

WARREN FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

December 17, 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)

“Wexford Carol”
“Joy to the World”

arr. Hayes
arr. Tornquist

ORGAN PRELUDE

(10:00 AM)

“Come, Through Long Expected Jesus”
“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”
“Angels's from the Realms of Glory”

arr. Childs
arr. Pethel
arr. Bober

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

LET US PRAY: Loving God, thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and to do your will. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

*HYMN No. 190

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Regent Square

WELCOME

ANTHEM

“O Come, All You Unfaithful”

arr. Heather Sorenson

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

“The Snow Lay on the Ground”

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 wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give Him: give Him my heart.

*Offertory Prayer

***HYMN No. 189** “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” Christmas
(Children are welcome to come forward for the Children’s Message during the last verse.)

A MOMENT WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Bud Fickley

SCRIPTURE “Luke 2:13 - 20” Pew Bible Page 933

MESSAGE “Encountering Angels and Shepherds” Rev. Dr. Mark E. Hecht

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(8:00 AM only)

***HYMN No. 203** “Go Tell it on the Mountain”

BENEDICTION

BEARING OF LIGHT

(10:00 AM only)

POSTLUDE “How Great Our Joy” arr. Chung
(8:00 AM)

POSTLUDE “Masters in This Hall” arr. Hughs
(10:00 AM)

*** Indicates Please Stand if Able**

MUSIC today is provided by organist Michele Sandberg, pianists Cathy and Kristine Peterson, the Chancel Choir, and the Peals of Praise Handbells. The Carillon is played by Nettie Swart. The 8:00 AM pianist is Cathy Peterson.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE today are Mark and Michelle Bupp (8:00 AM) and Jim and Lee Reynolds (10:00 AM).

ACOLYTES today are front candles: Aiden Zawacki and Ashlynn Zawacki and aisle candles: David Huffman and Attie Corey.

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

CONCERNS FOR THIS WEEK ~ Karen Yourchisin, 701 Rouse Ave., Room 108 A, Youngsville, PA 16371. Please consider sending her a card.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS – Please remember to turn in your fall grades to the church office to receive your second scholarship disbursement check.

ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE ~ On Thursday 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. At this final Thursday advent service of the season, we will remember the movie "White Christmas" and see how the theme shared in this film has relevance for us in our faith walks.

OFFERING ENVELOPES ~ The offering envelopes for 2024 are now available and can be found in the side hall just outside the church office.

PRAYER/BIRTHDAY CALENDARS ~ The 2024 First Methodist Church Prayer/Birthday Calendars are available. They are located in the side hall just outside the church office.

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 starting January 3, 2024.

TUESDAY STUDY GROUP ~ The Tuesday Study Group 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 anytime 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.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE ~ Today, from 3:00 PM - 6:30 PM, you are invited to come and visit with Karen and Mark Hecht at the parsonage as they open their doors and welcome you for some fellowship, along with hot chocolate, Christmas cookies, holiday music, and fun!

LITURGIST VOLUNTEERS ~ You are invited to participate in worship leadership. We need Liturgists to assist the pastor with leading the congregation in worship. As a Liturgist, you will lead the congregation in the Call to Worship, and read the Old Testament Lesson. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside of Rev. Hecht's office.

LOGOS CAROLING ~ We will take the LOGOS kids for caroling at Kinzua Healthcare Wednesday, Dec. 20th. We will be leaving the church around 3:45 PM and walking to the nursing home. After caroling, the LOGOS kids will return to the church to attend a Christmas Party. Parents are cordially invited to the Christmas party, too. Please RSVP if you plan on attending. If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Ketzko at First Methodist Church at 814-723-4930.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF

December 17, 2023 – December 23, 2023

SUNDAY

Third 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

3:00 PM - 6:30 PM Open House at the Parsonage

MONDAY

6:45 AM Christian Men's Accountability; Covert Room

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Office Hours

4:30 PM Monday Nite Meal; Founder's Hall

6:00 PM Incarceration Support Group; Everts Room

6:00 PM Trustees Meeting; Covert Room

TUESDAY

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Office Hours

12:30 PM Tuesday Study Group; Covert Room

1:45 PM Peals of Praise; Sanctuary

5:00 PM Warren Soccer; Gym

5:45 PM Madrigals; Sanctuary

6:30 PM Epworth Bellringers; Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Office Hours

3:30 PM LOGOS Caroling; Kinzua Healthcare

6:00 PM Youth Group Christmas Party; Everts Room

6:30 PM Chancel Choir; Music Room

THURSDAY

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Office Hours

12:00 PM Advent Service; Founder's Hall

12:30 PM Advent Luncheon; Founder's Hall

5:00 PM 4th Grade Soccer; Gym

6:00 PM DivorceCare; Covert Room

6:30 PM SPRC Committee Meeting; Covert Room

FRIDAY

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Office Hours

11:30 AM: Senior Citizen Hors d'Oeuvres; Founder's Hall

12:00 PM Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon; FH

URGENT NEEDS
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY HOT MEALS

Christmas Holiday Hot Meals needs some meal preparers, dishwashers, cleanup help and drivers on Christmas Day. They will be delivering between 300 - 400 meals, so they need as many volunteers as possible!

The meal is prepared and distributed
at First Lutheran.

Please sign up on the bulletin board
across from the office.

Learn more at:

episcopalmissionWCPA.org/holiday-hot-meals

If you have Questions, please contact

Revs. George and Ardelle Mason at:

rev.geo.mason@gmail.com or

[814-233-4367](tel:814-233-4367) text or voice mail



Our church will celebrate Law Enforcement Appreciation Day on Sunday, January 14, 2023, during the 10:00 AM worship service. This is our third year of recognizing those who work to protect all of us in our communities. Todd Mineweaser, Chief of Police of the Youngsville Police Department, will give the morning message. Invitations have been sent out to those working in this area, inviting them to attend this worship service.

We will be having a fellowship time in the parlors afterward, and we hope you will consider attending the service and staying after to thank them for all they do to keep us safe.

The parlors are located across from the hallway that leads to the Sanctuary.