – Lee Stewart & Burnetta Green

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 Lori Loughner & Lindsay Smith.

ADVENT REFRESHMENTS AFTER SERVICES BY:

8:15 – The Ed Brown Family

10:45 - Peggy Kooser & Marilyn Roche

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, any receipts for items that you may 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 8th the 2016 financial records will be closed and all credits will go toward the 2017.

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

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

Today, Sunday, December 4

2nd Sunday in Advent

Communion

Consecration Sunday

8:00 Prayer Time

8:15 Worship

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Worship

12:15 SonShiners

Monday, December 5

7:00 Dartball - Home

Tuesday, December 6

6:15 TOPS

7:00 Outreach

7:30 NA

Thursday, December 8

6:15 C Bells

7:15 Choir

Friday, December 9

9:00 Food Bank Truck

Help needed

Gym closed

Saturday, December 10

9:00 Food Bank

Help needed

6:00 Alternative Worship

Next Sunday, December 11

3rd 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

CHILDREN'S COLLECTIONS: This week our children's collection will be for the *Shop with a Cop* program. Our area *Shop with a Cop* program is coordinated every year by Trooper Steven Limani, community service officer with the Pennsylvania State Police at Greensburg. *Shop with a Cop* pairs children with police officers for a shopping spree, with each child being given a designated amount of money to purchase Christmas gifts. Children who take part in the program are recommended, usually by police officers, because they have been involved in difficult or tragic circumstances. This program gives the kids a chance to see the police officers in a different light ... in a more positive way.

The program is made possible through fundraising efforts, donations and community contributions. 100% of all contributions to *Shop with a Cop* are used to purchase gifts for the children.

You can read about the 2014 *Shop with a Cop* program in the following articles from the Tribune Review”:

<http://triblive.com/neighborhoods/yourscottdale/7367796-74/police-mart-pleasant#ixzz3iha8OzMF>

<http://triblive.com/news/westmoreland/7366111-74/police-shop-state#ixzz3ihVP9Adz>

Baby Allison Frick” 11/20 - \$258.25 11/27 - \$133.15

CONSECRATION SUNDAY - "GIVING FIRST TO GOD"

Thank you for the giving of your prayers, your presence, your witness, your gifts and your service! We are a blessed congregation because we are a joyful, generous congregation! *Giving First to God* throughout the new year will allow us to seek God's will for the work of First UM! We are called to use our gifts for the good of others. "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)



Your financial pledge card for 2017 can be brought to the chancel rail today when you partake of communion. If you forgot to bring your card, there are additional pledge cards on the table in the narthex. Cards can also be mailed to the church or dropped in the office door slot. By responding with your pledge, our church budget can be figured more accurately for each committee and ministry that we're involved with. A signed card fulfills your covenant. Let's get 100% of our cards returned!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING AND OUR CHURCH IS RINGING IN THE SEASON!!! Mark your calendars to participate in ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Tuesday, December 13th from 10 AM to 8 PM in front of the Giant Eagle store in North Huntingdon. Our kettle will be on the Kohl's side of the GE entrance. Sign the paper in the narthex, or the on the clip board as it is passed around, as to what hour of the day you'd like to participate! It's a great way to give of your time so others may receive!

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

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

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: The United Methodist Women would like to thank the church family for the wonderful response for the shoe boxes. We were overwhelmed but not surprised. We were able to fill 50 boxes, pay for postage, and have a start on items for next year. That is awesome and we are truly blessed! We paid the postage on line so we will be able to track our boxes. We will keep you all posted about where you were able to touch lives. Again thank you so much.

OUR DAILY BREAD: The new *Our Daily Bread* for December/January/February is available on the Narthex table. This daily devotional is free. Donations are accepted and can be placed in a pew envelope marked "Our Daily Bread." These make great stocking stuffers!

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.

HAPPY METHODIST GROUP: Our Happy Methodist Group will meet at Lakeview Lounge in Greensburg for lunch on Thursday, December 8th at 1:00 PM. Anyone who is interested in going is asked to call Shirley McCune at 724-527-2497 or Dot Depp at 724-863-0351.

CAMP NEWS... Looking for the perfect gift to give your child or grandchild this Christmas? Camp Gift Certificates make a great gift and can be purchased through any of the three camps in any amount! With the cost of summer camp increasing, this gift card can be applied to their registration or used at the camp store while they are there. Many new friends and memories are made at camp every year! It's a gift that keeps on giving! Contact Wesley Woods, Camp Allegheny or Jumonville by phone or visit their website for information.

Questions, contact Laurie Saporito, Camp Steward at 724-864-5649 or cts72@hotmail.com

"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.

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.

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.

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

**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

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

ANGEL TREE The Outreach Committee has put up the Angel Tree for Christmas 2016. 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 hearts 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 18th. Angel tree gifts should be wrapped with the angel tag attached. Thank you for helping. Any questions, please contact Missy Davis (724-863-9758).

**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.



We Andrisons ~ Mike, Deb, Missy and Michael invite you to a concert of praise and worship. We are a part of the Living Christmas Tree which will be held at Pricedale Union Church on December 9, 10 & 11 at 7PM. We will be standing in a r-e-a-l-l-y large tree as we present "What a Glorious Night" by Bradley Knight.

Pricedale Union Church is located at 203 Johnson Avenue, Belle Vernon off of Route 70 exit 42A.

This free event will tune your heart to the Babe's voice. We'd love to share the experience with you.

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 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) 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

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 3rd 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 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 1:00 PM.