

EAST FAIRFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Courtwright

Organist: Ruth Rowley

Ministers: The Congregation

Pianist: Nancy Setinsek

Choir Director: Randy Hart

Sunday, December 22, 2024

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 & mind to the leading of the Holy Spirit.*

GATHERING

Still, Still, Still -Ritter
Sweet Holy Child -Smith

CHRIST LIGHT ENTERS

MINISTRY AND MISSION UPDATES

Grant Roberts, Liturgist

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

CHORAL INTROIT

Watchman, Tell Us Of The Night -Emig

WORDS OF PREPARATION AND CENTERING

PRELUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful -Hegarty

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Dr. Derek C. Weber, Discipleship Ministries*)

Come, joy, lighten our spirits.

Come, hope, lift us from despair.

Come, peace, ease our frantic worry.

Come, love, shine in all we do.

Come Jesus, be born in us.

Come, Lord, set us free.

Come, God,

Rule in our hearts and teach us to sing with joy!

*OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, be with us this morning as we welcome you into our worship. Pour your Holy Spirit over us and speak to us your message of hope, peace, joy, and love. Remind us that we, like Mary, are bearers of your good news to all the world. Open our hearts and spirits to receive your love for us this day. In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN "To A Maid Engaged to Joseph" UMH #215
GOSPEL READING Luke 1:46b-55 (NIV) pg. 831
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING *see insert*
CHOIR ANTHEM Sweet Little Jesus Boy -MacGimsey
CHILDREN'S MOMENT
OFFERING OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS
INVITATION
OFFERTORY Ding, Dong, Merrily On High -Hegarty
*DOXOLOGY UMH #95
*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

SEEKING GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Micah 5:2-5a (NIV) pg. 758
JOYS & CONCERNS
SILENT PRAYER
PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH #230
SERMON TEXT Luke 1:39-45 (NIV) pg. 831
SERMON *Welcome, Lord* Pastor Lisa

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*CLOSING HYMN "Joy to the World" UMH #246

SENDING FORTH WITH BLESSING

*BLESSING
LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES INTO THE WORLD

~ Go forth with joy to serve the Lord ~

TODAY, DECEMBER 22

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

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

Liturgist: Jon Vollnogle Greeters:
Advent Candle Lighters: Sunday School Grade 5-8

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 22, 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)

Jeff Pellin – Prayers for Jeff, the community of Sharon, and employees of Sharon Regional Medical Center, which is closing in January.

Jan (Joann Crook's sister) – Fell and injured her foot. Needs surgery.

Sue S. – Back problem. Lots of pain. Fell and fractured her ankle.

Heather (Cindy W.)

Larry Kannal – Passed away Dec. 13. Memorial service at a later date.

Betty Stoffer – Passed away Dec. 15. Our sympathy to the family.

Sparky – Had surgery Dec. 9 (3 months non-weight bearing).

Vicki F. – Heart ablation on Dec. 17.

Perri S. – Recovering from surgery.

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.

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

Kathy M. – Still undergoing cancer treatment.

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

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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CCLI # 1994841 CVLI #504 011 134



East Fairfield
United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 22, 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 15 ATTENDANCE

In person: 60

Online: 61

Update on Mission Giving for 2024

FUND	NAME OF FUND	NEED	RECEIVED	STILL NEED
2	General Mission Fund	6,374	6,380	0
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	205	
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 November

Fund # 1	Ministry Operating	-24,534
Fund # 2	Mission Fund	393
Fund # 3	Building Fund	66,214
Fund # 28	Elevator Fund	5,081

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

4C's Item – Sugar

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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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 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	Jan 1 New Years Day	Jan 2	Jan 3 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	Jan 4 10:00-12:00 Comfort Cards At Mt. Zion
Office is closed until January 2.						
Jan 5 Communion 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School	Jan 6 Epiphany 6:30 Cub Scouts	Jan 7 8:00 Men's Coffee At EF Church	Jan 8 7:00 Choir Practice	Jan 9 7:00 Scripture & Suds at Sundog Ciderhouse	Jan 10 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	Jan 11
Jan 12 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School	Jan 13 6:30 Cub Scouts	Jan 14 8:00 Men's Coffee At EF Church -Ladies Day	Jan 15 6:00 Worship Meeting 7:00 Choir Practice	Jan 16 7:00 Scripture & Suds at Sundog Ciderhouse	Jan 17 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	Jan 18



*Thank you to all who provided
poinsettias to beautify the altar.*



Have a Blessed Christmas!

<p>Baker, Kevin & Deb In honor of our grandchildren, family, and friends In memory of Dean & MaryAnn Ray In memory of Harold & Jane Baker</p>	3 Red
<p>Farmer, Denny & Georgia In memory of George & Beulah Sutherin In memory of Marquis & Odessa Farmer</p>	2 Red
<p>Fieldhouse, Gary & Denise</p>	1 White
<p>Fieldhouse, Shannon & Mark Simmons In memory of Daniel Simmons In memory of Pap & Grandma Baker</p>	2 White
<p>Mayberry, Marcia In memory of Marshall Mayberry In memory of Robert & Barbara Gaither</p>	1 Red 1 White
<p>McCoy, Terry In memory of Janet McCoy Yacopi (sister) In memory of Christopher Allen McCoy (son)</p>	2 Red
<p>Peppel, Jerry & Alice In memory of Paul & Lois Peppel In memory of Bob & Ruth Hawkins</p>	1 Red
<p>Peters, Ann In honor of George Crook In memory of Barbara Crook</p>	1 Red 1 White
<p>Roberts, Grant & Missy In honor of our children and grandson In memory of our parents</p>	1 Red 1 White
<p>Rowley, Bill & Ruthie In memory of Bob & Ruth Hawkins In memory of Joe & Helen Rowley</p>	2 Red
<p>Rupert, Brent & Becky In honor of our children and grandchildren In memory of George & Dorothy Rupert (parents) In memory of Foyne & Jean Morris (parents)</p>	2 Red 1 White
<p>VanBuren, Mary In memory of Matt VanBuren and Max VanBuren</p>	1 Red
<p>Vollnogle, Jon & Charlotte In honor of our children and grandchildren</p>	1 Red 1 White

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy & Love

December 22, 2024

RESPONSIVE READING

In a world torn asunder by violence, Jesus says, "No more."

**"As it is written, a new command I give,
'Love one another as I have loved you'."**

In a world where hurting people are too often neglected, Jesus says, "No more."

**"As it is written, a new command I give,
'Love one another as I have loved you'."**

In a world where another's needs are too often overlooked, Jesus says, "No more."

**"As it is written, a new command I give,
'Love one another as I have loved you'."**

CANDLE LIGHTING

This morning we light four candles. In a world where darkness abounds the light of the **first candle** radiates the hope of God's unfailing promise.

As we light the **second candle**, we long for God's perfect peace to calm our souls and end our wars.

We light the **third candle** to remind us that no matter what our circumstances, there is joy in the coming Christ who opens our eyes to the everlasting light.

As we light the **fourth candle**, we seek to share with others the love God has shown us through the gift of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Gracious God, we thank you for the way you have guided us throughout our Advent journey. Scripture says we love because you first loved us. We confess that, too often, we fail to love others the way you love us. With our eyes fixed upon you, help us to love others in the manner you love us. We pray this in your heavenly and holy name. Amen.



**Saturday, January 25, at 6:00 PM
at East Fairfield UMC**

If you want to enter your homemade chili, just show up with your crockpot full. Anyone is welcome to come and participate as our taste-testers. Bring a dessert to share. There will be prizes awarded to the winners.

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 have copies of the book available for those who signed up.

If you haven't signed up yet, it's not too late. We can order more.

Email: efumc@comcast.net or call 330-457-2465.

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.

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

12-22-24
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

CHANGE OF VENUE... SunDog Cider House
(Firestone Farms Plaza) 145 Town Center Ave, Columbiana

Pastor Jeff Pellin will lead a
4 week Bible Study by Ray Thomas,
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, 10:00 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.