



## ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE

Senior Pastor: Terri Wells

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E-mail: [terriwells53@aol.com](mailto:terriwells53@aol.com)

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

**Sunday Bible School 8:45 AM Worship 10:00 AM**

Email: [fumchurchkittanning@comcast.net](mailto:fumchurchkittanning@comcast.net)

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 – 12:00 PM

Pastor Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00AM-?

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 11:15 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 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please get articles to Audrey no later than

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025**

Please have your articles on time. Thank you



*From the  
Pastor*



## Coming together in the Spirit of Christ

As the Christmas season approaches, our hearts are drawn to the story that changed the world—the humble birth of Jesus Christ. Each year, Christmas offers us a precious opportunity to reflect on the true reason for the season and to unite as a community, not just in celebration, but in faith and love for our Savior.

In Scripture, we are reminded time and again of the strength and beauty that arise when believers come together. Paul writes in Ephesians 4:3, “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” This unity is more than a warm feeling during the holidays—it’s a call to action. When we unite for Christ, we become a beacon of hope, peace, and joy for one another and for our neighbors.

The birth of Jesus was announced with the words, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:14). At Christmas, we are invited to lay aside differences and disagreements, extending grace and forgiveness. By doing so, we honor the gift of God’s Son.

Let this season be the beginning of a renewed commitment to unity in Christ. As we enter the New Year, may the love and togetherness we experience at Christmas carry over into our daily lives—encouraging, supporting, and building one another up in faith.

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” —John 13:35

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE INVITATION

Dear Friends and community Members,

You and your loved ones are warmly invited to join us for the Allegheny River Charge Christmas Eve Service, which will be hosted this year at Ford Memorial United Methodist Church. The decision on the location was done by drawing the name from the hat. Next year First Kittanning will be hosting Christmas Eve.

### Event Details

Date: December 24, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Ford Memorial United Methodist Church

1024 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ford City PA 16226

This special service is a new concept, bringing together the Allegheny river charge community to celebrate the birth of Christ with carols, scripture readings, and candlelight. All are welcome—bring your family, friends, and neighbors for an evening of worship and fellowship.

We look forward to celebrating this holy night with you. Merry Christmas and blessings to you and yours! Allegheny River Charge



## CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR

As we start new traditions together, the First church choir would like to invite anyone planning on attending Christmas Eve service to join with us for anthems in the evening’s service. We will have two evening rehearsals in December (10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>) at 5:30 PM in the library room at First Church. Please reach out to Emily King to let her know you plan on attending (724-664-0098 or [emilyscaifeking@gmail.com](mailto:emilyscaifeking@gmail.com)). We hope you will come lift your voices with us this holiday season!



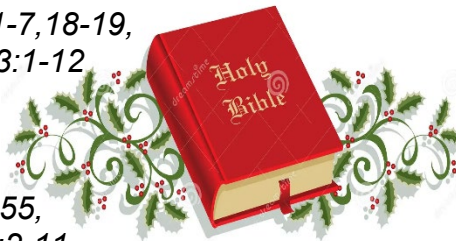
# DECEMBER LECTIONARY READING

**December 7, 2025**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19,  
Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12*

**December 14, 2025**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 1:46b-55,  
James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11*



**December 21, 2025**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19,  
Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25*

**December 28, 2025**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas Day**

*Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalms 148,  
Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23*

## ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE T-SHIRT PICKUP ANNOUNCEMENT

We are excited to announce that the Allegheny River Charge T-Shirts have been ordered! T-shirts will be available for pick up at First Church on the following dates and times:

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

December 4<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Please stop by during these times to collect your T-Shirt. Thank you for your support!

## CHRISTMAS CHURCH FAMILY PICTURES ANNOUNCEMENT

Celebrate the Season together in front of the Christmas Tree

### FAMILY PHOTO DAY: December 7

We're excited to announce that Christmas Church Family Pictures will be taken after church services on Sunday, December 7. Gather with your loved ones and join us in front of the Christmas Tree at each church location for a festive photo opportunity to capture the joy of the season.

### UNIFIED THEME: ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE T-SHIRTS

To show our unity and spirit, we encourage everyone to wear your new Allegheny river Charge T-shirt for the pictures. Let's create a memorable keepsake that reflects our church family coming together in faith and celebration!

**EVENT DETAILS** Date: December 7, 2025

Time: Immediately following church services

Location: in front of the Christmas Tree at each church

Theme: Allegheny River charge T-Shirt (please wear yours!)



### SPREAD THE JOY

These photos will be a wonderful way to remember our church community and the blessings of the Christmas season.

We look forward to seeing everyone there and celebrating this special tradition together!

## DECEMBER SIFT

The December SIFT Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at noon in the Covenant Center. The menu will be Baked Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Applesauce, Rolls and butter. Everyone attending is asked to bring cookies to share for dessert. The program will be "The Christmas Shephard", First person presentation by Ed Walters. Reservations can be made from Monday, December 1st through noon on Monday, December 15th. 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!





## LENTEN DEVOTION

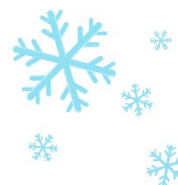
Things to do in December: Decorate house

Buy presents

Put up tree

Write devotion for Lenten Devotional!

That's right. The 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the Lenten Devotional will be printed next year. But we need your help. Forty devotions are needed for the forty days of Lent (not including Sundays). The devotionals will be available to be picked up at the church beginning the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. The deadline for devotions to be received in the church office will be January 25, 2026. So take time this December and prayerfully consider writing a devotion (or 2 or 3) for this meaningful and worthwhile ministry of our charge. We encourage members from all 3 churches to participate. We use the style of devotions as seen in the Upper Room. They don't have to be lengthy or complicated. Just include a scripture passage and a thoughtful devotion for the season of Lent. We look forward to next year's edition of the Lenten Devotional. Thank you, Your NOW committee



## FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

### COUNTERS

7 Melissa  
14 Melissa  
21 Tim  
24  
28 Tim



### USHERS

7 Epworth  
14 Epworth  
21 Oxford  
24 Volunteers  
28 Oxford



### ACOLYTES

7 Caden King  
14 Caitlyn Kachur  
21 Chris Hankey  
24 Jocelyn King  
28 Olivia Green



### LIVE STREAM

7 Brenda Beers  
14 Greg Toth  
21 Steph Hankey  
24 Sue Hankey  
28 Brenda Beers



### BELL RINGERS

7 Chris Hankey  
14 Emersyn McGregor  
21 Eliana McGregor  
24 Christmas Eve  
28 Cecilia Rearigh



### WELCOME CENTER

7 Sarah Heckert  
14 Melissa Bureau  
21 Marybeth Dean  
24  
28 Carolyn Hancock



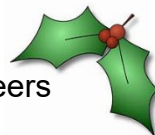
### SCRIPTURE READER

7 Melissa Bureau  
14 Sarah Heckert  
21  
24 Christmas Eve  
28 Sue Hankey



### SOUND SYSTEM

7 Carlee Beers  
14 Tim King  
21 Jeff Hankey  
24 Chelsea Beers  
28 Carlee Beers



## DECEMBER MISSION

Our December mission will be to support the food bank at Grace Presbyterian Church. Items that their families value include peanut butter, soup, pasta, tomato sauce, canned fruit, macaroni and cheese, tuna and canned chicken. As always, your financial support is also appreciated. Please see Emily with any questions.



**SNOW SHOVEL VOLUNTEERSS NEEDED**  
**SEE KEN LAZAN OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE 724-548-4312**  
**IF INTERESTED IN HELPING. THANK YOU**



## FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES



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 Pastor and the church staff. (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 14.**

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.

Wishing you and yours a blessed Christmas season.

## YOUTH NEWS

First United Methodist Youth are baking Christmas cookies again this year. We are hoping to do more outreach into the community. As part of that effort, we will be preparing gift bags for the women of HAVIN. Your participation in our cookie fundraiser will help support that mission and other missions as well. If you know of any need, reach out to Melissa at 724-859-2607. Thank you in advance for supporting our youth in their Christian growth. See order form below.

### Happy Holidays from your Youth

### Let us Help you reduce your stress with the Christmas Holiday

Mark the number of cookie by the type of cookie. All cookies are sold by the dozen.

And check cookie baking off your list.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Kiss

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Orange

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Snickerdoodles

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



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

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 14th

\*Pick up date-December 21@Covenant Center 12:00



## FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES



### TOUCAN REPORT

The Can Count is still low.

We need cans so we can help Habitat for Humanity help families in Armstrong gain reasonable housing.

Make your holiday and football entertaining easier. Put out a variety of canned beverages for their enjoyment and then you just gather them up and drop them off on the ramp or in the bin.

THIS MONTHS CAN  
COUNT  
October 15 - November 15  
2,994 cans  
This year's total  
19,035 cans

And  
leave the crushing to us.

We accept all aluminum products, beverage cans, cleaned cat food cans, anything aluminum  
Thank you and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Melissa B.

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

10 Janine Muir  
12 Donna Lazan  
25 Holly Heigley



### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

21 Tim & Melissa Bureau-6 years  
23 Greg & Lynn Toth-42 years  
31 Jesse & Janessa Shriver-9 years



### ADVENT EVENT

#### **Celebrate the Season with Food, Fellowship & Festive Crafts!!**

You're warmly invited to join us—and bring your friends and family—for a joyful gathering on the **Second Sunda of Advent, December 7**, from **11:30 to 1:30 PM** at the **covenant Center**.

We'll begin with a **light lunch** featuring: **Chili, Soup, Sandwiches, Chips, and Cookies**.  
Then, the fun continues at our **Advent craft tables**, where everyone can create festive decorations and ornaments to take home!

#### **CRAFT ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:**

**Adults:** create a beautiful **tabletop wooden Nativity scene** (see the sample in the Library Room).

**Children (of all ages):** Explore a variety of ornament and decoration stations—**plenty of fun materials and ideas to choose from!**

To help us prepare enough food and supplies, please let us know how many will be attending BY  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH**

Number joining for lunch \_\_\_\_\_

Adults making Nativity craft \_\_\_\_\_

Children making crafts \_\_\_\_\_

**Come when you can, stay as long as you like!**

And yes---we'll try to have the **Steelers game on** for those who don't want to miss a play!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_



## **FORD MEMORIAL LINK PAGE**

### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

2 Michael Alan Czapor  
9 Ruth Curry  
11 Paige Querry  
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



## **UNION AVENUE LINK PAGE**

### **UNION AVENUE UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH**

The November 3, 2025 meeting was held at the UA church with 8 in attendance. The meeting opened with the reading of "Our Vision, Our Mission, and Our Local Purpose." Hostess: Luella Bennett Devotions: Donna Shaffer Minute Missions: Carolyn Ingram. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read. No additions or corrections. Minutes stood as read.

#### **Old Business:**

Arc Manor Recovery House: Reque for household items. Do not have a list of items wanted yet so we will put on hold.

Ramps of Hope: Doing well at this time-no donations needed at this time.

#### **New Business:**

FYI: the Mission Barn has paid off their mortgage in 28 months. Congratulations to them.

The women in Faith group of UA received a check for \$2000 from the church from money received from the sale of the Manorville Parsonage.

Our Christmas party will be held at noon on December 1, 2025 at Garda's. Ellen Nelson will make arrangements. I will need to know by last week of November how many will be attending.

Do we want to order poinsettias this year? Yes. Donna Shaffer will make order form and put in the bulletin.

Blessings in a Backpack. Do we want to donate to this cause since SNAP benefits are being held by the government? A motion was made and passed to donate \$200 to them.

Mission for December will be collecting food stuffs for Blessing Bags. Donations should be to the church by December 7, 2025. {Non-perishable food items}

Meeting closed with the reading of "Parting Prayer."

Secretary, Ellen Nelson





# DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

# Christmas Word Search

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

FIRE	PARADE	LIST	JACK FROST	EXCHANGE	SWEATER	IVY
BOOTS	BLIZZARD	EVE	WONDERLAND	NUTCRACKER	RIBBON	ORNAMENT
PRAYERS	PINE CONES	FELIZ NAVIDAD	WINTER	WORSHIP	WISEMEN	JOLLY
MAGIC	FAITH	HOLIDAYS	GREETINGS	LOVE	CHURCH	ICICLE
GARLAND	BOWS	BIBLE	JESUS	JINGLE	FROSTY	BRIGHT
GINGERBREAD	STOCKING	BELLS	SNOWMAN	CANDLE	ANGEL	STAR
HOT CHOCOLATE	PEPPERMINT	MITTENS	SLEIGH	ELF	HOLLY	SNOW
CANDY CANE	BIRTH	PRESENTS	DECORATIONS	LIGHTS	CAROLS	MISTLETOE
EGG NOG	SANTA	MUSIC	NOEL	DECEMBER	GIVING	JINGLE BELLS



