

EAST FAIRFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Courtwright

Organist: Ruth Rowley

Ministers: The Congregation

Pianist: Nancy Setinsek

Choir Director: Randy Hart

December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

**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 Silent Night At The Manger Coventry Carol
 Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head O Come, All Ye Faithful

CHRIST LIGHT ENTERS

CHORAL INTROIT Unto Us A Son Is Given -Martin

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

On this holiest of nights,
we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.
On this most silent night,
we come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.
On this night of carols and candlelight,
we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Wondrous God of all creation, we come tonight with breathless wonder to hear the good news of the babe who changes our lives. We hear the names “Wonderful Counselor,” “Mighty God,” “Prince of Peace,” and we are in awe. You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love. Touch us – touch our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this story. May we never take it for granted. May this night always bring amazement and wonder. Amen.

***CAROL** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” UMH #234

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2-7 pg. 560

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

RESPONSIVE READING

For anyone who has walked in darkness, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

For anyone who has ever felt forgotten, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

For anyone whose patience has been put to the test, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

For anyone in search of the way, the truth, and the life, a new day has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

CANDLE LIGHTING

Tonight we light all the candles as we open our eyes to the glory of Christ's birth. As we light the **first candle**, we celebrate the hope that transcends our hurting world. The **second candle** celebrates the peace that tears the veil of hostility and division. As we light the **third candle**, we celebrate the joy that can dry every tear. The **fourth candle** celebrates the love that covers our guilt. The flame of the **Christ candle** opens our eyes to God's everlasting light, as we celebrate the way to worship Christ, our newborn King.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, tonight we join the angelic choir proclaiming glory to God in the highest. In a world where people seek the perfect gift to give, we rejoice because you've already given it. As you lit up the sky that first Christmas, continue to illuminate our world with your presence. We pray on this Christmas Eve that you will guide our every step, hear our every prayer, and delight in every praise as we come and worship Christ, our newborn King. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

OFFERTORY

O Holy Child Of Bethlehem -McDonald

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

CAROL

"The First Noel"

UMH #245

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:1-20

pg. 832

CHOIR ANTHEM

Night Of Wonder -Williams / McKibben

PRAYER

CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION

Pastor Lisa

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CHOIR ANTHEM

O Holy Night -Adams

*CAROL

“Silent Night”

UMH #239

As Silent Night is sung, ushers will move down the center aisle with lit candles. To pass the light down the pew, always hold the lit candle upright and tip the unlit candle to the flame. For safety, never tip a lit candle. Please help children with their candles or hold their candles for them.

*CAROL

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

UMH #431

*CHRISTMAS BLESSING

LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES INTO THE WORLD

~ Go forth with peace to serve the Lord ~

TODAY, DECEMBER 24

Livestream: Hannah Vollnogle

Sound: Bill Rowley

Computer: Vicki Freeman

Greeters:

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Liturgist: Deann Davis

Greeters: Harvey & Carol Smith



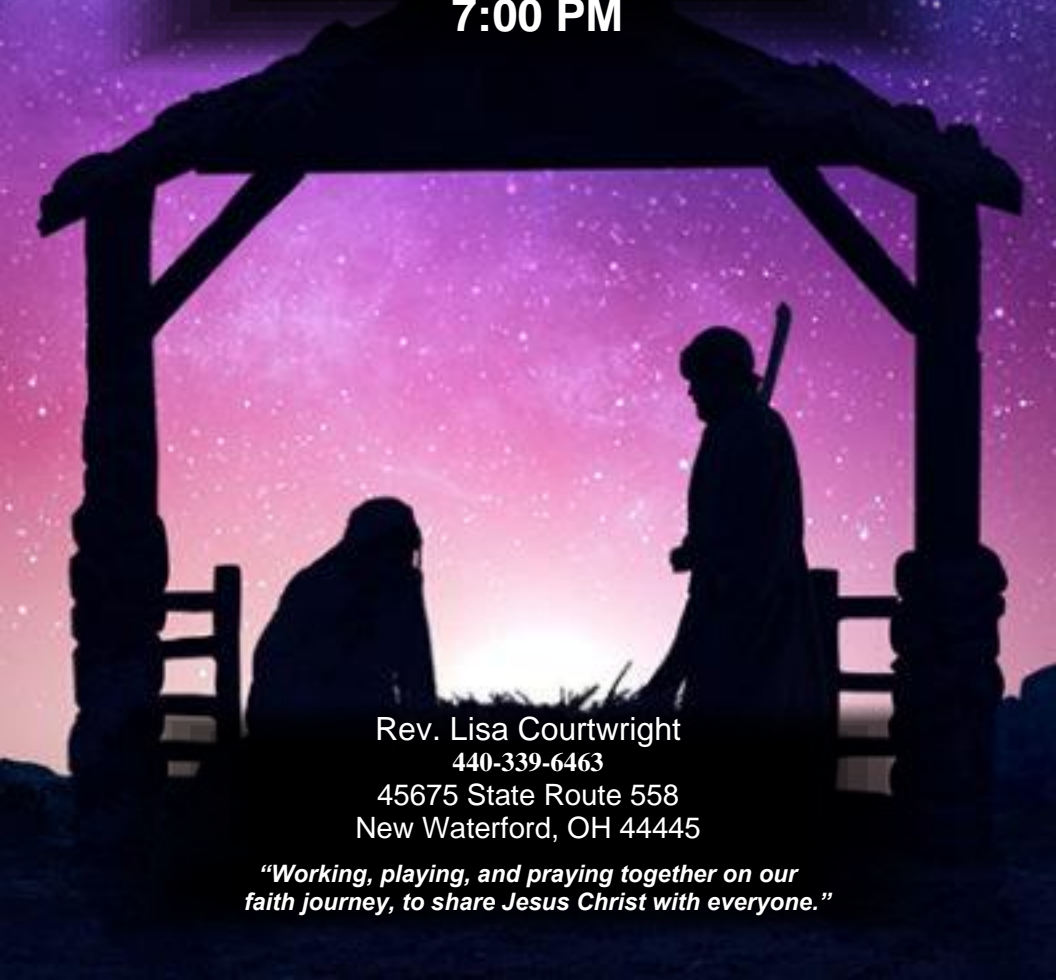


Christmas Eve Service

East Fairfield

United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 22, 2024

7:00 PM



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."*