



**GREENSBURG** *First*  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 30, 2018

8:30 and 10:45 AM Worship

1st Sunday after Christmas Day

*Representing Christ as a Light within the city*



\*Indicates where you may stand if you are able.

\*\*Four-digit hymns are from *The Faith We Sing* hymnal.

## THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRELUDE

O Splendor of God's Beauty Bright

St. Ambrose

*Welcoming the Light of Christ into our midst*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Please sign the welcome tablets, pass them across your pew and back to the outside aisle where they will be collected during the children's message.)*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

We who knelt in the stable—

**Let us come and kneel in the temple!**

Let our hearts give thanks, and our hands rejoice!

**Let our spirits sing, and our bodies dance!**

O children, enter the house of the Lord!

**Enter God's presence, and be reborn!**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

**Joy to the World**

No. 246

OPENING PRAYER

**Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we are reminded that  
“Love came down at Christmas—love amazing, love divine.”  
You loved the world enough to send your Son, and now it is up to us  
to love others as you loved us. Remind us that Christ is our light,  
And the true source of infinite, everlasting, pure love. Amen.**

THE PEACE

As God has poured out the grace of forgiveness and love and peace  
through Christ, let us also share that grace among ourselves.

\*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

**Glory be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

MINISTRY IN MUSIC (8:30 & 10:45)

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Soloist: Fred Pershing  
Longfellow/Marks

CALL TO PRAYER

(stanza 1) No. 206

**I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**  
*(You are invited to come forward and kneel or stand at the altar rail)*

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**TO HEAR THE WORD**

\*HYMN OF INVITATION

The First Noel

No. 242

*(Children are invited to come forward during the last stanza.)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:45)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**May we hear the challenge and the promise of these words, O God,  
and may they transform our lives and the world. Amen.**

GOSPEL READING (Pew Bible: Page 59 New Testament) Luke 2:21-38

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Anette V. Gerber

**TO RESPOND TO THE WORD**

SHARING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

The Offertory

All My Heart Again Rejoices

Gerhardt/Eberling

\*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

No. 95

**Praise Him, all creatures here below:**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**AND DEPART FOR SERVICE**

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

No. 251

\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

\*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

(stanza 4) No. 230

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;**

**Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;**

**O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

\*POSTLUDE

As with Gladness Men of Old

arr. Philip Gehring

*The meeting is over. Let the service begin.*

***LISTENING DEVICES AND LARGE PRINT COPIES  
OF THE SERVICE MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE USHERS.  
IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE, PLEASE ASK AN USHER.***

**The chancel flowers** are given to the Glory of God by the Platos family,  
in loving memory of Al and Jean Platos.

**The bulletins** are given to the Glory of God by Winnie Jo and Jack Wilson,  
in honor of our music staff and their faithful service.

**We Thank Those Who Are Serving Today**

ACOLYTE:	Aidan Hartman
ALTAR GUILD:	Mary Lou Fitzgerald
COFFEE HOUR:	Ruth Hughes
COFFEE HOUR (next week):	
GREETERS:	(8:30) Marilyn McSparrin, Ed Meadows, Laurel Sedlacko (10:45) _____
LITURGIST:	Judy Molter
NURSERY:	Kathy Griffith
NURSERY (next week):	
SOUND SYSTEM:	_____ Tim Willcox
TECH TEAM:	(8:30) Kelly Fullman (10:45) Cheryl Lennert
USHERS:	(8:30) Bill Conrad & George Fagert (10:45) One usher from each team

**Please lift up our friends and church family in prayer:**

Our shut-ins, those in military service, and all with special needs:  
*Please write prayer concerns on the pink cards in the pews and place them  
in the offering plate. Requests are left on for three weeks unless renewed.*

**Prayer & Health Concerns:** the Croushore family

**Please continue to pray for our homebound, nursing home & care center members:**

<b>Brookdale Latrobe:</b>	Allan Pierce, Dorothy Rutter Marge Trumbetta
<b>Westmoreland Manor:</b>	Norma Gump, Christine Shank, Charlotte Sonafelt
<b>Home:</b>	Art Faust

**PLEASE NOTE...**Hospitals and care centers no longer contact churches to let them know  
that members may be a patient there. **Please contact the church office with information.**

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday 12/30 **Read - Romans 15:14-33** “1st Sunday after Christmas Day”

- 8:30 a.m.     Worship (Sanctuary)  
9:30 a.m.     Preschool (Nursery), Children’s Sunday School (3rd floor),  
                  Youth (3rd floor), Genesis/Vanguard class (Library)  
9:30 a.m.     Coffee hour (Sanctuary Hall)  
10:45 a.m.    Worship (Sanctuary)  
~~6:00 p.m.     Youth (CANCELLED)~~

### Monday 12/31 **Read - Romans 16:17-27** (CHURCH OFFICE CLOSSES AT 12 NOON)

### Tuesday 1/1 **Read - Hebrews 1:1-14** *HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!* (CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED)

### Wednesday 1/2 **Read - Hebrews 2:1-18** 5:00 p.m.     SPHS (Lounge)

### Thursday 1/3 **Read - Hebrews 3:1-19**

11:00 a.m.    12 Step Meeting (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 p.m.     Chancel Chanters  
6:30 p.m.     Bonnie Ross Ringers  
7:30 p.m.     Chancel Choir

### Friday 1/4 **Read - Luke 3:1-20**

### Saturday 1/5 **Read - Luke 3:21-38** 7:00 p.m.     Ekklesia Worship (Sanctuary)



## A COMMUNION SERVICE OF WORD & SONG

Saturday - Jan. 5, 2019 - 7 p.m.

**Featured Musician:**    Jacob Gruss, organ  
**Worship Leader:**        Rev. Anette Gerber

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The church office hours will be different this week.** Please refer to the next page for complete details.

**Food Bank 2019 “Truck of the Month” sponsorships** are ready and waiting for you in the sanctuary hall. Hurry...there are only 4 left!

**Centering Prayer** WILL NOT meet on Monday Dec. 31. They will begin meeting again on Monday, Jan. 7, in the Prayer Room at 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday morning Book/Bible Study with Pastor Net** WILL NOT meet again until January 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the Library.

**Congregational Care Team and Stephen Ministry** WILL NOT meet again until Tuesday, Jan. 8, in the Library at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. respectively.

**Wednesday evening Book/Bible Study with Pastor Net** WILL NOT meet again until January 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

**Regular Thursday evening adult choir practices begin again on Jan. 3.**

**Regular Thursday evening activities WILL NOT take place on Jan. 3.** Children’s choirs and Kids Rock activities will begin again on Jan. 10.

**Life Line Screenings will be here on Wednesday, January 9, 2019.**

Take advantage of discounts and register early by calling 688-229-0469 or go online at [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle).

**2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available for pick up in the sanctuary hall. If you need envelopes to make giving easier, please sign up on the clipboard.

**Food Pantry Reminder...**all non-perishable, paper, and personal care items are always greatly appreciated, because Food Bank clients cannot purchase these items with the ACCESS cards. Please drop off all these items or food or your plastic shopping bags in the food bank cart in the sanctuary hall or fellowship hall at any time. **Mark your calendars for next month on January 11 (always the 2nd Friday of the month).**

**The Upper Room daily devotional for January/February** is now available in the media rack in the sanctuary hall.

**Now taking reservations for 2019 Chancel Flowers and Bulletin Sponsors.** Remember that 2018 reserved dates WILL NOT carry over to 2019. Please use the green form for flowers and the purple form for bulletins. Both are located in the media rack.

## Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Greensburg

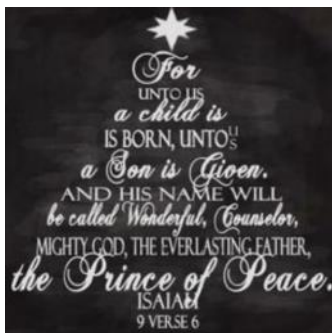
We are so glad that you chose to worship at Greensburg First UMC. Greensburg First is a place for real people with real lives to develop and nurture a real faith. We have authentic relationships, relevant messages, and are committed to raising up the next generation as disciples of Jesus Christ. We want you to know that you are loved and accepted here. Feel free to worship with us regularly and to fully participate in all our activities. If you are new to our community or are looking for a church home, please make it a point to meet the pastor before you leave the building. Also, help us get to know you by signing the welcome tablet. We will be happy to help you learn more about Greensburg First UMC.

### This Week's Scriptures (12/30/18)

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 2:41-52

### Next Week's Scriptures (1/6/19)

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12



### Holiday church office hours:

Monday, Dec. 31 (8 a.m. - 12 noon)

Tuesday, Jan. 1 (CLOSED)

***Happy New Year!!!***

Wednesday thru Friday, Jan. 2 thru Jan. 4  
(regular office hours)

### **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

15 E. 2nd Street, Greensburg, PA 15601

**Phone:** 724-834-3111 - **Fax:** 724-834-8711

**website:** [www.greensburgfirst.org](http://www.greensburgfirst.org)

### Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Rev. Anette V. Gerber..... [pastornet@greensburgfirst.org](mailto:pastornet@greensburgfirst.org).....Senior Pastor  
Martha "Peaches" Clark...[churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org](mailto:churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org).....Secretary  
Robert C. Wilson.....Minister Emeritus  
Janice Vandenberg and Sean Hirst.....Custodians  
Fred Pershing.....Director of Music  
Br. Jim Caffrey Jr., OSL.....Associate Director of Music  
Ruth K. Hughes.....[music@greensburgfirst.org](mailto:music@greensburgfirst.org).....Organist

Behold

I make  
all things

➤ *new* ➤

*Revelation 21:5*

May God bless you  
this New Year!

