

EAST FAIRFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Courtwright

Organist: Ruth Rowley

Ministers: The Congregation

Pianist: Nancy Setinsek

Choir Director: Randy Hart

Sunday, December 8, 2024

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 & mind to the leading of the Holy Spirit.*

GATHERING

Christians, Awake! -Broughton
Three Songs For The Christ Child - Smith

CHRIST LIGHT ENTERS

MINISTRY AND MISSION UPDATES

David Vollnogle, Liturgist

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

CHORAL INTROIT

Watchman, Tell Us Of The Night -Emig

WORDS OF PREPARATION AND CENTERING

PRELUDE

Coventry Carol -Hegarty

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries*)

Children of God, prepare the way! The Word of God is coming!

We come to listen and receive God's Word among us.

Children of God, the prophets call to us now and from generations past, urging us to prepare and refine our hearts for the coming of the Word of God. Are you listening?

We come to listen and prepare to receive God's Word among us.

Children of God, this is the mark of our preparation: that passion for God's Word would burn within us, cleansing us and renewing us to reflect God's love throughout the world.

May God ignite our passion for God's Word that has come among us as we listen, prepare, and receive all that God has for us today.

***OPENING PRAYER** (*Ruth C. Duck in Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*)

Compassionate God, greet us with your grace this day, for we need you. We cannot save ourselves. Though we may be frantic with activity, our efforts do not yield peace, peace as you can give. Today we would be quiet enough to hear your voice. Today we would be still enough to feel your touch. Help us to find that place where we can receive as well as give, wait as well as act, and listen

as well as speak. Our whole world needs your peace. Let us come before you and learn your ways, laying down our weapons and feeding the hungry. Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN Blessed Be the God of Israel UMH #209
GOSPEL READING Luke 1:68-79 (NIV) pg. 831
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING *see insert*
CHOIR ANTHEM This Child -McDonald
CHILDREN'S MOMENT
OFFERING OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS
INVITATION
OFFERTORY Now Is Born The Divine Christ Child -Hegarty
*DOXOLOGY UMH #95
*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

SEEKING GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Malachi 3:1-4 (NIV) pg. 779
JOYS & CONCERNS
PRAYER / LORD'S PRAYER
*HYMN Angels from the Realms of Glory UMH #220
SERMON TEXT Luke 3:1-6 (NIV) pg. 833
SERMON *Make Your Voice Heard* Pastor Lisa

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*CLOSING HYMN People Look East UMH #202

SENDING FORTH WITH BLESSING

*BLESSING
LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES INTO THE WORLD
~ Go forth to serve the Lord ~

Flowers on the altar are in honor of Bob Smith's birthday.

TODAY, DECEMBER 8

Livestream: Hannah Vollnogle Sound: Bill Rowley
Computer: Vicki Freeman Greeters:

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Liturgist: Cindy Wright Greeters: Harvey & Carol Smith
Advent Candle Lighters: Adult Sunday School Class

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 8, 2024

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)

Wayne (Marcia's brother) – Improving after a stroke. Continued prayers.

Dolly – Lung cancer. May be starting treatment soon.

Jim P. – Needs surgery for torn tendon on his ankle.

Frank (Terry's friend) – Leukemia.

Bill C. – Recovering from surgery on his toe.

Amanda (Jeannie's friend) – Leaky heart valve.

Kathy M. – Still undergoing cancer treatment.

Bob B. – Had a stroke Sunday evening while on vacation.

Davis (Malory's friend's son) – Needs kidney transplant.

Brittany (Malory) – Cancer returned.

Don (Dick's friend) – Pancreatic cancer.

Sparky – Broke her leg. Surgery in a couple weeks.

Dalton H. (20) – Open-heart surgery in January. Pray for the family.

Tucker & Parker (Georgia)

HOMEBOUND

Dolly K. Anita M. Bill H.

Walt D. (Whispering Pines) Zelda C. (Whispering Pines)

Joanie R. (Whispering Pines) Betty S. (Parkside)

IN MINISTRY

Lisa Courtwright Edie Boles Jeff Pellin

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Pastor: 440-339-6463

Ch Email: efumc@comcast.net

CCLI # 1994841 CVLI #504 011 134



**East Fairfield
United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 8, 2024
9:30 AM**



Rev. Lisa Courtwright
440-339-6463
45675 State Route 558
New Waterford, OH 44445

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

DECEMBER 1 ATTENDANCE

In person: 71

Online: 44

Update on Mission Giving for 2024

FUND	NAME OF FUND	NEED	RECEIVED	STILL NEED
2	General Mission Fund	6,374	6,235	139
33	4C's	125	550	0
32	Cub Scouts	150	150	0
37	Way Station	150	225	0
43	Tobin Center	300	310	0
22	Flat Rock	175	225	0
64	Farmer to Farmer	300	400	0
13	UMCOR Sunday	Any Donation	20	
21	UMCOR Disasters	Any Donation	195	
14	Blankets+	Any Donation	35	
15	Peace With Justice	Any Donation	5	
16	World Communion	Any Donation	10	
17	Student Day	Any Donation	5	
46	Heroes & Halos	Any Donation	0	

Fund Balances as of end of October

Fund # 1	Ministry Operating	-22,758
Fund # 2	Mission Fund	630
Fund # 3	Building Fund	66,750
Fund # 28	Elevator Fund	5,625

Mission of the Month – #41 Giving Tree (Operating Funds)

4C's Item – Sugar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 8 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School	Dec 9 6:30 Cub Scouts	Dec 10 8:00 Men's Coffee At EF Church -Ladie's Day 2:00 Walking At Firestone Duck Pond	Dec 11 10:00 Walking at EP City Lake 7:00 Choir Practice	Dec 12	Dec 13 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	Dec 14
Dec 15 9:30 Worship at EF -Eddie Boles speaking 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Potluck Luncheon 12:30 Caroling 4:00 4H (Hannah Farmer)	Dec 16 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 East Fairfield Leadership Board	Dec 17 8:00 Men's Coffee At EF Church Newsletter Deadline 2:00 Walking At Firestone Duck Pond	Dec 18 10:00 Walking at EP City Lake 7:00 Choir Practice	Dec 19 9:00 Mailing Committee	Dec 20 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	Dec 21
Dec 22 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School	Dec 23	Dec 24 8:00 Men's Coffee At EF Church 2:00 Walking At Firestone Duck Pond 7:00 Christmas Eve Service	Dec 25 Merry Christmas	Dec 26	Dec 27 Pastor's Day Off	Dec 28 8:30-10:00 Caring for God's Lambs Food Pantry At Trinity UMC
Office is closed until January 2.						
Dec 29 9:30 Worship at EF -Lessons & Carols 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School	Dec 30	Dec 31 8:00 Men's Coffee At EF Church 2:00 Walking At Firestone Duck Pond	Jan 1 New Years Day	Jan 2	Jan 3 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	Jan 4
Office is closed until January 2.						



Poinsettia Order Form
Deadline to order is December 8.

6" Pot Single Stem	Red	@ 7.50	\$
	White	@ 7.50	\$
TOTAL			\$
Name:			
Phone:			Env. #
In Honor of:			
In Memory of:			

SPECIAL GIVING TREE

This year you will again have an opportunity to help with the shortfall in our Operating Funds.



This should be a special gift in addition to your regular offering.

Simply place your gift in the offering box located next to the "Giving Tree" in the foyer.

Then select an ornament from the table, and place it on the "giving tree" to symbolize your gift.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING
The Candles of Hope & Peace
Second Sunday of Advent

RESPONSIVE READING

During Advent, God's light illuminates a weary world.

For any who have grown weary of waiting:

God speaks, "Peace, be still"

For any who are anxious about the worries of tomorrow:

God speaks, "Peace, be still"

For any whose lips have been silenced:

God speaks, "Peace, be still."

CANDLE LIGHTING

This morning we light two candles.

The **first candle** reminds us in a dark and weary world, that our hope lies securely in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

The **second candle** radiates God's perfect peace to calm our restless souls. As we continue our journey, let us be encouraged with hope, comforted with peace, and guided in truth.

PRAYER

Gracious Lord, our souls long for the peace that only you can provide. We confess that all too often, we only add to the discord, separation, and tension around us. Help us to feel your peace in our lives and strive to reflect it more in our witness. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING
Sunday, December 15
12:30



We will have a potluck luncheon following the worship service for those staying to go caroling on December 15.

We will leave the church at 12:30 PM to visit our homebound members and area nursing homes to spread some Christmas Cheer.

ONE YEAR, ONE STORY

**Pastors Lisa, Edie, & Jeff invite you to join us in 2025
for a year-long devotional journey as we read through the Bible together.**

We are excited to offer a unique opportunity for spiritual growth and reflection. Over the course of the year, we will use *The Grand Sweep* by J. Ellsworth Kalas as our guide. This resource is designed to help you connect deeply with Scripture through daily readings, devotionals, and thought-provoking reflections. The book includes:

Daily Bible Readings: Three to four chapters per day, allowing you to engage with the narrative of Scripture.

Daily Devotional and Prayer: A brief, meaningful reading and prayer each day (less than a page) to help you reflect on what you've read.

Weekly Summaries: A recap of the week's Scripture, tying it into the broader biblical story, providing context and insight (a page or two).

Weekly Life Application: A second reading that invites you to see life through the lens of Scripture, offering practical guidance for daily living (a page or two).



We will be placing an order for books for all who wish to participate. If you would like a copy, sign up by Dec. 15 on the sheets available at each church, or contact the East Fairfield church office at efumc@comcast.net, or call 330-457-2465.

To foster community and support throughout the year, we'll also offer **optional monthly gatherings** toward the end of each month. These informal sessions are a chance to reflect on the month's readings, ask questions, share insights, and discuss how God is speaking to us through the Word. While not a traditional Bible study, these gatherings will offer encouragement and connection on our shared journey.

Our first *One Year, One Story* gathering will take place on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 6:00 pm at East Fairfield UMC. Please note that the time and location of future monthly gatherings may vary, so be sure to check your bulletins and newsletters for the date/time/place of the next gathering.

We hope you'll join us on this journey through God's Word in 2025.

**May we experience spiritual renewal and growth
as we walk this path of faith together.**



Faith United

A Cooperative Parish of United Methodist Churches

12-08-24
UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS CANTATA at Emmanuel
Sunday, Dec. 22, during 9:00 am Worship
The Ballad of Bethlehem. Anyone welcome.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

4:00 New Springfield Trinity UMC (Pastor Edie)
7:00 East Fairfield UMC (Pastor Lisa)
7:00 Emmanuel UMC (Pastor Jeff)
11:00 Centenary UMC (Pastor Lisa & Jeff)

SCRIPTURES and SUDS Bible Study

at Ill Will Brewing, 45417 State Route 14, Columbiana



Pastor Jeff Pellin will lead a 4-wk Bible Study by Ray Thomas, titled, *Brew For Jesus...A Beer-Based Bible Study.*

Thursdays at 7:00 PM on January 9, 16, 23, 30.

For details, contact Pastor Jeff Pellin 330.953.8797

WALKING GROUPS

Tuesdays 2:00 PM at the Duck Pond in Firestone Park.

Wednesdays 10:00 AM at East Palestine City Lake.

Call Cindy Wright for info 330-426-6232 or 330-502-4737

MEN'S COFFEE GROUP Tuesdays at 8:00 am

East Fairfield UMC, downstairs in the fellowship hall.

The second Tuesday is Ladies' Day covered-dish.



FAMILY POTLUCK & MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday, January 26, 5:00 PM at Emmanuel

Bring your favorite dish, relax with a family-friendly movie, and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship.

CARING FOR GOD'S LAMBS ~ Food Distribution

New Springfield Trinity UMC

Saturday, December 28

8:30 am – 10:00 am



The purpose of Faith United is to grow spiritually, learn and love together, and lead others to Christ.