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WARREN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

11 AM SERVICE

DECEMBER 15, 2019

PRELUDE	“In Thee Is Gladness”	arr. Greene
	“O Morning Star”	arr. Greene
	“Hark! The Glad Sound”	arr. Greene

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are glad that you are worshipping at First United Methodist Church this morning. Please SIGN AND PASS the attendance pad at the end of the pew. If you are visiting with us, we would especially appreciate having your name, address, and phone number, because we would like to have a chance to thank you for being with us.

*HYMN No. 245	“The First Noel”	The First Noel
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ANTHEM	“Come, Messiah!”	Lloyd Larson
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LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT

UNISON PRAYER

Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and to do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen

CHILDREN’S SERMON	DeeDee Tucker
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(Children may come forward during “Jesus Loves Me”)

PRAYER CARDS will be collected by Acolytes during the Children’s Sermon.

*PSALTER	“Canticle of Mary”	Hymnal Page 199
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*GLORIA PATRI No. 71

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*using sins*)

*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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.*

*HYMN No. 242 “Love Came Down at Christmas” Gartan

SCRIPTURE “John 1:1-5” Pew Bible Page 966

MESSAGE “Love (Traditions)” Rev. Dr. Mark E. Hecht

GIVING OF OUR TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND LIVES TO GOD

Offertory “Christmas Joy” Cynthia Dobrinski

*Doxology No. 95

*Offertory Prayer

*HYMN No. 206 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” Houston

*BENEDICTION

BBEARING OF THE LIGHT

* I n d i c a t e s p l e a s e s t a n d i f a b l e

POSTLUDE “In the Bleak Midwinter” arr Greene

MUSIC TODAY is provided by organist Michele Sandberg, the Chancel Choir and the Madrigal Handbells. The percussionist is Tracy Brieger.

LITURGIST today is Bill Tucker.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES TODAY ARE Nadine, Randy & Jennifer Huck.

CONCERN FOR THIS WEEK is Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, 701 Rouse Ave., Room 614A, Youngsville, PA 16371. Why not send her a card?

OUR SYMPATHIES ARE EXTENDED TO the family of Rod Betts in the passing of his mother, Doris Harvot. Doris was grandmother to Todd & Kathy Betts, Chad & Tawni Betts and Michelle Betts & Jerry Johnson, and great-grandmother to Amanda & Colin Kenney, Nathan, Linda, Haley & Madison Betts, Jordan, and Nicholas Willetts. Doris passed away on Monday, December 9th, 2019, in Florida. A Memorial service is planned for January 11, 2020.

We also extend our sympathy to David and Caroline Dorn in the passing of David's dad, Don Dorn, and grandchildren Stephanie and Philip Dorn. Don passed away on December 5th, 2019. Don had been a member of First Church for 52 years, joining on December 18, 1966.

PRESCHOOL CORNER-Creative Preschool would like to thank you for all the support and donations that were made this year. It means a great deal to the children and teachers. Creative Preschool wishes you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY HOT MEAL Volunteer-sign up sheet is on the bulletin board across from the church office. There are several options to choose from, please consider serving this Christmas.

ADVENT NOON SERVICE— The second in the series of noon Advent Services sponsored by the Warren Area Ministerial Association will be held on Thursday, December 12th. Rev. Doug McCracken will bring the message and Rev. Marcus Briggs will be the liturgist. Michele Sandberg will be organist while Heidi Ketzko and Patty Hannold will provide special music. Emmanuel United Church of Christ will serve the luncheon in Founders Hall for \$6.00. All are welcome.

BOOK SALE-this past year our Pastor Mark Hecht published his first book **Family, Friends and Faith: Lessons I Have Learned**. The book **Family, Friends and Faith** offers a series of messages reminding the reader of the numerous ways our lives are influenced and transformed as we walk with others. In the 187 page book, there are messages that include stories of Mark's childhood and those who nurtured him, as well as the stories of his wife and their four children whose faith they have attempted to nurture. Life for all of us is filled with memories of those from our past as well as hopes and dreams for those who follow. If you are looking for a meaningful gift to share with someone this holiday season, consider getting them a copy of **Family, Friends and Faith**. Copies are still available in the church office. The cost is \$15.

COLLEGE STUDENTS—Please remember to submit your first semester grades to the church office so you can receive the second disbursement of your scholarship.

2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN—Just a reminder....The 2020 Stewardship Campaign deadline was December 1, 2019. With the Thanksgiving holiday being late, this year it may have slipped your mind, and by now, we have all moved on to our Christmas planning. If you forgot to return your pledge or are undecided please take a moment to reflect on the needs of the ministries our church supports. If you are still desirous of making a pledge, please return your pledge card or contact the church office with your information. Our pledge commitments for 2020 are nearly \$50,000.00 less than last year, and we need your help to me

PRAYER/BIRTHDAY CALENDAR-will be coming out soon. If you have any additions or corrections, please submit them to the church office so they can make the 2020 calendar.

CREATIVE PRESCHOOL NEEDS-Creative Preschool advisory board asks that during this holiday season as you are sharing the joy of Christmas with others, would you please consider contributing to help purchase new educational toys for the preschool? We are in need of one set of Wooden Blocks at the cost of \$55. If you would like to support the purchase of these educational toys for the Pre School, please drop a check off at the church office. Checks may be written to FUMC and in the memo line, Pre-School Toys. Thank You.

THE CROSSING: HELP WANTED-The Crossing, located in the heart of Warren on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Hickory Street, is looking to fill some staff positions. They are always in need of volunteers and also have some paid staff positions available.

If you are interested, please contact Bill Hargenrader at firstcogwarn@atlanticbbn.net

PRAYER CROSS-please stop and visit the prayer cross and read about Advent. Feel free to add praises and prayer requests as well.

TOGETHER EVOLVING AS MEN - is a men's support group that gathers to share individual struggles, obtain solutions together and form bonds with other men who seek to grow and develop as individuals and carry forth the best version of themselves into their home, their community, and the world at large. The group meets in Parlor A on Sunday mornings from 10:00—11:00 am. Any questions, please feel free to call Dan Kronenwetter (814) 730-7308.



First United Methodist Church-Warren

Prayer for the Week of December 15, 2019-Third week of Advent

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

[Luke 2:12]

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” [Matthew 22:36-40]

Father in heaven,

You have given us a sign-a sign of your amazing love for us! You came to earth to live as a human baby, child, & man. You showed us by living with us that you welcome us to a relationship with you. You see, you remind us, that it isn't about how “good we are”, but it is about how in loving you, we turn our hearts to you.

We lift up specific prayers today for:

The UMC- May we love you with all of our hearts, souls & minds.

FUMC Warren, Millport UMC, Jesus is Coming Soon Methodist Church (Jinotega, Nicaragua), & Rene Cisneros Church (Managua, Nicaragua)-May we love others as ourselves.

For worship services & activities within these walls & in the community-May we praise & thank you for blessing us with your presence.

The people of Nicaragua, especially our Christian brothers & sisters-May they love one another.

For our country's leaders & leaders around the world-May they come to love you, LORD God.

For Heidi Ketzko, Director of Christian Education & Nurture, & Rick Larson, Outreach Chair - May they find rest in your Love.

FOR: _____

We want to please you, LORD. But, often, we allow ourselves to become distracted from you-from focusing on what is truly important. Forgive us, please, when we fail to love you with everything we are, & when we fail to love others as ourselves. Please help us to forgive others. Help us to stand strong against the temptations that confront us. Thank you for your promise to provide a way out from temptation. [1Corinthians 10:13]

You are the child born for us; the son given to us. The government is on your shoulders. You are called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. [Isaiah 9: 6] Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. AMEN.

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Mark E. Hecht
Pastor of Visitation	Rev. Michael Rutenber
Director of Music	Ruth Nelson
Assistant Director of Music	Michele Sandberg
Organist	David Powell
Director of Music/Organist Emeritus	John F. Slaney Jr.
Director of Student Ministries	Jason Wood
Director of Christian Education and Nurture	Heidi Ketzko
Office Manager	Debbie Giambrone
Office Assistant	Deb Rutenber
Custodian	Robert Confer
Preschool Teachers	Brenda Bertch Jane Crouch Cynthia Klenowski Lindsey Mealy Amanda Wellner

Acolytes

Front Candles: Peyton Cabisca
Hayden Schuler

Aisle Candles: Alex Huffman
David Huffman

Greeters

FD: Mark Nelson

PLD: Rick and Dawn Larson

Usher Captain: Larry Loughlin

Ron Kelly
Nick Johnson
Jay Mengel

Brian Swanson
Carla Johnson
Lucy Nelson

PRAYER CONCERNS: David Armstrong, Sheryl Asamow, Dayetta Austin, Cathy Bertch, Brandon and Stacey Campbell, Marty Campbell, Zack Cassidy, Carol Davis, Catherine Donaldson, Keith Dunham, Jim Fitch, Lucy Gallo, Jenn Harris, Betty Hill, Ernie Hoag, Laurel Hoch, Jim McCollough, Amanda Ohl, Larry Persing, Sandy Raymond, Katie Rodgers, Patti Rublee, Ronda Rublee, Ernest Seber, John Slaney, Alice Stiles, Butch Stiles, David Swanson, Marge Trubic, Marilyn Whitcomb, Gretchen Winans, Karen Yourchisin, Connie Zagurski, Nancy Zirngibl, Maria Zurcher.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

December 15, 2019 – December 21, 2019

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Service of Word and Sacrament
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Together Evolving as Men-support group
11:00 AM Worship Service
6:00 PM-7:30 PM Junior High UMYF Christmas Party, Everts Rm.
7:00 PM-8:30 PM Senior High UMYF Christmas Party, Everts Rm.

MONDAY

6:00 PM Girl Scouts, Scout Room
6:00 PM Incarcerated Support Group, Founder's Hall
6:00 PM Trustees Committee Meeting, Parlor A
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

TUESDAY

8:30 AM-11:15 AM Creative Preschool
11:30 PM Handbells leave for tour
1:00 PM Staff Meeting, Parlor B
1:00 PM Study Group, Covert Room
5:30 PM Covenant Discipleship Group, Covert Room
5:30 PM Finance Meeting, Parlor A
6:30 PM Outreach Committee Meeting, Covert Room

WEDNESDAY

6:45 AM Men's Breakfast
Leader: Jay Mengel Cook: Mark Hecht
8:45 AM Covenant Group, Mark's Office
11:00 AM Creative Preschool
12:00 AM Creative Preschool Christmas Program, Sanctuary
3:10 PM LOGOS/Merry Christmas, last LOGOS for semester
3:10 PM Cherub Choir, Music room
3:30 PM Aldersgate Choir, Music Room
NO Wesleyan Handbells
NO Asbury Handbells
6:30 PM Madrigals
6:45 PM Chancel Choir
8:00 PM Choir Christmas Party, John & Shirley Crone's

THURSDAY

8:30 AM-11:15 PM Creative Preschool
Noon Advent Service, Sanctuary
12:30 PM Advent Lunch, Founder's Hall
1:00 PM Discipleship Covenant Group, Covert Room
6:00 PM Divorce Care, 2nd Fl./Side Room

FRIDAY

Noon Senior Citizen Lunch