

Christmas Tide Sunday



**A Service of Worship
for the Lord's Day
Sunday, December 29, 2024**

10:00 am

† Indicates a time to stand, if you are able

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE

† **CAROL of PRAISE** **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** **UMH 211**

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,
the Expected of the nations and their Savior:

Come and save us, O Lord our God.

1) *(singing) O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O Wisdom, who came forth from the mouth of the Most High,
searching from end to end, ordering all things mightily and sweetly:

Come and teach us the way of prudence.

2) *(singing) O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O Adonai and Leader of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses
in the flames of the bush, and gave him the law on Sinai:

Come, and with Your outstretched arm, redeem us.

3) *(singing) O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

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O Root of Jesse, who stands as an ensign for the people, before whom kings shall keep silence and to whom the Gentiles shall make their supplication:

Come, and deliver us and tarry not.

4) *(singing) O come, Thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of Thy people be; before Thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on Thy mercy call. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O Key of David and Scepter of the house of Israel, who opens and no one shuts, who shuts and no one opens:

Come, and bring forth from prison the captive who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death.

5) *(singing) O come, Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home. The captives from their prison free, and conquer death's deep misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O Dayspring, Brightness of the light eternal and Sun of justice:

Come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

6) *(singing) O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thy justice here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O King of the Gentiles, and their Desired One, Cornerstone that makes both one:

Come, and deliver us whom You have formed out of the dust of the earth.

7) *(singing) O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust Thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel*

†**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 READING from the OLD TESTAMENT

Daniel 2:46-49 NIV

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

AN ORDER of THANKSGIVING for the BIRTH of A CHILD

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the birth of a child is a joyous and solemn occasion in the life of a family. It is also an occasion for rejoicing in the church family. I ask you, therefore, to join with Andrew and Sarah in giving thanks to God for the gift of Alexander to be their son.

Sarah and Andrew, I now ask you: will you endeavor by your example and teaching to provide your son with a home of faith and love? Will you both covenant in prayer to live out the love and grace of Jesus Christ in your daily lives, so that Alexander may learn from your example? And will you help him discover what is the breadth and length and depth of the love of God, and of Jesus Christ, through whom God has made such love known?

Parents: With God's help, we will!

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us join together in prayer for all of them:

Gracious God, we give You humble and hearty thanks that You have preserved, through the pain and anxiety of childbirth, Your servant Sarah, and You have upheld Your servant Andrew. They desire now to offer You their praise and thanksgivings. Grant in Your mercy that, by Your help, they may live faithfully according to Your will in this life, that they may raise Alexander in the Christian faith, and that they both promise to do all in their power to teach him about the love and grace of Jesus Christ. This we ask in His holy name. Amen!

Alexander Francis Litzinger, born June 17, 2024

Son of Sarah (Stillman) Litzinger and Andrew Litzinger

Grandson of Frank and Susan Stillman; great-grandson of Frank Stillman

MINISTRY in MUSIC

Mary Wilson, soloist

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light” ~Johann Rist

PASTORAL 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 of HIS TITHES and OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY

†**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**

†**CAROL of PRAYER**

“We Three Kings”

UMH 254

A READING from the GOSPELS

Matthew 2:1-12 NIV

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE

Pastor Kevin Haley

“The Empire Strikes Back!”

(The Magi -vs- King Herod)

Theme: “STAR BORN—Long Ago in A Galilee Not So Far Away”

WESLEY’S COVENANT PRAYER

Pastor: Commit yourselves to Jesus Christ as His servants. Christ has many services to be done. Some are easy and honorable, others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests; others are contrary to both. In some, we may please Christ and please ourselves; but then there are other works where we cannot please Jesus except by denying ourselves. It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Jesus Christ. Let us, therefore, go to the Lord in prayer. Let us pray together:

I am no longer my own, but Yours. Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will. Put me to doing; put me to suffering; let me be employed for You, or laid aside for You; exalted for You, or brought low for You; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—You are mine and I am Yours. So be it! And the covenant made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen!

†**CAROL of COMMITMENT**

UMH 237

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

†**DISMISSAL with BLESSING**

†**THE POSTLUDE**

†**GOING FORTH to SERVE**

Tech Team: **Nevaeh Hirst**
Acolyte: **Lillian Baker**

Sunday ~ December 29 ~ Read Zechariah 13-14; Revelation 21

9:00 am Church Family Brunch (*Fellowship Hall*)

10:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary*)

Monday ~ December 30 ~ Malachi

8am-4pm Church Office hours

Tuesday ~ December 31 ~ Revelation 22

8am-12 Noon Church office hours (closes at 12 Noon)

Wednesday ~ January 1 ~ Psalm 85

Church and Office are closed today ~ Happy New Year!

Thursday ~ January 2 ~ Exodus 3:1-22

10 am-1 pm 12-Step (*Library*)

8am-1pm Church office hours (closes at 1:00 pm)

6:30-8:30pm Evening Women's 12-Step (*Fellowship Hall*)

Friday ~ January 3 ~ Exodus 4:1-17

Church and Office are closed today

Saturday ~ January 4 ~ Exodus 6:1-13

Prayer Requests:

Linda A. / Bob B. / Isie B. /

Jim B. / Lou B. / Bill Beam /

Brad / Debbie C. & family /

Chad / Charlotte / Christy & Emily / Connie / Janet Craig / David / Debbi /

Debbie / Darlene / Denny Doran / Doreen / Pastor Kevin & Amy Haley /

Diane & Michael Hall / Becky J. / Diane K. / Eric K. / Ginny K. /

Shirley Kahler / Diane M. / Dorothy M. / John M. / Melanie Marody /

Anthony McKenna / Melanie P. / Page family / Paul / Pollard family /

Margie Price / Pam Proctor / Robin & John / Sam S. / Steven / Sue /

/ our Church Family / family of... Betty White and retired Bishop Bashore

*Please write prayer concerns on attendance cards in the bulletin, **check the box(es)** and place them in offering. **Requests are listed in the bulletin for 3 weeks, unless renewed.***

Those who wish to... but cannot be among us.

Marge Trumbetta Brookdale Latrobe

Paulette Hood Hempfield Manor Greensburg

Myrna Baer, Shirley Kahler St. Anne Home (Greensburg)

Donna Bush Westmoreland Manor Greensburg

TODAY **2025 Envelope Packets NOW available in Sanctuary Hall.**

- **Church Family Brunch** at 9:00 am, in Fellowship Hall.
- **One Combined Sunday Morning Worship Service** meets at **10:00 am.**
- **FINAL 2024 Contributions** must be received by **TODAY**, due to holiday office hours.

THIS WEEK ~ HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Dec. 30-Jan. 3 | 8 am - 4 pm | Office Closes at 12 noon | CLOSED Happy New Year! | Office Closes at 1:00 pm | CLOSED |

WHEN MINISTRIES RESUME

- **Regular Church Office Hours** ~ Monday, Jan. 6, 2025
- **Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship** ~ Jan. 5, 2025
- **Sunday School for all ages** ~ Jan. 5, 2025
- **Tuesday morning Adult Bible Study** ~ Jan. 7, 2025
- **Centering Prayer** ~ Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025
- **Adult Music Ministries** ~ Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025

LOOKING AHEAD

- **Food Pantry “Truck of the Month”** sponsorship board now in Sanctuary Hall.
- **Food Pantry Special Collection Request** ~ Canned Soup to be distributed Jan. 10, 2025
- **Board of Trustees** ~ Monday, Jan. 6 ~ 6:30 pm (*Trustee Room*)
- **Staff Meeting** ~ Tuesday, Jan. 7 ~ 1:30 pm (*Church Office*)
- **RSVP Deadline for Fella♦Ship** ~ Wednesday, Jan. 8
- **Food Pantry Set-Up Team** ~ Thursday, Jan. 9 ~ 1:30 pm (*Fellowship Hall*)
- **Food Pantry Distribution Team** ~ Friday, Jan. 10 ~
~ Truck Arrives at 8:00 am
~ Distribution at 10:00 am (*Glass Doors at S. Maple entrance*)
- **Memorial Service for Betty White** ~ Friday, Jan. 10
~ Visitation 12-1:00 (*Rear of Sanctuary*) ~ Service 1:00 (*Sanctuary*) ~ Luncheon 1:30 (*Fellowship Hall*)
- **Fella♦Ship Men/Boys Prayer Breakfast** ~ Saturday, Jan. 11 ~ 9:00 am (*Fellowship Hall*)
- **Installation of Church Officers** ~ Sunday, Jan. 12 ~ during 10:00 am Worship
- **All Church Officer Pizza Lunch** ~ Sunday, Jan. 12 ~ 11:15 am (*Fellowship Hall*)
- **SPRC** ~ Tuesday, Jan. 14 ~ 6:30 pm (*Church Lounge*)
- **February Circuit Rider Article DEADLINE** ~ Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025
- **Roast & Toast** ~ celebrate Pastor Kevin’s 65th Birthday & Retirement...details on back page

Welcome home to First United Methodist Church!

Sunday morning Worship Service at 10:00 in the Sanctuary

(Livestream worship continues at 10:00)

We are glad that you are with us in worship today! Greensburg:First is a church where you can come to learn that God loves you just the way you are, but that God also loves you too much to let you stay this way. God wants you to become more like Jesus! If you do not have a church home of your own, we hope that you might prayerfully consider becoming a part of our church family, as we reach out with love and in the name of Jesus Christ! **Also, please help us get to know you,**

or to be able to contact you in the case of an emergency/cancellation,
by filling out a Welcome Card (inserted in this bulletin).

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.

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

Name: Greensburg First
Password: Jeremiah2911



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

Senior Pastor pastorkevin@greensburgfirst.org

Secretary churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org

Director of Music tumusic@comcast.net

Associate Director of Music

Director of Youth alasuterry@gmail.com

Organist ruthkhughes@gmail.com

Church Treasurer

Outdoor Maintenance

Simply Spotless Cleaning LLC