

**First Sunday of Advent  
November 27, 2022**

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8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

***Welcome***

***Prelude - Of the Father's Love Begotten*** (Hymn No. 184) - James Pethel

***Call to Worship***

You know what time it is,

**how it is now the moment for you to awake from sleep.**

For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;

**the night is far gone, the day is near.**

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness

**and put on the armor of light.**

***Opening Hymn No. 196\*\* - Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***

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,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

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.

***Invocation***

**Eternal God, in your providence you made all ages a preparation for the kingdom of your Son. Make ready our hearts for the brightness of your glory and the fullness of your blessing in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath***

**Reader 1:** "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" (Psalm 122:1 NIV)

**Reader 2:** We are glad. Weather we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is the place of joyful hope, of

radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kingdom to come.

*Reader 1:* "Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths'" (Isaiah 2:3 NRSV)

*Reader 2:* We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored - our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.  
(Light the first candle on the Advent wreath)

(All sing #206 refrain) **In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

### ***Scripture Reading***

Luke 2:1-7 (New Testament page 58/54)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### ***God's Word for Young Disciples***

#### ***Anthem***

8:30 - *Every Valley* - John Ness Beck

11:00 - *Who But the Lord* - Craig Courtney

***Sermon*** - *Joseph's Unplanned Journey*

Pastor Mike Ward

### ***Hymn of Response No. 242\*\* - Love Came Down at Christmas***

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus:  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
Love shall be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and to all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

## ***Discipleship Offering***

**Offertory** - *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* - Anna Laura Page

*(Please fill out the presence card found in the pews and place it in the offering plates or bring it to the front during the offertory.)*

## ***Doxology***

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## ***Prayers of the People and 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.**

## ***Closing Hymn No. 213\*\* - Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates***

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
behold, the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide;  
our hearts to thee we open wide;  
let us thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on  
until our glorious goal is won;  
eternal praise, eternal fame  
be offered, Savior, to thy name!

## ***Benediction and Choral Response*** (Hymn No. 230)

**Oh holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

## ***Postlude - From Three Welsh Hymns: 3: Hyfrydol*** - Ralph Vaughan Williams

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**The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and are given:**

in loving memory of Robert and Edna Keyser, by Millie Keyser and Dale Gilbert.

**Advent Candlelighters: 8:30** Mary, Eliote, and Cameron Barker; **11:00** Lee and Judy Miller

**Liturgist: 8:30** Meghan Koch; **11:00** Dudley Turner

**Service Music:** 8:30 Epworth Choir; 11:00 Chancel Choir

### CHURCH NOTES

**Holiday Nuts Are Back!** Head down to Asbury Hall between and after church services and in the church office during the week to purchase delicious nuts for the holiday. Or order them for a specific Sunday. Order forms are available at the Welcome Center. We are offering Deluxe mixed nuts and whole cashews for \$10/lb and raw pecans for \$12/lb.

**ROCK Advent Celebration:** Our last ROCK of the year will take place on December 4 from 5 – 6 p.m. Children will have a snack supper and participate in activities related to Christmas at First Church. Please register at the Welcome Center or in the church office. ROCK will resume on January 8.

**Parent's Morning Out:** We will sponsor a Parents Morning Out for infants through grade 6 on Saturday, December 10 from 9 am to noon. Children will enjoy a pancake breakfast, shop at the Santa Shop (included in the cost), watch a movie and more. The cost is \$10/child and \$25 max/family of preschool and elementary children. Families with more than 3 children need to pay an extra \$10/child under 3.

**Santa Shop Items Needed:** We are in need of items for our annual Santa Shop - especially for children, teens and men. We also need Christmas gift bags of all sizes, wrapping paper, and scotch tape. You may drop off your items in the bin by the Welcome Center **by Wednesday, December 7**. Please contact Karol Lewis to help the kids with their wrapping or Donna Curfman to help with shepherding the kids or with breakfast.

**OPEN M Missions:** Once again it is time to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We are collecting money for Christmas turkeys and gifts for children. Last year we provided 156 turkeys and gifts for 78 children. Turkeys run about \$15.00 and children's gifts \$50.00 per child for two gifts. **Donations are needed by Thursday, December 1.** When donating please use separate checks. You may mail them, drop them off in the church office or put them in the offering plates. Please make sure to designate OPEN M Christmas or OPEN M turkeys.

**Hat & Mitten Mission** - We have begun our Hat & Mitten mission and are asking for new or gently-used gloves/mittens/winter hats, or new socks. The donation table is located across from the church office, outside of the chapel. Items may be left there, or if the line is empty, please feel free to bag the items, then place them directly outside on the line at the corner of Portage & 3rd.

**Advent Remembrance Service** - On Wednesday, December 21, at 7:00 pm we will hold our Advent Remembrance Service in the Chapel. This event is a way we can remember those who have lost loved ones, or experienced other loss in the past year. If you plan to attend, please bring an ornament to hang on the Christmas tree in memory of your lost loved ones for the service. You may take the ornament home after the service ends.

**First Church Apparel:** Here's an easy way to get your Christmas shopping done AND help the Mission Committee give more to our local missions. We are selling shirts with our church name and logo. You order and pay through Bonfire. They will send you the shirt(s). They will be taking orders through December. We have two links with the Bonfire Company:

1. A simple design with church name only on the front of whatever type shirt you'd like we even have a hoodie:

<https://www.bonfire.com/fumcs-mission-committee-fundraiser/>

2. Shirt/hoodie with church name front and back: "I go to a great church" on back:

<https://www.bonfire.com/fumcs-mission-committee-fundraiser-1-1/>

## NEXT STEPS

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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### **Questions for reflection:**

How is it possible, why is it necessary, and what does it mean for God to be a human infant, and for a human infant to be God?

How has God gifted you with spiritual gifts that are not what you would have chosen for yourself?

Joseph was an ordinary guy living in an ordinary town, doing ordinary things, yet God chose him to be Jesus' earthly father. Have you ever been convinced that you are too ordinary to be useful to God?

### **Questions for discussion:**

Joseph would not have planned for his life to go how it ended up. Sometimes our future plans are different than what God has in store for us. How have you followed God's plans for your future instead of what you might have planned?

Sometimes God has been preparing us for His plans and its only when we obey Him that we find out what the plans are. How has this played out in your life?

**Memory verse:** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

**Readings for next week:** Luke 2: 6-7, 16-19; Isaiah 11: 1-11; Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19; Romans 15: 4-13; Matthew 3: 1-12

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**PRAYER BULLETIN**

November 27, 2022



**MINISTERS & STAFF:**

Forrest Waller

**HOSPITALIZED:**

Bob Ahonen & Larry Behrman – Akron General

Patsy Boyd – Akron City Gus Mercurio - Akron City

**MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:**

Scott Adie	Larry Brimlow	Judy Jesson
Bob Ahonen	Don Corbett	Bonnie & Jerry Nine
Debbie Amundsen	Tom Cully	Pat Park
Shirley Asher	Jean Finnegan	David Potter
Mary Ellen Atwood	Dave Gohr	Kathi Sawyer
Jim Bailey	Rose Gregory	David Townsend
Behrman family	Mary Griest	Mary & Ken Tunstall
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Joyce Haberkost	Marilyn Waller
Robert Boyd	Jim Henes	

**DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:**

Family of member Donna Copeland on her death on 11/17.

Family of member Gary Kinsey on her death on 11/20.

