



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 301 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET  
 KITTANNING PA 16201  
 CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312

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**ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE**

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dayton Mix  
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 E-mail: [pastordayton@gmail.com](mailto:pastordayton@gmail.com)

Pastor: Terri Wells  
 Cell Phone: 814-952-4695  
 E-mail: [terriwells53@aol.com](mailto:terriwells53@aol.com)

**First United Methodist Church**-301 N Jefferson Street, Kittanning PA 16201 724-548-4312

Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM **Email:** [fumchurchkittanning@comcast.net](mailto:fumchurchkittanning@comcast.net)

**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday 8:00 – 12:00 PM **Website:** [firstchurchkittanning.com](http://firstchurchkittanning.com)

Fax: 724-548-5157 Rainbow Road: 724-543-7569

Parsonage- 307 N Jefferson Street, Kittanning PA 16201 724-543-4808



**Ford Memorial United Methodist Church**-1024 Fourth Ave, Ford City PA 16226 724-763-1540

Worship 11:00 AM **Email:** [fordmemorialchurch@gmail.com](mailto:fordmemorialchurch@gmail.com)

**Union Avenue United Methodist Church**-421 Union Ave, Kittanning PA 16201

724-543-5012 Worship 9:00 AM



**JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
 Please get articles to Audrey no later than  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024**  
 Please have your articles on time. Thank you



***“Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to all whom God favors.” —Luke 2:13-14 (New Living Translation)***

Years ago, when I was youth director in the Corry Evangelical United Methodist Church, we had one Sunday evening service where we invited all of the youth and the adults both to a Christmas “fun” night. We played a Christmas themed, TV-like, Family Feud game with just the youth, and the adults were having a hilarious time watching the youth sweat with wrong answers. But then, afterwards, we allowed each of the youth participants to go into the congregation and select one adult to take their place for “round two.” During the adult phase, contestants had to correctly answer about 20 Christmas story questions, based on the Bible’s account of the birth of Christ. How many kings were there, what were their names, what animal did Mary ride to Bethlehem, and such were all stumpers. (The Bible never says that ANY kings came, and never says how many wise men there were...we just know there were three kinds of gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And it doesn’t say Mary had a donkey or a camel or even a sheep... it just says they went to Bethlehem.

This week, as I was working on the Christmas sermon planning, I was remembering the fun we had back then watching all those adults squirm with what they had been taught through traditional Christmas songs like We Three Kings as opposed to the truths revealed in Scripture. There’s something about music that makes our brains remember things easier.

That’s part of the awesome part of that first Christmas isn’t it? Even the heavenly hosts, the angels of God, couldn’t help themselves. They had to share the secret, they HAD to share the great news. God was stepping into human history as one of us! And they didn’t just whisper it, they sang it out! Glory to God and peace on earth!

As we look to Christmas we will hear all kinds of music, praising a courageous reindeer with a red nose, a mythical man in red pajamas, a warm hearted snowman, pretty silver colored bells, and lots of songs about snow. And those fun songs are OK with me... they’re fun! But as Christians, are we teaching the REAL story of Christmas to our children and grandchildren and neighbors. Are we sharing the good news about God come to earth or are we allowing Christmas to degenerate into a generic winter holiday expressed so well by “Season’s Greetings?”

Let’s allow the sounds of the Christmas season surround us as much as possible with the reason for this season: Jesus.

And maybe when we’re asked about meanings of Christmas, we’ll know the truths, because we’ve filled our minds and hearts with more than just the songs about grandparents getting mowed down by reindeer and dashing through the snow.

The angels shouldn’t be the only ones to sing about Jesus at Christmas. Let’s join them!

*Pastor Dayton*



## **A JOURNEY TO THE STABLE**

*“Go back in time to a Biblical Marketplace filled with surprises!”*

At Ford Memorial UM Church, Ford City  
Saturday, November 30 and Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>  
4:00-7:00 PM nightly  
Open to the public. Free admission.

# DECEMBER LECTIONARY READING

**December 1, 2024**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
*Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalms 25:1-10,*  
*1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36*

**December 8, 2024**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
*Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79,*  
*Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6*



**December 15, 2024**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
*Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6,*  
*Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18*

**December 22, 2024**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
*Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55,*  
*Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45*

**December 29, 2024**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day**  
*1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalms 148,*  
*Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52*

**Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball will be preaching at First Church on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM service.**



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES FOR FIRST CHURCH AND FORD MEMORIAL AT 7:00 PM

### 2025 NEWSLETTERS

Our newsletters are going digital beginning with our January 2025 newsletter. We will no longer be mailing out our newsletters. You can go to the website [www.firstchurchkittanning.com/about](http://www.firstchurchkittanning.com/about) and download a copy. We can email it to you, just email us your email address at [fumchurchkittanning@comcast.net](mailto:fumchurchkittanning@comcast.net). Or you can pick up a paper copy at your church.



### FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

#### COUNTERS

- 1
- 8 Scaife
- 15 Bureau
- 22 Scaife
- 29 Bureau



#### USHERS

- 1 Oxford
- 8 Albright
- 15 Albright
- 22 Asbury
- 29 Asbury



#### ACOLYTES

- 1 Wyatt Green
- 8 Caden King
- 15 Caitlyn Kachur
- 22 Elizabeth Mix
- 29 Jocelyn King



#### LIVE STREAM

- 1 Steph Hankey
- 8 Brenda Beers
- 15 Steph Hankey
- 22 Brenda Beers
- 24 Sue Hankey
- 29 Ray Johnson



#### BELL RINGERS

- 1 Jocelyn King
- 8 Chris Hankey
- 15 Emersyn McGregor
- 22 Eliana McGregor
- 29 Olivia Green

#### WELCOME CENTER

- 1 Sarah Heckert
- 8 Melissa Bureau
- 15 Karen Scaife
- 22 Beverly Patton
- 29



#### SCRIPTURE READER

- 1 Carolyn Hancock
- 8 Sue Hankey
- 15 Sarah Heckert
- 22
- 29 Brenda Beers



#### SOUND SYSTEM

- 1 Tim King
- 8 Chelsea Beers
- 15 Jeff Hankey
- 22 Carlee Beers
- 24 Tim King
- 29 Josh Mix?

### ADVENT

Advent is coming. The Christian Education team is planning an adult Sunday School class (9:30-10:30 AM) during the Advent season. Sign up by calling the church at 724-548-4312.





# FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

## DECEMBER MISSIONS

Our missions for November and December will be donations to the food bank at Grace Presbyterian Church. Please consider making a donation for our community members who may struggle for a quality meal, especially around the holidays. Donations can be left on the alter railing.

## CHRISTMAS PRELUDE MUSIC

We are looking for anyone who would like to help provide prelude music prior to our Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Preludes start 30 minutes before the service. Please contact Emily King if you would be willing to share your gift with the congregation at 724-664-0098.



## 2025 VBS ALUMINUM CANS

We continue our aluminum can collection for Habitat for Humanity *Cans Received October 15th—November 15th—3,550*  
Total cans received through November 15th—18,838

Many thanks to everyone who is saving aluminum cans and bringing them to the church-at the ramp at the back of the church. Please save cans from soft drinks, juice, power drinks, tea, beer, cat food-**Aluminum only-NOT "TIN CANS"**, food, soup, etc.

Thank you, The Can Man, Jim Ternent

## DECEMBER SIFT LUNCHEON

The December SIFT Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at noon in the Covenant Center. The menu will be Ham, scalloped potatoes, applesauce, green beans, rolls and butter. Everyone attending is asked to bring cookies to share for dessert. The program, Christmas Music with Ken Burkett. Reservations can be made from Monday, December 2nd through noon on Monday, December 16th Please call 724-548-4312. Phone reservations only will be accepted and will be limited to 75. You will need to give a name for each reservation made along with a contact phone number. Please call to cancel as there may be a waiting list. Doors will open at 11:30 AM. Please use the parking lot door. See YOU there!



### Dear First Church Family,

Christmas! A season of celebration! A celebration of friends, family, blessings and most importantly, the gift of God on earth, Jesus. As we endeavor to keep our eyes upon Jesus this Christmas season, let us celebrate those who make that endeavor easier: our Pastors and the church staff. (Pastor Dayton, Pastor Terri, Secretary, Sexton, Treasurer, Choir Director, Accompanist, Financial Secretary)

The Staffing Team asks that you prayerfully consider celebrating those individuals through a monetary gift. We ask that you make your **CASH ONLY** gift **by Sunday, December 15.**

You may place your gift in the offering plate on Sunday morning, bring it to the church office, or mail your gift to the church at 301 N Jefferson Street, Kittanning, PA. 16201.

Due to the current financial circumstances of First Church, there will not be a separate mailing asking for donations

Wishing you and yours a blessed Christmas season.





# FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10 Janine Muir
- 12 Donna Lazan
- 24 Linda Scaife
- 25 Holly Heigley



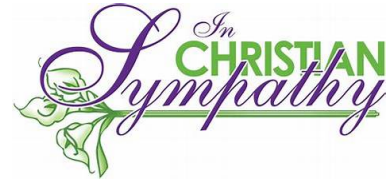
## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

- 15 Dan & Linda Cornman-45 years
- 21 Tim & Melissa Bureau-5 years
- 23 Greg & Lynn Toth-41 years
- 31 Jesse & Janessa Shriver-8 years



## CONGRATULATIONS

to Robyn and Tony Green on the birth of their daughter, Violet Mae Green. Violet was born on Thursday, October 31, 2024. She was 7lbs 1oz and 19 inches long. She is the sister to Logan, Wyatt and Olivia Green and the granddaughter of Audrey and Bernie Green.



### We extend our Christian Compassion and concern to:



~The family of Jim Ternent (Can Man). Jim passed away on Saturday, November 16, 2024. As a member of our church, Jim served in many positions including administrative board, church council, council on ministries, activities committee (fish dinners, Folk Festival food booth and SIFT), adult Sunday school teacher, finance committee, and vacation bible school where he was known as the "Can Man" by hundreds of children for the annual aluminum can collection for Habitat for Humanity. He counted and recycled 1,052,610 cans since 1996 earning over \$17,000 for Habitat for Humanity. He was the father to Anita (Alan) Smith and Melinda (Tony) Arndt. Jim was the grandfather to Christopher (Courtney) Smith, Katie Smith, Eric Arndt and Alexander (Stephanie) Arndt and great-grandfather to Ella, Adele and Lydia Smith and Gabriel Arndt. He will be missed.



~The family of Joy Long. Joy passed away on Sunday, November 17, 2024. Joy was the mother of Gary Slagle, Cynthia (Anthony) Zalar, Candace (Dale) Hernley and step-mother to William (Patti) Long, James (Elaine) Long. She had 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She will be missed.



## CHRISTMAS POTLUCK LUNCH

During the Christmas season, we gather with friends and family to celebrate Jesus' birth. We invite you to spend some time with your church family for a Potluck lunch following Worship (and the Children's Christmas play) on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Watch the bulletin for more details coming soon!

## WINTER IS COMING!

The Trustees have arranged for snow plowing for the coming season, but we are in need of someone to clear the walks around the church and Covenant Center. If you know someone available for this task, please let us know as soon as possible. Call Ken Lazan at 724-664-4037 or contact the church office.





# FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

## YOUTH NEWS

Big thank you to all those who purchased Thanksgiving pies or donated supplies or money, all your efforts are greatly appreciated. The youth have decided to pass those proceeds forward to the benefit of First United Methodist Church and it's mission to stay a vital part of the community. The season on family gatherings don't stop with Thanksgiving, so we are continuing our efforts to help you with the small task of baking.

## CHRISTMAS COOKIES

\_\_\_\_\_ Chocolate Chip

\_\_\_\_\_ Sugar-assortment w/wo sprinkles

\_\_\_\_\_ Raisin Filled

\_\_\_\_\_ Orange

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Dozen @ \$10.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Kiss



\_\_\_\_\_ Snickerdoodles

Payment Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total dozen @ \$9.00

Payment Method \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate money/supplies: \_\_\_\_\_

Any questions or to place an order: call Melissa 724-859-2607

\*Deadline to order-December 8th

\*Pick up date-December 22@Covenant Center 12:00



# FORD MEMORIAL LINK PAGE

## DECEMBER OFFERING COUNTERS

- 1 Kim Fello, Linda Kamer & Dave Dingey
- 8 Ruth Curry, Janice & Tom Bernot
- 15 Dawson Dingey & Sandi Peck
- 22 Ed Burdett, Scott & Grace Kamer
- 29 Ducky & Mary Jo Southworth



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Michael Alan Czapor
- 9 Ruth Curry
- 11 Paige Query
- 15 Mark Bryan
- 17 Ed Gaul
- 20 Andrew Snyder
- 21 Jessica Boarts
- 27 Jim Say



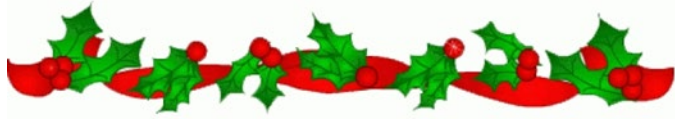
## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Betty & Lowell Simmons
- 12 Clarence & Lori Walker
- 23 Hyatt & Lois Hawk



*Christmas Eve  
Communion*

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT 7:00 PM  
COMMUNION WILL BE HELD ON CHRISTMAS EVE THIS MONTH**



## UNION AVENUE LINK PAGE

### UNION AVENUE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The November 4, 2024 meeting of the Union Ave. United Women in Faith was held at the Kittanning Cottages with 8 in attendance. The meeting opened with the reading of Our Vision, Our Mission, and Our Local Purpose, led by President Karen Wolfe. Hostess: Carolyn Ingram; Devotions: Lynn Sibley-Phytoplankton from "All God's Creatures"; Minute Missions: Ellen Nelson-book report "A Little Piece of Light". The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read. No additions or corrections. Minutes stood as read.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Karen received info for a Christmas family from Community Action Agency. 2 Children ages 4-girl and 8-boy. Karen and Courtney {daughter} went shopping for the kids and will take items to CAA.
2. \$200 was donated to Laurie Potter through the church.
3. Connections in Kittanning: Donations collected were taken to Connections. Many more people are coming for help. Donations for a meal has increased from \$150 to \$200. A motion was made and passed to give \$200 to Connections.
4. Christmas party will be held at Gardas on December 2, 2024, at 12:00 noon. Donna Shaffer has warned us that there will be games so put your thinking caps on. Peggy Say will furnish dessert. We will have a gift exchange for our prayer partners and draw names for next year.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made to do Blessing Bags for CAA and passed. Please have items to the church by Dec.8, 2024.
2. Motion made and passed to sell hoagie coupons. Peggy will get for us.
3. Thank you received from the Food Bank at Grace Presbyterian Church for the donation received from the Allegheny River Charge. Half went to Kittanning and half to Ford City Food Banks.
4. Thank Banks and the star achievement certificates will not be done this year.
5. A motion was made and passed to make hygiene kits for the Mission Barn. Item list will be obtained by Donna Shaffer. Please have items to the church by Dec. 29. 2024.
6. A motion was made and passed to give \$200 to Blessings in a Backpack.
7. A motion was made and passed to donate \$200 to the Ruth M. Smith Home.

Meeting adjourned with the reading of the Parting Prayer.

Secretary, Ellen Nelson



### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

22 Dave & Karen Wolfe-54 years  
26 Mike & Sharon Ulisky-51 years



# Christmas from the Holy Bible

I M G X R T K V B I Z V Y P D S Q T G O E P J M  
 M B M J J V C C I Z D I E C A Z P S Q F U B D U  
 M E H E L H T E B Z X R C J I J E S U S E M R G  
 K S K K Q F A V V M D G I T Q I N U G A V K V H  
 J D F I Z D O G X N N I O B F K N O R S V I N T  
 Y R X N H P N H I A W N J N U F H T D I G O N Y  
 J E M G D C B K C N J T E G L P H D T L J A Q J  
 M H Y O G S Q R Q L S T R O E V L G L O O D K L  
 T P R A B E W I H I I Z C S Y A G Q Y R G G A D  
 B E R H H T R I B V K K O V M X X Q T N T U T A  
 T H Y I A E A G P M S J Z B T F Q T H S Y Y T F  
 P S H K C H O A P D E U V L E U N A M M E S R V  
 R K D B R A T S F F K D M M A R Y O E E E A P J  
 F H A L L E L U J A H N U V Y J R V C Q N N K B  
 G W A Z D G P M W K H S H U A H N P J K F Q Y Z  
 L Y C E Y A H J P O A X L E N B Q K I Z R W J R  
 Y E S H X Q T N L V K L O P Q W L N Z H I P L W  
 S K H H N K F Y I C N R X S T Q C P H G I M S R  
 L N J R U X S O Y I P L S T K E K W A H A O J L  
 E O L E P P R E Q W N B M R N V Z M S N A P Q M  
 G D F O I C H R I S T M A S X F G R G Z X R T K  
 N X G R I Y J Y U R C A E V F T O E D Q L Y G T  
 A U I K R E T A L U C A M M I W R D D J Y Q Z A  
 W T F W C O N F C Z Y E J H Q T K N O Q S K I E

Frankincense	Holy Spirit	Hallelujah	Immaculate	Bethlehem
Christmas	Shepherds	Emmanuel	Rejoice	Worship
Angels	Donkey	Flocks	Joseph	Manger
Myrryh	Savior	Virgin	Birth	Earth
Jesus	Gold	King	Lamb	Magi
Mary	Star	God	Inn	Joy



