



FIRST SUNDAY OF

Advent



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

Ronald Slavin – Youth Pastor

Laura Wilby – Contemporary Music Coordinator

November 29, 2020
The First Sunday in Advent
November Memory Verse: 1 John 4:19
“We love because He first loved us.”

The service is under the control of the Holy Spirit.

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.

PRELUDE “O Come All Ye Faithful”

MOMENTS OF INFORMALITY

THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

***CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

L: ¹Give ear, O shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth! ²In the presence of Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might, and come to save us! ⁸You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

P: ³**Restore us, O God, let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

L: ⁴O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people’s prayers?

P: ⁵**You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

L: ⁶You make us the scorn of our neighbors; and our enemies laugh among themselves.

P: ⁷**Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

L: ¹⁷But let your hand be upon those of your right hand, the ones whom you have made strong for yourself!

P: ¹⁸**Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name!**

L: ¹⁹Restore us, O Lord God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

ALL: Amen

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

1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, light of all the earth thou art;
Dear Desire of ev’ry nation, joy of ev’ry longing heart.
2. Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING - THIS PLACE IS A MESS! - HOPE

8:15 John and Bernie Johnston, Mary Reed

10:45 Connie Bickerstaff, Nellie Wiancko

WREATH HYMN No. 211 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” v. 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Chorus

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

WORD OF GOD 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Thanksgiving

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Savior of the Nations, Come”

***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. 2100 “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”**

1. Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
when Thou camest to earth for me; but in Bethlehem's home
there was found no room for Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee.
2. Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang, proclaiming Thy royal degree;
but in lowly birth didst Thou Lord on earth, and in great humility.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee.

HYMN No. 2233 “Where Children Belong”

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:
This is where children belong.

CHILDREN’S CHAT

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

SERMON SCRIPTURE Mark 13:24-37

²⁴“But in those days, following that distress, ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ ²⁶At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.

³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

The Day and Hour Unknown

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. ³⁵“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

L: The Word of God for the children of God.

P: Thanks be to God

SERMON “Here He Comes!”

HYMN No. 706 “Soon and Very Soon”

- 1. Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King; soon and very soon, we are going to see the King; soon and very soon, we are going to see the King.

Chorus

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

- 2. No more dying there, we are going to see the King; (Repeat twice more)

Chorus

- 3. No more crying there, We are going to see the King; (Repeat twice more)

Chorus

***BENEDICTION**

***MUSIC OF PARTING “Voluntary on “Forest Green”**

(Please allow the ushers to direct you as you leave the sanctuary.)

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

ASSISTING WITH TODAY’S SERVICE

Worship Host – Robbyn Slavin

Song Leader – David Lyons

ALTAR FLOWERS: The altar flowers this week are presented in memory of Bruce Wiancko's birthday from Nellie Wiancko.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – 11/29/2020



Camp News...Today is the last day to place a RADA Cutlery order. There is no need to return any catalogs that you may have, as we are not recycling them this year. If you cannot get your order in to the church office door slot, please call Laurie Saporito at 724-864-5649 and your order will be taken over the phone. Your check (payable to First UM) can then be mailed to the church. The order will be sent on Monday, November 30th so that all items are received by

Christmas. Again...thank you for supporting our 2021 Camp Program with this fundraiser!

**RING THE BELL FOR SALVATION ARMY
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2020 AT GIANT EAGLE**

The Salvation Army has suggested a two hour time for each volunteer, but we are asking for only an hour at a time. If you can serve longer, please write your name multiple times. To sign up, you may click the link our church Facebook page or web site. You may also directly contact Becky Platt at 724-331-7832, or email Becky.Platt@irwinfirstumc.org to schedule your time.

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

*Feel free to contact Pastor Bruce at any time if you are in need of a pastoral visit.
724-747-6098 (call or text) or email at preacherptl@gmail.com*

Sunday, November 29

1st Sunday in Advent, Advent Gift Giving

8:15 In-Church & Drive-in Church
(Radio 87.9 FM)
9:30 Youth Sunday School (Grades 6-12),
Harvesters Adult Class,
Prayer Shawl Group, BYKOTA
9:30 Toddler – 5th Grade Sunday School
(see announcement)
10:45 In-Church & Drive-in Church
(Radio 87.9 FM) Facebook, YouTube, and
Zoom (Meeting ID# 633 303 454 Password
104289)

Monday, November 30

10am-8pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing
6:30 Cub Scouts

Tuesday, December 1

7:00 Outreach
7:30 NA

Wednesday, December 2

10:00 Prayer Group Meeting
(Zoom Meeting ID#311 4389 930, Password 3U22u3)
10:00 QC Meeting
1:00 Wednesday Bible Study on Zoom
(Meeting ID: 894 9312 8220, Password: 104289)
5:00 Youth Center

Thursday, December 3

6:15 Cathedral Bells
6:30 Girl Scouts
6:30 NA
7:15 Choir

Friday, December 4

6:00 Brown Bag Meal

Saturday, December 5

9:00 am – Noon
The Caring Closet in the gym
6:00 PM Contemporary Service
With Communion

Sunday, December 6

2nd Sunday in Advent Advent Gift Giving

8:15 In-Church & Drive-in Church
(Radio 87.9 FM)
9:30 Youth Sunday School (Grades 6-12),
Harvesters Adult Class,
Prayer Shawl Group, BYKOTA
9:30 Toddler – 5th Grade Sunday School
(see announcement)
10:45 In-Church & Drive-in Church
(Radio 87.9 FM) Facebook, YouTube, and Zoom

PROGRESSIVE NATIVITY: Good Morning FUMC! This is an exciting and beautiful time of year! It is hard to know how it was that First Christmas, especially with all the tinsel, garland, lights and decorations that surrounds our present-day Christmas. We hope you will enjoy our “**Progressive Nativity**” as we walk through the scriptures each week of Advent and through Epiphany. Each week will be presented with different scenes. We ask that you enjoy each scene by looking; no touching please. Thank you in advance!

It is A Progressive Nativity Experience at Irwin First Church 2020

Luke 1, tells of Elizabeth and Zechariah expecting the birth of a son, John. And he would be known as John the Baptist. It was during Elizabeth’s 6th month of pregnancy, God sent the angel, Gabriel to the village in Galilee, Nazareth... this is where we begin this **First Week of Advent with Mary, Joseph and the Angel**.

It is written;

Matthew 1:18 - “This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Luke 1:29-31 - The angel, Gabriel appeared to Mary and said to her, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!”

“Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus!”

Matthew 1:19-23 - “Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man, and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son. And you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins”

All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet:

*“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son,
And they will call him Immanuel, (Which means, ‘God is with us’).” Isaiah 7:14*

Advent Week 2 sneak peek: Luke 2

TODDLER – 5TH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL: this age group has not yet returned to in-church Sunday school. Please use the contact information listed to participate in the Zoom classes:

Toddler Zoom Sunday School - 2-4 year old children - please email or call Dawn Capecci 412 651 2503, missdawn25@yahoo.com or Donna Weber 724 864 4954, donnam_weber@yahoo.com for more information and the Zoom instructions.

Preschool - 5th grade Sunday School - 9:30 AM on Zoom. For more information please contact Becky at 412-816-1906.

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After you log-in to Amazon you will be asked to select a charitable organization. Type First United Methodist Church Irwin, PA.. When the listing organizations appears on the screen, select “First United Methodist Church” Irwin, PA. Click in the box that reads “I understand that I must always start at smile.amazon.com to support “First United Methodist Church” Irwin, PA.

Click on the “Start Shopping” button and shop any of the thousands of stores available on Amazon. When you have completed your shopping click on “Proceed to Checkout”

Follow the instructions for shipping and payment. Place your order. You will notice near your order number is a notation that you are supporting “First United Methodist Church.”



The General Council on Finance and Administration is proud to be in partnership with Tribute to present UMCmarket.org -- the online portal designed for United Methodists to shop online at a variety of retailers who will donate to your local church or other United Methodist entity, to help you raise funds for ministry. Visit umcmarket.org, establish your free, online account and support our FUMC ministry by creating donations. Follow the instructions below to donate:

1. Enter your email address
2. Type a nickname for your account. Create a password
3. Select a state (PA) and a city (Irwin.) A list of the UM churches and related organizations in the Irwin area will appear.
4. Select “Irwin First United Methodist Church” the click “Signup”
5. At this point you may click on any of the available categories that may interest you or simply click “Skip” to continue and watch the short video clip which demonstrates how to shop using UMC Market.
6. Shop from among thousands of retailers. Each retailer will show what percentage of your donation will be given to our church. When you are finished shopping follow the procedure each store has to “Checkout” your items and make the necessary payment.

UMC Market will automatically receive notification of your sale and will place the funds in their “FUMC” account. When their “FUMC” account reaches \$100.00, UMC Market will send a check for that amount to our church.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTERS AND READERS NEEDED for Christmas Eve – 11:00 PM service. The reading will be short and simple. Please consider this a chance to prepare your heart for Christmas. To sign up please call, or text Dianne at 412-310-6121, or email her at fumc.dianne.mm@comcast.net) or go to the organ bench on Sunday.

SAFETY GUIDELINES: We are still practicing the COVID 19 safety guidelines set by the CDC for social distancing and wearing face masks. Thank you everyone for being so good about this and doing your part to protect yourself and others.

We encourage you to bring your own face mask when you come to the church. The disposable face masks that we have at the church should be used as a last resort as they are getting hard to come by and costly to purchase. And ... it's fun to see all the different mask designs!

Thank you for your cooperation.

CALLING ALL CLARK GRISWOLDS! This year the Crazy Christmas Club Committee (CCCC) is inviting everyone to decorate the outside of your house for Christmas for a friendly competition. (You can decorate the inside as well, we just won't be able to see it.) 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded to the house that shows the meaning of Christmas the best. If you are interested please provide your Name, Address and Contact Number by December 16th. The CCCC will go around on December 18th starting at 6:30pm and take pictures/video of your house and determine our winners. In this year where everything seems so unexpected, why not share some love, happiness, and the meaning of Christmas for the world (or neighborhood) to see?



RESERVATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Due to pandemic, we are forced to take reservations for our Christmas Eve services. We must limit our attendance to 200 at each service. In the bulletin today is a RSVP slip. You may also go to the church website at www.irwinfirst.org or Facebook page at [Irwin First UMC](#) to RSVP. Please have your reservations in by December 15th so that we can make preparation to accommodate everyone who wants to participate.

MEDIA TEAM: Volunteers are needed to join our media team. Our worship services, and many of our meetings on Zoom, would not be possible without them. You will be trained to use the equipment and assist with the services and meetings. If you would like to become part of the team please call Pastor Bruce (724-747-6098) or Pastor Ron (724-691-7113).

ANGEL TREE - The Outreach Committee will be helping families again by providing gifts for children and gift cards for groceries. The Angel tree is in the Narthex, and to date, we have 63 children on our angel tree and more are coming. Our local elementary school has additional families in need that we will be helping. Please take an angel (or two) from the tree to purchase gifts for the children, and a star if you would like to purchase a \$25 grocery gift card.

This year we will be keeping track of who takes the angels – Robbyn will be near the angel tree to get your name and the angel number you take. If you do not attend church in person but would still like to provide a gift, please contact Anne and she can email or mail you an angel. We will also be trying something new. You (or a group of you) can sponsor a family for Christmas and provide the Christmas gifts for all the children in one family. Please contact Anne and let her know what size family (2, 3, 4 or more kids) you want to sponsor and she will match a family to you as best as possible. Anne can be reached at home (724-744-7278), by email (annegiannetti@gmail.com), or by text (412-582-8397). Please make requests this week before the angel tree is up and decorated. **All gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 13th.**

If you prefer to make a donation, please send it to the office and we will do the shopping for you. Any donations not used for the angel tree will be held and used to help families at Easter.

ADVENT GIFT GIVE-AWAY: Pastor Bruce is once again doing the Advent Gift Give-away. Several people go outside the church building between the two Sunday morning services and hand out gifts to the cars that pass by the church. They are just small gifts, but are meant to lift the spirits of those passing by and to let them know that FUMC cares about the people outside our church. If you can help with this mission by donating new, small gifts (around \$1.00 – Dollar Store finds are great!) it would be greatly appreciated. Please bring your donations to the church and Pastor Bruce and his elves will do the rest! If you would like to help pass the gifts out, please let Pastor Bruce know.

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY: If you would have any prayer requests for any serious or pressing problem please contact Jean Barrett at (724-515-5524) or Bernie Johnston at (724-863-6967). This would be for immediate prayer concerns and should not be confused with the prayer list found in the bulletin. If you would like to be included as a prayer warrior, to pray for immediate concerns via text or email, please let us know. Thank you

Bible passages are taken from the New International Version (NIV) of the Holy Bible.

Call to Worship is taken from “The United Methodist Hymnal”

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CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY (tune: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”)

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Source: The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, Center for Worship Resourcing, PO Box 340003, Nashville, Tennessee 37203-0003.

Telephone (615) 340-7070; Website <http://www.umcworship.org>;

Email Address: WorshipCenter@gbod.org.

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2100 Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

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ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS: As you can see in “THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH” many of our services, Bible Study, and Prayer Group are all being broadcast using Zoom. If you would like to participate in these activities using Zoom, please follow the instructions below. Please contact Pastor Bruce or Ron if you have questions.

For computer or smartphone:

Go to Zoom.com Click-Join a meeting

When prompted enter Meeting ID, then a screen will pop up to enter password.

(The Meeting ID & Password are noted with the service or meeting)

You will enter the “meeting space”. If you move your mouse to the bottom of the box, it will show you the different options, like chat and video.

For landline or cell phone (Audio only):

Dial 1-646-558-8656. Enter meeting number and follow the prompts.

(The Meeting ID & Password are noted with the service or meeting in

“This Week at our Church.”)



THE SALVATION ARMY UNIT OF IRWIN has its own phone number. If you know anyone in need of our services please have them call 724-331-7832. The office hours for the unit are Wednesday mornings from 9:30 until 11:30.

HOSPITAL CALLS AND VISITS: If you or someone you know is in the hospital or would like a visit from the pastor please call the office or Pastor Bruce. *Remember, Pastor Bruce cannot provide care to our congregation if he doesn't know there is a need.*

Pastor Bruce receives calls or texts at his cell phone number 724-747-6098

******* IN PERSONAL CARE & REHABILITATION FACILITIES *******

Dorothy B. ~ Asbury Heights, Mt. Lebanon Marge O. ~ The Grove at Irwin
Wanda H. ~ Redstone, N. Huntingdon James R., Sr. ~ St. Anne's Home, Greensburg
Doris C. ~ Golden Heights (Harrison City) LaVerne F. ~ Walden's View

******* CONTINUOUS PRAYERS *******

Brent L., Kurt W. & Family, Cheryl M., Tim & Diane N., Rick H., Marlin A & Nancy P., Joe S., Joe L., Virginia, Jennifer N., Curt E., Cheryl H., Valerie M., Patty H., Jeanne R., Jeff M., Donna H., John B., Joe and Wava, Dean and Dorothy, Chris E., Rose N., Sara C., Jeanne and Larry A., Fred & Barb S., Mischa & Suzanne S., Diane B., Les H., John G., Noah C., Craig C., Red, Dawn, Amy P., Chuck K., Pat M., Jane I., Ashley, Stu S., Shawn S., Christa L., Rhonda, Beverly and Tom D., Laura, Marlin F., Stephanie S., Dave W., Bill & Elaine M., Kim V. Paul & Iva Lou B., Jackie S.
Bob & Natalie F. & Family (Missionaries in India)
Connie Wieck (Missionary)

******* THIS MONTHS PRAYERS LIST *******

*We will change the prayer list the first Sunday of each month.
Contact the church office at 724-863-6858 with names for the list.*

Vi, Tom and Peggy, Sandy L., George and Kelly, Paul and Michelle, Neil and Alma, Yvonne I. and family, Samantha, Lilliana P., Tiffany M., Joe K., Our Country & World, COVID 19 Concerns, Our Country and Leaders, Our world, Medical & Emergency Personnel, First Responders and Military, All Essential Workers, Teachers and Students, Businesses, The Unrest in Our Country, Helena & Marilyn, George and Lisa S., Joseph D., Sara T., Marilyn F., Ray S., The Lois Frye Family, Jerry L., Janice E., Judy L., Jim L., The Bill G. Family., The Jeff V. Family, The Diane Borza Family, Rolan & Janice W., Ethan D, Randy D, and Cindi D

******* SERVICE PERSONNEL *******

Brandon D. – Korea Colby S. – Iraq Sara D.
Angelo W. – Oklahoma City Nicholas P. – Schofield Barracks, HI Jeremy L.
David J. – Afghanistan Amanda M. – Texas Carl B.
James G. – Texas Emery M. – Japan Mark Russak Edward J. III

Prayer Requests

I cried unto the Lord with my voice and he heard me out of his holy hill.

~ Psalm 3:4

