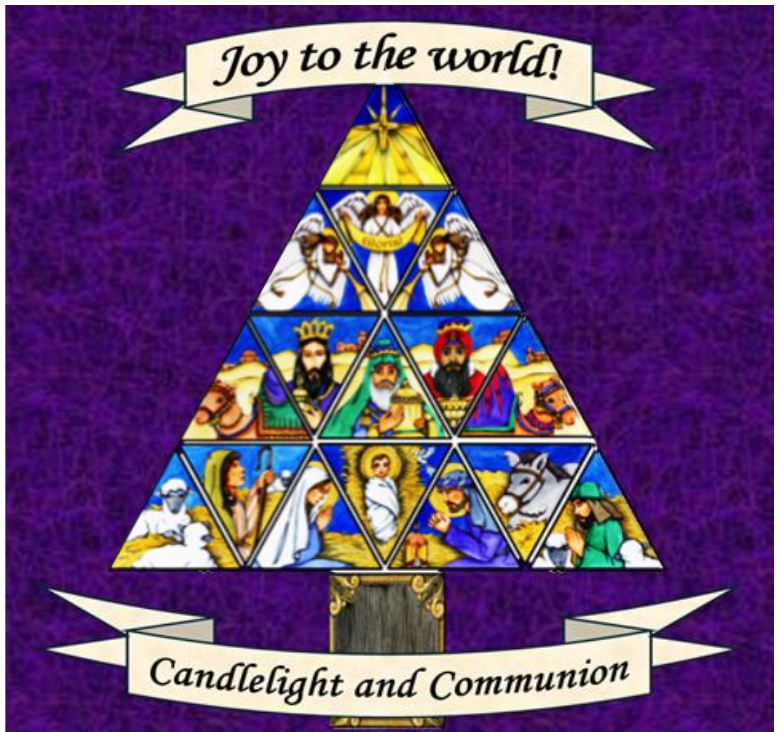




15 EAST 2ND STREET
GREENSBURG PA 15601

Telephone: 724-834-3111
www.greensburgfirst.org

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday 8am-4pm



Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024 ♦ ***9:00 pm***

† indicates a time to stand, if you are able

THE GATHERING and PRELUDE

*~Organ selections
Ruth Hughes, organist*

A CHRISTMAS GREETING

THE INTROIT

“Still, Still, Still” *~Austrian Carol; arr. Norman Luboff*
Jim Caffrey, Karen Pershing, Fred Pershing,
and Pastor Aimée Twigg — quartet

†CALL to WORSHIP *(responsively)*

On this holiest of nights,

we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned in 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 praises joining with the heavenly host of angels.

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

1. *O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

3. *Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

6. *Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

ADVENT WREATH LITURGY “Christ, Be Our Light” ~Bernadette Farrell

*Choir (singing): Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making Your Kingdom come!
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts! Shine through the darkness!
Christ, be our light! Shine in Your church gathered today.*

Our Savior’s birth is celebrated with bold faith.

May our hearts be willing!

Like Mary, who showed humble surrender:

may our hearts be willing!

Like Joseph, who exhibited unconditional trust:

may our hearts be willing!

Like the shepherds, who displayed awestruck wonder:

may our hearts be willing!

Like the angels, who sang glorious praise:

may our hearts be willing!

For all who are willing to receive the gift of the Savior, born in Bethlehem:

**grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait,
the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

Tonight, we light all the candles. The first candle is the hope shining for those worn thin by times of waiting. The second candle is the hope shining for those worn down with wearied souls. The third candle captures the hopeful expectation of those eagerly watching for God's glory in our day. The fourth candle is the hope of a new tomorrow, shining for those seeking freedom from the wounds of this world.

Tonight, we also light the Christ candle. This candle radiates the hope of Jesus Christ to all who are willing to receive it.

People and Choir (*singing*): ***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts!
Shine through the darkness! Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today. Christ, be our light!***

Let us pray together:

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, You are the hope for our hurting and broken world. We thank You, O God, for guiding us through this season of Advent, shining Your light in the midst of our darkness. As Your birth lit up the Bethlehem sky, continue to shine in our world by dispelling darkness, binding up the broken, and calling forth the faithful. On this holiest of nights, make us willing to welcome You as our Savior and Lord. We pray this in the name of our newborn King. Amen!

†**SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST**

†**CHORAL RESPONSE** (*sung in unison*)

UMH 204

***Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.***

A CHRISTMAS PROPHECY

Isaiah 9:2,6-7 NIV

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

MINISTRY in MUSIC

***Chancel Choir
"Christmas Lullaby" ~John Rutter***

THE CHRISTMAS NARRATIVE from the GOSPEL of LUKE

The story of Christ's birth as recorded by the apostle Luke

MINISTRY in MUSIC

***Bonnie Ross Ringers Bell Choir
"Once in Royal David's City" ~arr. Dale Hanks***

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

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!

SHARING OUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS for the LORD

THE OFFERTORY

“O Sleep, Dear Holy Baby” ~Carson P. Cooman

†CHORAL RESPONSE *(sung in unison)*

UMH 221, verse 4

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wiseman, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give Him: give my heart!*

†PRAYER of DEDICATION

†A CAROL MEDLEY

“Away in A Manger”

UMH 217, verses 1 and 3

- 1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*
- 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.*

“What Child is This”

UMH 219, verses 1 and 3

- 1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*
- 3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own Him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

UMH 230, verses 1 and 4

1. *O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*
4. *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!*

A READING from the GOSPELS

John 1:1-14 NIV

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE

“Christmas Joy!”

Pastor Kevin Haley

*The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory,
the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

MINISTRY in MUSIC

Chancel Chanters

“All My Heart This Night Rejoices” ~Johann Georg Ebeling

SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

The Pastor shares an invitation to the Lord’s Table...

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We remember how Christ came from the vast expanses of heaven, to a world that barely made room for Him—fragile, vulnerable, and tiny. We shudder to think of a child in a backyard shed in the cold of the night, with only the protection that the intense love of His parents could give Him. We remember how shepherds and Magi knelt before Him... before He could form words of blessing, or raise His hand to heal. How they adored Him, not for what He had done, but rather, for who He was—God with us, a miracle to hold in your hands. We remember as well Christ in the upper room, as He gathered with His disciples, taking a loaf of bread and a cup of wine — as common as anything — and declared they also were a miracle —

a miracle to hold in our hands, because they would be signs of Your love for all eternity: bread for new life rising out of the old, and wine for forgiveness unearned yet complete. We remember with pain Christ's body defeated, and we remember with joy His rising from death, and we also remember with faithful hope as we await His return again.

Light of the world, we give thanks that You came among us, with healing in Your touch, with compassion in Your voice, and with grace in Your power.

Darkness may seem so strong, but the slightest light disrupts it.

Descend upon our world again, we pray; vanquish the powers of evil, sorrow, and despair. Shine for those who grieve tonight, those who are lost and lonely, those who are ill or empty, those who dread the night and fear the morning. Shine in us, that we might shine for them, that all the shadows would clear away and we would meet each other in heaven's glorious light, and call each other beloved as You do us.

Holy Spirit, rest Yourself in these gifts of bread and the vine, that they may be sure signs of Your love for us. Unite us with Christ—the holy Child of Bethlehem—that we might love as He loved so greatly... that this love may change the whole world.

This we pray in His precious name. Amen!

GIVING the BREAD and CUP

Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward as directed by the ushers, receive a piece of bread from the loaf, carefully dip it into the chalice, and then eat the dipped piece of bread as you return to your seat...

PRAYER after COMMUNION

MINISTRY in MUSIC

“O Holy Night” ~Adolphe Adam

Ruth Hughes—organ; Terry Lasut—trumpet



As we light our candles, please tip only the unlit candle. During “Silent Night,” the Pastor will lift his candle at the end of each verse—please lift your candle carefully at that same time to reflect Christ’s light.

†CAROL of CANDLELIGHT

“Silent Night”

UMH 239

**1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace!**

2. *Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!*
3. *Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!*
4. *Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!*

†THE PROPHECY FULFILLED

Isaiah 60:1-5a NIV

†CAROL of JOY

“Joy to the World”

UMH 246

1. *Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing!*
2. *Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy!*
3. *No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found!*
4. *He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love!*

†DISMISSAL with BLESSING

†THE POSTLUDE

“Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts” ~Camille Saint-Saens

†GOING FORTH to SERVE

Liturgist: **The Rev. Chuck Hildbold**
 Tech Team: **Nevaeh Hirst**
 Acolytes: **Ethan and Elijah Miller**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of GREENSBURG PRESENTS

Roast & Toast

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025 | 7:00 pm



CELEBRATING PASTOR KEVIN'S 65TH BIRTHDAY and RETIREMENT



First United Methodist Church
15 East 2ND Street
Greensburg PA 15601

Hors d'oeuvres and
Birthday Cake
will be enjoyed by all!

~Come and celebrate with us!~

Please RSVP no later than Friday, January 3, 2025.
Call or text Barbara Bloom at 724-454-2212
or email: betangellover@hotmail.com.



May the love of Christmas be in your heart throughout the year!

Find us on FACEBOOK:

First United Methodist Church—Greensburg

Regular Church Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8am-4pm

*(may change without notice... thank you
for your understanding & patience)*

Wi-Fi Network

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

15 E. 2nd Street, Greensburg PA 15601 Phone: 724-834-3111

Church website: www.greensburgfirst.org

Rev. Kevin R. Haley
Peaches Clark
Fred Pershing
Jim Caffrey, Jr.
Terry Lasut
Ruth K. Hughes
Bob Coder
TBD...
Custodians

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Church Treasurer
Outdoor Maintenance
Simply Spotless Cleaning LLC