

WARREN FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

We are glad that you are worshipping at First Methodist Church this morning. Please SIGN AND PASS the attendance pad at the end of the pew. If you are visiting with us, we would especially appreciate having your name, address, and phone number because we would like to thank you for being with us.

PRELUDE

(8:00 AM)

“A Rossetti Christmas”
“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

arr. Hayes
arr. Hayes

ORGAN PRELUDE

(10:00 AM)

“Sheep May Safely Graze”
“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”
“Paeon on Wachtet auf”

J.S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

LET US PRAY: Loving God, we thank you for the hope you give us. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord’s Coming. Bless our worship. Help us live holy and righteous lives. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

*HYMN No. 162

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Veni Emmanuel

WELCOME

ANTHEM

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Darian Krimm

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

THE LORD’S PRAYER (using sins)

*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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“Bring Us Hope”

Ruth Schram

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(10:00 AM only)

*Hymn No. 186 (vs 4)

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
if I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wide man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give Him: give Him my heart.

*Offertory Prayer

(Children can come forward for the Children’s Message after the offertory prayer)

A MOMENT WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Bud Fickley

SCRIPTURE

“Malachi 3:1 - 4”
“Luke 1:26 - 46”

Pew Bible Page 874
Pew Bible Pages 931 - 932

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Hecht
“Encounters at Christmas From Mary and Elizabeth to Jesus and John”

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION***HYMN No. 181**

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

Gartan

BENEDICTION**BEARING OF LIGHT**

(10:00 AM only)

POSTLUDE

(8:00 AM)

“The First Noel”

arr. Tornquist

POSTLUDE

(10:00 AM)

“In Thee is Gladness”

*** Indicates Please Stand if Able**

MUSIC today is provided by organist and pianist Michele Sandberg, cellist Chad Betts, the Chancel Choir and the Wesleyan Choir. The handbell ringers are Laura Whitten, Caroline Dorn, and David Dorn. The Carillon is being played by Caroline Curren. The 8:00 AM pianist is Cathy Peterson.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE today are Todd and Linda Zimmerman (8:00 AM) and Carolyn and Morrie Kintner and Susie Zimmerman (10:00 AM).

ACOLYTES today are front candles: Charlotte Anderson and Ashlynn Zawacki and aisle candles: Grace Car and Aiden Zawacki.

PEDESTAL FLOWERS last Sunday, November 26, 2023, were in memory of Nick & Hazel Merenick, David A. Merenick, Elsie Hollabaugh, and Scott & Mabel Phillips, given by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Merenick and Family.

USHERS today are Denny Munksgard, Bob Silzle, Bill Hannold, John Suppa, Laura Suppa, and Rebekah Swart.

CONCERNS FOR THIS WEEK ~ Helen Whitten, 205 Water St., Room 548, Warren, PA 16365. Please consider sending her a card.

ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE ~ On Thursdays at 12:00 PM, in Founder’s Hall, a half hour advent worship service will include Christmas carols and a message for the day, followed by a meal. Each week we will remember another “Classic” Holiday Movie and see how the themes shared in these films actually have relevance for us in our faith walks as well.

BOOK CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON ~ The Book Club will have their Christmas luncheon at 12:30 PM on December 6th at the home of Shirley Crone, 605 Madison Ave.

A WORD OF THANKS ~ The Card family wishes to express their gratitude for all of the prayers and support given to their family.

THE ANGEL TREE IS UP! ~ You will find the Angel Tree in the hallway directly across from the Parlors. Each Angel Tree tag has specific gift suggestions listed at the bottom of the tag. Please take an Angel Tree tag, select the gifts you would like to provide for the child, and return BOTH the Angel Tree tag and the UNWRAPPED gifts to the church no later than December 7th. On the back of each tag, you will find a list of helpful tips. Also, please plan to join us for our *Angel Tree Christmas Party on Saturday, December 16th at 1:00 PM.*

GIVING TREE FOOD ITEMS ~ The youth will be collecting food to pack boxes to go to the families who are receiving items from the Giving Tree. If you wish to bring in food items, please sign your name on the sheet beside the item(s) you will provide. All food needs to be deposited in the collection bin outside the nursery by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th. If you prefer to make a monetary donation to be used toward gift cards for perishables, you may leave it in the offering plate designated to Giving Tree food boxes, give it to Pastor Fickley, or leave it in the church office. The youth and these families thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Nelson at 814-688-8238.

SILVER WINDS FLUTE CHOIR ~ Today at 4:00 PM, the Silver Winds Flute Choir will present a FREE concert, Winter Wonders, in the Sanctuary at the First Methodist Church. All are welcome to attend.

PROTESTANT CHURCH HISTORY ~ Protestant Church History (From Wesley to the Present) Will focus on: The Wesleyan Movement; Deism, The American Revolution and American Civil Religion; The 2nd Great Awakening, The Civil War, The "Others"; Liberalism, Fundamentalism, and Ecumenism; WWII, the 60's and Televangelism; and Protestantism in the 21st Century. These classes will take place on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM in the Covert Room beginning January 2, 2024 and on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM in the Covert Room beginning January 3, 2024.

TUESDAY STUDY GROUP ~ The Tuesday Study Group will resume Tuesday meetings on December 5th, and 19th at 12:30 PM in the Covert Room. Bring a sandwich and if you have purchased Rev. Hecht's new book, "Unpacking A Traditional Christmas." We will be reviewing some of the stories contained in this new book. Subsequent meetings in January and February will be on Wednesdays at 9:30 AM in the Covert Room to hear Rev. Hecht's presentation on the Protestant Church History, Part 2.

BLUE CHRISTMAS ~ Not everyone finds the holiday season a time for celebrating and rejoicing. For those who have experienced a loss in recent days or months and for those who have experienced pain and challenge, the holiday season only serves to emphasize all the things that seem missing. For this reason, First Church Warren has chosen to offer an online Blue Christmas worship experience that might be viewed at any time during the Advent Season. The Blue Christmas service provides a quiet and contemplative worship experience that hopefully allows the viewer to be comforted. This service can be found on our website at www.firstmwarren.org.

POINSETTIAS ~ Given in memory and in honor of, poinsettias can be reserved for the Christmas Eve worship services. The cost of each plant is \$12.00 and money must accompany the orders. Order forms are located just outside the office door, via the weekly newsletter, or on the website at www.firstmwarren.org.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF
December 3, 2023 – December 9, 2023

SUNDAY

First Sunday of Advent
8:00 AM Service of Word and Sacrament; Crary Chapel
8:45 AM Fellowship; Covert Room
9:00 AM Time to Prepare Book Study; Parlor B
9:45 AM Prayer; Crary Chapel
10:00 AM Worship Service; Sanctuary
11:15 AM Confirmation Class; Everts Room
4:00 PM Silver Winds Flute Concert; Sanctuary

MONDAY

6:45 AM Christian Men's Accountability; Covert Room
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Office Hours
11:00 AM Gloria Taylor-Lichte Visitation; Parlors
12:00 PM Gloria Taylor-Lichte Funeral; Chapel
1:00 PM Gloria Taylor-Lichte Memorial Fellowship; Parlors
4:30 PM Monday Nite Meal; Founder's Hall
6:00 PM Incarceration Support Group; Everts Room
6:30 PM Silver Winds; Sanctuary

TUESDAY

8:20 AM - 11:15 AM 3 Year Old Preschool
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM Pre K Class
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Office Hours
12:30 PM Tuesday Study Group; Covert Room
1:45 PM Peals of Praise; Sanctuary
3:30 PM Youth Music Program; Music Room
5:00 PM Warren Soccer; Gym
6:30 PM Epworth Bellringers; Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY

8:20 AM - 11:15 AM 3 Year Old Preschool
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM Pre K Class
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Office Hours
8:45 AM Moms of Minis; Covert Room
3:30 PM LOGOS; Founder's Hall
6:00 PM Youth Group; Everts Room
6:30 PM Chancel Choir; Music Room

THURSDAY

8:20 AM - 11:15 AM 3 Year Old Preschool
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM Pre K Class
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Office Hours
12:00 PM Advent Service; Founder's Hall
12:30 PM Advent Luncheon; Founder's Hall
1:00 PM Covenant Discipleship Group; Covert Room
5:00 PM 4th Grade Soccer; Gym
6:00 PM DivorceCare; Covert Room

FRIDAY

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Office Hours
12:00 PM Senior Citizen Lunch; Founder's Hall