



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642

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Rev. David S. Lake – Pastor

Dianne Runser – Director of Music Ministry

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**December 6, 2015**

**Second Sunday in Advent**

**WORSHIP HOST: 8:15 – Krista Brown**

**10:45 – Melanie and Lindsay Smith**

**GATHERING & WELCOME**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**L:** The Peace of Christ be with you.

**P:** And also with you.

**L:** Please pass the Peace of Christ to your neighbor.

**MOMENTS OF INFORMALITY**

**THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH**

**THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT**

**MUSIC OF PREPARATION** “Tidings of Comfort and Joy”

**ADVENT READING**

**ALL:** Come, Lord Jesus. Amen

**WREATH LIGHTERS:**

**8:15 –**

**10:45 – Saporito and O’Reilly families**

**ADVENT SONG**

**Until Jesus comes, until Jesus comes,**

**I’ll be watching and waiting until Jesus comes.**

**(repeat)**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**L:** A voice cries out in the wilderness:

**P:** “**Prepare the way of the Lord!**”

**L:** A challenge is uttered from on high:

**P:** “**Make God’s paths straight.**”

**L:** For every valley will be lifted up, and every mountain will be made low.

**P:** **Every crooked path will be made straight, and every rough way will be made smooth.**

**L:** All will see the salvation of our God.

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**God of love and renewal, enter the wilderness of our lives, and call us to prepare once more for the coming of your Son. Fill the valleys of our insecurities with hope, and bring low the mountains of our pride and conceit. Make straight the paths before us, and guide our feet in the ways of peace. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 206**

**“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”**

*Children come forward during the last verse.*

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENTS**

*(Our Children's Collection this morning will be used for the "Outreach Christmas Gift Cards." Please see the announcement for more details.)*

**ANTHEM 8:15 "A Christmas Medley" – Connie Bickerstaff**  
**10:45 "A Christmas Medley" - Chancel Choir**

**SCRIPTURE READING Malachi 3:1-4**

**PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**

### **\* CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY**

**(tune: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly")**

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,  
Glory to the Holy Spirit, glory to the Three-in-One.  
Here we offer to you gladly all the gifts that you impart,  
As we glory in your Presence, giving from a grateful heart.**

### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKS**

**Holy God, you are the only One who can purify us and make us whole. Through the righteousness of Christ, you restore us. We trust that you are working in our hearts and minds to renew us by the power of your Holy Spirit. As we present our offerings, we ask that our efforts may be pleasing in your sight. By your grace, bring forth a harvest of righteousness in our lives and our communities. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYER HYMN No. 382**

**"Have Thine Own Way, Lord"**

*The Altar is open during the hymn.*

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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**

**\*SCRIPTURE (NRSV) Luke 1:68-79**

**MESSAGE**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION II**

**THE INVITATION**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**SACRAMENT**

All are welcome. Please follow the directions of the ushers.

**\*HYMN OF PARTING No. 220**

**"Angels from the Realms of Glory"**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*MUSIC OF PARTING**

**"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"**

**\*Those who are able, please stand.**

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**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK**

**Saturday Worship – 36      Sunday 8:15 – 69      10:45 – 85**

**SERVING YOU SUNDAY, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

**GREETERS:** 8:15 – Ed & Helen Wertz  
10:45 – Lois Kuhn & Lee Stewart  
**USHERS:** 8:15 – Virginia Ives      10:45 – Tom Lehner  
**SOUND TEAM:** 8:15 – Fritz Runser  
10:45 - Josh Burger, Penny Brant

**NURSERY:** Our Child Care Center (birth through age 5) will be open today during the 10:45 service. The Attendants today will be Michelle Bilinsky & Jennifer Dudik.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The flowers are presented in memory of Dave Frick from LaVerne Frick.

**THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH**

**Today, December 6**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**Communion Sunday**  
**“Gifts of the Talents Sale”**  
8:00 Prayer Time  
8:15 Worship  
9:30 Sunday School for all ages  
10:45 Worship  
12:15 SonShiners  
2:00 – 4:00 Gingerbread Houses  
(see announcement)  
No FISH & CHIPS

**Monday, December 7**  
10:00 UM Women  
7:00 Dartball (Make up)

**Tuesday, December 8**  
**Office closes at noon**  
6:15 TOPS  
6:30 Witness  
7:00 Trustees  
~~7:00 Finance -CANCELLED~~  
7:30 NA

**Wednesday, December 9**  
5:30 Gym in use  
7:00 Women’s Book Study  
7:00 Yoga

**Thursday, December 10**  
6:15 C Bells  
7:00 Disciple  
7:15 Choir

**Friday, December 11**  
9:00 Food Bank Truck  
help needed  
Gym in use  
Youth Christmas Party at Halza’s

**Saturday, December 12**  
9:00 Food Bank– help needed  
6:00 Alternative Worship

**Next Sunday, December 13**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**Coffee Hour**  
8:00 Prayer Time  
8:15 Worship  
9:30 Sunday School for all ages  
10:45 Worship  
12:15 SonShiners  
2:00 FISH & CHIPS  
7:00 Irwin Male Chorus

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHILDREN’S COLLECTIONS:** The Children’s Collection this week will be given to the Outreach committee for the Angel Tree Families. Instead of preparing food baskets as in the past, they will purchase gift cards for the Angel Tree families.

Outreach: 11/29 - \$227.55

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**The Finance Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.**

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**DIRECTORY PICTURES:** Please sign up to have your picture family or individual picture taken for the directory. The sign-up list is on a cork board in the narthex. Those having pictures taken today should come to the front of the sanctuary after each service. If you have not signed-up, but wish to have your picture taken today, you may do so. Please wait until those who registered have had their pictures taken.

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**IRWIN MALE CHORUS:** The Irwin Male Chorus, under the direction of Forrest Moore, will present a concert of sacred and seasonal music in our sanctuary on Sunday, December 13 at 7:00 PM. The public is invited. Cookies are needed for the reception in our gym following the concert. Cookies may be brought to the kitchen on Sunday morning.

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**NEW CHRISTMAS TREES NEEDED FOR THE SANCTUARY**

The 9-foot Christmas trees in our sanctuary look beautiful as always. However, they were erected this year with tape and a lot of prayer! They will need to be replaced after this season. We have people who will be scouring the after-Christmas sales for the best buy, however, we need donations to purchase the new trees. If you would like to donate towards the Christmas trees, perhaps as a memorial donation, please place your donation in a pew envelope and put in the offering tray or send your donation to the church office. Please mark "Trees" on the envelope or your check. Thanks for your help.

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**HANGING AND "UNHANGING" OF THE GREENS:** Thank you to all the people who helped to decorate our church for the Advent and Christmas season last week. It was truly a festive time.

We will be taking down the decorations on Sunday, January 10, 2016. We always get more people to decorate than we do to put everything away. (Just like at home, isn't it?) Please come and help us put Christmas "to bed".

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**FRUIT SALE:** The Finance Committee is sponsoring a fruit sale this year. All proceeds from the sale will help with the Unified Budget. Please use the purple order form found in your Newsletter or on the table in the Narthex for you order. Orders are due Sunday, January 10, 2016.

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**TODAY..."GIFTS OF THE TALENTS SALE"** will be going on before and after both services in the narthex area. Stop by and purchase any items that have been made by our church members! Monies generated from this sale will go to the Unified Budget. Thank you for participating by using your gifts and talents to give back to your church!

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**ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTERS:** There is a sign-up list in the sanctuary for those friends and family who wish to light the candles of the advent wreath. If you would like to participate, please sign the sheet with the date and time you will be available to help.

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**HARVESTERS CHRISTMAS PARTY:** All Harvesters, past, present, and future, are invited. The party will be held on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the home of Tom & Sandy Lehner. We will order pizza at \$5.00/person.

Food, fellowship, and the stealing of gifts!\_ 😊

For further details and to RSVP, please call 724-864-0823.

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**ANGEL TREE** The Outreach Committee has put up the Angel Tree just in time for Black Friday shopping! Please consider being a Christmas angel for a local family by providing a child with a Christmas present. Just take an angel from the tree and shop! You are asked not to spend more than \$25.00 on the gift.

This year you will also notice cookies hanging on the tree. Instead of Christmas food baskets, we will be giving families gift cards to do their own grocery shopping and pick their family favorites.

All donations are due back to church on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Angel tree gifts should be wrapped with the angel tag attached. Thank you for helping. Any questions, please contact Missy Davis (724-863-9758).

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**STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT:** Each year, the Staff Parish Relations Committee collects contributions from our congregation toward Christmas bonuses for our dedicated Church Staff. Please join the SPRC in showing our appreciation for their work by contributing. Envelopes marked "Staff Christmas" are in the pews. Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

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