

# Messenger

December 2020

## "A Different Christmas"

The following poem by Madeline L'Engle spoke to me this year:

*"Into the Darkest Hour"*

*It was a time like this,  
War & tumult of war,  
a horror in the air.  
Hungry yawned the abyss-  
and yet there came the star  
and the child most wonderfully  
there.*

*It was time like this  
of fear & lust for power,  
license & greed and blight-  
and yet the Prince of bliss  
came into the darkest hour  
in quiet & silent light.*

*And in a time like this  
how celebrate his birth  
when all things fall apart?  
Ah! Wonderful it is  
with no room on the earth  
the stable is our heart.*



The world into which Jesus was born was not idyllic. Rome ruled with power and often violence. Taxes were high. Faithful Jews yearned for the Messiah to come and bring peace.

The Messiah arrived—in the form of a baby boy, not a conquering hero. The peace he brought was not the absence of war, but the gift of a renewed relationship with God.

This Christmas season is not idyllic. While the lights have been hung and the candles are being lit, the uncertainty of gathering together to sing "Silent Night" hangs over us.

And yet, we can still worship. We can still make room in our hearts for Christ. We can still give thanks that even in our darkest hour, God is with us!

My prayer for you this December is that you may find Christ's peace even in the darkest night.

The light and hope and love of God is our gift at Christmas, and throughout the year!

Pastor Amy

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# Worship

## Worship in-person and online!

Saturdays– 5:30pm  
 Sundays– 9:00am  
 Sundays– 10:30am  
 Sundays– 10:30am live stream

### YouTube channel:

<https://youtube.com/channel/UC87AzcdD-88Lr8e39HBKEFw>

### Facebook Live worship link:

<https://www.facebook.com/First-United-Methodist-Church-of-Springboro-202709196426644>

### In-person:

Please reserve your seat by contacting Kerri in the church office or go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-worship1>

- \*Seating remains every other pew
- \*Face coverings are required for all services for those over age 5
- \*Hymns are currently not being sung
- \*Pews are sanitized each week
- \*Doors are sanitized between services

### Missed worship on Sunday?

Find the worship videos on the Facebook page, YouTube channel, and church website!

Printed sermons are also posted within the week at <https://www.fumcofspringboro.org/media/sermons/>

## Worship in December

### Advent Series: "In the Waiting"

#### December 5/6

Mark 1:1-8  
 "Prepare the Way"  
 Holy Communion

#### December 12/13

Matthew 1:18-25  
 "Emmanuel Is Coming"

#### December 19/20

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
 "Good News for Everyone"

#### December 24

#### Christmas Eve Services

Luke 2:1-20

#### 4:30 pm Children's Service

"Twas the Night Before Christmas"

#### 7:30 pm Lessons and Candlelight

"The Promised One is Here!"

#### 10:30 pm Lessons, Candlelight and Communion

"The Promised One is Here!"

#### December 26- No Service

#### December 27- 10:30am only

Luke 2:22-40

"Glory Revealed"

#### January 2/3

Covenant Renewal Service  
 Holy Communion

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# Advent Activities



## Facebook Live Carol Sing December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

Join together online to sing a few of your favorite Christmas carols.

## A Night of Reflection December 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30-8:00pm

On the longest night of the year, you are invited to pause and reflect on the gift of God with us. This evening is a come and go opportunity to be in the sanctuary for 5 minutes or more of prayerful reflection.

Live music will be playing. Candles can be lit. Scripture will be read. If you are not comfortable attending in-person Christmas Eve, may this be your opportunity to see the lights and pray in the sanctuary.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All December activities are subject to change due to rising COVID numbers.

If Warren County goes purple, all church activities will go virtual. We will send out updates as needed.

## Poinsettias Order Deadline December 6<sup>th</sup>

Bring some festive color to the sanctuary by ordering your poinsettia today. The cost is \$15, paid online or through the church office. Order yours by calling Kerri or go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-poinsettia>.

## Advent At-Home Kits

There are still a few kits available if you would like to celebrate Advent at home! Each free kit includes an Advent wreath, Christmas Eve candle, and more! If you have not received your kit, please contact the church office for pick up or porch drop! Over 100 have already been shared with others!

## Kids Christmas Eve Service

Christmas eve service will look a little different this year, but we will still be celebrating the birth of our Savior! See the sign up genius below to let us know how your child/youth would like to help out at the 4:30 Children's program (pre-recorded or live!) <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-christmas6>

**Drive Thru Nativity Cancelled**  
See page 9 for info on a Christmas Lights Scavenger Hunt instead!

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# Advent Caring



## Christmas Offering

In celebration of Christ's birth, each year we support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) through our undesignated Christmas Eve offerings. In times of disaster, 100% of all donations to UMCOR go to relief efforts.

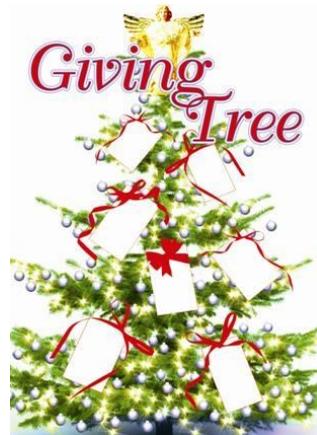
You may also support UMCOR through a designated offering any-time throughout the month of December. Simply mark the amount you want to give as UMCOR.

## Interfaith Hospitality Network December 20-27

While the IHN families continue to be housed in hotels, host churches are still providing meals and activities. We will provide dinner each night, brought to the church by 4:45pm and taken by the driver to their hotel. To assist with a meal or activity packet, please contact Jennifer Fry or go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-interfaith19>

## Cornerstone Class VA Collection December 1-21

Help the VA this Christmas with gifts of socks, briefs, t-shirts and gloves. At this time many of their patients are homeless and/or experiencing PTSD. Thank you for blessing others.



## The Giving Tree 2020 Deadline December 6<sup>th</sup>

Thank you to all who have provided gifts to the children from the Giving Tree. Please place unwrapped items in a bag with the tag number written on the bag.

All gifts need to be returned to church by Dec 6th.

Thank you for making Christmas a little brighter for others still this year!

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# Connection and Study

## Online Daily Devotions

Daily Devotions continue to be offered on Monday and Thursday mornings at 9:30am on our church Facebook page.

Please let Pastor Amy know if you would like to offer a devotion or sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-online>.

## Tuesday Bible Study

Studying N. T. Wright's "The Book of Acts"

Tuesday from 10-11am via Zoom  
Contact Pastor Amy for log in info

## Cornerstone Class

Thursday from 10-11 am in the Sanctuary, with various topics led by Dorothy Johnson and Bev Haun.

Please wear a mask and bring your own drinks.

If you have questions please call Marlene Johnson at 937-371-2524 or Sonia Dermis at 937-550-9412.

## Incarnation Advent Study

Rediscover the Significance of Christmas through reflection on the names of Jesus and the importance of the Christ child for our lives today. Taught by David Finney.

## Wednesday at 7 pm via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84228072575?pwd=dWZHQ2ozRzYyT01Ccko0K3oyVDhYQT09>

Meeting ID: 842 2807 2575  
Passcode: 794374

## Friday at 11 am via zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88164562276?pwd=OTh5UWFIZEIYd2t0SjBOZ2QwenppQT09>

Meeting ID: 881 6456 2276  
Passcode: 208963

## United Methodist Men

UMM will meeting on Sunday, December 6 via Zoom at 8:00am.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88244562374?pwd=SlDHTUdSZHlBMHdBZ0lHejhmREJ5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 4456 2374  
Passcode: 969455

**Zoom Phone #:** 312-626-6799  
Then use Meeting ID and Passcode

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# Outreach

## Ways to Give

### **Kroger Rewards Program**

Register our church as your Kroger recipient. NPO: RX797

### **Dorothy Lane Market**

Complete a Good Neighbors Form and designate our church. ID# 815. Please remember your yearly renewal.

### **Box Top for Education**

Support Red Bird Mission by downloading the Box Top app, scan your receipt and tag Red Bird Mission.

### **Encouragement**

Support and encourage one another! Reach out to your neighbors!

### **SCAC and The Pantry**

Volunteer time to sort or hand out food. Donate food, toiletries or funds to purchase in bulk.

<http://springborocommunityassistance.org/how-you-can-help/>

<https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/>

### **Interfaith Hospitality Network**

Cash donations assist with housing costs as families are still being housed in hotels.

Gift cards, towels, pots and pans, diapers, and cleaning supplies are also needed.

<https://www.ihnwc.org/donate>



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# Stewardship

## Giving Envelopes, Statements and End of Year Giving

The end of the year is quickly approaching and that brings up joyful thoughts of the Advent of Christ, family and snow. Along with that also comes less jolly thoughts of end of year matters.

- **Giving envelopes:** Giving envelopes for 2021 have been ordered and will be available in the church office in mid-December.
- **Statements:** Statements will be mailed or emailed out in mid-January. Online Giving users will receive a statement or can print one out from the site at any time. If you did a combination of Online and Traditional giving, both will be included in the statement that is mailed in January.
- **Special Gifts:** In the course of year-end tax planning, you may find yourself considering special one-time donations. There is a growing trend among donors to make contributions to their favorite organizations via the web during the final week of the year.
- As you contemplate year-end gifts, please keep FUMC in mind.

We welcome your donations through the Online Giving page on the church website at

<https://giving.ncsservices.org/app/giving/fumcofspringboro>

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Stull (Finance Secretary). She can be reached at: [financeteamfumc@gmail.com](mailto:financeteamfumc@gmail.com).



## Stewardship Giving

Thank you to each of you who have thoughtfully considered your investment in the ministries of our local congregation for 2021!

If you have not yet had a chance to return your card, they may be returned to the church office or put in the offering plate during services.

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# Bright Beginnings



## Bright Beginnings Christian Preschool

In December, the children will focus on the first Christmas, the legend of St. Nicholas, and the Christian symbols of Christmas. The children will also enjoy classroom parties before breaking for Christmas. The preschool follows the Springboro school schedule and will enjoy their last day before the holidays on December 18 with classes resuming on January 4.



## A.C.E.—Active Christian Exploration

Our A.C.E. students are really enjoying our worship program called GPS (for Grow Pray Serve). During this time, the children talk about the Fruit of the Spirit, their monthly Bible verse and watch short videos on character development. In addition, they will learn about Christmas traditions around the world. If you would like to know more about our A.C.E. program please contact Kim at 937-748-2612.



## Parent Connection

We've been braving the temperatures and getting our walks in on Mondays! We meet via zoom on Tuesdays for our bible study. Let us know if you would like to join!

**Mondays** - 9 am - Bright and Fit (weather permitting at North Park)  
- Get fit for the holiday season!

**December 1st, 8th** - "Winning the Worry Battle" study continued...



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# Children and Youth



**Kids Who Care: K–2nd grades**  
**God Squad: 3rd & 4th grades**  
**Mission 56: 5th & 6th grades**

**Contact: Kim Crosen**  
**kimfumc@gmail.com,**  
**937-748-2612**

## **Mission 56—**

- Connect on Zoom Sundays at 11:30am.

## **Kid Connection—**

- Connect on Zoom Sundays at 10:00 am.

## **Minecraft—**

- Connect on Zoom Sundays at 2:30 pm.



**Junior High Youth (7-8)**  
**Senior High Youth (9-12)**

**Contact: Brian Schlise**  
**Brianschlise@habeggercorp.com**  
**937-748-9711**

## **Junior High—**

- Meet on Sundays, from 5:30-7pm

## **Senior High—**

- Meet on Sundays, from 7-8:30pm

Look for texts from Brian with dates for December!

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## **Change of plans...**

### **Drive Thru Nativity Cancelled Christmas Lights Scavenger Hunt Participants Needed**

We are sad to say that, for various reasons, we are canceling our drive-thru Nativity this year. Don't fret though...we have a fun, new tradition to do...A CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SCAVENGER HUNT! Wouldn't it be fun to also be looking for pieces of the Christmas story as we look at lights? What we need are 16 houses already decorated who are willing to:

1. Have a small Christmas symbol sign placed in their yard
2. Be willing for families from the church and Preschool to have your address to come by and see your lights.

After we have the houses, we will send home papers with what to look for. When your family has completed the hunt you can bring your paper back to the church for a prize! Let Kim know if you would like to participate! [kimfumc@gmail.com](mailto:kimfumc@gmail.com)

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# Our Faithful Participation

## November Attendance—

Date	Online Households	5:30 pm service	9:00 am service	10:30 am service
11/1	82	7	17	22
11/8	99	13	13	15
11/15	69	13	13	15
11/22	119	8	19	22
11/29	110	16	14	19

Thank you for your continued faithfulness through your prayers, presence and gifts!

Offerings may be mailed to the church or given online at [www.fumcofspringboro.org/online-giving/](http://www.fumcofspringboro.org/online-giving/)

Online giving can be set up on a recurring basis or can be a one time gift. Designated giving is also available online.

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## Help Around the Home

Need help with hard-to-reach light bulbs, smoke detector batteries, Christmas decorations or other small household chores?

If you or your neighbor needs a helping hand, please let us know! Led by Trustees and United Methodist Men, we have those willing to assist you in safe ways.

Please contact Harry Ingalls or David Finney to schedule work or to help serve others.



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# Office News

## Staff Contacts

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your staff!

Kerri Dome, Office Manager  
[fumcspringboro@gmail.com](mailto:fumcspringboro@gmail.com)  
937-748-2612

Pastor Amy  
[pastoramy@fumcofspringboro.org](mailto:pastoramy@fumcofspringboro.org)  
937-748-1186

Doug Dean, Pastor of Discipleship  
[revdhd23@gmail.com](mailto:revdhd23@gmail.com)

Kim Crosen, Christian Education and Mission 56  
[kimfumc@gmail.com](mailto:kimfumc@gmail.com)

Brian Schlise, Senior and Junior High  
[BrianSchlise@habeggercorp.com](mailto:BrianSchlise@habeggercorp.com)

## Church Office

The church office is open from 9 am—noon. Kerri is also available by phone or email.

If you are not receiving the weekly email and would like to do so, please let Kerri know.

## Karen's Card Shop

Pick up a card for any occasion, outside the church office, for only \$2!

## Health Checks

Anyone entering the church building from 6:30am-6:30pm will be asked to stop inside the front door, sign in, and answer a series of health questions.

If you answer YES to any of the questions, we ask you not to enter the building.

While the health check is not required for worship and evening meetings, if you are sick, please stay home.

## Please Wear Your Masks

As a way to care for one another, masks are currently required anytime we are in the building—during the day, for meetings and for worship.



## Office Closed

The church office will be closed Friday, December 25 thru Friday, January 1. In case of emergency please contact Pastor Amy.

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# Flowers for Worship

Live flowers arrangements are one way to add color to our sanctuary for worship while honoring or remembering a loved one or special occasion. Flowers are \$20 each, and may be taken home after the 10:30am service,

December 5/6	Chuck and Donna	In memory of her grandson Kayden
December 12/13	Marjorie Poff	In honor of Gina Poff Long
December 19/20		Christmas Poinsettias
December 26/27		Christmas Poinsettias

## **2021 Flower Calendar**

We thank everyone for their support in providing Sanctuary flowers each week. **The flower calendar for 2021 is now available for sign-ups.** Please call Kerri to sign up. You are welcome to sign up in honor or in memory of a loved one. Please make sure you print all the information clearly to ensure we can put the correct information in the bulletin. **Flowers are \$20 per request.** Payment can be made by placing an envelope in the offering plate. Please be sure to mark the envelope "Flowers" and include your name and the date for which you are purchasing flowers so we can track payments. If you provide your own flowers, there is no fee but we do ask that you let the church office know by the Tuesday before the weekend services.



Many thanks to my incredible church family. Your calls, prayers, cards and gift cards for food made my recovery much easier. Thank you to the Cornerstone class and Miss Kim, you are amazing!

God bless!

Connie Archer

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# December Birthdays

4: Gary Kline, Bill Wenzel  
6: John Stalcup, Timothy Haines  
9: Cindy Kline  
10: Rachel Haines  
11: Ryan Pesavento  
13: Nathan Haines  
14: Martha Rutherford  
16: Adam Stafford, Amanda Schlise  
18: Emmy Sibert  
20: Sara Beth Frye  
26: George Walling, Jim Scott  
28: Vicki Kuhn, Steven Stalcup  
29: Joyce Pence, Harold Ingalls

A decorative cursive script that reads "Happy Birthday". The letters are elegant and flowing, with the "H" and "B" being particularly large and stylized.

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# December Anniversaries

5: Steve & Leslie Haines  
7: David & Carol Finney  
18: Ed & Vicki Kuhn  
25: Howard & Marlene Johnson  
30: Stan & Jacque Pickett

A decorative cursive script that reads "Happy Anniversary". The letters are elegant and flowing, with the "H" and "A" being particularly large and stylized.

*If we have missed your birthday or anniversary,  
please let the church office know so we can add you to our list.*

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## Worshiping God Together

First United Methodist Church of Springboro  
December 6, 2020 10:30 am

***Online worshippers- Prepare for this service by having communion elements on hand— any type of bread/cracker/bun and juice/water/coffee/tea.***

### PRELUDE

**WELCOME**    If using Facebook Live, please check in and say hello!

**CENTERING MOMENT**                    "All Earth is Waiting"                    Kathy Hott

**HYMN**                                        "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"                    UMH #196

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**ADVENT WREATH RESPONSE** "Prepare the Way of the Lord"                    UMH #207

### OFFERING OURSELVES, OUR PRAYERS, & OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Prayer of Dedication/ Pastoral Prayer/ The Lord's Prayer

**SPECIAL MUSIC**                                        "The Best Gift of All"                    Mary Fogle

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**                                        Mark 1:1-8

**MESSAGE**                                        "Preparing The Way"                    Rev. Amy Haines

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**HYMN**                                        "Love Came Down at Christmas"                    UMH #242

### BLESSING

### POSTLUDE

Facebook Live Link: [www.facebook.com/First-United-Methodist-Church-of-Springboro-202709196426644](https://www.facebook.com/First-United-Methodist-Church-of-Springboro-202709196426644)

YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/channel/UC87AzcdD-88Lr8e39HBKEFw>

Online giving link: [www.fumcofspringboro.org/online-giving/](http://www.fumcofspringboro.org/online-giving/)

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## Worshipping God Together

First United Methodist Church of Springboro  
December 13, 2020 10:30 am

### PRELUDE

**WELCOME** If using Facebook Live, please check in and say hello!

**CENTERING MOMENT** "All Earth is Waiting" Jack Hott

**HYMN** "Joy to the World" UMH #246

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**ADVENT WREATH RESPONSE** "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" UMH #204

### OFFERING OURSELVES, OUR PRAYERS, & OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Prayer of Dedication/ Pastoral Prayer/ The Lord's Prayer

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Mary, Did You Know?" Becca Perry

**HEARING GOD'S WORD** Matthew 1:18-25

**MESSAGE** "Emmanuel Is Coming" Rev. Amy Haines

**HYMN** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH #230

### BLESSING

### POSTLUDE

Facebook Live Link: [www.facebook.com/First-United-Methodist-Church-of-Springboro-202709196426644](https://www.facebook.com/First-United-Methodist-Church-of-Springboro-202709196426644)

YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/channel/UC87AzcdD-88Lr8e39HBKEFw>

Online giving link: [www.fumcofspringboro.org/online-giving/](https://www.fumcofspringboro.org/online-giving/)

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[fumcspringboro@gmail.com](mailto:fumcspringboro@gmail.com)



Go now in peace, never be afraid  
God will go with you each hour of every day  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true  
Know He will guide you in all you do  
Go now in love, and show you believe  
Reach out to others so all the world can see  
God will be there watching from above  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love  
Amen

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