

EAST FAIRFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Courtwright

Organist: Ruth Rowley
Pianist: Nancy Setinsek

Ministers: The Congregation
Choir Director: Randy Hart

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Fourth 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 the Bleak Mid-Winter - Boyles
A Tapestry of Joy - Smith

CHRIST LIGHT ENTERS

MISSIONS AND MINISTRY UPDATES Jon Vollnogle, Liturgist

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day - Hegarty

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The waiting is almost over. Tonight is the night we celebrate the coming of our Savior.

We come, full of excitement and anticipating the joyous celebration.

Prepare your hearts, light the candles, sing the carols. God is coming to us!

Make our hearts ready, open our minds to God's message, help us to receive the wonderful gift from God.

Today, God's light shines for us. Today, we welcome our Prince of Peace.

Like Mary, may we welcome God's presence with joy.

***OPENING PRAYER**

We come, longing for your peace. We come, looking for hope. We come to be blessed by your love. We come to experience your joy. We come to hear your message for us this day. Help us to open our hearts and minds to your presence and your blessings, so that we may share with others all that you speak to us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

The First Noel

UMH #245

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-3; 6-7 (NIV) pg. 560

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Glory to God who strengthens us with Christ's presence, who announces the secret that was kept quiet for a long time.

The news this day is all good. We can't help singing!

Christ is coming, God with us. God is eternal, and God is faithful.

The news this day is all good. We can't help singing!

We light the candle of peace, rejoicing in God's presence. Glory to God, who alone is wise. Glory to God, who is coming down to us!

The news this day is all good. We can't help singing!

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Rejoice! Your Light Has Come"

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

OFFERING OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly - Smith

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

SEEKING GOD'S WORD

JOY & CONCERNS

PRAYER / LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

UMH #218

SERMON TEXT

Luke 1:26-56 (NIV) pg. 830

SERMON

Heaven and Earth: Rejoice!

Pastor Lisa

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

UMH pg. 12

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Pachelbel Noel"

*CLOSING HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

UMH #238

SENDING FORTH WITH BLESSING

*BLESSING

LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES INTO THE WORLD

~ Go forth with peace to serve the Lord ~

Greeters:

Sound: Bill Rowley

Livestream: Hannah Vollnogle

Computer: Vicki Freeman

NEXT SUNDAY, December 31

Liturgist: Missy Roberts

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 24, 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 Kellner (Walt's daughter) - passed away Dec. 17. Pray for family.

Wendy (Carol Foy's sister) – passed away Dec. 17. Prayers for family.

Wilterdink Family – their 2 year old fell and later died during surgery.

Perri Smith – recovering from ankle replacement surgery.

Jim Freeman – still in need of prayer.

Abby (Marge) - 9 yr old granddaughter, hospitalized with several issues.

Jackson (Cindy R) - 1 lb 9 oz baby. Cindy's niece gave birth prematurely.

David Crook - recovering from shoulder surgery.

Bob McQuiston (Gary's brother) - recovering from triple bypass.

Carrie Waters

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

Tucker (Georgia's cousin)

Warner (Jeannie's father)

HOMEBOUND

Betty B. Anita M. Mary V. Ray & Carren

Joanie R. (Whispering Pines)

Thelma A. (Whispering Pines) - still at Salem Hospital for rehab.

Lucille F. (Whispering Pines) - still at Hampton Woods for rehab.

Zelda C. (Whispering Pines)

Evalyn M (Parkside)

Shirley K (Grace Woods)

IN MINISTRY

Lisa Courtwright Tyler Rollinson Jeff Pellin.

Edie Boles Jim Gaston Georgette Gaston

Ch Ph: 330-457-2465

Email: revlisa18@gmail.com

Website: www.eastfairfieldumc.com

Pastor: 440-339-6463

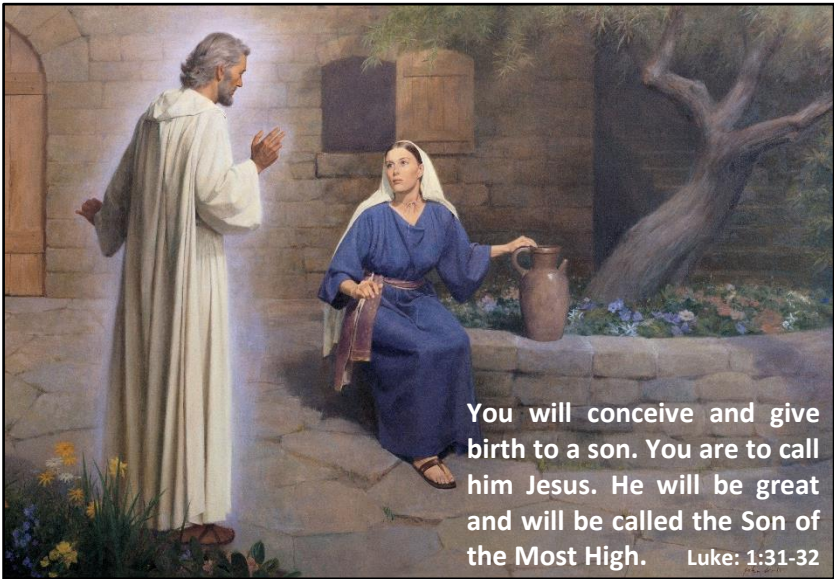
Ch Email: efumc@comcast.net

CCLI # 1994841 CVLI #504 011 134



**East Fairfield
United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 24, 2023**

9:30 AM



You will conceive and give birth to a son. You are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. Luke: 1:31-32

**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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 24 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School (no children's SS) 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 31 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)
Jan 7 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship at Rogers	Jan 8 6:30 Cub Scouts	Jan 9 8:30 Men's Coffee - Ladies' Day	Jan 10 7:00 Choir Practice	Jan 11 10:00 Membership Care Meeting	Jan 12 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	Jan 13
Jan 14 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship at Rogers 4:00-5 4-H (Jamie Stacy)	Jan 15 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 LEADERSHIP BOARD	Jan 16 8:30 Men's Coffee	Jan 17 5:30 Rogers Leadership Board 7:00 Choir Practice	Jan 18	Jan 19 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	Jan 20 8:30-10:00 Feed My Sheep at Rogers UM

December 17 Attendance

In-Person: 75 Online: 22

Update on Mission Giving for 2023

FUND	NAME OF FUND	NEED	RECEIVED	STILL NEED
2	General Mission Fund	6,374	5,389	985
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
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 November

Fund #1 Ministry Operating -16,910

Fund #2 Mission Fund 57

Fund #3 Building Fund 55,237

Fund #28 Elevator Fund 6,163

Mission of the Month for December

General Mission Fund – Fund #2

4C's Item - Sugar

Feed My Sheep Item - Stuffing Mix

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

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