

First United Methodist Church

29 E. Walnut St, Lancaster PA 17602

www.engagegodfirst.org

717-394-7231



Our Vision
To be a central hub of
Christian ministry in
Lancaster County & beyond



Our Mission:
Connect people to Jesus
Christ & the church,
grow Christian disciples,
& relieve suffering

November 28, 2021
8:15 & 10:45 AM
First Sunday in Advent

Prelude

"Fantasie on "Veni Emmanuel"
Peter Omundsen, organ

Angela Kraft Cross

Announcements & Greeting

*Call to Worship

Sing and rejoice, O people of God!

For the Lord has promised to come and dwell among us!

Praise the Lord!

Bless the Lord, who has visited and redeemed his people!

*Hymn No.196

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Common Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Please join us in singing verse 1 of "Joy to the World," number 246 in our hymnal.

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

(10:45 AM) Reception of New Members

Hymnal, p. 34

... Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

(8:15 AM) Anthem "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. Mark Hayes
Judy Williams

(10:45 AM) Anthem "Carol of Longing" from "Mystery and Majesty" Joseph Martin
Chancel Choir– Brian Norcross, Director

Preparation for Prayer, No. 217 "Away in a Manger" (stanza 1)

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

Pastoral Prayer

*Hymn No. 202 "People Look East"

Scripture Jeremiah 33:14-16 (*pew Bible, OT, p. 694*)

Message "When God Forgets" Pastor Joe DiPaolo

*Affirmation of Faith Apostles' Creed Hymnal, No. 88

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Song of Praise, No. 204 "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.**

Invitation to The Lord's Supper

Confession and Pardon

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(All pray in silence.)

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing the Sacrament

Prayer after Communion

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn No. 203

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Response, No. 219

"What Child is This" (stanza 1)

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are sleeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Postlude

"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

arr. Robert Hobby

8:15 AM Worship

Usher - Blair Hoey

Acolyte - Daniel Deniszwicz

Liturgist - Mark Stoner

10:45 AM Worship

Usher - Cathy Doremus

Acolyte - Olivia Kickery

Liturgist - Georgia Post



WELCOME New Members



Sandra L. Bryne

Joining by Confession of Faith

Christian Michael Faux

Joining by Confession of Faith

Joyce S. Kohler

Joining by Confession of Faith

Jeffrey Lueders

Joining by Confession of Faith

Ann Willett

*Transferring from Grace UMC,
Millersville*

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

are available for pick up in the hallway by the Gathering Place. If you don't currently have envelopes assigned to you and you would like some, please contact Jennifer Isenberg (finance@engagedgodfirst.org or 717-394-7231). If you would like to change to electronic giving through your bank, please call Jenn for information about how to sign up. Thank you!



Angel Tree

You can brighten Christmas for a child through the Angel Tree program sponsored by

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster-Family Center. Select an "Angel" from the tree in the Gathering Place. The name, age, clothing size and gift ideas are listed for you. Return the unwrapped package (or place unwrapped in a gift bag) to the Welcome Center by Sunday, December 12th. Or you may bring your gift to the church office by Friday, December 10th. Know that you have brought the joy of the Lord to a needy little one!



Gingerbread House Party!
Saturday, December 4th
1-2 PM

\$5 Per Gingerbread House

Join us for this seasonal family favorite!

Your safety is important to us:

- * Please wear a mask.
- * One family per table.
- * All supplies will be at your table.



Advent Services

Friday nights 7PM
at First Church

Join us for Friday night Advent Services outdoors.
Services will include a brief devotion, carols,
cocoa, and Christmas lights. Chairs will be provided!

Friday, December 3rd: "Love"
Speaker: *Pastor Laura*

Friday, December 10th: "Joy"
Speaker: *Pastor Joe*

Friday, December 17th: "Peace"
Speaker: *Pastor Joe*



Christmas Cantata Returns!

"The Mystery and Majesty" by Joseph Martin



On Sunday December 5th, at the 8:15 & 10:45 services, the Chancel Choir and full orchestra, under the direction of Brian Norcross, will present "The Mystery and Majesty" by Joseph Martin. The composer writes, "Each year during the Christmas season we pause to consider the miracle of Christ's birth. We are swept away by the wonder of it all, thrilled and amazed at the magnificent grace that brought God's perfect light into our world of darkness." Come and experience the musical Mystery and Majesty of the birth of Christ either in person, bringing a friend, or viewing the livestream of the 10:45 service. Come and experience the joy!



There's still time to order Stroopies!

The perfect gift for teachers, bus drivers, crossing guards & everyone who makes your day brighter!

Place orders at www.stroopies.com

**Discovery Corner
Preschool's**
fundraiser continues
through **this Friday,
December 3rd**. All
orders are placed online
and will be shipped
directly to you. Thank
you for your support of
our preschool!

- Use the code **DCP21** so the school gets the credit.
- Select "local pickup" if you would like to pickup your order at the Sweet Shoppe (141 N. Duke St - one block down from the church)
- Or select "nationwide shipping" if you would like your order to be mailed directly to the address you provide
- Discounted shipping is available on orders over \$30. Look for a shipping code on the order page.