



# First United Methodist Church

15 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Greensburg PA 15601

**A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day**

Sunday, December 7, 2025 ♦ 10:00am

**Our Mission: TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN**

† Indicates a time to stand, if you are able.

## WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE PRELUDE

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* ~Michael Burkhardt

### †CALL to WORSHIP (Responsively)

In the wilderness a voice cries out: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

**We come today to make room in our hearts and lives  
for the One who is coming.**

John the Baptist calls us to repentance, to turn from what weighs us down,  
and to turn toward the hope, the mercy, and the transforming fire of God.

**Come, people of God, open your hearts, lift your voices,  
and prepare the way of the Lord. Let us worship God.**

### †GLORIA PATRI (Sung in unison)

UMH 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!*

### †HYMN

*Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

UMH 173

### LIGHTING of the ADVENT WREATH

Congregational Response: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* UMH #211 (verse 2)

### MINISTRY in MUSIC

*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* ~Don McAffee

Chancel Choir w/ solo by Jim Caffrey

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER HYMN

*Emmanuel*

UMH 204 (no repeat)

PASTORAL, SILENT, and THE 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!

*(You are invited to come to the rail during this time of prayer)*

MINISTRY in MUSIC

*Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending* ~Charles Wesley  
Chancel Chanters

SHARING of TITHES and OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

*Comfort, Comfort, Now My People* ~arr. Egil Hovland

†THE DOXOLOGY *(Sung in unison)*

UMH 94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the Source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

†PRAYER of DEDICATION

†HYMN

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

UMH 206

THE MESSAGE

Signs and Stories  
Matthew 3:1-12<sup>NRSV</sup>

Pastor Clint Phillips

†SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION (Responsively)

Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

Let us join together in reciting the *Apostles Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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. It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in Your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, Your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets. And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night in which He gave himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." When the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Let us pray...

## **GIVING the BREAD and CUP**

*Communion will be served to you where you are seated.*

*Please take a piece of bread from its tray, then wait until directed to eat together.*

*(The bread is a piece of a rice cracker that is gluten-free)*

*Please do the same with the juice: take one, wait until directed to drink...*

## **PRAYER after COMMUNION**

†HYMN

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

**UMH 237** (verses 1-4)

†DISMISSAL with BLESSING

†THE POSTLUDE

*Prepare the Royal Highway* ~arr. Wilbur Held

†GOING FORTH to SERVE

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**Liturgist:** Jim Caffrey

**Acolyte:** Conner Grant

**A/V Tech:** \_\_?\_\_?\_\_?

# REMEMBER to return the following:

**Angel Tree Gifts...** Due TODAY, Dec. 7, to the box by the Angel Tree in the Narthex, unwrapped and angel tag attached.

**Stocking Gifts...** Due TODAY, Dec. 7, to the box by the Fireplace in Sanctuary Hall, unwrapped and stocking tag attached.

## Poinsettia Order Form...Due Dec. 14

## Return to Church Office or MaryAnn Herd

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### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2025

We are purchasing only enough poinsettias to decorate the church and to distribute to our Special Concerns members. If you would like to contribute to the cost of these poinsettias in memory/honor of your loved ones, please fill out the form below. Please enclose your cash or check **made to UMW**, with "poinsettias" on the memo line. **Deadline for ordering poinsettias and having the names of your loved ones included in our bulletin insert is Sunday, December 14.**

***If you wish to pick up a poinsettia,*** you may do so after the 7:00pm Christmas Eve service (Dec. 24) -OR- Sunday (Dec. 28)  
(Church office CLOSED Thursday & Friday, Dec. 25 & 26)

**Questions?** Call the Church Office at 724-834-3111.

**Mail to:** First United Methodist Church, 15 E. 2nd St., Greensburg, PA 15601, by December 14, 2024.

I wish to order the following poinsettias: (Please circle in memory of or in honor of)

In memory/honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

In memory/honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up a poinsettia \_\_\_\_\_ **AFTER** the 7:00pm Christmas Eve service (Dec. 24) -OR- Sunday (Dec. 28)

◆◆◆ Church office will be **CLOSED:** Thursday (Dec. 25), Friday (Dec. 26) ◆◆◆

**Monday ~ December 8 ~** Jeremiah 33:12-266:30 pm **Centering Prayer** (*Prayer Room—Sanctuary level*)6:30 pm **Board of Trustees** (*Trustee Room—lower level*)**Tuesday ~ December 9 ~** Isaiah 2:1-5**Wednesday ~ December 10 ~** Isaiah 9:1b-7♦ ♦ ♦ **RSVP Deadline for Fella-Ship** ♦ ♦ ♦6:00 pm **Chancel Chanters rehearsal** (*Sanctuary*)6:30 pm **Bell Choir rehearsal** (*Chapel—Sanctuary level*)7:30 pm **Chancel Choir** (*Choir Room—Sanctuary level*)**Thursday ~ December 11 ~** Isaiah 11:1-910 am-1 pm **12-Step** (*Lounge—lower level*)1:30 pm **Food Pantry Set-up Team** (*Fellowship Hall—lower level*)6:30-8:30pm **Evening Women's 12-Step** (*Lounge—lower level*)**Friday ~ December 12 ~** Isaiah 11:10-16**Food Pantry Day** 8:00 am Truck Arrives

10:00 am Distribution Begins (@ S. Maple glass door entrance)

**Saturday ~ December 13 ~** Isaiah 12:1-69:00 am **Fella-Ship Men/Boys Prayer Breakfast** (*Fellowship Hall—lower level*)**Sunday ~ December 14 ~** Isaiah 25:1-98:30 am **Coffee Fellowship** (*Sanctuary Hall*)8:45 am **Children's Chime Choir rehearsal** (*Chapel-Sanctuary level*)9:00 am **Sunday School:**Children [PreK-grade 5] (*Nursery-Sanctuary level*)Youth 180 [grade 6-12] (*Youth Café-3rd floor*)Adult Sunday School (*Library-lower level*)10:00 am **Worship** (*Sanctuary*)

Questions?

Call the Church Office at 724-834-3111.

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.

## Prayer Requests:

Aidan / Alex Ankney / Bob & Connie Barone / Becky / Bette / Bill / Isabel Blackburn /  
Blanche / Isabel Bloom / Ken Bossart / Diane C. / Janet Craig / Debbie D. / Doris /  
Emily & Christy / Linda F. / Jason / Cheryl K. / Diane K. / Donna K. / Eric K. / Melanie K. /  
Shirley Kahler / Katelyn / Ken Keiser / Kimberly / Linda / Ed Lint / Lori / Cha M. / Donna M. /  
Dorothy M. / Eugene M. / Jim M. / John M. / Ron M. & family / Brian McKinney /  
John Meffe / Mel & Maxine / baby Molly / David Nalevanko / Shirley Neill / Kathy P. /  
Paul / Carol Pocratsky / Rhonda / Michael S. / baby Sutton / Kerry Thompson / Tracey /  
Yost family / Beth Z. / Zacchetti family / Pastor Clint Phillips & family (Karla, Sarah, Isaiah)

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

**Paulette Hood** Hempfield Manor (*Greensburg*)**Bill Conrad** Ridgecrest (*Pittsburgh*)**Myrna Baer, Shirley Kahler** St. Anne Home (*Greensburg*)**Donna Bush** Westmoreland Manor (*Greensburg*)

## SPECIAL FOCUS

- **Crèche Display** before & after Worship and by appointment on weekdays, call church office to schedule. (North Hall on lower level)
- **ANGEL TREE gifts due TODAY...**to the box in the Narthex by the Angel Tree
- **Gift Wrapping Fellowship...**join us TODAY, Dec. 7, after worship to help wrap the gifts from Angel Tree. Meet in the Bell Room on lower level.
- **Westmoreland Manor STOCKING gifts due TODAY...**to the box by the Fireplace in Sanctuary Hall.
- **It's time to order your Christmas Poinsettias!!** Please see order form on page 5 or get a yellow form in the Media Rack. See MaryAnn Herd or call the church office with questions at 724-834-3111. **DEADLINE is Sunday, Dec. 14.**

## THIS WEEK

- **Centering Prayer** continues to meet on Monday evenings, at 6:30 in the Prayer Room.  
*It's a time to come together in quiet reverence and prayer.*
- **Board of Trustees** will meet on Monday, Dec. 8, at 6:30 pm in the Trustee Room.
- **RSVP Deadline for Fella-Ship Men/Boys Prayer Breakfast** is Wednesday, Dec. 10.
- **Join the weekly fellowship of our Music Ministry** at Thursday rehearsals:  
**PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE...Wednesday, Dec. 10 (not 11)**
  - 6:00 pm **Chancel Chanters** rehearsal (Sanctuary)
  - 6:30 pm **Bell Choir** rehearsal (Chapel)
  - 7:30 pm **Chancel Choir** rehearsal (Choir Room—Sanctuary level)
- **Food Pantry Set-up Team** meets on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall to set up tables, boxes/bags to prepare for Friday morning Food Bank distribution.  
**We need lots of EXTRA HANDS this month!**
- **Food Pantry Distribution Day** is Friday, Dec. 12 ~ Truck arrives at 8:00am  
~ Distribution begins at 10:00am
- **Fella-Ship Men/Boys Prayer Breakfast** is Saturday, Dec. 13, in our Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am. All men and boys are invited to come out and share a home-cooked breakfast, a time of fellowship, and a lesson/prayer time lead by our Pastor Clint Phillips. Please RSVP to the Church Office 724-834-3111 by Wednesday, Dec. 10.
- **Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship** begins every Sunday at 8:30 am, in Sanctuary Hall. *It's a time to get a coffee, tea, or hot cocoa and share a treat and some fellowship.*
- **Children's Chime Choir rehearsal** at 8:45 am in Chapel/Sanctuary level
- **Sunday School at 9:00 am:** **Children** [PreK-grade 5] Nursery/Sanctuary level  
**Youth 180** [grades 6-12] Youth Café/3rd floor  
**Adult Sunday School** class in Library/lower level
- **Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 am in our Sanctuary**

## LOOKING AHEAD & THINGS TO KNOW

- **Circuit Rider DEADLINE** ~ Monday, Dec. 15 ~ to the Church Office for the January issue
- **Christmas Eve Worship** ~ Wednesday, Dec. 24 ~ 3:00 & 7:00 pm (Sanctuary)
- **Church Office CLOSED** ~ Thursday & Friday, Dec. 25 & 26 ~ **Merry Christmas!!!**
- **LAST 2025 DEPOSIT** ~ Monday, Dec. 29, 9:00 am ~ due to bank & office holiday hours
- **Church Office CLOSED** ~ Thursday & Friday, January 1 & 2 ~ **Happy New Year!!!**

# Welcome to First United Methodist Church!

Sunday morning Worship Service at 10:00 in the Sanctuary

*(Livestream worship continues at 10:00)*

We're so glad you're here!

Whether it's your first visit or you've been with us for years, know that you are loved. If you don't have a church home, we invite you to consider joining our family as we learn, grow, and share Christ's love together. Please take a moment to fill out the Welcome Card in your bulletin—we'd love to connect with you.

## *The Worship Bulletins*

are sponsored by Betty Daverse,  
to the Glory of God  
and in loving memory of her mother, Jean Mason

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

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

### Find us on FACEBOOK:

First United Methodist  
Church—Greensburg

### Wi-Fi Network:

Name: Greensburg First  
Password: Jeremiah2911

**Church Website:**  
greensburgfirst.org



### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

15 E. 2nd Street, Greensburg PA 15601

Phone: 724-834-3111

**Rev. Clint Phillips** 724-594-2029 [pastor@greensburgfirst.org](mailto:pastor@greensburgfirst.org)

**Peaches Clark** Secretary [churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org](mailto:churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org)

**Fred Pershing** Director of Music [tumusic@comcast.net](mailto:tumusic@comcast.net)

**Jim Caffrey, Jr. OSL** Assoc. Director of Music [puppycat1955@gmail.com](mailto:puppycat1955@gmail.com)

**Terry Lasut** Dir. of Youth [youth180.greensburgfirst@gmail.com](mailto:youth180.greensburgfirst@gmail.com)

**Ruth K. Hughes** Organist [ruthkhughes@gmail.com](mailto:ruthkhughes@gmail.com)