



# Greensburg First United Methodist Church

## *A Christmas Eve Service of Las Posadas*

(Service of Shelter for the Holy Family)

Monday, December 24, 2018

7:00 p.m. Worship

“there was no room for them  
in the inn.”

(Luke 2:7)

*In the Hispanic tradition of Latin American countries, especially in Mexico, one of the oldest celebrations is Las Posadas. It was created by the Augustinian Father Diego de Soria about 1587 to introduce Christianity to the New World. It is a preparation for, and anticipation of, the birth of the Savior. Las Posadas is a Christian, biblical, and evangelistic service.*

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

PRELUDE      Improvisation on Twelve Tunes of Christmas      Dom Andrew Moore

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

For those walking in darkness, a new light has dawned.

**Christ is our light and the source of everlasting hope.**

For those living in fear and dread, a new light has dawned.

**Christ is our light and the source of everlasting peace.**

For those living in hopelessness and despair, a new light has dawned.

**Christ is our light and the source of everlasting joy.**

For those living in loneliness, a new light has dawned.

**Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.**

### EVENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Gracious God, tonight as we gather together to conclude our Advent journey, we celebrate that a new light has dawned. A Child is born and that Child is our light and the source of our joy. He brings hope into the world, and the promise of peace on earth. He is love incarnate, love divine, and we thank you dear Lord for this, the most imperfect gift imaginable. Joy to the world! Christ is born! Amen.**

## ENTRANCE

Listen! I am standing at the door knocking:  
if you hear my voice and open the door,  
I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. (Revelation 3:20)

### *Children & youth outside the sanctuary sing:*

In the name of God, we beg: will you let us enter?  
We are tired and we are cold. May we please have shelter?

### *People inside the sanctuary sing:*

**You look dirty and you smell. Will you please keep moving?  
For your kind there is no place, for our inn is decent.**

### *Children & youth outside say:*

It is not by our own choice that today we travel.  
But the emperor has said that all must be counted.

### *People inside sing:*

**For your reason we care not, every room is taken.  
Can't you see the place is full? You are bad for business.**

### *Children & youth outside say:*

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him;  
yet the world did not know him.  
He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who received him, who believed in his name,  
He gave power to become children of God. (John 1:10, 12)

### *People inside say:*

**Who are the children of God?**

### *Children & youth outside say:*

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. (Romans 8:14)

### *People inside say:*

**To what does the Spirit of God guide us?**

### *Children & youth outside say:*

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.  
You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37, 39)  
The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,  
generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23a)

### *People inside say:*

**How do we know we love the Lord and have faith?**

### *Children & youth outside say:*

What good is it, my brothers and sisters,  
if you say you have faith but do not have works?  
Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, (continued)

and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,”  
and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?  
So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. (James 2:14-17)

***Children & youth outside sing:***

Will the child be born tonight on a street corner?  
Can't you find a place for him? Do you have no pity?

***\*People inside stand and sing:***

**Oh, my goodness, do come in. You can use the manger.  
For the rooms that we do have are for a rich trav'ler.**

***\*All sing:***

**Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.**

***All may be seated.***

MINISTRY IN MUSIC	Joy to the World	G. F. Handel
	Michelle Savage, violin	
PROPHECY FORETOLD	(Pew Bible: Page 638 Old Testament)	Isaiah 9:2-7
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	Joseph's Lullaby	Millard & Bannister
	Halo Choir	
THE PRINCE OF PEACE IS BORN	(Pew Bible: Page 58 New Testament)	Luke 2:1-20
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	Good King Wenceslas	arr. Martha Thompson
	Children's Chimes	
THE CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING		
The Offertory	Of the Father's Love Begotten	arr. Malcolm Archer
*DOXOLOGY	<b>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below: Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.</b>	No. 95
*HYMN	<b>It Came upon the Midnight Clear</b>	No. 218
	<i>Children and youth are invited to come forward during the fourth verse.</i>	
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE		
*HYMN AND CANDLE LIGHTING	Silent Night, Holy Night	No. 239
*PRAYER		
*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING		
*RECESSIONAL HYMN	Joy to the World	No. 246
	<i>Children &amp; youth are invited to recess with the pastor to join in the breaking of the piñatas.</i>	
POSTLUDE	Unto us Is Born a Son	arr. Andrew Fletcher

**THE BULLETINS** are given to the Glory of God by the United Methodist Women.

**We Thank Those Who Are Serving This Evening:**

ACOLYTES: Jayme & Brandon Flock  
ALTAR GUILD: Mary Lou Fitzgerald  
TECH TEAM: Kelly Fullman  
USHERS: Carol Jean Albaugh, George Fagert, Harry Fox, Kerry Thompson

**REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**

**Sundays**

8:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary  
9:30 a.m. **Sunday School for all ages**  
Preschool (age 3 thru kindergarten) - Nursery  
Elementary (grades 1 thru 5) - 3rd floor  
Youth (grades 6 thru 12) - 3rd floor  
Genesis/Vanguard class (adults) - Library  
9:30 a.m. Coffee hour - Sanctuary Hall  
10:45 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

**Mondays**

7:00 p.m. Centering Prayer - Prayer Room

**Tuesdays**

6:00 p.m. Congregational Care Team meeting - Library  
7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry training - Library

**Thursdays**

6:00-6:20 p.m. Children's Chimes (age 6 & up)  
Youth Leadership Training (youth prep to assist Kids Rock)  
6:00-6:30 p.m. Chancel Chanters (adult vocal ensemble)  
6:20-6:40 p.m. Transformer Choir (vocal choir for children)  
Halo Choir (vocal choir for youth)  
6:30-7:30 p.m. Bonnie Ross Ringers (adult handbell choir)  
6:40-7:30 p.m. Kids Rock (age 5 thru 5th grade)  
An active learning program involving Bible stories, crafts,  
games, plays, snacks and, most importantly, the love of God  
and his son, Jesus.  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (adult vocal choir)

**Saturdays**

7:00 p.m. Ekklesia Worship (a communion service of word & song)

**Contact the  
Church Office  
at 724-834-3111  
for information  
about any  
church  
activities.**

**Come out...  
Join us...  
Feel connected.**

**Healing Hearts Support Group** Losing someone you love is devastating and life changing. Join with other people who have been there and who understand. You are not alone! We meet monthly on the 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m. in our lounge.

**Centering Prayer** One may believe that all prayer requires words. Based on Psalm 46:10 "*Be still and know that I am God...*", we learn to create interior silence in which the Holy Spirit helps guide us to our true self. Join us on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in our Prayer Room.



**A COMMUNION SERVICE OF WORD & SONG  
(SATURDAYS @ 7 PM)**

*We invite you to come away to a quieter place.*

***Each worship service includes:***

*scripture and a homily (sermon), the sacrament of Holy Communion and one featured musical instrumentalist or ensemble. Then, we gather for a light snack and a time of fellowship.*

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



**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2018**

**Given by**

Jones Memorial Fund

Bill & Carole Beam

Carolyn & William Brown

Bill Conrad

Betty Daverse

Sam Detar

Wife, Jean & Son, Arthur

JoAnn & Larry Flock, Sr.

Patricia Redd Fordyce & Will Swartz

His Family

Pam Hamill

**In Memory of**

Samuel & Flora Jones  
Dr. J.M. Jones & Jessie Cuddy  
A.E. & Bertha Shupe  
Lucille Shupe

Our Parents:  
William & Mary Ellen Beam  
Ralph & Alyce James

Our Loved Ones

Myrt Conrad

Edwin & Jean Mason

Sharon Detar

Husband & Father: Craig Faust

Our Son Mark & Our Parents

Ann Redd

Robert A. Gaither

James, Ella & Robert Reese  
Philip, Maxine and Mary Hamill



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2018

(continued from page 5)

### Given by

Family

Son, Aidan

MaryAnn & Rick Herd

MaryAnn Herd

Paulette Hood & Family

Ruth Hughes

The Platos Family

Kerry & Evelyn

Sue & Ed Meadows

Rev. Michael & Cathy Milinovich

Diane Miller

Daughters, Son & Grandchildren

Miller Family

Wife, Sherry & Family

Daughter, Linda Sampsell

Joan & Mike Sweeney

Libbie Williams

### In Memory of

Howard & Dorothy Hartman Sr.  
and Howard Hartman Jr.

Rebecca Hartman

Our Parents:  
Richard & Arlene Herd  
Truman J. Fisher

Siblings: Amanda Brugbacher & Lance Fisher

James S. Hood & Mildred Hood  
Paul & Sally Wendt

Martha Nash  
My Parents: John C. & Florence M. King  
My Brother: John T. King

Albert & Jean Platos  
Martha Nash

Mary Vahal  
Mildred Stubbs  
Paul & Lila McDowell

Azel Meadows  
Bernice Meadows

Rhelda Graham McCollum  
Michael & Anne Marie Milinovich, Sr.

Jake Miller  
Jodie Miller

Gladys Mough

Bill & Isabelle Miller

Ray Miller

Mom & Dad: Mary & Albert Sampsell

Lela & Wayne Roland  
Linda Roland

My Parents & Grandparents



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2018

(continued from page 6)

### Given by

Greg & Tracy Barr

Bill & Carole Beam

Sam Detar

JoAnn & Larry Flock, Sr.

Rev. Anette Gerber

Rick & MaryAnn Herd

The Platos Family

Evelyn & Kerry

### In Honor of

Our Children: Rachel & Ryan

Our Children: Randy & Gail Beam, Brian & Marge Beam and Jill & Edward Lint

Our Grandchildren: Kristin, Jared, Zachary, Erin, Elicia, Gabrielle, Alex and Christian

My Grandchildren:  
Aden, Tyler, Maddie, Emily & John

Our Children & Grandchildren

Our Family

My Mom: AnnaMary Fisher  
Our Children: Megan & Joe Melichar and Kaitlyn & Joe Lewis  
Our Grandchildren: Margot Melichar and Brady & Evan Lewis

Ed & Sue Meadows 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Helen Harrison



## We Welcome You

We are so glad that you chose to worship at Greensburg First United Methodist Church. 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 we 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.



### **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....Senior Pastor.....([pastornet@greensburgfirst.org](mailto:pastornet@greensburgfirst.org))  
Robert C. Wilson.....Minister Emeritus  
Martha "Peaches" Clark...Secretary...([churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org](mailto:churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org))  
Janice Vandenberg.....Daytime Custodian  
Sean Hirst.....Evening Custodian  
Ruth K. Hughes.....Organist  
Fred Pershing.....Director of Music  
Jim Caffrey Jr., OSL..... Associate Director of Music  
Ruth K. Hughes.....Organist

*Church and office will be closed  
Dec. 25 & 26 and Jan. 1*