

WARREN FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

December 10, 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)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
“He Has Come For Us”

arr. Calhoun
arr. Tornquist

ORGAN PRELUDE

(10:00 AM)

“Come Down, O Love Divine”
“Veni Emmanuel”
“Good King Wenceslas”

R. Vaughan Williams
arr. Ellsasser
arr. Gawthrop

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

LET US PRAY: Loving God, thank you for the peace you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship. Guide us in all that we say and do. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

*HYMN No. 180

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Mendelssohn

WELCOME

ANTHEM

“The Shepherd’s Pipe Carol”

arr. Hannibal and Thornhill

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

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

arr. Liebergen

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. 192

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

St. Louis

(Children are welcome to come forward for the Children’s Message during the last verse.)

A MOMENT WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Mary Jo Zubrod

SCRIPTURE

“Luke 2:1 - 7”

Pew Bible Page 933

MESSAGE

“Encountering Bethlehem”

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Hecht

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(8:00 AM only)

*HYMN No. 198

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

BENEDICTION

BEARING OF LIGHT

(10:00 AM only)

POSTLUDE

(8:00 AM)

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

arr. Tornquist

POSTLUDE

(10:00 AM)

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*** Indicates Please Stand if Able**

MUSIC today is provided by organist Michele Sandberg, the Chancel Choir and the Madrigals. The flautists are Pat Murphy, and Judi Danielson. The Carillon is played by Nettie Swart. The 8:00 AM pianist is Cathy Peterson.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE today are Phyllis Wright (8:00 AM) and George and Meg Lilja (10:00 AM).

ACOLYTES today are front candles: Aiden Ellis and Grant Newton and aisle candles: Collin Ellis and Holden Demers.

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

CONCERNS FOR THIS WEEK ~ Dorothy Sutton, 701 Rouse Ave., Room 108, Youngsville, PA 16371. 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.

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.

ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS ~ 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.

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 take place on Tuesday the 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.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE ~ On December 17th, 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 are in need of Liturgists to assist the pastor with leading the congregation in worship. As a Liturgist, you will lead the congregation in the Call to Worship, as well as read the Old Testament Lesson. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside of Rev. Hecht's office.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF
December 10, 2023 – December 16, 2023

SUNDAY

Second 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

MONDAY

6:45 AM Christian Men's Accountability; Covert Room
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Office Hours
11:00 AM Toy Shop Christmas Party; Covert Room
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
11:30 AM Blue Stocking Luncheon; Covert Room
12:00 PM Staff Luncheon; Founder's Hall
3:30 PM Youth Music Program; Music Room
5:00 PM Warren Soccer; Gym
5:00 PM Endowment Meeting; Covert Room
6:00 PM Girl Scouts Meeting; Founder's Hall
6:30 PM Epworth Bellringers; Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Office Hours
12:00 PM Preschool Christmas Program; Sanctuary
3:30 PM LOGOS; Founder's Hall
6:00 PM Youth Group; Everts Room
6:30 PM Chancel Choir; Music Room
6:30 PM Faith Group Support; Parlor B

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
4:15 PM Hospitality Meeting; Deb Anderson's Home
6:00 PM DivorceCare; Covert Room

FRIDAY

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

**Hot
&
Cold
Beverages**

Movie NIGHT

**Cookies
&
Popcorn**

**Saturday,
December 16th
6:30 PM
Founder's Hall**

Join us for fellowship and fun as we watch White Christmas and come together to enjoy the magic of the Christmas season!





We will be taking the LOGOS kids for caroling
to Kinzua Healthcare
Wednesday, Dec. 20th.

We will be leaving the church around 3:45PM
and walking to the nursing home.

The LOGOS kids will be coming back to the
church after caroling, to attend
a Christmas Party.

Parents are cordially invited
to the Christmas party, too.

We would ask you to please RSVP
if plan on attending.

If you have any questions,
please contact Heidi Ketzko at
First Methodist Church at 814-723-4930.