

EAST FAIRFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Courtwright

Organist: Ruth Rowley

Pianist: Nancy Setinsek

Ministers: The Congregation

Choir Director: Randy Hart

Sunday, December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

**Please stand in body or spirit as you are able*

Welcome! *You are invited to take this time to prepare for worship. In these moments, quiet your inner voice, become aware of being in community with others, and open your heart and mind to the leading of the Holy Spirit.*

GATHERING Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence - Smith
Jesu – Noel - Whitsett

CHRIST LIGHT ENTERS

MISSIONS AND MINISTRY UPDATES Cindy Wright, Liturgist

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE A Tapestry of Lullabies - Smith

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Watch out! Stay alert! The time is coming.

We accept the invitation. Lord, we are waiting.

Christ has come and Christ is coming again.

We come to worship. We come to watch and wait and celebrate.

*OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, creator of all that is and will ever be, open our hearts this day. Let us know your presence. Show yourself to us and speak your Word to us. Help us to be ready for your promised return. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates UMH #213

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 46 (NIV) pg. 455

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

From ancient times, no ear has heard, no eye has seen, no one has witnessed any god but you.

If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!

You watch over those who do right, who love justice and follow your way.

If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!

We cannot save ourselves. We need you, Lord God.
We light the candle of hope. We call on your name, trusting in you.
If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!

CHOIR ANTHEM "Come Emmanuel"

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

OFFERING OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

OFFERTORY O Little Town of Bethlehem - Redner

*DOXOLOGY UMH #95

*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

SEEKING GOD'S WORD

JOY & CONCERNS

PRAYER / LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel UMH #211

SERMON TEXT Mark13:24-37 (NIV) pg. 826

SERMON *Heaven and Earth: Meanwhile* Pastor Lisa

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION UMH pg. 12

CHOIR ANTHEM "Pachelbel Noel"

*CLOSING HYMN Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus UMH #196

SENDING FORTH WITH BLESSING

*BLESSING

LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES INTO THE WORLD

~ Go forth with hope to serve the Lord ~

Flowers on the altar are from Brent & Becky Rupert
in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on December 1.
Please join us downstairs for cake during coffee time.

Liturgist: Cindy Wright
Sound: Bill Rowley
Livestream: Hannah Vollnogle
Computer: Vicki Freeman
Greeters: Larry & Maralyn Porter

NEXT SUNDAY, December 10

Liturgist: Grant Roberts

Please keep in mind that the service is live-streamed and recorded for public access. Please keep prayer requests brief and do not use last names or identifying details.

PRAYER REQUESTS

December 3, 2023

To submit a prayer request call Denise at 330-457-2465 or 330-727-9832

If you desire a home or hospital visit call Pastor Lisa (440-339-6463)

Prayer Blankets: call Joyce Ward (330-692-3346)

Susan K (Walt DeRhodes' daughter) in ICU on a ventilator.

Family of Jim Tiernan (Eileen's brother-in-law) passed away Nov. 22

Jim F. – hospitalized with congestive heart failure.

Meredith & others - prayers for college finals.

Ray & Carren C. – now at Covington

Carrie W. (Wayne & Sue's daughter)

Lucille F. – at Hampton Woods for rehab after bronchitis.

Warner (Jeannie's father) - liver cancer

Dan Becker (Deann's friend) – passed away. Pray for his family.

Dick S. – has a cold and sinus infection.

Gavyn (Bettianne's grandson) – Ohio State

Joanie R.

Bill H.

Phyllis W.

Kathleen S. – recovering from surgery

Evalyn M.

HOMEBOUND: Thelma A (Whispering Pines) Mary V Betty B

Evalyn M (Parkside) Shirley K (Grace Woods)

Lucille F (Whispering Pines)

IN MINISTRY: Lisa Courtwright, Tyler Rollinson, Jeff Pellin

Edie Boles, Jim Gaston, Georgette Gaston

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CCLI # 1994841 CVLI #504 011 134



**East Fairfield
United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 3, 2023**

9:30 AM



Rev. Lisa Courtwright
440-339-6463

*“Working, playing, and praying together on our faith journey,
to share Jesus Christ with everyone.”*

45675 State Route 558
New Waterford, OH 44445

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 3 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship at Rogers 12:30 CAROLING	Dec 4 12:00 Joy Circle Christmas Party 6:30 Cub Scouts	Dec 5 8:30 Men's Coffee	Dec 6 10:30 Advent Study at Rogers UMC 7:00 Choir Practice	Dec 7 7:00 Advent Study at East Fairfield	Dec 8 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	Dec 9
Dec 10 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship at Rogers 2:00-4 Faith United Choir Practice	Dec 11 6:30 Cub Scouts	Dec 12 8:30 Men's Coffee - Ladies' Day	Dec 13 10:30 Advent Study at Rogers UMC 5:30 Rogers LEADERSHIP BOARD 7:00 Choir Practice	Dec 14 7:00 Advent Study at East Fairfield	Dec 15 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	Dec 16 8:30-10:00 Feed My Sheep at Rogers UMC 12:00 Fellowship Hall in Use (Deb Baker)
Dec 17 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship at Rogers 2:00-4 Faith United Choir Practice	Dec 18 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 LEADERSHIP BOARD	Dec 19 8:30 Men's Coffee Newsletter Deadline	Dec 20 10:30 Advent Study at Rogers UMC 7:00 Choir Practice	Dec 21 9:00 Mailing Committee 7:00 Advent Study at East Fairfield	Dec 22 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	Dec 23
Dec 24 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship at Rogers 4:00 New Springfield Christmas Eve Service 6:00 Rogers UMC Christmas Eve Service 7:00 East Fairfield Christmas Eve Service 7:00 EP Emmanuel Christmas Eve Service 11:00 Centenary Christmas Eve Service	Dec 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	Dec 26 8:30 Men's Coffee	Dec 27 7:00 Choir Practice	Dec 28	Dec 29	Dec 30
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> The Office is Closed </div>						

November 26 Attendance
In-Person: 77 Online: 22

Update on Mission Giving for 2023

FUND	NAME OF FUND	NEED	RECEIVED	STILL NEED
2	General Mission Fund	6,374	5,029	1,345
33	4C's	125	1,000	0
32	Cub Scouts	150	350	0
37	Way Station	150	150	0
43	Tobin Center	300	300	0
49	Feed My Sheep (Rogers food pantry)	150	470	0
22	Flat Rock	175	205	0
57	Kathy Dickride, UM Missionary <i>DISCONTINUED</i>	300	315	0
56	Annual Conference Special Mission	Any Donation	0	
13	UMCOR Sunday	Any Donation	25	
21	UMCOR Disasters	Any Donation	70	
14	Blankets+	Any Donation	30	
15	Peace With Justice	Any Donation	5	
16	World Communion	Any Donation	5	
17	Student Day	Any Donation	5	
46	Heroes & Halos	Any Donation	50	
20	Heifer International	Any Donation	40	

Fund Balances as of end of October

Fund #1 Ministry Operating -16,477
Fund #2 Mission Fund -29
Fund #3 Building Fund 55,117
Fund #28 Elevator Fund 15,558

Mission of the Month for November
General Mission Fund – Fund #2

4C's Item
Canned Fruit

Feed My Sheep Item
Stuffing Mix



Faith United **UPCOMING EVENTS**

A Cooperative Parish of United Methodist Churches

FAITH UNITED ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Our Advent Bible Study continues to meet each week on:

Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am at Rogers UMC

Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm at East Fairfield UMC

It is not too late to join us for this journey through Advent!

Saturday, December 9, 5:30 pm

CHRISTMAS PARTY & WORSHIP

Join the festive celebration at **Mt Zion UMC!** We're hosting a Christmas party with a covered dish dinner, followed by a heart-warming candlelight worship service. Bring your favorite dish to share and embrace the joy of Christmas in a spirit-filled time of worship.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

All Churches will have their regular Sunday morning services.

In addition, join us at any of these services on Sunday evening:

New Springfield UMC. . 4:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Rogers UMC 6:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service

East Fairfield UMC. . . 7:00 pm A Musical Candlelight Service

Emmanuel UMC 7:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Centenary UMC . . . 11:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Service

East Fairfield UMC would like to invite anyone who would like to participate in a special **Christmas Eve Choir**. Rehearsals will be on **Wednesday evenings beginning Dec. 6th at 7:30 pm.**

We will also have two Sunday afternoon rehearsals:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 & 17 – 2:00-4:00 pm

All are welcome, even if you can't make it to all rehearsals.

IMPORTANT: If you would like to participate, please let Pastor Lisa know so that we can order enough books for everyone.

Text: 440-339-6463 / email: revlisa18@gmail.com

Our purpose is to grow spiritually, learn and love together, and lead others to Christ.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING ~ TODAY, DECEMBER 3

Meet at the church at **12:00 noon** today for a light lunch. We will provide hot dogs. Please bring a side dish or salad. We will leave the church at **12:30** to go caroling.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY TOMORROW, DECEMBER 4, 12:00 NOON

Reservations have already been turned in for the Women's Christmas Party tomorrow at the Southern Terrace Clubhouse. The menu includes chicken breast, red skin potatoes, buttered corn, rolls, beverage, and dessert.

FEED MY SHEEP

December's Feed My Sheep Distribution is Saturday, December 16 from 8:30-10:00 AM.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, December 19