



December
2023

a publication of Fellowship Lutheran Church, Rev. Robin Wargowsky, Pastor
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Pastor's Page

"Look for Christ and you will find Him. And with Him, everything else." C.S. Lewis *Mere Christianity*

Dear Fellowship Members and Friends:

As we enter the Advent season, a season of anticipation and preparation and the beginning of the church year, we are again reminded that God comes to us. God came to us in the form of Jesus, many years ago in Bethlehem, and continues to come to us now in Word and Sacrament. During Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus who came into the world as both God and man so that our sins might be forgiven. And we anticipate the day when Jesus will return to Earth and look forward to that time with hope because through our faith we know that this means the beginning of a new life with Christ for eternity.

Jesus is not only a historical figure from the past and our hope for the future. He actually comes to us each and every day of our lives. Jesus was there when we were conceived in our mother's womb. We were taken up in God's arms and made God's beloved children in Holy Baptism. Through parents and pastors, relatives, friends, teachers, and fellow Christians, God teaches us, cares for us, and helps us to grow. Through the preaching of God's Word, God causes faith to grow in our hearts. Countless times, our sins are forgiven and we are fed with the body and blood of Jesus in the Lord's Supper. Every time we gather to worship, God meets us to give these good gifts. In Advent, we remember that Jesus doesn't wait in heaven for us to seek Him, accept Him, repent, or do good works that please Him. As our Good Shepherd, Jesus searches for us until He finds us. Jesus comes for us—here and now. He's by our side in the struggles of our lives with His good gifts and the Holy Spirit.

In our spiritual journeys as individuals and as a congregation, we affirm that Christ has come, that Christ is present in the world today, and that Christ will come again. This acknowledgment provides a basis for "Kingdom ethics", for holy living arising from a strong sense that we live "between the times" and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people. So, as the church celebrates God's inbreaking into history in the Incarnation, and anticipates a future consummation to that history for which "all creation is groaning awaiting its redemption," it also confesses its own responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbor as yourself."

See you in church!

Pastor Robin



ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-person Worship Masks are optional. Please feel free to wear a mask if you are more comfortable with one on.

The Smoky Row Food Pantry is at 7260 Smoky Row Rd., Columbus. The most needed items for October, November, and December include:

- Baby items (diapers - all sizes) and wipes
- Laundry detergent
- Winter coats (new or gently used)
- Food staples, including food items for the holidays
- Hygiene items
- Toilet paper



Place donations in the containers located in the Narthex. Your generosity is gratefully appreciated by our neighbors in need. Thank you!



Fellowship Christmas Outreach Opportunities From December 3rd through the 17th, FLC members can contribute in two ways to reach others during the Christmas season. First, to improve our global reach, FLC will again use the ELCA good gifts effort to support outreach beyond our borders. You can select from many options on their website or make a donation toward Good Gifts in an envelope. Amounts range from as little as \$10 for set of chicks to \$2500 to commission a water well. The gifts amounts are here: <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> Second, to aid the Smoky Row Food Pantry, we will collect toys/games targeting ages 6-12, and teens to be distributed to client families. Ex: Basketballs, footballs, Lego, other age appropriate items. These items can be brought to Fellowship through December 17th and placed in the catechism classroom.

Sunday School Come join our Sunday School classes for youth and adults at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings! The youth class is taught by Pete and Lilly Cardimen. Susan Wolfe facilitates the adult class which is studying the Old Testament, based on a DVD curriculum by Amy Jill Levine.



Poinsettias - If you would like to order a poinsettia for Christmas Eve, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Poinsettias are \$11.00 this year. The last day to order is on Sunday, December 10th. Poinsettias may be taken home after our Christmas Eve service.

Women's Dinner and Guys Night Out Update The next women's dinner will be on Tuesday, December 5th at 6:00 p.m. at **Stone Bar & Kitchen**, 1045 Bethel Rd., Columbus, OH 43220. The next Guys Night Out TBD.



Advent Family Night - Please join us on Wednesday, December 6th at 6:15 p.m. for our Advent Family Night. We will have a potluck first, followed by a short Advent devotion, and carol sing. Sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex for the number coming and what you will be bringing.

Free Covid Test Kits - If you are in need of Covid-19 test kits, we have 5 boxes (6 kits each) available in the narthex or confirmation room. Please take as many as you need. The expiration dates have been extended to mid-December.

Upcoming Advent and Christmas Services/Events

- December 3, 11:00 a.m. - Hanging of the Greens
- December 6, 6:15 p.m. - Advent Family Night - Potluck & Carol Sing
- December 10, 11:00 a.m. - Celebration of Life Service for Barb Fisher & Carol Ward
- December 24, 10:00 a.m. - Advent 4 Worship Service
- December 24, 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 31, 10:00 a.m. - Lessons & Carols Service

EFT/Faith Promise for 2024 - If you would like to make a faith promise for 2024, cards are available on the table in the narthex. If you use EFT for your offering, we especially need to hear from you. Please fill out as indicated and return to the financial secretary's office box. Thank you!

Worship Servers Needed! If you are able to help out at our 10:00 a.m. worship service, please let Pastor Robin know. Assisting ministers, lectors, counters, and greeters are needed. Not sure what these roles involve or never done it before? We will be happy to help you out! We are also looking for fellowship hosts following worship on the 1st Sunday of each month. Sign-up on the table in the narthex.



Holy Communion We celebrate Communion weekly. All baptized Christians who believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine are invited to join us in the celebration of Holy Communion. Grape juice is available in the center of the trays. Non-communing children and adults are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Thrivent Members - For those of you with choice dollars. don't forget that Fellowship can be a recipient of those dollars. Thank you to all who have donated this way in the past!

Give to Fellowship with Your Smartphone with Vanco Mobile - If you would like to give to Fellowship with your smartphone, please download Vanco's smartphone app, **Vanco Mobile**. Vanco Mobile will enable anyone to donate at anytime to Fellowship. It makes it easy to give instantaneously for a regular gift, a recurring gift, or a special occasion gift.



Pastoral Care Request If you have a pastoral care request (hospitalization, upcoming surgery, need for counseling, etc.), please call Pastor Robin at (937) 725-4930. If you would like a home visit by Pastor Robin, please let Pastor Robin know so it can be scheduled. It does not need to be a pastoral emergency...just an opportunity to get to know you better.

Staying Connected Program for the Elderly - Ohio has a program for the elderly to "stay connected." You get to pick the hour to receive the phone call. For more information, here is the link: <https://aging.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/aging/care-and-living/get-help/staying-connected/> .

Kroger Plus Fundraising Information: If you would like to register your Kroger card for the Community Rewards Program, please contact Pastor Robin or the church office. Thank you so much for participating in this fundraiser!

Attendance Information (In-person & virtual)

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| October 1 | 29/19 views | November 5 | 29/35 views |
| October 8 | 30/24 views | November 12 | 30/53 views |
| October 15 | 31/19 views | November 19 | 31/29 views |
| October 22 | 28/29 views | November 26 | 28/31 views |
| October 29 | 19/43 views | | |

Christmas Gifts for Pastor Robin

To Fellowship's members and friends, if you wish to give a Christmas gift to Pastor Robin, we will provide two ways to do so, as described below.

1. We will provide a box on the table in the back of the sanctuary. You can put your gift in the box, either in an envelope of your choosing or you can use one of the small envelopes adjacent to the box. The contents of the box will be given directly to Pastor Robin.
2. Of course, you are free to give a gift directly to Pastor Robin.

Gifts can be cash or check, payable to Robin Wargowsky (not to Fellowship).

Gifts via Vanco will not be available this year.

Church Staff

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Pastor | Rev. Robin Wargowsky |
| Treasurer | Todd Engen |
| Financial Secretary | Tracy Farel |
| Organist | Dixie Heck |
| Sub. Pianist/Organist | David Fleisher, Amy Wargowsky, Ruth Albert |
| Choir/Band Director | George Biemel |
| Custodian | Kenneth Hunt |

Executive Committee

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| President | George Biemel |
| Vice-President | Mike Rankin |
| Secretary | Sonya Thelin Pastor Robin |

At-large Council Members

Angela Kidd
Bill Lude
Susan Wolfe

Team Coordinators

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Congregational Life | Vacant |
| Education & Youth | Vacant |
| Outreach | Pete Cardimen |
| Property | John Votino |
| Stewardship | Vacant (Council) |
| Worship | Karen Harris |

Thank you for your leadership!!!

Worship Servers Schedule for December 2023

| | December 3 | December 10 | December 17 |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Asst. Minister | George Biemel | Ruth Albert | Cindy Frey |
| Lay Reader | George Biemel | Donna Williamson | Cindy Frey |
| Counter | Bill Farel | Bill Farel | Bill Lude |
| Greeter | Farel Family | Karen Harris | Darcy Dom |
| Fellowship Host | --- | --- | --- |
| Altar Guild | Kathy & Tracy Farel | Dianna Roll & Angela Kidd | Darcy Dom |
| | December 24-AM | December 24 - PM | December 31 |
| Asst. Minister | | --- | Ruth Albert - Worship Leader |
| Lay Reader | | Ruth Albert Sonya Thelin Chris Tonn | |
| Counter | | | |
| Greeter | Votinos | | |
| Fellowship Host | --- | --- | --- |
| Altar Guild | Karen Harris | Karen Harris | Carol Scantland |



Worship Servers Needed!

If you can fill any of our openings for assisting ministers, readers, counters, greeters or fellowship hosts or help out in future months, please call or email Pastor Robin. Thanks!

December 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 26 9:00 am - Sun. School 10:00 am -Worship 11:30-4:00 pm -CJMC | 27 7:00 pm - NA | 28 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 29 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 30 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC | 1 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 2 6:00 am - CJMC Pray |
| 3 9:00 am - Sun. School 10:00 am -Worship 11:00 am - Decorate 11:30-4:00 pm -CJMC | 4 7:00 pm - NA | 5 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 6:00 pm - Women's Dinner | 6 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 6:15 pm - Advent Family Night 7:30 pm - Worship T. | 7 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC | 8 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 9 6:00 am - CJMC Pray |
| 10 9:00 am - Sun. School 10:00 am -Worship 11:00 am -C.O.L. Serv 11:30-4:00 pm -CJMC | 11 7:00 pm - NA | 12 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 13 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 14 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC | 15 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 16 6:00 am - CJMC Pray |
| 17 9:00 am - Sun. School 10:00 am -Worship 11:30-4:00 pm -CJMC | 18 7:00 pm - NA | 19 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 20 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 21 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC | 22 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 23 6:00 am - CJMC Pray |
| 24 Christmas Eve 10:00 am -Worship 11:30-4:00 pm -CJMC 7:00 pm - Candlelight Worship | 25 Christmas 11:00 am - CJMC 7:00 pm - NA | 26 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 27 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 28 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC | 29 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 30 6:00 am - CJMC Pray |
| 31 10:00 am -Worship 11:30-4:00 pm -CJMC 8:00 pm - CJMC | 1 New Year's 7:00 pm - NA | Pastor | Robin on | Vacation | 12/26 - 12/31 | |
| | | 2 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 3 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 4 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC | 5 6:00 am - CJMC Pray | 6 6:00 am - CJMC Pray |

FOR OUR MEMBERS:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fritzi Bear | Zach Jaeger |
| Major N Crispin | Don Johnson |
| Byron Engen | Lillian Kachic |
| Allen Farel | Ed Lathy |
| Dominic Frey | Frank & Leena LeMay |
| Margery Gress | Pete & Sonja Meighen |
| Cheryl Hamilton | Ray Ward |

December Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Allen Farel | 12/6 |
| Lauren Scantland | 12/8 |
| Major Crispin | 12/9 |
| John Votino | 12/10 |
| Fritzi Bear | 12/21 |
| Angela Kidd | 12/21 |
| Adelaide Wolkan | 12/22 |
| Pete Meighen | 12/23 |
| Darcy Dom | 12/24 |
| Conner Smith | 12/24 |
| Heather Tonn | 12/25 |
| Carol Scantland | 12/28 |

FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Jim Barnett, Bill Lude’s friend
Vickie Bennett, visitor
Dave Burger, Jim Jaeger’s friend
Rosemary Craig, Cindy Frey’s mother
Janis Gibbs, N.A. Member’s mother
Steve Hamilton, Cheryl Hamilton’s husband
McKenna Harris, Karen Harris’ granddaughter
William Leach, Karen Harris’ brother
Patty McCarty, Paul Wargowsky’s sister
Nora Murphy, Margary Gress’s friend
River Opper, Cindy Frey’s friend
Scott Reimer, John Votino’s friend
John & Charlotte Schall, Pastor Robin’s parents
Jeff Sielaff, visitor



Happy Birthday to those celebrating birthdays this month! This list reflects the information we have in our computer at this time. We welcome your corrections and additions!

DEATHS:

Carol Ward, member

December Anniversaries

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Lori & Jason Hobbins | 12/09 |
| Matthew & Sarah Burns | 12/16 |



Fellowship Lutheran Church
7350 Sawmill Road
Columbus, OH 43235

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Our Purpose: To share God's love and grace through our words and actions.

Our Vision: To be a diverse, thriving community of faith where all are welcome to celebrate God's love and grace.

December 2023 Newsletter