

Announcements

December Birthdays

Dec 1st - Betheny Nieters, Michael Thomas
Dec 2nd - Judy Eckley
Dec 4th - Donna Holder, Terry Wood
Dec 5th - Mary Reed
Dec 7th - Doug Williams
Dec 11th - Lillian Koehler, Marilyn Montville
Dec 12th - Joyce Skorik
Dec 14th - Nancy Brown, Norma Wheeler
Dec 21st - Bob Wolf
Dec 25th - Lynette Barsness
Dec 31st - Wayne Jones



Cody Cupboard

This Christmas season, the Elders and Deacons would ask for Diapers of all sizes and wet wipes to donate to our Community. Thank You all for your support!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Kiddo's – January 7th, 2024 at 10:50 in the Church Basement
- Youth Group – December 18th at 5:00pm
Bowling Alley – bowling and shoes will be paid for. Bring money for snacks!

Christmas Eve Service
Time: 5:30pm

COMMITTEE CHAIR REMINDER
COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS ARE
DUE BY DECEMBER 31ST, 2023

STEWARDSHIP, BUDGET AND PERSONNEL



Pledged
Incomes are
catching up!
Thank you
so much!

- Reminder:** Pledge Cards for 2024 are due by December 31st! Please turn them into the church office.
- Did you know?*
The IRS requires that IRA distributions must be received by December 31st. The last day for processing 2023 distributions is: **December 26th, 2023**



Congregational Life: FYI
Refreshments **will not** be served after Worship on December 24th, 2023. Please take that time to be with your family and friends. Don't forget to finish your pies or gift wrapping!

Save the date!

- What?** Study of the book of Daniel for adults
- When?** Sunday, January 7th
11:00 to 12:00 after Worship Service
- Where?** Church Parlor
- Bring?** Your Bible, your questions and your desire to learn more about Daniel

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

WHEN: DECEMBER 31ST, 2023 – AFTER WORSHIP
WHERE – SACTUARY OF FPCC
AGENDA: RECEIVE AN ACT ON THE REPORT FROM THE 2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE



December 17th, 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent

*Please fill out attendance form
and pass it along your row*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

God is in our midst; do not fear.

God rejoices to renew our lives in steadfast love.

God gathers us for this time of worship.

God claims us and promises us a home.

Trust in God, who is our strength and life.

Give thanks to God, the source of our salvation.

We will sing praises and exalt God's name.

With joyous shouts, we will tell of God's glorious deeds.

Rejoice in God, whatever your circumstances.

Remember the good fortune God has shared with you.

We will not worry as we seek God's peace.

We open our hearts and minds to God's leading.

Advent Candle Lighting Charisse Childress and Julie Wilson

Unison Advent Prayer

Loving God, we rejoice in this season of anticipation, as we remember your promises, and look forward to the ways in which you reveal yourself to us. Fill our hearts with the good news of freedom for captive people, of comfort for the broken hearted. Help us to recognize that your messengers come to us in unexpected ways. Amen.

Hymn "Watchman, Tell Us Of the Night" Hymnal #20

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

All-knowing God, we confess our worry and anxiety over unimportant matters. We admit the fears that make us defensive instead of loving. We acknowledge our resentment over losses we have sustained and oppression we have suffered. We recognize that we have been far more concerned for our own welfare than for the building up of Christ’s body, the church. In our congregation, we have focused on survival more than service. We look for what we can gain more than for what we can give. Re-establish your rule among us, we pray, and save us from ourselves. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen

Gloria Patri

Call to Offering

Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Children’s Time

Hymn “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” *Hymnal #5*

Scripture Reading John 1:1-28 Isaiah 61:8-11

Sermon “I AM...Not”

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

Closing Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *Hymn #9*

Benediction & Blessing

Postlude

Ushers: Tom and Nancy Horn
Music Director: Wendy Corr
Accompanist: Hayden Thomas
Message: Pat Montgomery

John 1:1-28 (NIV)

The Word Became Flesh

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
² He was with God in the beginning.
³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John.
⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.
⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.
⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.
¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.
¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.
¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—
¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.
¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”)
¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.
¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

John the Baptist Denies Being the Messiah

¹⁹ Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.
²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.”
²¹ They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”
He said, “I am not.”
“Are you the Prophet?”
He answered, “No.”
²² Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”
²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”
²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent
²⁵ questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”
²⁶ “I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know.
²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”
²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Isaiah 61:8-11 (NIV)

⁸ “For I, the LORD, love justice;
I hate robbery and wrongdoing.
In my faithfulness I will reward my people
and make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹ Their descendants will be known among the nations
and their offspring among the peoples.
All who see them will acknowledge
that they are a people the LORD has blessed.”
¹⁰ I delight greatly in the LORD;
my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

