

# EAST FAIRFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Courtwright

Organist: Ruth Rowley

Ministers: The Congregation

Pianist: Nancy Setinsek

Choir Director: Randy Hart

**Sunday, December 15, 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      Rejoice, Rejoice Believers -Mansfield  
                         Silent Night At The Manger -Smith

CHRIST LIGHT ENTERS

MINISTRY AND MISSION UPDATES      Cindy Wright, Liturgist

*PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP*

CHORAL INTROIT      Tiny King -Eilers

WORDS OF PREPARATION AND CENTERING

PRELUDE      Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head -Innes

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and rejoice in God!

**Sing praise to God who continually blesses our lives!**

In the midst of troubles and stress, God is near, offering compassion.

**Our hope is in the Lord.**

Let all the people praise God.

**Hallelujah! Amen.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

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

FIRST READING      Zephaniah 3:14-20 (NIV)      pg. 768

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

*see insert*

CHOIR ANTHEM

O Holy Child Of Bethlehem -McDonald

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

OFFERING OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

OFFERTORY Cradle Song -Martin

\*DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

\*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

SEEKING GOD'S WORD

SECOND READING

Isaiah 12:2-6 (NIV)

pg. 563

JOYS & CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

UMH #224

SERMON TEXT

Philippians 4:4-5 (NIV)

pg. 953

SERMON

*Always Have Joy!*

Pastor Edie

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*CLOSING HYMN

Take My Life, and Let It Be

UMH #399

SENDING FORTH WITH BLESSING

\*BLESSING

LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES INTO THE WORLD

*~ Go forth to serve the Lord ~*

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**Flowers on the altar are from Anita Magill  
In loving memory of her parents, George & Norma Nulf.**

TODAY, DECEMBER 15

Livestream: Hannah Vollnogle

Sound: Bill Rowley

Computer: Vicki Freeman

Greeters: Harvey & Carol Smith

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Liturgist: Grant Roberts

Greeters: Anita Cusick

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 15, 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)

Vicki F. – Heart ablation on Dec. 17.

Perri S. – Recovering from surgery on Dec. 20.

Sparky – Had surgery Dec. 9..

Bob B. – Had a stroke. Now in hospital in Youngstown.

Jim P. – Had surgery Dec. 3.

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

Dolly – Lung cancer. May be starting treatment soon.

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.

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

Brittany (Malory) – Cancer returned.

Don (Dick's friend) – Pancreatic cancer.

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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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 15, 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 8 ATTENDANCE

In person: 66

Online: 117

### Update on Mission Giving for 2024

FUND	NAME OF FUND	NEED	RECEIVED	STILL NEED
2	General Mission Fund	6,374	6,360	14
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	200	
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
<b>Dec 15</b> 9:30 Worship at EF -Eddie Boles speaking 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School <b>11:45 Potluck Luncheon</b> <b>12:30 Caroling</b> 4:00 4H (Hannah Farmer)	<b>Dec 16</b> 6:30 Cub Scouts <b>7:00 East Fairfield Leadership Board</b>	<b>Dec 17</b> 8:00 Men's Coffee At EF Church <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>Dec 18</b> 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>Dec 19</b> 9:00 Mailing Committee	<b>Dec 20</b> Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	<b>Dec 21</b>
<b>Dec 22</b> 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School	<b>Dec 23</b>	<b>Dec 24</b> 8:00 Men's Coffee At EF Church <b>7:00 Christmas Eve Service</b>	<b>Dec 25 Merry Christmas</b>	<b>Dec 26</b>	<b>Dec 27</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>Dec 28</b> <b>8:30-10:00 Caring for God's Lambs Food Pantry At Trinity UMC</b>
Office is closed until January 2.						
<b>Dec 29</b> 9:30 Worship at EF -Lessons & Carols 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School	<b>Dec 30</b>	<b>Dec 31</b> 8:00 Men's Coffee At EF Church	<b>Jan 1</b> New Years Day	<b>Jan 2</b>	<b>Jan 3</b> Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	<b>Jan 4</b> <b>10:00-12:00 Comfort Cards At Mt. Zion</b>
Office is closed until January 2.						
<b>Jan 5</b> <b>Communion</b> 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School	<b>Jan 6</b> <b>Epiphany</b> 6:30 Cub Scouts	<b>Jan 7</b> 8:00 Men's Coffee At EF Church	<b>Jan 8</b> 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>Jan 9</b> 7:00 Scripture & Suds at Ill Will	<b>Jan 10</b> Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	<b>Jan 11</b>



## **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

**Sunday, Today**  
**At 12:30**



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

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

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## **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, & Joy Third Sunday of Advent

### RESPONSIVE READING

During Advent, we remember the light that shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

**Though sorrow may last for the night,  
joy comes in the morning.**

For all who face the sting of loss, God's word speaks.

**Though sorrow may last for the night,  
joy comes in the morning.**

For all who wrestle with the unknown of tomorrow,  
God's word speaks:

**Though sorrow may last for the night,  
joy comes in the morning.**

For all who battle the questions that arise in the silence,  
God's word speaks:

**Though sorrow may last for the night,  
joy comes in the morning.**

### CANDLE LIGHTING

This morning, we light three candles. When the darkness of life feels overwhelming, the **first candle** ignites our hope in God's unfailing truth.

When the chaos of life seems all-consuming, the light of the **second candle** reveals the Prince of Peace.

When humanity responds with senseless acts and hurtful words, the light of the **third candle** radiates God's command to love as we have been loved.

### PRAYER

**Gracious God, as we move closer to the celebration of your birth, we sense the wonder and joy. Continue to break into the dark areas of our world as you open our eyes to your hope, peace, joy, and love around us. By your light, guide us as we walk in faith. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**



# 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 will order books for all who wish to participate.**

**If you would like a copy, sign up TODAY**

or contact the East Fairfield church office at efumc@comcast.net, or call 330-457-2465.

We are excited to offer this 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).



To foster community and support throughout the year, we'll also offer **optional informal monthly gatherings** toward the end of each month as 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

12-15-24  
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

**COMFORTING CARDS WORKSHOP**  
**Saturday, January 4, 20:00 am at Mt. Zion UMC**

**WALKING GROUPS are on winter break until March.**

**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.*