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THE LINK

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DECEMBER EDITION

Entering Advent: The Quiet Doorway to Christmas

Before the lights, the carols, and the gatherings of Christmas, there is a quieter threshold we step through—Advent. It is the season of waiting, of hope stretched across time. Advent invites us to slow down in a hurried world and listen for the heartbeat of promise that pulses beneath the noise.

In the darkening days of late autumn, candles are lit one by one. Each small flame becomes a symbol of expectation; of faith that light will return. We remember the long anticipation of a people who waited for a Messiah, and we recognize our own waiting—for peace, for healing, for renewal, for God to draw near again.

Advent teaches us that preparation is sacred. It is not a race toward celebration but a pilgrimage through longing. The world may rush to Christmas morning, but the Church lingers in the twilight, watching, praying, readying the heart to receive the miracle anew.

And when at last the night gives way to the shining of Christmas, it is not merely a holiday we welcome, but the very presence of Emmanuel—God is with us.

So, we enter Advent not with haste, but with hope. We light the candles, we sing the hymns of expectation, and we wait—for the Child, for the Light, for the Love that remakes the world.

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

"Gratitude is the language of the heart."

Thank you for every kind and treasured expression during Pastor Appreciation Month. More than that, thank you for your continued faithfulness to the First Church family as we lift the cross at the corner of S. Florida and Latham. Abundant blessings upon each of you. Steve

DECEMBER EVENTS

December 14th

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Presented by the
Chancel Choir and
Congregation of First
United Methodist
Church

Sunday Morning Worship
Dec. 14th at 10:45am

December 14th

Church Family Christmas Dinner

ARRIVE AT 5:00PM
MEAL BEINGS AT
5:30PM

CHURCH WILL PROVIDE
HAM, MASHED
POTATOES, GREEN
BEANS,
DRINKS, AND ROLLS

BRING YOUR FAVORITE
COVERED
SIDE DISH AND/OR
DESSERT!

December 20th

United Women In Faith Cookies, Crafts & More

9:00am-12:00pm
GFH

Cookies & Candy
\$8/lb

(Set-up on
December 19th @Noon)

December 21st

Children's Nativity Play

Presented by the
Children's Church
10:45am Sanctuary

Check out the Children's
Church Schedule

December 24th

Christmas Eve & Christmas Eve Service

Service at 7:00pm
in the Sanctuary

December 25th

Christmas Day

Merry
Christmas

Let us rejoice in the
coming the New
King, Our Lord
Jesus.

Office Closures

Nov. 26th - 27th

Dec. 24th - Jan. 2nd

Looking Ahead to 2026

1/31, 2026 -

Planning Retreat

2/18, 2026 -

Ash Wednesday - Sanc.

2/20, 2026 -

Spaghetti Dinner - 5pm

- GFH

A special thank you to all of those who generously donated during Children/Youth Sabbath as well as the November Micah Meal to support the Parish House in the continued effort to lend aid to our community and the students of WVWC. Your contributions have selflessly helped to provide Holiday Meal Baskets to neighbors during the holiday season and Student Snack Bags as WVWC Students as they prepare for finals.

THANK YOU

In Honor of Children/Youth Sabbath

- CAROLYN BROWN – IN HONOR OF EVIE LINGER
- KAREN CARTWRIGHT – IN HONOR OF LUCY AND OLIVER CARTWRIGHT
- BRITTANY AND RYAN CONOVER – IN HONOR OF KIRAYLM CONOVER AND ALL FIRST UMC CHILDREN
- DEBRA HARRISON – IN HONOR OF TREY AND QUINN
- THE LINGERS – IN HONOR OF EVIE LINGER AND FUMC CHILDREN'S CHURCH CLASSES
- NAOMI AND MARK LYNCH – IN HONOR OF ELLIE, KATHRYN, AND TYLER
- JANE AND WOODY MARTIN – IN HONOR OF EMERY, NORAH, NIALL, SILAS
- JEFF AND SANDY MCDOWELL – IN HONOR OF EVAN AND ANDREW MCDOWELL
- PHIL, LYNNE, AND DAVID PETROSKY – IN HONOR OF BRANTLEY, BRAYDEN, MARELYN, AND TUCKER PETROSKY
- ALICE POLING – IN HONOR OF ALL THE CHILDREN AT FIRST CHURCH
- RON AND SUE PUGH – IN HONOR OF CHARLEIGH AND CHLOE PRIDDY
- SUSAN RICE – IN HONOR OF ALL THE CHILDREN AT FIRST CHURCH
- SYLVIA AND HAROLD ELMORE - IN HONOR OF MIRAND GRACE HAYSLETTE

WV BRASS QUINTET

We were blessed on the First Dy of Advent on November 30th by musical guests, the WV Brass Quintet. Thank you to all the of the Quintet members for your wonderful gifts and sharing your talents with First United Methodist Church. A beautiful start the Advent season.

MEMBERS OF THE WV BRASS QUINTET:

DAVE PORTER, TRUMPET
MATT BARABAS, TRUMPET

ANDREW SCOTT, HORN
LOGAN LINDSAY, TUBA

BRIAN PLITNICK, TROMBONE

CHILDREN'S CHURCH NATIVITY

Sunday, November 30th	First Nativity Practice Following Service - Snacks/Lunch Provided
Sunday, December 7th	Nativity Practice Following Service - Snacks/Lunch Provided
Saturday, December 20th	Rehearsal - 10:00AM - Sanctuary
Sunday, December 21st	Nativity Service - Please Arrive by 10:00AM

