

CHURCH FINANCES as of October 2022

September Income \$22,156.17
September Expenses \$31,725.17
Month Ending **-9,569.00**

October Income \$28,243.65
October Expense \$17,878.15
Month Ending **\$10,365.50**

November Income \$24,553.46
November Expense \$36,646.42
Month Ending **-12,092.96**

At the End of **November**, we are at a

Negative \$-12,092.96 (BUDGET VS ACTUAL)

Year to Date we are at a **Positive \$812.44 (INCOME VS EXPENSE)**

“Raise the Roof” Campaign
balance as of December 15, 2022, is
\$14,980.54

THE CHURCH AND ITS OFFICE RUNS TRANSPARENT, IF ANYONE HAS QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT FINANCES REACH OUT TO THE OFFICE MANAGER. YOU CAN REACH HER BY - STOPPING IN THE OFFICE DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS WHICH ARE MONDAY – FRIDAY FROM 10-2, BY CALLING HER AT 724-863-4977 OR BY EMAIL AT joyce.shaffer@irwinfirstumc.org.



First United Methodist Church

310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642

724-863-6858

www.irwinfirstumc.org

office@irwinfirstumc.org Like us on Facebook

Rev. Bruce R. Judy, Pastor - 724-747-6098 (call or text)

Dianne Runser - Music Ministries

Ronald Slavin - Youth Ministries

Laura Willby - Contemporary Music Coordinator

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Memory Verse - Psalm 150:6

“Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Amen.”

GATHERING & WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

MOMENTS OF INFORMALITY

THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

8:15 a.m. “The First Nowell”

10:45 a.m. “There’s a Song in the Air”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Today we worship Jesus Christ.

P: Praise the name of Jesus.

L: Today we worship Emmanuel, God with us.

P: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

L: Come, let us bow down and worship our Savior.

P: Praise the name of Jesus.

*HYMN No. 2069 "All Hail, King Jesus"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH 8:15 a.m. - Bryan Family
10:45 a.m. - Sandy Daugherty, Erin and Alexandria Brentzel

*HYMN No. 211 (vs. 2) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

CHILDREN'S CHAT

CHILDREN'S OFFERING
The Children's Offering for the month of December will be going to a local mission.

BAPTISMS 10:45 a.m. - Alyssa Bazala, Michael Long, Ashton Comunal, Giovanni Comunal, June Long, Elsa Long, MiaBella Long

SPECIAL MUSIC "Angels Sing (Medley)" - Chancel Choir

WORD OF GOD *Romans 1:1-7*

PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERING

*OFFERTORY 8:15 a.m. "Look Towards the Manger"
10:45 a.m. "As I Hold Him" - Sophia Platt

*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

*HYMN No. 242 "Love Came Down at Christmas"

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

*GOSPEL READING *Matthew 1:18-25*

SERMON "What is Your Purpose in Life?"

*HYMN No. 240 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*BENEDICTION

*MUSIC OF PARTING "The Gallery Carol"



Altar Flowers The flowers on the altar are in honor of God's grace.



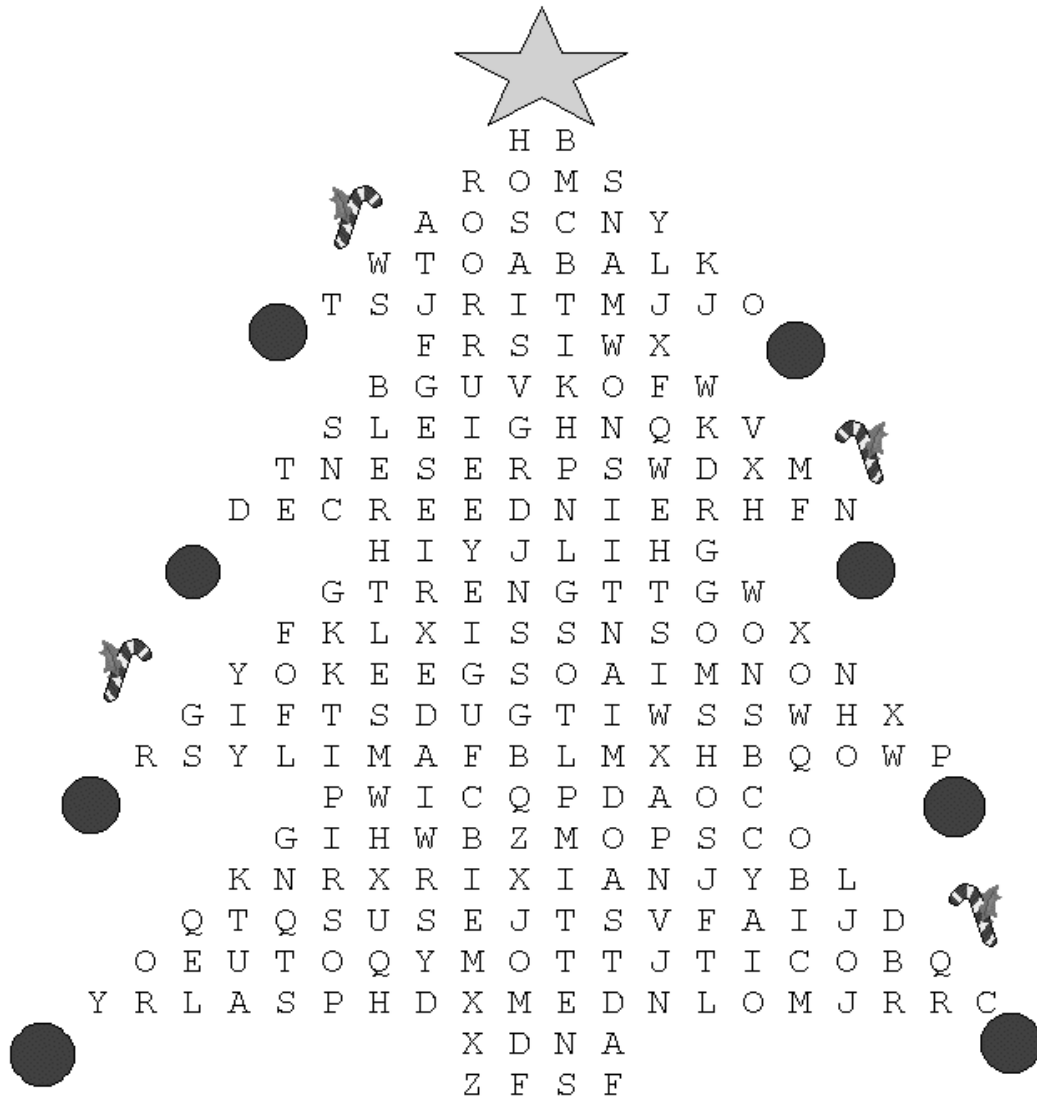
ASSISTING WITH TODAY'S SERVICE
Worship Host - Robbyn Slavin
Music Leader - David Lyons

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK AT FUMC
Saturday Evening - 12
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. - 60 10:45 a.m. - 88
Facebook, YouTube, Zoom - 15

* PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 18



CHRISTMAS
 JESUS
 FAMILY
 SANTA
 GIFTS

SLEIGH
 REINDEER
 PRESENT
 WINTER
 COLD

SNOW
 SNOWMAN
 SING
 MITTENS
 BOOTS
 SCARF



Welcome to the final Sunday before we commemorate Christ's coming. Helping us visualize history's pivotal event, are three scenes capturing the characters' continued quest towards a meeting with God in the flesh. Represented are shepherds which were keeping watch. There are some scholars who believe that these particular shepherds kept a specific kind of flock which would be populated by the sheep

earmarked for temple use. Based on the area referenced, it is quite possible that sacrificial lambs grazed there. Interesting. Bethlehem's topography was hilly. The town perched on the slopes and was surrounded by what many of us would call scrub land. We hear the phrase, "watching their flocks by night", and imagine green fields like we have here. The shepherds worked their flocks back and forth over patches of vegetation sprouting from the sandy rock soil. Forage called for moving the sheep from area to area quite frequently. Many of the fields were terraced and divided by rock walls which helped contain the large flocks comprised of hundreds of sheep. It was the shepherds' duty to keep their flock intact, protect it from predators and guide it to market. Fleece and milk were commodities which the shepherd used to sustain his group. Once safely within the grazing area of the large enclosures, shepherds would spend the night draped across any openings in order to keep unknown visitors away. In a few days, those men would indeed be awakened by visitors . . . angels. We also see Mary & Joseph's arrival in Bethlehem and search for accommodations. The mass of humanity and animals was chaotic. Mary and Joseph wended their way through narrow streets clogged with stress-filled people in search of a safe spot to rest. Bethlehem was not equipped to deal with the influx. Culturally the Hebrews would extend hospitality to visitors by inviting them in. The typical dwelling housed the family's animals on the first floor. The second floor was where the family resided. It was common for structures to have stairs to the rooftops which is the place where visiting folks were invited to utilize this upper room. Those spots were a no go for Mary & Joseph who continued to search for respite. Our third scene is a moment captured from the odyssey of the wise men. They were still some distance from Bethlehem and studied to understand the meaning of the star which beaconed. God was drawing them all to an encounter which would change the world.



Staff Appreciation Love Offering: As a result of all their hard work and dedication, Irwin First United Methodist Church continues to provide 43 ministries to Irwin and the surrounding communities. Every single day, they inspire us in their support with the mission of this Church. You can join us by showing your support with a staff appreciation "love offering" by using the enclosed envelope. The staff consists of (in no particular order): Dianne Runser, Robbyn Slavin, Laura Willby, Josh Burger, Joyce Shaffer, Alyssa Bazala, Jj Weber, Ed Bogle, David Lyons, and Rue Redman.

- Multiple Ushers are needed. If you are interested in being an Usher, please reach out to the office. 724 863 6858.
- Flower sponsors are needed, contact Alice Hubert or the church office to get flowers for on the altar.
- Friendly reminder to please return the green vases to the church office after picking up your altar flowers.

Blue Christmas Service

For anyone grieving the loss of a loved one or anyone that finds the holidays a tough time, please come join us.

When: Wednesday, December 21, 2022
At 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.



SALVATION ARMY DIRECT NUMBER - 724-331-7832. If you know of anyone in need of our services please do not hesitate to call.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES STARTING

Children 12 and up

When: Sunday, January 8th, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

If you are interested or have questions please reach out to Ron or Robbyn Slavin or more details.

Join us to Celebrate
Our Savior's Birth!
Christmas Eve:
Contemporary Candlelight Service | 5 PM
*Gather with us to enjoy Worship, Music, & Refreshments
in the Gymnasium of the Church*
Traditional Candlelight Services | 7PM & 11 PM
Christmas Day:
Worship | 10 AM

 **First United
Methodist Church**
Irwin, Pa
God Loves you and so do We!

310 Oak St | Irwin, PA
(724) 863-6858

THIS WEEK AT IRWIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Feel free to contact Pastor Bruce at any time if you are in need of pastoral care.
His contact information is as follows: 724-747-6098 (call or text) -
preacherptl@gmail.com

Sunday, December 18

8:15 a.m. - Worship Service
10:45 a.m. - Worship Service

Cookie pickup

Monday, December 19

9:00 a.m. - Nativity
6:30 p.m. - Cub Scouts

Tuesday, December 20

6:00 p.m. - Basketball
7:30 p.m. - NA

Wednesday, December 21

8:00 a.m. - Senior Activity Center
10:00 a.m. - Quality Control Meeting (Staff Christmas party)
7:00 p.m. - Blue Christmas Service
7:00 p.m. - Zoom Prayer Group Meeting
Zoom Meeting ID#: 311 4389 930, Password: 3U22u3
7:00 p.m. - AA

Thursday, December 22

8:00 a.m. - Senior Activity Center
6:00 p.m. - Basketball
6:30 p.m. - NA

Friday, December 23

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. - Contemporary Service
7:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service
11:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25

10:00 a.m. - Christmas Day Worship Service

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



HOSPITAL CALLS AND VISITS - If you or someone you know is in the hospital or would like a visit from Pastor Bruce, please call the office or you may call/message Pastor Bruce directly at 724-747-6098. *Remember, Pastor Bruce cannot provide care to our congregation if he does not know there is a need.*



IN PERSONAL CARE AND REHABILITATION FACILITIES

Wanda H. - Walden View; Mary Greene & James R., Sr. - St. Anne's Home, Greensburg; Altozoe S. - Hempfield Manor.

CONTINUOUS PRAYER

William S., Baby Franklin R., Tim F., Joyce T., John D., Ed b., Teagan S., Renee, Judy, Heather, Kristi R., Barbara G., Terry and Deb Y., Diana M., John D., Mike P., Kate G., Cindy M., Ed D., Betty Jo M., Eric S., Kathy S., Floyd, Rose D., Connie P., Jane, Rob F., Renee E., Finn, Sandy D., Connie B., Sandye C., Daryl S., Jamie, Peg and Lamont, Pat C., Marlene W., Al M., Jennifer H., Lilly, Ronnie L., Gary E., Molly A., Mary and Dan G., Maria B., Ed B., Jonathan and Felicia W., Bob and Judie M., Dorothy A., Patti W., Josh A., Donna W., Vi N., Sandy L., Linda K., Larry R., Jule K., Mark L., Brent L., Kurt W. & Family, Cheryl and John M., Tim and Diane N., Rick H., Marlin A. and Nancy P., Joe S., Joe L., Virginia, Jennifer N., Curt E., Valerie M., Jeff M., Donna H., John B., Dean and Dorothy, Rose N., Sara C., Fred and Barb S., Mischa and Suzanne S., Diane B., John G., Noah C., Craig C., Red, Dawn, Amy P., Chuck K., Pat M., Ashley, Stu S., Shawn S., Christa L., Rhonda, Beverly and Tom D., Laura, Dave W., Kim V., Dorothy A., Iva Lou B., Jackie S., Lesley K., Debbie N., Cliff R., Penny and Jerry M., Ron M., Father John Moineau, Shirley B., Brandon G. and **Missionaries:** Bob & Natalie F. and Family (India), John and Diane K. (Mexico) and Connie Wieck.

THIS MONTH'S PRAYER LIST

We will change the prayer list the first Sunday of each month. Please contact the church office with names for the list.

Rita, Michael and Stephanie G., Bella D., Steve J., Neil and Alma, our world, Military and First Responders, our Country and Leaders, job situations and those traveling.

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Joe P., William R., Tanner G., Tim N., Brandon D., Colby S., Angelo W., Nicholas P., David J., Amanda M., James G., Emery M., Makayla L., Mark R., Sara D., Jeremy L., Carl B., Dylan A., Thomas C. and Edward J. III.

THE *Wonder* OF
CHRISTMAS



Every year we are asked to provide the Director of Connectional Ministries and the Leadership Recruitment and Nominations Team with a list of both clergy and laity who are willing to give of their time to serve on a variety of conference committees. Once again, I am writing this year to ask that if you are willing and interested in serving on any of the committees and boards listed, or if any of the laity in your congregations are willing to serve, to please send me names and contact information no later than December 23, 2022.

The following committees and boards have openings:

Conference Connectional Leadership Team, Connectional Nurture Ministries Team, Connectional Outreach Ministries Team, Connectional Witness Ministries Team, Archives and History, Camping and Retreats Ministries Corporations, Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, Church and Society, Communications, Conference Rules Team, Conference Sessions Team: Implementation Task Team (for information only), Arrangements Sub-Team, Legislative Sub-Team, Program Sub-Team, Children and Youth Sub-Team, Disability Concerns, Discipleship, Episcopacy, Equitable Compensation, Ethnic Local Church Concern, Native American Ministry Sub-team, Anti-Racism Team, Evangelism, Council on Finance and Administration, Global Ministries, Higher Education and Campus Ministries, Conference Board of Laity, Leadership Recruitment and Nominations Team, Board of Ordained Ministry, Parish and Community Development, Pensions, Personnel Team, Poverty Team, Religion and Race, Commission on Status and Role of Women, Trustees United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, Council on Young Adult Ministry, Conference Council on Youth Ministry, At The Lake Ministries, All of our Conference Boards of Directors

Please announce this in your worship services and include this information in your bulletins so that interested individuals would be able to inform you of their willingness to serve. Thank you for your attention to this much needed ministry and service to the annual conference.

Blessings and thank you again,

Rev. Paul E. Ritchey
Greensburg District Superintendent,
(724) 461-7178 Office
(724) 599-7930 Cell

Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church



Hello pastors, churches, admins, and Liz,

The Greensburg District's Anti-Racism Team is once again hosting a Martin Luther King Jr service on January 15, 2023 at 4pm at Monroeville UMC. This year we are hoping to increase attendance and we need your help. Below is short write-up about the event and our guest speaker, Dr. Cynthia A. Bond Hopson, along with a flyer.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would add this information to your newsletter, bulletin, message wall, bulletin board, or any other way you share information with your congregation. If you think of anything else that would be helpful to share please let me know!

Thank you,
Patty Boyer
Greensburg District Administrative Assistant

The Greensburg District of the WPAUMC invites you to the annual Martin Luther King Jr Service on January 15, 2023, at 4:00 pm at Monroeville United Methodist Church, 219 Center Road, Monroeville PA 15146

Our featured speaker is the gifted and dynamic Dr. Cynthia A. Bond Hopson. Dr. Bond Hopson is Chief Equity Officer and Assistant General Secretary of the Black College Fund (BCF) at the United Methodist Church's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in Nashville, TN where she lives.

She received a B.A. in Mass Communications from Clark College; an M.S. in Journalism from Murray (KY) State University, and a Ph.D. in Journalism from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

Dr. Bond Hopson is the author of eight books including the marriage devotion *I Do... Everyday: Wisdom for Newlyweds and Not-So Newlyweds*, co-authored with her late husband Rev. Roger A. Hopson. Read her blog, listen to her podcast, and stay connected with her at www.drbondhopson.com

Dr. Bond Hopson will inspire us to live into the values of being prophets and offer ourselves to transform our communities and world.

All are welcome to attend the special service on January 15, 2023, at 4:00 pm at Monroeville UMC, 219 Center Road, Monroeville, PA 15146.

[2023 MLK Service Blurb WORD format](#)

[2023 MLK Service flyer, PDF format](#)

[2023 MLK Service flyer, png format](#)

The Greensburg District
307 Freeport St
Delmont PA 15626
724-461-7178