



Merry Christmas

*God bless each and everyone of us*



# Christmas Eve

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C A N D L E L I G H T  
S E R V I C E

**First United Methodist Church**

310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642

724-863-6858

[www.irwinfirstumc.org](http://www.irwinfirstumc.org)

[office@irwinfirstumc.org](mailto: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 24, 2022**

**Christmas Eve**

**December Memory Verse - Psalm 150:6**

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

***The service is under the control of the Holy Spirit.***

***\*Please stand if you are able.***

**GATHERING & WELCOME**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**      7:00 p.m. - The Slavin Family  
11:00 p.m. - The Andrison Family

**MUSIC OF PREPARATION**

7:00 p.m. “Come, Let Us Worship Him” Chancel Choir

11:00 p.m. “The Gift of Christmas”

**MEMORY VERSE**

**Psalm 150:6**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Psalm 96:1-2**

L: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

P: Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation  
day after day.

**\*HYMN NO. 220**

**“Angels from the Realms of Glory”**

**1st READING**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

**HOMILY**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**7:00 p.m. - “Away in a Manger” - Temple Chimes**

**11:00 p.m. - Hymn No. 217 “Away in a Manger”**

**PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**    “Sing We Now of Christmas” - Katrina Bryan, Handbells

**\*ADVENT 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**

**2nd READING**

**Titus 2:11-14**

**HOMILY**

**ANTHEM**

**“Ave Maria” - David Lyons**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**3rd READING**

**Luke 2:1-14**

**HOMILY**

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

**\*HYMN NO. 239**

**“Silent Night, Holy Night”**

**TOLLING THE CHRISTMAS BELL**

**BENEDICTION**

**\*MUSIC OF PARTING**

**“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”**

## Christmas truce of 1914

The Christmas truce is one of history's most inspiring moments. The men who fought and died in the war over 100 years ago, thousands of British, Belgian and French soldiers put down their weapons, stepped out of the trenches and spent Christmas mingling with their German enemies along the western front. No one knows the exact details that took place, where it began, how it spread or if it was caused by some festive magic. Around 100,000 people are believed to have participated in the legendary truce.

The initial force behind the truce is thought to come from the Germans singing carols and placing Christmas trees along the trenches. Men from opposing sides shook hands, exchanged small "gifts" and played games such as soccer together. The Christmas truce also allowed both sides to finally bury their dead comrades, whose bodies had lain for weeks on "no man's land", the ground between opposing trenches.

As we look back on this absolute Christmas miracle, if a wee babe in a manger can stop a world war for one night; and give thousands of men just a sliver of happiness that they so rightfully deserved, just imagine what he could do for you!



# POINSETTIAS 2022

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642  
724-863-6858



**IN MEMORY OF:**

Loved ones

Our parents: Charles and June Weber,  
Don and Grace Hansel

Howard and Alice Brant

Pro Daugherty

Jack, Mary and Chuckie Drylie

My husband, Bob

Our Parents and Grandson,  
Samuel J. Judy

Linda Boch

Mr. and Mrs. William Weaver

Loved Ones in Heaven

Chuck, my mom, my brother

Our loved ones that have joined  
the Church eternal

Our mothers

Ronald L. Mowery

Loved ones

Paul Bittner

John, Joel, Leroy and Peg

Carol Rubright

Edward and Louis Slavin

Joan Jaskolski and Skeeter Grant

**GIVEN BY:**

Dianne and Fritz Runser

John and Donna Weber

Jacob and Julia

Sandy Daugherty

Rosemary Drylie

Alice Hubert

Rev. Bruce and Bonnie Judy

Georganne and Jim Morgan

Bob and Debbie Weaver

Peggy Kooser

Toni Fetter

John and Darlene Simpson

Bill and Bobbi Schaefer

Catherine and family

Terry and Debbie Yarlett

Bittner family

Lee Stewart

Sherry Gombos

Ron and Robbyn

Dan and Debbie Grant

**IN HONOR OF:**

Our Children John P Weber Jr.  
Dawn Capecci

Denise and Anne Downer

Sons and grandson, Jaxon

Our Loved ones

God

Mr. and Mrs. William Fishel

Jerry and Patsy Hood

**GIVEN BY:**

John and Donna Weber

Georganne and Jim Morgan

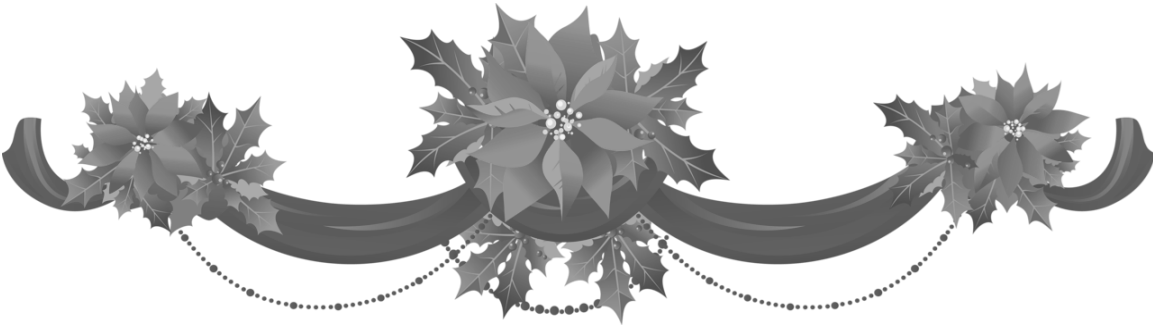
Toni Fetter

Alice Hubert

Rev. Bruce and Bonnie Judy

Bob and Debbie Weaver  
and Family

Ron and Robbyn



## Christmas Eve of Our Progressive Nativity Experience 2022

Can you believe it? God has come to earth. Mary & Joseph made themselves as comfortable as possible in an animal haven which was recommended by the innkeeper. Dirty. Smelly. Unclean in ways which Hebrews wouldn't embrace. Yet, here they were when Mary realized that the time had come. Her imaginings following Gabriel's visitation surely didn't include this. Mary was young and away from her support system. Delivering a baby was all the more complicated by that circumstance. And, Joseph, poor Joseph. He is often glossed over as the story is recounted. Joseph was somewhat older than his betrothed. He was an accomplished craftsman and respected businessman. Here he was in a situation for which no tools could help him. What went through his mind? How did the couple hold on to God's promise when everything was so different than had been anticipated? "Gloria in excelsis Deo !" Imagine that as a wake-up call. Tired and stiff the shepherds slept deep. Suddenly awakened by the noise and light and . . . singing? Angels? They knew their place in the hierarchy of Hebrew society. Never would they have foreseen themselves as being heralded by the heavenly host. And, to be the first to receive the Good News? That said something about God's reaching out to the least and the lost. In Him we are all treasured. And, tasked with spreading that message. The shepherds headed for Bethlehem with "wait!", "what?", on their lips as they scurried across the hillsides appraising each other in disbelief and awe.



Outside Jerusalem, the wise men came to a stop. The procession was not just three dressed up guys on camels. They'd been on the road for months. With them would be servants who were responsible for setting up tents, cooking meals and caring for the pack animals as well as the wise men's transports. It was a huge conglomeration of braying and shouting and the thunder of footfalls. We picture three kings resplendent atop docile dromedaries. In fact, desert dust and powerful aromas clung to the parade. The inquiries of the sages were brought to the attention of King Herod. A nasty ruler with a major cruel streak. Herod entertained the wise men, discovering what their mission was. He encouraged the men to find that which they were seeking and to report back with an update. The wise men continued their search. They didn't return.

