

Candlelight

SERVICE



First United Methodist Church

15 East 2nd Street, Greensburg PA 15601

Christmas Eve ♦ Dec. 24, 2025 ♦ 7:00 pm

Our Mission: TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN

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

THE PRELUDE

Once in Royal David's City ~Dom Andrew Moore

WELCOME

INTROIT

All My Heart This Night Rejoices ~Johann George Ebeling

Chancel Chanters

†**CALL to WORSHIP** (*Responsively*)

Adapted from Isaiah 9

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

**Authority rests upon His shoulders,
and He is called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

His dominion is marked by justice and righteousness,
from this time on and forevermore.

**We come to rejoice in the light of Christ, born for us this night.
Let us worship God, who has given us the Light of the world.**

†**OPENING PRAYER** *(Unison)*

Holy God, on this quiet and holy night, we come to worship You. We gather in wonder and gratitude, remembering the gift of Your Son, born in humility and wrapped in love. As we hear the familiar story once more, open our hearts to receive the good news. Fill us with the peace proclaimed by the angels, the joy carried by the shepherds, and the hope that shines in the light of Christ. May our worship honor You, and may the love we celebrate tonight shape our lives beyond this place. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

†**HYMN**

Joy to the World!

UMH 246

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE

On this holy night, we gather in awe and wonder. The waiting gives way to glory. The promise takes on flesh. The Word becomes Light among us. We have lit candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, each flame a testimony to God's unfolding story. Tonight, we light the Christ Candle, rejoicing that the long-awaited One has come to dwell with us. Like Mary, we magnify the Lord with joy that overcomes fear.

“Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” *(Luke 2:10–11)*

Hear the apostle's witness: “The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.” *(Titus 2:11)*

And with Mary we sing: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” *(Luke 1:46–47)*

We light the Christ Candle, remembering that God's promise is now revealed in the face of Jesus.

The Light has come, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Emmanuel, God with us, shines in the world.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among all.

God of glory, on this holy night we marvel at Your coming. A child born in a manger, the Light that no darkness can extinguish. Shine in our hearts and through our lives, so that Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love may take on flesh in us too. Teach us to magnify You with joy that overcomes fear.

Come, Lord Jesus, our Light and our Salvation. Let us magnify the Lord with life in Christ that overcomes fear. Amen

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234 (vs. 1-3)

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-38 NRSV

HYMN

What Child Is This

UMH 219

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25 NRSV

MINISTRY in MUSIC

Infant Lowly, Infant Holy ~arr. Karen Walker
Bonnie Ross Ringers Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-14 NRSV

PRESENTING our TITHES and OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

Still, Still, Still ~Paul Manz

†THE DOXOLOGY *(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,
word without end. Amen, Amen.*

†PRAYER of DEDICATION

†HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

UMH 238 (vs. 1, 3, 4)

†APOSTLES' CREED *(Unison)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and 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, dead, and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick 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.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:15-20 NRSV

†HYMN

Away in a Manger

UMH 217

MINISTRY in MUSIC

From Heaven Above ~Howard Helvey

Chancel Choir

PRAYER of ILLUMINATION 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!

THE MESSAGE

Glory

Pastor Clint Phillips

†HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

UMH 239

†DISMISSAL with BLESSING

†THE POSTLUDE

Unto Us Is Born a Son ~Colin Mawby

†GOING FORTH to SERVE

I want to thank the staff, choir, and bell choir of First UMC for their work in preparing for this day as well as all that they do throughout the year. The worship that you experience each week is because of the effort and love that they put into the tasks that they do. Thank you

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.

Let's be safe...Please consult the three local news networks for **Greensburg FUMC**, or check our church Facebook page at **First United Methodist Church-Greensburg** to check for cancellations of any of our services due to weather.

Weekday office hours & activity cancellations...If Greensburg Salem school district has a 2-hour delay or cancels school because of snow or ice, the church office hours and all activities would also be delayed or cancelled.

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

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