

EAST FAIRFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Courtwright

Organist: Ruth Rowley
Pianist: Nancy Setinsek

Ministers: The Congregation
Choir Director: Randy Hart

Sunday, December 10, 2023
Second 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

In a Stable Bare - Smith
A Tapestry of Angels - Smith

CHRIST LIGHT ENTERS

MISSIONS AND MINISTRY UPDATES Grant Roberts, Liturgist

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE The Old Rugged Cross - Bennard

*CALL TO WORSHIP

A voice cried out in the wilderness, "prepare the way of the Lord."

We come to worship. Lord, prepare our hearts to hear your Word.

A change was coming. Something new was about to happen.

We wait, eager to see what God will do next.

God broke into our world, showing great love and mercy to us all.

Lord, we are thankful for your compassion and your never-ending love for us.

*OPENING PRAYER

God of Love and Light, we gather to worship you this day with open hearts and minds. Speak to us yet again. Heal us and transform us with your love. Teach us your ways and prepare us to once again receive the gift that you have so freely given. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN Love Came Down at Christmas UMH #242

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 139:1-18 (NIV) pg. 505

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

A voice cries out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord!

We are ready to be surprised. We long for something new.

Every valley will be lifted up, every mountain will be leveled.

We long for you, God. We turn to you because you first turned toward us.

We light the candle of love, preparing our hearts and lives for God's Advent.

A voice cries out in the wilderness: Comfort my people. Prepare the way of the Lord!

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Advent Meditation”

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

OFFERING OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Away in A Manger - Spilman

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

SEEKING GOD'S WORD

JOY & CONCERNS

PRAYER / LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN

People, Look East

UMH #202

SERMON TEXT

Mark 1:1-8 (NIV) pg. 812

SERMON

Heaven and Earth: Surprised

Pastor Lisa

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

UMH pg. 12

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Pachelbel Noel”

*CLOSING HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH #230

SENDING FORTH WITH BLESSING

*BLESSING

LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES INTO THE WORLD

~ Go forth with love to serve the Lord ~

**Altar flowers are in celebration of Bob Smith's 90th birthday,
Please join us downstairs during coffee time for cake.**

Greeters: Grant & Missy Roberts

Sound: Bill Rowley

Livestream: Hannah Vollnogle

Computer: Vicki Freeman

Next Sunday, December 17

Liturgist Deann Davis

Greeters: Harvey & Carol Smith

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 10, 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)

Thelma A – Salem Hospital Tower 2, Room #2014.

Melissa B – in the hospital with A-fib

Cutter (Georgia's cousin)

Winnie – a praise... had pneumonia but did not need hospitalization.

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

Jim F – still hospitalized. Will need therapy.

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

Ray & Carren – at Christian Home Health in EP

Carrie W (Wayne & Sue's daughter)

Lucille F – at Hampton Woods

Warner (Jeannie Arnoto's father) - liver cancer

Joanie R

Bill H

Phyllis W

Kathleen S

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 10, 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

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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 Choir Practice for Cooperative Parish	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 Choir Practice for Cooperative Parish	Dec 18 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 LEADERSHIP BOARD	Dec 19 8:30 Men's Coffee 7:00 Worship mtg on Zoom 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 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	Dec 30
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> The Office is Closed </div>						
Dec 30 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship at Rogers	Jan 1 New Year's Day	Jan 2 8:30 Men's Coffee	Jan 3 7:00 Choir Practice	Jan 4	Jan 5 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	Jan 6 11:00 4H Denim & Dust (Ali Cusick)

December 3 Attendance

In-Person: 74

Online: 37

Update on Mission Giving for 2023

FUND	NAME OF FUND	NEED	RECEIVED	STILL NEED
2	General Mission Fund	6,374	5,224	1,150
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 Dickriode, UM Missionary DISCONTINUED	300	315	0
56	Annual Conference Special Mission	Any Donation	0	
13	UMCOR Sunday	Any Donation	25	
21	UMCOR Disasters	Any Donation	75	
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 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 December

General Mission Fund – Fund #2

4C's Item - Sugar

Feed My Sheep Item - Stuffing Mix

FEED MY SHEEP

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - Tuesday, December 19



Faith United

A Cooperative Parish of United Methodist Churches

UPCOMING EVENTS

FAITH UNITED ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 10:30 am at Rogers UMC

Thursdays at 7:00 pm at East Fairfield UMC

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

COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, December 12, 7:00pm

Reminder... the Leadership Board for the Cooperative Parish will be meeting with Paul Nickerson via Zoom to follow-up from his visit in November. The Zoom link will be sent to each of you before the 12th.

FEED MY SHEEP -- Saturday, December 16, 8:30 am

Volunteers are always welcome to help at the Rogers UMC monthly Feed My Sheep food distribution. Also, if you know someone in need of help with food, pass on the date and times.

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.

Hope

Love



Joy

Peace