

EAST FAIRFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Courtwright

Organist: Ruth Rowley

Ministers: The Congregation

Pianist: Nancy Setinsek

Choir Director: Randy Hart

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

**Please stand in body or spirit as you are able*

Welcome! *You are invited to take this time to prepare for worship. In these moments, quiet your inner voice, become aware of being in community with others, and open your heart & mind to the leading of the Holy Spirit.*

GATHERING

*An Angel to the Shepherds Spoke -Broughton
Ukrainian Bell Carol -Traditional*

CHRIST LIGHT ENTERS

MISSIONS AND MINISTRY UPDATES

Jeannie Arnoto, Liturgist

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

WORDS OF PREPARATION AND CENTERING

PRELUDE

The First Noel -Traditional

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come with your questions, your burdens, and your blessings.

We come, seeking sanctuary in God and in one another.

When companionship is offered, joy comes alive.

We, too, are called to rejoice together.

This is a place for honest hearts and open hands.

Come, Emmanuel, and renew our joy.

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of joy, you meet us in the gift of relationships that hold us and strengthen us. Thank you for the companions who encourage, for friends who celebrate, and for the community that shelters us. Teach us to be a sanctuary for one another, where joy can leap even in hard times. Fill us with your joy and send us to share it with the world. It is in the name of the One who is our joy we pray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

UMH #209

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 139:1-14 (NIV)

pg 505

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Today, we light the candle of Joy. Joy rises when we share life together in love, honesty, and encouragement.

God meets us in relationships that become sanctuaries of joy.

As we light this candle, we rejoice that God is with us.

Come, Lord Jesus, our Joy.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Some Children See Him” -Burt

OFFERING OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

OFFERTORY

What Brings This Lovely Fragrance? -Traditional French

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

SEEKING GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING 1 Samuel 1:9-18; 2:1-2 (NIV) pg 213

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN

“People Look East”

UMH #202

SERMON TEXT

Luke 1:24-45 (NIV)

pg 830

SERMON

Sanctuary: Room in Relationship

Pastor Lisa

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*CLOSING HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

UMH #240

SENDING FORTH WITH BLESSING

*BLESSING

LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES INTO THE WORLD

~ Go with joy to serve the Lord ~

TODAY, DECEMBER 14

Livestream: Hannah Vollnogle

Sound: Bill Rowley

Computer: Vicki Freeman

Greeters:

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Liturgist: Missy Roberts

Greeters:

Please keep in mind that the service is live-streamed and recorded for public access. Please keep prayer requests brief and do not use last names or identifying details.

PRAYER REQUESTS

December 7, 2025

To submit a prayer request call Denise at 330-457-2465 or 330-727-9832

If you desire a home or hospital visit call Pastor Lisa (440-339-6463)

Prayer Blankets: call Joyce Ward (330-692-3346)

Tony's dad – Prayers as he adjusts to new living situation.

Anita – Surgery Dec. 1 went well.

Melissa – Ablation Dec. 10.

Vicki – Ablation Dec. 9.

Patti (Bettianne's co-worker) – Emergency surgery.

Sue C. – Surgery Dec. 5. Still recovering. Now at Covington.

Georgia – Pneumonia.

Cyndi S. – Seeing more doctors.

Olive – Infant having second heart surgery.

Linda (Rob Auer's aunt) – Stage 3 cancer.

Cindy W.

Randy (Denny's brother)

Carrie (Wayne & Sue's daughter) – Continued prayers.

HOMEBOUND

<u>Dolly K.</u>	<u>Bill & Barb</u>	<u>Anita M.</u>	<u>Tom & Marie</u>
<u>Walt D. (Whispering Pines)</u>		<u>Zelda C. (Whispering Pines)</u>	
<u>Dorothy F.</u>	<u>Esther C.</u>	<u>Linda S.</u>	<u>MaryAnne</u>

IN MINISTRY

<u>Lisa Courtwright</u>	<u>Edie Boles</u>	<u>Jeff Pellin</u>
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CCLI # 1994841 CVLI #504 011 134



East Fairfield
United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 7, 2025
9:30 AM

Sanctuary
; ROOM FOR ALL

Rev. Lisa Courtwright
440-339-6463
45675 State Route 558
New Waterford, OH 44445

***"Working, playing, and praying together on our
faith journey, to share Jesus Christ with everyone."***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 14 Room in our Relationships 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time -Pack Holiday Gift Bags for shut-ins 10:45 Sunday School 12:30 Caroling	Dec 15 6:00 Cub Scouts	Dec 16 8:00 Men's Coffee at East Fairfield UMC Newsletter Deadline	Dec 17 Week 51 One Story 7:00 Choir Practice	Dec 18 9:00 Mailing Committee	Dec 19 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	Dec 20
Dec 21 Room for Hope 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School	Dec 22 6:00 Cub Scouts	Dec 23 8:00 Men's Coffee at East Fairfield UMC	Dec 24 Room for Christ Week 52 One Story Christmas Eve Services 4:00 New Springfield 7:00 East Fairfield 7:00 Emmanuel 11:00 Centenary	Dec 25 Merry Christmas	Dec 26 Pastor's Day Off	Dec 27 8:30-10 Caring for God's Lambs At Trinity
Dec 28 Lessons & Carols 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School	Dec 29	Dec 30 8:00 Men's Coffee at East Fairfield UMC	Dec 31	Jan 1 New Year's Day	Jan 2 Pastor's Day Off	Jan 3
<div>Office Closed Dec. 25 – Jan. 4</div>						
Jan 4 Epiphany 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School 4:00 4H	Jan 5 6:00 Cub Scouts	Jan 6 8:00 Men's Coffee at East Fairfield UMC	Jan 7 7:00 Choir Practice	Jan 8 10:00 Membership Care	Jan 9 Pastor's Day Off	Jan 10

DECEMBER 7 ATTENDANCE

In-Person: 68

Online: 24

Update on Mission Giving for 2025

FUND	NAME OF FUND	NEED	RECEIVED	STILL NEED
2	General Mission Fund	5,099	4,761	338
33	4C's	125	544	0
32	Cub Scouts	150	225	0
37	Way Station	150	290	0
43	Tobin Center	300	400	0
22	Flat Rock	175	275	0
64	Farmer to Farmer - Liberia	300	310	0
13	UMCOR Sunday	Any Donation	20	
21	UMCOR – U.S. Disasters	Any Donation	240	
14	Blanket Sunday	Any Donation	125	
15	Peace With Justice	Any Donation	9	
16	World Communion	Any Donation	20	
17	Student Day	Any Donation	35	
46	Heroes & Halos	Any Donation	130	
63	InStep Program	Any Donation	290	
49	Caring for God's Lambs	Any Donation	305	
38	Operation Christmas Child Postage	630	748	0

Mission of the Month

Fund #1 – Operating

Fund #2 – Missions

4C's Item – Canned Fruit

PACKING GIFT BAGS FOR SHUT-INS Sunday, December 14 during coffee time





CHRISTMAS CAROLING Sunday, December 14, 12:30

We will have a potluck luncheon following the worship service on December 14 for those who are going caroling.

We will leave the church at 12:30 to spread Christmas cheer while we visit our homebound members and area nursing homes.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT BIRDFISH BREWERY

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 5:00 pm
- Pastor Jeff & Lamppost Friends

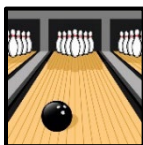
 SCRIPTURES	1.14.26 2 nd WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH 7:00 PM BREW LOUNGE @ FIRESTONE FARMS
1.22.26 4 th THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 7:00 PM SUNDOG @ FIRESTONE FARMS	& SUDS 

CARING FOR GOD'S LAMBS FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The next food distribution will be
8:30-10:00 AM Saturday, Dec. 27
at Trinity UMC in New Springfield.



FAITH UNITED YOUTH GROUP BOWLING



SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 AT 1:30 PM
at Camelot Lanes,
628 Boardman-Canfield Rd,
Boardman. No cost to youth.

MEN'S COFFEE GROUP ~ TUESDAYS, 8:00 AM
at East Fairfield UMC, 45675 SR 558, New Waterford.

The second Tuesday of the month is Ladies' Day Covered-Dish.

The purpose of Faith United is to grow spiritually, learn and love together, and lead others to Christ



Faith United

A Cooperative Parish of United Methodist Churches

12-14-25
UPCOMING EVENTS

ONE YEAR, ONE STORY

(Reading through the Bible in one year.)

Week 51 begins Wednesday, Dec. 17



CHRISTMAS PARTY ~ SATURDAY, DEC. 20 **MT. ZION UMC AT 6:00 PM**

We're hosting a Christmas Party with a covered-dish dinner, followed by a heartwarming candlelight worship service.

Bring your favorite dish to share and embrace the joy of Christmas in a spirit-filled time of worship.

THE CHURCHES OF FAITH UNITED
INVITE YOU TO

Christmas Eve Worship

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR

4pm - New Springfield UMC

7pm - East Fairfield UMC

7pm - East Palestine Emmanuel UMC

11pm - East Palestine Centenary UMC



All services will be traditional
candlelight worship services