

# EAST FAIRFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Courtwright

Organist: Ruth Rowley  
Pianist: Nancy Setinsek

Ministers: The Congregation  
Choir Director: Randy Hart

**Sunday, December 17, 2023**  
**Third 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

O Holy Child - Bartlett  
A Tapestry of Shepherds - Smith

CHRIST LIGHT ENTERS

MISSIONS AND MINISTRY UPDATES

Deann Davis, Liturgist

*PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP*

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten - Martin

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather to worship the God who has come to us, whose presence is in our midst.

**We are witnesses to the light.**

It is Advent, a time of waiting and preparation, but even in our waiting we have work to do.

**We can be a witness to the light to others.**

Jesus is calling us to do his work, to share his message, to be the light in this world.

**We will be Christ's light as we share the message of his coming.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Holy One, the giver of life and light, we gather to praise your name, and to hear your message for us this day. We thank you for those who have been a witness of your love and grace in our lives. As we seek to do your will and to follow all that Jesus taught us, help us to share your message and to point others toward Jesus, the Light of the world. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

Blessed Be the God of Israel

UMH #209

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 27:1-5; 13-14 (NIV) pg. 443

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Our mouths are full of laughter. Our hearts cry out in joy.

**God has done great things for us. God's light has shined on us.**

We are witnesses to the light.

**The light shines brightly and fills us with gladness.**

We light the candle of joy, ready to receive the light and share it with others.

**God has done great things for us. God's light has shined on us.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

“There Is a Song in the Air”

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

OFFERING OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

OFFERTORY

The First Nowell - Smith

\*DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

\*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

SEEKING GOD'S WORD

JOY & CONCERNS

PRAYER / LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

UMH #206

SERMON TEXT

John 1:6-8 (NIV) pg. 860

SERMON

*Heaven and Earth: Light*

Pastor Lisa

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

UMH pg. 12

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Pachelbel Noel”

\*CLOSING HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

UMH #251

SENDING FORTH WITH BLESSING

\*BLESSING

LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES INTO THE WORLD

~ Go forth with joy to serve the Lord ~

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Greeters: Harvey & Carol Smith

Sound: Bill Rowley

Livestream: Hannah Vollnogle

Computer: Vicki Freeman

NEXT SUNDAY, December 24

Liturgist: Jon Vollnogle

*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 17, 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)

Jim F – back in the hospital. Still needs prayers.

David C – recovering from shoulder surgery.

Sandra Kridler (Bill's wife) – passed away. Pray for the family.

Wendy (Carol Foy's sister) – cancer.

Ron & Staci Solvesky – died in car accident. Son Hunter injured also.

Bob M (Gary's brother) – triple bypass. Now in Cleveland.

Brittany (Malory's co-worker) – cancer treatments

Thelma – Salem Hospital Tower 2, Room #2014.

Tucker (Georgia's cousin)

Susan K (Walt's daughter) Still needs prayers.

Ray & Carren

Carrie W (Wayne & Sue's daughter)

Lucille F – at Hampton Woods

Warner (Jeannie A's father) - liver cancer

Joanie R

Bill H

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

**Ch Ph: 330-457-2465**

Email: [revlisa18@gmail.com](mailto:revlisa18@gmail.com)

Website: [www.eastfairfieldumc.com](http://www.eastfairfieldumc.com)

**Pastor: 440-339-6463**

Ch Email: [efumc@comcast.net](mailto:efumc@comcast.net)

CCLI # 1994841 CVLI #504 011 134



**East Fairfield  
United Methodist Church  
Sunday, December 17, 2023**

**9:30 AM**

There was a man sent from God  
whose name was John.  
He came as a witness to testify  
concerning that light,  
so that through him  
all might believe.  
He himself was not the light;  
he came only as a witness to the light.

John 1:6-8 NIV



**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
<b>Dec 17</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship at Rogers <b>2:00-4 Choir Practice for Cooperative Parish</b>	<b>Dec 18</b> 6:30 Cub Scouts <b>7:00 LEADERSHIP BOARD</b>	<b>Dec 19</b> 8:30 Men's Coffee <b>7:00 Worship mtg on Zoom</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>Dec 20</b> <b>10:30 Advent Study at Rogers UMC</b> 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>Dec 21</b> <b>9:00 Mailing Committee</b> <b>7:00 Advent Study at East Fairfield</b>	<b>Dec 22</b> Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	<b>Dec 23</b>
<b>Dec 24</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship at Rogers <b>4:00 New Springfield Christmas Eve Service</b> <b>6:00 Rogers UMC Christmas Eve Service</b> <b>7:00 East Fairfield Christmas Eve Service</b> <b>7:00 EP Emmanuel Christmas Eve Service</b> <b>11:00 Centenary Christmas Eve Service</b>	<b>Dec 25</b> <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>	<b>Dec 26</b> 8:30 Men's Coffee	<b>Dec 27</b> 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>Dec 28</b>	<b>Dec 29</b> Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	<b>Dec 30</b>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">             The Office is Closed           </div>						
<b>Dec 31</b> 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship at Rogers	<b>Jan 1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>Jan 2</b> 8:30 Men's Coffee	<b>Jan 3</b> 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>Jan 4</b>	<b>Jan 5</b> Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	<b>Jan 6</b> <b>11:00 4H Denim &amp; Dust</b> (Ali Cusick)
<b>Jan 7</b> 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship at Rogers	<b>Jan 8</b> 6:30 Cub Scouts	<b>Jan 9</b> 8:30 Men's Coffee - Ladies' Day	<b>Jan 10</b> 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>Jan 11</b> <b>10:00 Membership Care Meeting</b>	<b>Jan 12</b> Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	<b>Jan 13</b>

## **December 10 Attendance**

**In-Person: 82    Online: 37**

### **Update on Mission Giving for 2023**

<b>FUND</b>	<b>NAME OF FUND</b>	<b>NEED</b>	<b>RECEIVED</b>	<b>STILL NEED</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>General Mission Fund</b>	<b>6,374</b>	<b>5,319</b>	<b>1,055</b>
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
<del>57</del>	<del>Kathy Dickriode, UM Missionary DISCONTINUED</del>	<del>300</del>	<del>165</del>	<del>0</del>
56	Annual Conference Special Mission	Any Donation	0	
13	UMCOR Sunday	Any Donation	25	
21	UMCOR Disasters	Any Donation	80	
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**

**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**

### 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

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**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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:revlisa18@gmail.com)

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

**Monday, December 18**

**FREE CONCERT**

# **A CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR**

**Presented by the YSR Brass Band**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH  
7:30 PM**

**THE CRESTVIEW  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

**44100 CRESTVIEW RD  
COLUMBIANA OH 44408**

**Featuring Vocal Performances by  
Kade Meredith  
Olivia Wilcox**

Please join us for an evening of your favorite Christmas music such as classics by Bing Crosby, Leroy Anderson, and Stan Kenton, as well as modern takes on traditional favorites by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

The YSR Brass Band is an ensemble composed of professional musicians, teachers, and students from Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania.

A free will donation will be collected to benefit the Crestview Music Program.