



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. David S. Lake – Pastor

Zaq Phillips – Youth Minister

Dianne Runser – Director of Music Ministry

December 7, 2014

Second Sunday in Advent – Communion Sunday

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 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

ADVENT READING

ALL: COME, LORD JESUS. AMEN.

ADVENT SONG

Until Jesus comes, until Jesus comes,

I'll be watching and waiting until Jesus comes.

(repeat)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: In the wilderness of our daily lives, a voice cries out: Prepare the way of the Lord.

P: Let us hear what God is saying.

L: God has shown us favor by restoring our fortunes.

P: Let us rejoice in what God is doing.

L: God rules this world with tenderness and might.

P: Let us share what God is offering.

L: The glory of the Lord will be revealed. Let all people see it and turn their hearts to God.

P: Let us proclaim what God is bringing.

L: In the wilderness of our daily lives, a voice cries out:

P: Prepare the way of the Lord!

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of endless mercy, hear our prayer: You have comforted us, you have cared for us tenderly, and you have restored our losses. Yet we wither like grass when winter winds blow upon it. We fade like cut flowers in a vase, beautiful but for a few short days. You speak to us and call us to be faithful, yet we turn away from you, choosing folly, strife, and passing pleasures. You are patient with us yet we accuse you of apathy and neglect. Forgive us, we pray. Make us mindful of our salvation through Jesus Christ, who was, and is, and is to be – the one who is eternally transforming us through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen

***HYMN OF PRAISE No. 211 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**
Children come forward during the last verse.

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

*(Our Children’s Collection this morning will be given to “Westmoreland Churches Committee for Emergency Aid.”
Please see the announcement for more details.)*

ANTHEM 8:15 - “The Glory of God”
10:45 – “The Glory of God”

PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

***DOXOLOGY “Christmas Doxology”**
“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**

O God of our salvation, we praise you, for you give us every good thing. You speak peace to our hearts. By your power, 'steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.' May we live in gratitude for our reconciliation with you through Jesus Christ your Son. Let us dedicate our selves to your service in his name. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER HYMN No. 220 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”
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

SERMON SCRIPTURE (NRSV) Mark 1:1-8

SERMON

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION II

THE INVITATION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

***HYMN OF PARTING No. 234 “O Come All Ye Faithful”**

***BENEDICTION**

***MUSIC OF PARTING “Ring Little Bells/O Come Little Children”**

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

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

Today, Sunday, December 7

2nd Sunday of Advent

Communion

8:00 Prayer Time
8:15 Worship
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship
12:00 Member Care Committee
2:00 Fellowship Night
4:45 SonShiners
6:00 Combined Youth Group

Monday, December 8

10:00 UM Women
6:00 SPRC
7:00 Charge Conference
7:00 Dartball Make-up Games

Tuesday, December 9

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

Wednesday, December 10

10:00 Staff Meeting
6:30 Good Grief
7:00 Women's Book Study
7:00 Yoga

Thursday, December 11

6:15 C Bells
7:00 Disciple
7:15 Choir

Friday, December 12

9:00 Food Bank Truck – Help Needed
Gym in use

Saturday, December 13

9:30 Food Bank – Help Needed
12:00 Bell Concert at Ramada Inn, Greensburg
6:00 Alternative Worship

Next Sunday, December 14

3rd Sunday of Advent

Coffee Hour

8:00 Prayer Time
8:15 Worship
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship
No FISH & CHIPS
4:00 Temple Bells
4:45 SonShiners
7:00 Irwin Male Chorus Concert

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHILDREN'S COLLECTION this week will be given to the "*Westmoreland Churches Committee for Emergency Aid.*" This organization, based out of Level Green Presbyterian Church, was started to help people who are poor, elderly, or disadvantaged and fall through the cracks of our caring and helping systems in Westmoreland County. While we still have our Pastor's Discretionary Fund (PDF) to help those in our church, this organization allows Pastor David to refer those who are disadvantaged in our community to a caring organization to help them with their needs.

Foodbank: 11/23 - \$300.00

11/30 – \$215.85

THE IRWIN MALE CHORUS will be presenting their 2014 Christmas Concert at our church on Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 PM. There is no admission fee. An offering will be collected to defray chorus expenses. Please invite everyone you know to attend. There will be a reception following the concert. Cookies are needed. You may bring cookies Sunday morning or Sunday evening. Please mark them "Male Chorus" and take them to the kitchen.

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 bulletin. Additional envelopes are on the table in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

RADA Cutlery Orders are in! If you’ve placed an order, you can pick up your bag in the church office after either service. The Finance Committee thanks you for supporting this fundraiser! A profit of \$378.72 was made!

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTERS: We still need families to light the advent wreath candles at the 8:15 AM service on December 14 and 21 and at he 5:30 and 11:00 PM services on Christmas Eve. The sign-up sheet will be passed through the congregation during worship. If you do not get the sheet and still wish to volunteer, please come see Dianne at the organ.

ANGEL TREE: The Outreach committee is sponsoring our Angel tree and food bags. Please take an Angel from the tree and sign up on our food list to bring in something to help these families for Christmas dinner. The Angels have suggestions for items to buy with a limit of \$25.00 for toys. *The angels & gifts need to be returned no later than Dec. 16th, wrapped with the Angel taped to the outside. The food items need to be returned by Dec.21st. Please put refrigerated items put in Coffee Room fridge.*

DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP NIGHT - GINGERBREAD HOUSES! Come build a Gingerbread House on Sunday, December 7th, at 2:00 pm downstairs in the gym! Bring your own goodies to decorate with, and a bag to share. We will not be sharing a meal this time, but there will be a few snacks to share.

THE HAPPY METHODIST GROUP will hold their Christmas lunch on Friday, December 19th at 1:00 PM at Lakeview Lounge in Greensburg.

BASKETS: Baskets are still available in the assembly room outside Pastor David's office for a self-service sale. Envelops are provided for payment which may be placed in the office door mail slot. Proceeds will be divided between the Rick Simms Mission Work Trip, Outreach, and Mission share. **Why not do "double good" and purchase an item for the Angel Tree?** Thank you for helping us help others!

Coming soon...Sunday, December 14th
Gifts from the Talents Sale!

On Sunday, November 16th you were encouraged to take “seed money” from the altar and to use your talents/gifts to increase its value with a goal of returning it to the church. We will be having a sale outside the pastor’s office on December 14th where you can sell or purchase some homemade gifts or ideas that you’ve created. (You may want to do some Christmas shopping that day!) Members of the Finance Committee will be available to help with this sale following both services. Pray about how you and your family can participate this day by using the talents that God has given you!





LONGEST NIGHT/ BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE DECEMBER 21, 2014

A *Longest Night/Blue Christmas Worship Service* will be held in our sanctuary on Sunday, December 21 at 6:30 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.

