

CONCORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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(Vermillion and Church Streets)
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Athens, WV 24712

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Pastor: Rev. Richard Moeller
Worship Leader: Elizabeth Muldoon
Roots & Wings: Sheila Mann
Scripture Reader: Matthew Thomas
Advent Readers: Roots & Wings
Technician: Matthew Thomas
Pianist/Musician: Elizabeth Muldoon
Secretary: Jayne Jones
Custodian: Carol McManaway

Announcements

There will be a short end-of-year **Finance Committee meeting** directly after the worship service.

Bell Ringers – Congratulations!! Our total donations collected on Saturday, Dec 14th was \$1,206.80.

Listen to **Pastor Moeller's December 14th message, "Tarzan and John the Baptist"**, on Facebook and/or on our website.

Worship Leaders; Scripture Readers; Children's Moment — Please volunteer using the sign-up sheet in the Anchor Room. Elizabeth needs help and Michael will be gone until December 22.

Princeton Pantry Project – December – We are collecting canned spaghetti or other canned pastas.

THIS WEEK AT CONCORD CHURCH

Sunday, December 21 – 4th Sunday of Advent
10:45 AM – Gathering Time
11:00 AM — Worship
12:00 PM — Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 24
11:00 PM — Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 25
CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 28
10:45 AM – Gathering Time
11:00 AM — Worship & Roots & Wings

Thursday, January 1
New Year's Day
6:00 PM — Yoga, Anderson Hall

Saturday, January 3
8:00 AM — Men's Breakfast, Anderson Hall

Sunday, January 4
10:45 AM – Gathering Time
11:00 AM — Worship & Holy Communion



CONCORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Seek God's Will ~ Teach God's Love ~ Serve God's World

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Lighting the Advent Wreath
(see insert)

*Call to Worship

Beloved, God calls to us—like Joseph—through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit's guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions.

>We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

Sometimes, angels surprise us (as they did Mary) with good news too fantastical to believe and yet too real—realer than real—to ignore.

>We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

For generations, God has sent signs of God's coming kingdom in unexpected places—the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter.

>We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

Come! Let us worship God who calls out to us, inviting us to faithfulness as we watch, wait, and work for the day when the whole world knows the abundant love and grace of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

>Come! Let us worship as we listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

*Morning Hymn: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (UMH 196)*

Roots & Wings Dismissal

*Please stand as you are able.

Prayers of the People
Together, let us pray for
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

Now, with the confidence of God's people, may we pray together the Lord's Prayer.

>The Lord's Prayer (UMH 895)

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

Psalter Reading: Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 (UMH 801-802)

Offering and Offertory Music

*Doxology, Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (UMH 94)
*Offertory Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Isaiah 7:10-16 (Old Testament, Pew Bible page 636)

Message: "*What We Learn From Love*"

Text: Matthew 1:18-25 (New Testament, Pew Bible page 1)

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (UMH 220)

*Benediction



CUMC Facebook



Pray for: Sick and shut-in members; The United Methodist Church; Bishops; District Superintendents; Pastors; the President; the Governor; the military and their families; world leaders and elected officials; and pray for peace.

Military Personnel: Tom Bone IV and Andy Walker

November 16: Joyce M., prayers for my cousin Terry E. who had an accident and is in the hospital; Richard M., pray for safe travels for all of Chris B.'s family as they travel home; pray for our country and its leaders; thanks to Elizabeth and Jayne and all the everyone who helped with Tom B.'s service; Elizabeth M., thank you to Rose K. for playing the piano.

November 23: Prayers for Gail R. who was admitted to the hospital with pneumonia; Joyce: Prayers for our 5-year-old grandson Banks; Justin: Prayers for my cousin Charlie K. who is having elbow surgery tomorrow; Michael: Prayers for my sister's husband who passed last week after a battle with Parkinson's; Kathy: Continued prayers for Lorin, Susan and Barry. They are all doing as well as can be expected; Scott: Keep the food banks in WV in our prayers; Joe M. Prayers for our country and its leadership; Jack F. Prayers for the family of Judy C., and for our son who is flying home from New York right now. Chris: Joy that Tommy and Sandra arrived home in Kazakhstan safely this morning at 4:30 am, but they will be back in January to stay; Kathy: Joy that Princeton HS won their quarter final last week; I really felt like Tom B. was watching out for us because Bridgeport HS (#1 team-State Champion last year) lost their first game in two years last week! Prayers for everyone who is traveling during the Thanksgiving holiday this week.

November 30: Richard M., pray for all of the people traveling today; Elizabeth M., lift up in joy for those celebrating a wonderful thanksgiving with family; Joyce M., prayers and remembrance for the two national guard members that suffered loss and injuries in Washington DC; pray for them and their families; Joe M., continue pray for our country and our leadership; Phyllis K., lifts up thanksgiving and to Rose K. for playing the piano for us; Kathy F., continued prayers for our friend Barry and for Lorin who did get to come home for Thanksgiving and hopes to be ready for further treatment; Sheila M., a fellow pastor of our church, Greg G., is going to have heart catheterization on Friday, pray for Greg and his family; Kathy F., Brent's great aunt passed away rather suddenly; pray for her and the family; Paulette B., prayers for Lin G. of Hinton who fell and is in critical condition; Kathy F., shares a joy that the Princeton Tigers will be playing in the state championship! We will pray for the Princeton Tigers.

December 7: Kathy F., it's a joy to announce the Princeton Tigers have won their first AAA State Football Championship; Richard M., remember this is the 84th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day; we lift up all the military personnel that lost their life that day; Scott M., Greg. G, one of our former pastors, is having heart surgery today at 7 PM; please keep Greg and his family in our prayers; Kathy F., continued prayers for Barry, he is not doing well and is requiring 24-hour care; and for Lorin A. She had to go back to the hospital, but she will be able to continue her treatments; Rose K., our neighbors in Florida Bob and Carol E., Bob has been fighting pancreatic cancer for two years. He is now in hospice care. Prayers for Bob, Carol and their family; Richard M., prayers for our country.

(Prayer requests will be listed here for four weeks.
First names and last initials are used with details omitted to protect privacy).

Lighting the Advent Wreath

3rd Sunday of Advent – Pink Candle of Joy

Reader 1: When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed,

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

Reader 2: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

Congregation: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Light three candles of the Advent wreath. If your Advent wreath includes a pink or rose candle, light that candle today.

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Reader 2: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

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Lighting the Advent Wreath

4th Sunday of Advent – Purple Candle of Love

Reader 1: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth,

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader 2: We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

Light the four outer candles of the Advent wreath.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

4th Sunday of Advent – Purple Candle of Love

Reader 1: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth,

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Reader 2: We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

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