

As we formally enter the Season of Advent, it's easy for us to get caught up in the Christmas hype. The busyness of the extras (rehearsals, parties, shopping, multiple family gathers) can easily distract us and pull us straight from Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve in the blink of an eye. I especially like the Season of Advent because it creates the space needed for us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ in our lives.

This season invites us to hear again the story leading up to the birth of Christ.

It invites us to **PREPARE** our hearts by making room for Christ to dwell in our lives.

It invites us to claim the **PASSION** of the prophetic message that offered hope for the world. And, it invites us to embrace the **PRESENCE** and **PROMISE** of the Christ who comes. In short, Advent invites us to *slow down and wait!*

Over the next four weeks we will embark on a journey to Bethlehem that prepares us for the coming, once again, of Christ in our lives. Below you will find many opportunities created specifically to help us prepare for this coming. To that end, I invite you to slow down, reflect on the gift of Christ to the world, and embrace this journey to the Christ-Child.

Morning Worship– Advent Services

Sunday at 10:45 AM

December 1, 8, 15, 22

Monastic Meal- "An Advent Journey"

Tuesdays at 12:15 PM \$4.00 donation/ RSVP requested

A Celebration of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 15th at 10:45 AM

Blue Christmas Worship Service

Sunday, December 15 at 7:00 PM

Parish Wide Service at First United Methodist

Family Christmas Service

(Carol Sing, Covered Dish Dinner, Children's Christmas Pageant)

December 18th at 6:00 PM

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

December 24 at 11:00 PM



# F.U.M.C NEWS

& Announcements

CONNECT  
CONNECTION

November 20th



## Christmas Jokes to try on your family & friends

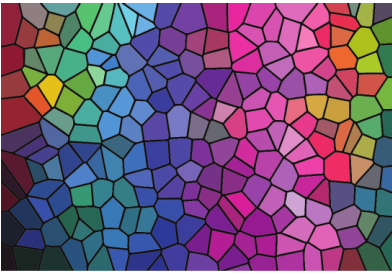
What carol do sheep sing at church? "Fleece Navidad!"

Why did the Christmas tree go to church? "To find its roots!"

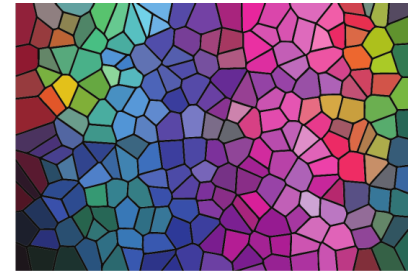
What did the grape say during the Christmas church service?  
"Let us raisin our voices in song!"

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

Isaiah 9:6



What is happening at our  
..... **CHURCH** .....  
this month



MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP

**Monastic Meal**

A simple weekly meal, eaten in silence as inspirational literature is read aloud. Join us at 12:15 p.m. each Tuesday in the parlor. Meal donation is \$4.00. To learn more, contact Don Gardner.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Every Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m., a group gathers in the groom's room to knit or crochet shawls for those who may need the loving embrace of the church. Contact Nancy Ferber or Cheryl Moorhead for information.

**Feed My Sheep**

3rd Mondays of each month (December 16) at 12:00 (noon) This ministry welcomes to the table those who might be overlooked or rejected. Food donations are appreciated! Contact Anita Burns for more details.

**First United Methodist Church Women's Luncheon**

3rd Thursday of each month 12:00 (noon) in the parlor. Please contact Shirley Murphy for more information 513-600-8469

MEETINGS

**Trustees** will meet **Dec. 10 at 6:00 p.m.**

**SPRC** will not meet in Dec.

**Outreach** will not meet in Dec.

**Finance** will meet **Dec. 17 at 5:00**

**Council** meeting -- to be determined

If you know of an upcoming meeting or event that you would like to have featured in next month's newsletters please email Leah at CFUMC@citynet.net or call the church office.

**First Church Youth**

**Pastor Michael and Candy will be in touch with Youth and families for all upcoming events.**

The Parish Blue Christmas Service will be held at First Church this year.  
December 15th  
at 7:00 PM.

connect with us



WWW.CFUMC.ORG



cfumc@citynet.net



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scan the QR Code with your mobile phone for easy access to our Facebook and YouTube accounts



YouTube: First United Methodist Church – Clarksburg



The Clarksburg Madrigal's  
Candlelight Christmas Concert

December 9, 2024

7:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church  
Tickets are \$5.00, Children 12 and under are free.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, CAROL SING & COVERED DISH DINNER



Wednesday December 18th 6:00 PM

The Family Service on December 18th will be A Candlelight Vespers and Covered Dish Dinner.

The children of First Church will present the much anticipated. "T'was The Night Before Christ's Birth" pageant.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CLARKSBURG, WV

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

11:00 PM





**FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.....**

Although our Stewardship campaign to help underwrite our 2025 ministries is over, it is not -- it is never! -- too late to make a pledge. In fact, pledges may be made, or altered, at any time....just let me know.

So, how are we doing? Very well, I am pleased to report. Last month, I provided some statistics. I will repeat some of them below to give you a means of comparison. I would like to remind you that all pledges are keep very private!

Pledging units in years past?	2023 – 34	2022 – 36	2021 – 33	2020 – 27
Pledging units so far .....	2025 -- 35 (and there are still a few regulars who will likely respond)			

Total pledged for 2025 ..... \$101,770

Folks, as you may well know, pledges are one indication of our gratitude for God’s blessings in our lives, and of our commitment to our church’s ministries. There are other indicators, but it is encouraging to note that there are 6 “giving units” (families or individuals) who have decided to make that commitment for 2025.

And, again, this is just one measure.....your ongoing generosity manifests in so many ways!

-----You financially support an incredible variety of outreach ministries, both local and global

-----You give of your time in service to and beyond First Church

-----You give of your talents as ushers, liturgists, choir members, cooks and bottle washers

Thank you! And God bless you.

**If ever you have questions about our church finances,  
please contact Don Gardner.**



**Children’s Church *every* Sunday**  
after children’s moments during the 10:45 worship service

**Infant Care Available**



**To include your news in next month’s newsletter, contact Leah Wray**



# OUTREACH

Thank you to ALL who have prayed for, supported through monetary and food donations, and helped hands-on with the Nutterfort Food Bag program in 2024.

We will continue to collect donations and support this ministry in 2025



The Nutterfort Golden Eagles 4-H Club will be assembling the bags for December.

We will not assemble bags after worship in December.

Food bags will be delivered on Thursday, December 18th

**Shower Ministry**  
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
 Fridays from 12-3 p.m.  
**Duties Include**

- checking guests in and out
- providing guests with fresh clothing
- monitoring access to the building

First UMC

304-623-3397

cfumc@citynet.net



First Church has spoken for 10 Angel Tree Lists this year.

If you are interested in shopping for a child this year, please contact Nancy Ferber as soon as possible.

Items should be delivered to the church by **Dec. 15th**. Distribution to families will take place on Dec. 17th. Please do not individually wrap the purchased items. It is preferred to put them in a holiday gift bag and disguised in a box or large garbage bag to keep an element of surprise.

## Read before you donate...

We are no longer collecting Rummage.

If you are interested in donating items to the Winter Shelter, please contact Diana Higginbotham or Shelley Spellman to coordinated which items are needed.

Please do not leave donations inside or outside of the church building, all donations should go through the church office or group leaders.

Clothing and bedding items can be taken to The Salvation Army, Shepherds Corner (Bridgeport) or The Mustard Seed.

Thank you!!

# Happy Birthday

Mateo Lopez	12/01
Sharon Ullom	12/03
Lorie Wyant	12/05
Marty Thomason	12/06
Mat Wray	12/06
Hunter Yost	12/06
Jeanne Dyer	12/10
Jeff Keister	12/10
Andrew Winters	12/10
Steve Hannah	12/11
Matt Moscar	12/12
Khloe Hazuka	12/13
Mike Crutchfield	12/14
Timothy Thompson	12/15
Ed Arnold	12/17
Lauren Morrison	12/17
Bethany Winters	12/18
Amy Gardner	12/19
Carter Morrison	12/19
Ruth Winters	12/19
Sharla Richards	12/21
Jamie Logue	12/22
Chris Cox	12/27
Caroline Sprenger	12/29
Dominic Hazuka	12/31
Brian Murphy	12/31

Mark Wilfong	01/01
Meadow Caruso	01/04
Ann Bailey	01/09
John Cathell	01/10
Sarah Davisson	01/11
Kim Walls	01/15
Greg Alonso	01/19
Carl Lantz	01/24
Jessica Miles	01/24
Alexander Stout	01/24
Melanie Sprenger	01/25
Roberta Squires Moscar	01/26
Jeanne Warner	01/27
Debbie Cunningham	01/29
John Skidmore	01/30
David Preston	01/31
Todd Warner	01/31

Congratulation to Deacon Anna on her recent engagement. Anna and Tahir will be married in Texas on April 26th.



Please accept our apology if yours is omitted, and if yours is included, and you'd rather it not be, let us know.  
**(304-623-3397)**

**Poinsettias for the Altar for Christmas Eve.**  
Dedication information should be sent to the church office no later than **December 18th.**  
Flowers should not be dropped off to the church until **December 22nd.**

**FIRST CHURCH  
WOMEN'S GROUP**

**Luncheon & Carol Sing**  
**Thursday, December 19**  
**12:00 PM Noon**

*All are welcome!*







