

Order of Worship

THE GATHERING
 WORDS OF WELCOME
 SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
 PRELUDE

INTROIT Chancel Choir

****CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: A hunger of the heart,
P: A sound in the night;
 L: A baby's low cry,
P: A new star so bright.
 L: The smell of pine,
P: And Christmas carols sung;
 L: Then and now,
P: Something is in the air!
 L: We hasten to be ready,
P: For love and joy are there,
 L: A child in a manger
P: A gift from God who cares.

****HYMN OF PRAISE** "Away in a Manger" Hymnal pg. **217**

OPENING PRAYER:

Almighty God, the time of waiting is almost over. Like new parents eagerly awaiting the birth of a child, we impatiently wait with you for the birth of your Son. We stand in awe, knowing what the birth of this particular baby means for our lives, yet unable to fully comprehend the depth of your love for us. We come before you in worship this morning, hoping that our thoughts, prayers and songs of praise are pleasing to you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING 4th Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING Genesis 3:1-7

SPECIAL MUSIC 8:30 Adult Bell Choir

ANTHEM (11:00) Chancel Choir

****GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 1:46-55

L: The Word of God for the people of God.
P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON "Symbols of Christmas: The Christmas Tree" Rev. Brad Olson

HYMN OF RESPONSE "In the Bleak Midwinter" Hymnal pg. **221**

COMMITMENT FORMS: If you have not completed your commitment form for 2012, please take time to complete one and put in the offering plate or drop off in the church office. There are blank forms in the Narthex and the office. Also please take time to review your 2011 giving. If you would like a copy of your contribution statement for what you have given so far in 2011, please call the church office and a statement will be mailed to you. We will be mailing contributions statements in January for the complete year of 2011 for income tax preparation.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2012 are available for pick up in the Narthex through Sunday December 25th. Any envelopes not picked up by December 26th will be mailed. When picking up your envelopes, if you see a name of someone that you know will not be able to pick them up and you will be seeing them, it will be a cost saving to the church if you could deliver them. We will also be realigning the numbers, to fill in missing numbers this year so that we can reduce the amount that we currently order. It would be appreciated if everyone would use the envelopes with their contribution number so that proper credit can be given when processing in the computer system. An envelope has to be made up when the numbered envelope is not used. Thank you for your cooperation and support with this process.

INVITING ALL WHO ANTICIPATE THAT THIS CHRISTMAS MAY BE A DIFFICULT ONE: People experience different emotions during the holidays. Some look forward to this time of the year. Others find the holiday season a difficult time — a time of sadness and loneliness. For those who have lost a loved one or experienced a significant loss or change during the year, it is normal to feel subdued and reflective. Laughter and happiness may be viewed as sentiments for others, not for someone grieving a loss. Memories of holidays past may surface. If you anticipate that this Christmas may be a difficult one for you, look for the Care Notes that are available in the narthex. These short pamphlets are a resource to help in facing the holidays. Some of the titles available are "Getting Through the Holidays When You've Lost a Loved One," "Living with Loss While Others Are Celebrating," "Sad Isn't Bad," and "Your First Christmas After a Loved One Dies."

CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Monday, December 19th
 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Stephen Ministry Rm 6
 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm UMM-carol singing & communion 15 A, Kit
 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Cub Scouts Rm 8
 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Boy Scouts 15 C
 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Priscilla Circle Parlor
Tuesday, December 20th
 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Stephen Ministry Adult Library
Wednesday, December 21st
 10:00 am Deadline for 12-25-11 bulletin
Thursday, December 22nd
 10:00 am – 11:30 am Thursday Bible Study Parlor
Friday, December 23rd
 12 noon Church Office Closing
Saturday, December 24th
 6:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service Sanctuary
 10:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service Sanctuary

Ushers (8:30) Robert McColaugh, Bill Vahle
 Ushers (11:00) David Varvel
Rick Smith, Rob Smith
Ed Stidham, Dick Strous
Larry & Mary Russell
 Greeters (8:30) Jim & Lorraine Hurley
 Greeters (11:00) Katie Lare
 Liturgist (8:30) Lauren Wickline
 Liturgist (11:00) Kayla Horney & Wesley Wickline
 Acolytes (11:00) Carol Stewart
 Organist Mark Manley
 Chancel Choir Director James McPeck
 Bell Choir Director Cindy Liming
 Advent Readers (8:30) Doug & Julie Wickline
 Advent Readers (11:00)

SANCTUARY ALTAR FLOWERS are given by William & Betty Troute in celebration of their 65th wedding anniversary.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: If your flowers are displayed in the Sanctuary, please wait to pick up your poinsettias until after the 10:00 P.M. Traditional Christmas Eve Worship Service. They may also be picked up Sunday December 25th or Tuesday December 27th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

HOLIDAY HOURS FOR CHURCH OFFICE: To give our dedicated volunteers some much deserved time off, the church office will close at noon Friday December 23, 2011, and will reopen Tuesday January 3, 2012. If you need anything from the staff many of them will be working during this week, but irregular hours. We will be checking the outside mail slot, voice mail and email during this week. Have a wonderful and safe holiday.

A 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION for Bob & Donna McColaugh is being hosted by their children. An open house will be held on Saturday, December 31, 2011, 4 - 7 PM at McColaugh Funeral Home, 826 N. Detroit St, Xenia.

FILLING STATION AND REFINERY OPEN ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 6P-8P!!! If you are in 6th through 8th grade, come to the Refinery and 9th-12th grade to the Filling Station. This is a time to hang out and learn about Jesus! FILLING STATION AND REFINERY CLOSED ON DEC. 21st & 28th.

YOUTH BABYSITTING SERVICE: Thursday, December 29th from 1p-5p. All kids welcome up to 6th grade. Donations for FCUM Youth Missions.

YOUTH & ADULT HELP NEEDED: Youth Babysitting Service. Thursday, Dec. 29th from noon-6p

DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING: The Missions & Evangelism committee invite you to participate in the church's two special offerings during the month of December. Our Advent Special Offering which is being collected through today will benefit Interfaith Hospitality Network, YMCA, Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity. Our Christmas Offering which we will collect on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will benefit the 2012 Summer Youth Mission Trips. Please use the special offering envelope or mark on your regular offering envelope Advent Offering or Christmas Offering.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: As in the past, this year there will again be a family Christmas Eve Service, but this year we are going to try to do things a little differently. The service will be at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Much of the service will follow the carols, scriptures, and candles pattern of the later service. The message will be a presentation called, "There Is Room at the Manger for You".

CHRISTMAS DAY & NEW YEAR'S DAY: Every Seventh year, it happens... Christmas and New Year's fall on a Sunday. This is the year! As a result, we are going to worship as one congregation at 10:30 on both days. On Christmas we will be in the Sanctuary. New Year's will be in the Community Center. Both will be great opportunities to celebrate the Holy Days with your church family!

UMM: United Methodist Men's Meeting will be Monday Dec 19 as the last Monday is 26 December. Tim Holly will prepare the meal, we will sing Christmas carols and rededicate ourselves to the service of Jesus Christ as Pastor Brad leads us in Communion in the chapel. You may call Frank at 372-0381 to let us know you will attend for food count.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT BAND under the direction of Glen Shaw will present a program of both sacred and secular music at 3:00 P.M. today in the Sanctuary of Faith Community. The concert will last about one hour and there is no charge for admission. The band members are local musicians and range in age from 16 to 80. Several of the players are members from Faith Community. Please join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

THE XENIA HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS WILL PRESENT THE 21ST ANNUAL COMMUNITY HOLIDAY CONCERTS: Today at 3:00pm. and 5:30pm. The two identical concerts will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 990 Old Springfield Pike in Xenia. This concert is the largest carol sing in Greene County. The public is invited to attend and join the choirs in singing several familiar carols with pipe organ and trumpets. The concerts will feature the Treble Choir, the Tenor-Bass Choir, the Varsity Choir, and the Vocal Ensemble. The choirs are under the direction of Brent Manley. The Assistant Director is Mark Manley. An Alumni Choir will feature past choir members who sang at Xenia High School from 1989-2011. Organist Jeff Firestone and pianist Raymonde Rougier will accompany the choirs. You will not want to miss this outstanding community holiday tradition.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Hymnal pg. 883

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our Judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(We invite all members and guests to provide your name, address, and telephone number on the attendance pads as they are passed through the pews. The ushers will also receive our morning offering to support the many vital ministries through Faith Community.)

OFFERTORY "Noel" arr. Carol Simone

**DOXOLOGY Old 100th Hymnal pg. 95 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**CLOSING HYMN "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" Hymnal pg. 224

**TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

**BENEDICTION

**CHORAL BENEDICTION Chancel Choir

**POSTLUDE "A Christmas Processional" arr. Marilyn Ham

** (Indicates please stand if able)

SERMON OUTLINE

December 18, 2011

"Symbols of Christmas: The Christmas Tree"

Luke 1:46-55

What are the traditions around your house that involve the Christmas Tree?

What does the Christmas Tree symbolize to you?

Where did the custom of having Christmas Trees come from?

What are some connections with the Bible?

In the story of "The Three Trees," what happened to the first tree?

What does this say about us?

In the story of "The Three Trees," what happened to the second tree?

What does this say about us?

In the story of "The Three Trees," what happened to the third tree?

What does this say about us?

Rev. Brad Olson



Faith Community United Methodist Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

SENIOR PASTOR: Bradford G. Olson

ASSOCIATE: Deacon Rick Tettau

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP BULLETIN

Sunday December 18, 2011 4th Sunday of Advent

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Traditional Worship in Sanctuary

9:45 A.M. Praise Celebration in Community Center

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

9:45 A.M. Jeanne Mills K - 2nd grade Room 12 Jerry Johnson 3 - 5th grade Room 11 Kristy Christian Preschool Room 5 Explorers Class Room 6 Double I F. Hall 15 C

Virginia Pinkerton & Donna McKinley Combined Youth Room 8

11:00 A.M. Ted & Lee Rose Adult Class Room 8 Charles Kennedy Combined Youth Adult Library Rhonda Cook 3 - 5th grade Room 11

Nursery care is available during all services in Rm 2