

Faith & Oregon Community United Methodist Churches



December 20, 2020 at 10:30AM – 4th Sunday of Advent

WELCOME FRIENDS: In Advent we prepare ourselves for Christmas, gathering to worship Jesus the Christ who came as a child to remind us of how to love God and one another. We are aware of the mystery of the Holy Spirit who gathers us across space and time. You are welcome in this sacred space of seeking the Christ, no matter what your current or past relationship with God has been. This is a holy season to experience God anew. We are glad you are here...and hope you find what you need.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Jason

Please 'sign in' by liking or commenting on the video or sending an email to JBPerkowski@gmail.com. Let us know who watched the video with you and send in any prayer requests that we can lift up.

A TIME FOR CENTERING & PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jim and Buni Harbison & God's People

Now is the time of watching and waiting.

The time of pregnant expectation of new life.

Now is the season of hope unfolding.

The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.

Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

May our souls magnify God's name and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

Rejoice! God comes to bring the birthday of life and hope. Amen.

(Ruth Duck, *Bread for the Journey*, Pilgrim Press, 1981, p.18-19)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jim and Buni Harbison

READING FROM ISAIAH 9:6-7

We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace.

(Light all four candles)

May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God,

make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

(BOW #262)

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

UMH #211 v. 1, 2, 6 & 7

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Mike Shifflet

This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!

HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH #213

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Pastor Jason

Mike Shifflet

This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH #895

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH #234

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:59-2:6

Mike Shifflet

This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Coming Home

Pastor Jason

HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH #220

OCUMC Pianist: Jody Wiker & **Cellist, Guitar and Vocals:** Anthony Wiker

Faith Worship Team Director: Phil Buchanan;

Faith Instrumentalists: Liz Hornberger & Dolly Bankert Haar

Audio / Visual Technology: Bryan Nelson

Pastor: The Rev. Jason Perkowski

Ministers: The People of God

Explore OregonCommunityUMC.US & FaithUMC.US for more info about our churches.

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE BROADCAST at FM 89.9 each Sunday at 10:30AM as well as on Facebook Live through the churches' and Pastor's Facebook pages & church websites.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PASTOR JASON & CAROL OFFICE HOURS: We are working between home and the office. Contact us directly by email or phone. Pastor Jason: (717) 333-9238 or jbperkowski@gmail.com. Office: (717) 560-0321 or faithumc@hotmail.com

COMMUNION: We will offer a no-contact Communion Service in the Faith UMC parking lot at 1pm on every First Sunday at 1pm. In January, we will likely broadcast from inside the welcome center—so please park on that end of the building. You will need to **bring your own bread and juice** which will be collectively blessed by Pastor Jason during the service. You will also need to stay in your vehicles with windows closed to keep one another safe. **We will broadcast the service on FM 89.9.**

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK AND TO PHYSICALLY DISTANCE (AT 6 FEET APART) while you are in our building, even if just stopping in for a minute. Let's keep everyone safe.

SPECIAL NEEDS: If someone has needs the church can support, please contact Pastor Jason. You can also dial 2-1-1 or visit www.211.org to reach the **United Way Call Center** who can direct you to social service organizations. You can also reach the **Crisis Intervention Lifeline: 717-394-2631**

UMC CAMPS are struggling due to COVID. Donations can be made to: Treasurer's Office, Eastern PA Conference, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482 with *Camp & Retreats* in the memo, or <https://www.epaumc.org/administration/finance/giving/> or by texting CAMP to 610-463-0244

SUPPORT FAITH UMC WHILE YOU SHOP: For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. This link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-2403028> will take you directly to smile.amazon.com in support of **Manheim Township Faith United Methodist Church** so you won't have to search for us. It's the easiest way to find and support Faith UMC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ON DECEMBER 24 at 7 PM via Facebook Live (see links above). Join us for a **ZOOM SOCIAL HOUR FROM 6-6:45 PM** (*Meeting ID: 840 2024 3020 Passcode: 591731*) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84020243020?pwd=MUlibzRuT2JHd2pDRS9XdWpoZFdRdz09> **Bring your hot chocolate, don your favorite Christmas sweater & catch up with friends “face to face.” You will be online, but be able to see & hear each other by video. If you need help, contact Pastor Jason**

JUNIOR CHURCH BY ZOOM AT 9:30 AM EACH SUNDAY: Kids up to 4th Grade are invited to join us online with Julie Hassara. We are emailing weekly activity pages *and the Zoom password*. If interested, email faithumc@hotmail.com. **Join Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86236612038>

YOUTH GROUP AT 5 PM EACH SUNDAY: You can attend in person or by Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/421338708>. The link with the password will be sent by text message. **The 3rd Sunday of each month (including Dec 20th) youth will go to Gretna Glen Camp** leaving Faith UMC at 1:30pm & returning by 5:00pm. You must wear a mask, dress warmly to be outside, and stay socially distanced. For more info, please contact Pastor Jason (717-333-9238). *No Youth Group on Dec. 27*

CHATTING CLUB: MONDAYS AT 7 PM BY ZOOM. We discuss a new topic each week in an open, honest conversational forum. Join us: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86190453518>. **This Week's Topic: *Helping Friends Who Struggle With Mental Health & Addictions.*** Join in our discussion as we look at how to be able to honestly support our loved ones—and to lovingly challenge them to get help when they need it. Sometimes telling the uncomfortable truths might save lives. We will look at the struggles of Tony Hsieh, former Zappos CEO, as a starting point for the conversation. **Check out [ChattingAtTheGeneralSutter.US](https://www.chattingatthegeneralsutter.us) for more info.**

BIBLE STUDY led by Amy Boughter on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in the Welcome Center at Faith UMC. Masks and social distancing are required. We are studying a variety of life application topics. All are invited: men & women, young & experienced! ***NO MEETING THIS WEEK. Join us in 2021.***

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY BY ZOOM AT 10 AM: We discuss the scriptures from the Common Lectionary. Click here to join us: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83172825482> ***NO MEETING THIS WEEK, DECEMBER 25 or JANUARY 1.***

OFFERING TITHES & GIFTS TO THE LORD: You can direct gifts to the churches in four areas: **General Ministry, Debt Reduction/Building Fund, the Benevolence Funds** or the **Community Care Ministry** (which is sent to three local food ministries). Mark your preference clearly in the memo. **You can mail a check** to Faith UMC, 1290 Fruitville Pike, Lititz PA 17543 or Oregon Community UMC, 1214 Creek Rd, Lititz, PA 17543 or **donate digitally through the churches' websites.** *Please submit pledge cards and budget requests now. There will be a Church Council meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, Dec 30th at 6:30 pm to approve the 2021 budget. 2021 offering envelopes are available.*

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS: We are collecting donations to support three ministries this Christmas: **FOR CHRIST HOME FOR KIDS & BLACKFEET UMC PARISH:** You can send a donation marked accordingly to Oregon Community UMC, 1214 Creek Rd., Lititz PA. For the **UDOBO SCHOOL in Durban South Africa** you may send that to Faith UMC 1290 Fruitville Pike, Lititz, PA 17543 or donate online at our website. Each Christmas our churches have support these ministries and their work helping people in need. Thank you in advance for your generosity. *Checks should be made out to the church and we will forward one check to the organization.*

DOWNTOWN FOOD MINISTRY: We are developing a new ministry of providing food as well as blankets, scarves, gloves, etc. for people who are homeless. We are doing this on Saturday afternoons before our communion services. January 2 we will meet at 2pm and cook a hot meal at Faith UMC, and then go downtown to deliver it by 4pm. If you'd like to help, please contact Diana Valentine at 435-8577.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

OUR CONCERNS:

The UMC and delegates to 2021 General Conference as we seek God's will regarding human sexuality & our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ
President Donald Trump & VP Michael Pence
President Elect Joe Biden and VP Elect Kamala Harris
The election and peaceful transitions
All government & military officials and their staff from the US & other nations: wisdom & safety
Veterans and Service Members
Civilians, leaders, and soldiers in war torn regions
Victims of "religious," white supremacist and racist violence
For peace & wisdom in areas of conflict
Police officers and their families
Individuals & families harmed in interactions with police
First responders, emergency personnel, and medical staff
For an end to violence—including gun violence, domestic violence, terrorism, & weapons of mass destruction
Victims & families involved in violent crime, sexual abuse and harassment
Abusers and their families
Healing & peace for divisions caused by race, class, gender, sexuality, politics & fears
All affected by natural disasters
Refugees & huddled masses yearning to be free
People who are hungry and homeless
Security and immigration reform
Prisoners & Prison Leadership
Schools & Education Reform
Members of AA, NA, & AlAnon
Those struggling with addictions, finances, etc.
Those suffering from depression & mental health issues
All those caring for sick loved ones
Those grieving the loss of loved ones
Wisdom around natural resources and the environment
Eradication of deadly diseases—including COVID-19
Bishop Johnson, the EPAUMC Staff, and District Superintendent BK Chung and appointments
Coleman Memorial Chapel & Rev. Beverly Andrews
Rev. Dorcas, her UMC ministries in Sierra Leone, and her husband Daniel's health
Udobo School in Durban, South Africa
Campus Ministry: Ed Weber at Millersville; Rev. David Piltz & Rev. Diana Esposito at Drexel & West Chester; Rev. Dr. Mel Sensenig & Rev. Ibrahim Bangura at Albright; & Lebanon Valley
Becky, Angela and Maria Rodriguez – custody
Becky Rodriguez – kidney failure & dialysis
Phil Buchanan – strength & healing in legs/back
Harry & Ella Buchanan – strength & healing
Norm Whiteley (Ella's brother) – health

Charlotte Garfield
Dottie Sheaffer – healing for back
Eileen Williams – healing after a fall & for muscles
Shelda's granddaughter Bella's health
Bradley McGowan – ALS
Linda Philbin – motor neuropathy & strength
Donna Parmer – ongoing medical conditions
Those with cancer: Brian Rhodes, Cyndi Campbell, Dean Grove, Mark Reitzel, Pat Shenk, Kerry Link, Joe, John Rathvon, Glen (friend of Harbisons) & Amy Boughter
Rosemary (Marilyn Jones' sister) – healing
Noah Boughter – wisdom, safety and recovery
Annette McClarigan & family
Carl Jones – strength & healing and health of siblings
Heather Lindsey
Michelle Rathvon Mitterer – healing from strokes
Chuck Flory – ALS
Darlene Brown – Abdominal surgery
John – Cardiac Issues
Laurie – Recovery from surgery
Lorraine Jones - arthritis
Kathleen Shifflet – rheumatoid arthritis
Neighbors of Shifflets
Bob Jolly's parents
Katie & Dustin Oakes in Japan
Clarita – kidney issues
Mary Shenk's sister Eva
All impacted by COVID-19 -- including Quinn, Leon Bame's mother, Laurel Meck, Harry (son-in-law of Smith's), Ruthie, Carol & Tom (sister & brother-in-law of Kennedys), Beth Perkowski
Parents & Healthy Marriages
Mike Loechner – heart problems
Wagaman/Schroeder family after a house fire
Sebastian—recovery
Jason Hurst— grandson of Judy Hurst
Dean and Family—wildfires and other needs
Sandy Patschke – healing after back surgery
Sherry Guard
Buni Harbison's father – ongoing need for healing
Margie Urban –Ecoli infection and recovery from heart surgery
Jackie Black – continued healing
Don Klos – ongoing healing and strengthening
Erek Perkowski and his son Shaughn – custody
Ray – recovering from Strokes
Lorraine's nephew with leukemia

OUR PRAISES:

God's presence through illness and struggle
COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments
Connecting with family and friends for the holidays