

FAIRVIEW

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Sunday Schedule

10am-Adult Sunday School
11 am-Worship
11:15 am-Children's Church-
JUMP

Pastor Wade's Cell

724-777-4795

Pastor Ali's Cell

814-241-2269

INSIDE THIS

ISSUE:

Pastor Wade's 1-2
Message

Pastor Ali's 2-3
Message

UMF 4

Part of the Family 5

Reverse Advent
Calendar 6

Prayer Calendar 7

Dec Parish Events 8

Jan Parish Events 9

LiHeap Info 10

Information/
Education 11

The Visitor

DECEMBER 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

I don't think that I have ever been this excited about the coming of Advent. Ali and I found what we think is a wonderful sermon series that we will be sharing. The series is entitled The Gift of Being Present. Then, we found an Advent Devotional entitled The Gift of the Present! It is awesome how God has led us to these two resources!

The weeks that lead up to Christmas, the weeks we call Advent, can sometimes be so busy. We have the decorations to put up! We have gifts to buy and wrap! There are groceries to buy, meals to prepare, and family to visit!

Sometimes we get so busy, the season passes us by.

What if this year we slowed down. What if we lived one day at a time? What if we took the time to listen—to God, to our friends, to our family, to ourselves.

Ted Loder, in his book Guerrillas of Grace; Prayers for the Battle, shares a poem,

Give Me Ears to Hear...

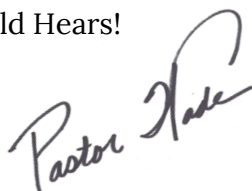
Lord,
I believe my life is touched by you,
that you want something for me,
and of me.

Give me ears to hear you,
eyes to see the tracing of your finger,
and a heart quickened by the motions of your Spirit.

So, here is the plan! Each Sunday in Advent we will, together, share a passionate worship service. Each Sunday we will think about our presence with each other and with God and we consider how we can offer hope, peace, joy, and love with those close to us AND those around us.

Each weekday between the Sundays of Advent, I will use social media to post a thought for us to consider. Please remember, social media works in two directions—I post a thought and you share a comment or question or thought of your own!

Each day we will read a devotion together. The devotion booklet, *The Gift of the Present*, will either be included with your newsletter, or it will be shared with you in worship. Here is the good news—at least I think it is good news, the Prayer Calendar for December will connect us to the devotional and/or our message on Sunday. This leads me to the best part—again, at least I think it is the best part, we are worshipping together, considering what the message shared during worship means to us, reading a devotion together, and praying together for four weeks! Maybe all of this will become a new experience and a new habit for the new year! Let's be present for each other!
Until the Whole World Hears!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Wade". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor's Note

Well here we are, welcoming back the hustle and bustle of the season. And for some odd reason, I am seeing more and more people starting the season of Christmas earlier and earlier. Trees were up before Halloween. I understand lights being put up while the weather is good! But wow, we have more holidays in the fall than just Christmas (which is in winter).

But people are in the Spirit at least, which is better than it has been for a few years now with so much uncertainty from Covid. So it is nice that we are moving forward with our lives again in Spirit-filled ways.

I hope that we stop long enough though to enjoy these times with our loved ones. Maybe it's your first Christmas with a child, or a senior in High School/College who may move away by next season, or you are living with your mother or father in their golden years. Or you are somewhere in-between seeing all of this play out within your family dynamics.

We remember that Mary and Joseph had the humblest of beginning but there was not all that pomp and circumstance getting in their way of enjoying a peaceful Christmas with Jesus. That is my hope for you this holiday season.

To help build memories with your loved ones Weis Library will be holding an open house style: Christmas Family Fun Night! There will be many stations to

choose from including Mrs Claus's Kitchen – with Christmas cookie decoration, Hot Cocoa/food station, Santa's Workshop to make crafts, gift wrapping station, Card making station for shut-ins, movie of Charlie Brown Christmas, Pictures with Santa, and learning the true meaning of Christmas. Come join us **Dec 8th from 6-8:30PM**. Also share this information with others you may know so everyone can join in the fun of the holiday season.

And we have Advent preparing us for Christmas, allowing us to see Jesus' hope, peace, joy, and love within the world as we await his second coming and before we know it – it's Christmas! Yay! Celebrate!!! Enjoy!!!

And we do, for a short time, before it's on to the next family members to see and eat, open more presents, and repeat. Or for some, there is no family and it is a long day of silence. It happens all too frequently. But we celebrate. And then we take down the decorations. We forget that we have 12 days of Christmas to celebrate!!!! Christmas continues through until Epiphany – keep your trees and decorations up!

Before you know it, all signs of Christmas are put away for another year and we enter into the bleak of winter – but wait, we have to remember the Baptism of our Lord and our own baptisms and how we bring the Word of God to others.

And we will tackle any leftover winter doldrums we may have with our sermon series and small group study on Radical-er Hospitality! How can we be even more inviting to those who are the fringes of society and don't know Jesus yet? When they enter our doors, what can we do FOR them? And more so stay tuned...

Wade and I truly want to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas filled with Jesus' love, peace, joy, and hope! Be blessed this holiday season!

Until the whole world hears...

Pastor Ali

Wade and I wish to thank everyone who sent prayers our way, gave us gift cards and other gifts, cards, and love during Pastor Appreciation Month. We also wish to thank you for all the prayers and generosity while Pastor Ali was recovering from surgery and Covid. We are blessed! Thank you again.

United Women of Faith

Inspire, influence, impact.

WHERE OUR MONEY WENT

At the Nov. 5, UWF meeting following church, we discussed how our money had been spent in 2023 and how the remaining funds will be used. During the past year we bought books for the reading program, purchased a new refrigerator, replenished kitchen supplies, paid our UWF pledge, provided Our Daily Bread and Upper Room devotionals, supported the Easter event and Trunk or Treat, All God's Children, Fairview Holiday Food Baskets, Girard Christian Cupboard, Ruth M. Smith Center, Wesley Woods, EUMA, Erie City Mission, Love Inc., and have money set aside for needs in 2024.

We have been good stewards of what God has provided.

READING PROGRAM REPORTS ARE DUE DEC. 31

If you have participated in the 2023 United Women in Faith Reading Program, it is time to turn in your reports. For 2023, books from the 2018 through 2023 Reading Lists are all eligible for Reading Program reporting credit. Reporting forms can be found in a basket on top of the UWF bookcase. Please give your reports to Dottie Super by Dec. 31.

Books are now being selected for 2024. If you would like to donate a book to our reading program, please see Dottie Super for the new reading program catalog. Consider nourishing your soul by joining the United Women in Faith Reading Program in 2024.

“Oh, Lord Jesus, what we do really does matter. Don't let me squander a single second.” -Roberta Messner

Part of the Family

Lay Readers For December

December 10th	Greg Gebhardt	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
December 17th	Courtney Nagle	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
December 24th	Todd Searing	Isaiah 9:2-8	Luke 2:1-14
December 31st	Hillary Kanszin	Isaiah 62:1-3 Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40

Prayer Concerns

Pastor Ali	Marilyn Pease
Our Veterans	Wilma Portzer
Marilyn Mehl	Kathy Pytlarz
Sue Knapp	Theresa Gebhardt
Peace for Israel	Russians
For those Traveling	Kathy Rudd
Katherine(Wally's Friend)	Ukrainians
Kara(Kathy's Daughter)	People of Gaza
Pittsburgh Church for direction	Cancer Patients
Shooting Victims and Families	

December Birthdays

Happy Birthday to you...

June Hetz	December 5th
Steven Morrison	December 5th
Kaye McLaren	December 12
Todd Searing	December 14th
Ava Ruiz-Bueno	December 23rd
Kris Sundin	December 23rd

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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December 2023

West County United Methodist Parish Monthly Prayer Calendar

Consider how God is asking you to pray through these concerns!

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

02

Pray for Pastor Ali and Pastor Wade.

Pray for everyone, by name, who has a *December* birthday or a *December* anniversary!

03

04

05

06

07

08

09

Thank God for the gifts that God has given you!

Thank God for providing in your life!

Thank God for the gift of Jesus!

Be still and feel the presence of God!

Thank God for forgiveness!

Dear God, help me not to worry!

Dear God, remove this burden from my shoulders!

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

Tell someone how much you love them today!

Dear God, help me trust you more!

Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for God!

How has God gotten you through the unknown?

Dear God, calm my fears!

Ten days until Christmas! Dear God, help me relax!

Tell God your hopes and dreams!

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

Dear God, help me trust you more!

Begin to prepare your heart for Jesus (again)!

Take a present to a special person in your life!

Dear God, guide my heart to live in the present!

Dear God, help to make Advent a way of life for me!

Find one blessing today and thank God for that blessing!

Where are you finding hope today?

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

Light a candle to welcome Jesus in your heart (again)!



Breathe!!

Where is your focus?

Pray and give thanks for unity in our Parish!

Pray and give thanks for our District Superintendent, Rev. Dennis Swineford.

Pray and give thanks for our Bishop, Rev. Cynthia Moore-Koi Koi.

31

Read Psalm 148. Is there a word or phrase that is speaking to you?



December Parish Events

- Dec 3 rd – Parish Worship and Luncheon -- Weis Library
- Dec 5 th – Fairview Community Council – 11:45AM – Sturgeon House
- Dec 6 th – Devotions – 11AM – FB Live
- Pfeiffer Burleigh (PB) Reading Enrichment – 2:30-4:30 – PB
- Dec 8 th – Christmas Family Fun Night – 6-8:30PM – Weis Library UMC
- Dec 10 th – Trustees – after church – Girard
- Dec 11 th – Messy Church – 5PM – Girard
- Dec 12 th – Council/Trustees Mtg – 6:30pm – Weis Library
- Dec 13 th – Devotions – 11AM – FB Live
- Pfeiffer Burleigh (PB) Reading Enrichment – 2:30-4:30 – PB
- Dec 18 th – Council – 6:30PM – Fairview
- Dec 19 th – Pasta Night – 4:30-6:30pm – Girard
- Dec 20 th – Devotions – 11AM – FB Live
- Pfeiffer Burleigh (PB) Reading Enrichment – 2:30-4:30 – PB
- Dec 21 st – Spaghetti Dinner – 4-6:30PM – Weis Library
- Dec 24 th – 11AM Worship – Fairview and Girard
- 7:30PM Worship – Lake City and Weis Library
- Dec 25 th – Merry Christmas!!!

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

-Isaiah 7:14



January Parish Events-To Date

Jan 1 st - Happy New Year

Jan 2 nd - Fairview Community Council - 11:45AM - Fairview UMC

Jan 3 rd - Devotions - 11AM - FB Live

Jan 7 th - Epiphany of the Lord / Communion - all churches

Jan 8 th - Messy Church - 5PM - Girard

Jan 9 th - Council/trustees - 6:30Pm - Weis Library

Jan 10 th - Devotions - 11AM - FB Live

PB Reading Enrichment - 2:30-4:30PM - PB

Jan 14 th - Baptism of our Lord Sunday - all churches

Jan 16 th - Pasta Night - 4:30-6:30PM - Girard

Jan 17 th - Devotions - 11AM - FB Live

PB Reading Enrichment - 2:30-4:30PM - PB

Jan 18 th - Spaghetti Dinner - 4-6:30PM - Weis Library

Jan 21 st - Radical Hospitality Small Group - immediately following Fairview and Girard services

Jan 23 rd - Council - 6:30PM - Girard

Jan 24 th - Devotions - 11AM - FB Live

Council - 5:30PM - Lake City

Jan 28 th - Radical Hospitality Small Group - immediately following Fairview and Girard services

Jan 31 st - Devotions -11AM - FB Live???

Feb 4 th - Radical Hospitality Small Group - immediately following Fairview and Girard services

**** I know that Baptism of the Lord Sunday in the lectionary is Jan 7 th but with Epiphany and Communion we are moving that to the following Sunday for it's own space as it is important to**

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The 2023-2024 LIHEAP Season is now open! The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps families living on low incomes pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant. Households in immediate danger of being without heat can also qualify for crisis grants. The cash grant is a one-time payment sent directly to the utility company/fuel provider to be credited on your bill. These grants range from \$300 to \$1,000 based on household size, income, and fuel type. Remember: This is a grant and does not have to be repaid.

How to apply

There are two ways to apply for LIHEAP

Online: Apply for benefits online using [COMPASS](#), the online tool for Pennsylvanians to apply for health and human service programs and manage benefit information.

On paper: You can download a paper application, print it, fill it out, and return it to your [local county assistance office](#).

After your application is reviewed, you will receive written notice explaining your eligibility and the amount of assistance you will receive. Please allow 30 days for a response.

Eligibility

- You must meet income guidelines
 - You don't have to be on public assistance
 - You don't need to have an unpaid heating bill
 - You can rent or own your home
-

Winter Weather Awareness Week

Limit your time outside.

If you need to go outside, then wear layers of warm clothing.

Reduce the risk of a heart attack by avoiding overexertion when shoveling snow and walking in the snow.

Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.

- Frostbite causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers and toes.

Signs: Numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, firm or waxy skin.

Actions: Go to a warm room. Soak in warm water. Use body heat to warm. Do not massage or use a heating pad.

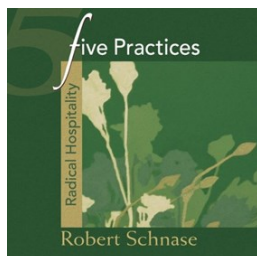
- Hypothermia is an unusually low body temperature. A temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency.

Signs: Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech or drowsiness.

Actions: Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck.

Be prepared for winter weather at home, work, and in your car. Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water and non-perishable snacks. Keep a full tank of gas.

Looking Ahead...



Radical-er Hospitality – We are providing a Small Group Study for everyone to search for ways for us to be even more hospitable than we are now. This will follow along with our sermon series for Jan 21st, 28th, and Feb 4th as well. We can always do something with even more pride in who we are as Christians so come join us in finding ways for our churches to share God's glory even more than we do now. We are trying something new, don't get too scared – we hope it brings more people. Our group will meet for about an hour for three weeks immediately following church at Fairview and Girard. For those at Lake City and Weis, please join us around noon these days. We ask if you wish to bring a sack lunch with you as we learn together.

Education

On December 3, the Children of FUMC will join with the other children of the charge to sing "It's a Long Way on a Donkey" during the combined service. Rehearsal for this song will take place SATURDAY, Dec 2nd at FUMC, 6 pm. If you need a link to the lyrics and music to practice at home, please send an email to dashingdachs@gmail.com.

December 17, the children of JUMP will join the praise band for "The Friendly Beasts". Rehearsal for this will take place at 10:15 the morning of the 17th. Lyrics are available at the Welcome center.

If your family will be present for the morning service on December 24th, and they would like to participate in a vignette, please let Hillary Kanazin know by emailing her at hillarykanazin@gmail.com

Preschool



Wesley Station Preschool had a busy November learning about the First Americans, the pilgrims, and how they came together for the First Thanksgiving! We learned that all our blessings come from God and we should always give thanks to Him.

In December, we will learn about the season of advent and prepare for our Christmas Pageant. We will perform songs and poems for our parents on December 14th and 15th.

Wesley Station has spots available for part-time enrollment. Right now is the perfect time to join, we have lots of exciting projects planned for the Christmas season, and the New Year! Parents of 3 and 4 year-olds email the director at FUMC.wesleystationps@gmail.com to enroll your child today!

