

MERRY CHRISTMAS

"O people of God, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!"

-Isaiah 2:5

Dear Beloved of First United Presbyterian Church of Tarentum,

My annual Advent/Christmas Letter comes early, but I note that as you receive this or read it whether online or on Sunday morning we will be decorating the sanctuary following worship on November 23rd.

Before I plunge into all that is happening in the next month or so, I want to say thank you. The program year starting since September has been a whirlwind and so many of you have been present, lent support, donated to new projects, reached out to our community, and shared the love of Christ as we have celebrated, mourned, fed, and cared for each other and those beyond our doors. I am grateful to be your pastor.

I want to let you know of a special opportunity. Giving Tuesday is December 2. You will be invited to give to many nonprofits and charities on that day and I encourage you to be generous. We have been participating in Giving Tuesday for years. This year, two anonymous donors have pledged \$7,000 in matching funds. For every dollar you give, a dollar will be matched. Think of it as a 2 for 1 special. It's sort of like buying one donut, but getting a second for free; buying one car and getting a second free. This time you give \$100 and the church receives \$200, you give \$5 and the church receives \$10, you give \$2,000 and the church receives \$4,000. The more good news is that you can start now - designate a gift as Giving Tuesday, make sure that is over and above your regular giving and then it is applied to the match.

Now to Advent and Christmas. On the reverse, you will find dates of special events and opportunities for service in the life of the church.

I did want to highlight two Advent and Christmas items for you. The first is the annual Children's Christmas Pageant. Any child is welcome to participate and we use 6th graders as our readers. Older youth can be of help by guiding shepherds, making sure the kings have their gifts to bring, and helping with moving microphones and mangers. Adults are needed to assist in handing out costumes, wrangling wayward angels, and learning more about the pageant. If you want to participate or help with the pageant please contact Christa Beck at ccmhbeck@gmail.com or 724-448-7619.

The second is the annual Christmas Joy Offering. "Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color." I do hope you will give generously towards this offering. You will find information with envelopes in the bulletins, pews or you can give online at fupct.org and designate your gift as Joy Offering.

I look forward to seeing you this Advent and Christmas Season. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Peace, Rev. Phil





FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TARENTUM

The Advent and Christmas season is upon us. It is a time of activity, waiting, and celebration. Below are the various congregational worship services and events that are happening during Advent and Christmas. We hope to see you often this December! Visit our website at www.fupct.org for information on all of our events.

Sunday, November 23rd at 12pm | Decorate with the Deacons

Meet us after Worship in the Sanctuary and help us decorate around the church for the Advent and Christmas Season! All are welcome.

Sunday, November 30th, 11am | First Advent & Communion

Join us in worship as we light the first candle of Advent and share in Communion. If your family would like to light the candles for Advent or Christmas Eve, see Rev. Phil or contact the office at 724-224-2550 or by emailing office@fupct.org.

Sunday, December 7th at 5pm | Church Christmas Dinner

Fellowship with us this season at our Church Christmas Dinner, complete with carol singing. We will have a prepared meal, and you are welcome to bring a dessert to share. Helpers are wanted to serve, cook, clean up, and set up. See Chris Cottone or email him at cottone73@yahoo.com if you are able to help.

Saturday, December 13th, 10am—12pm | Children's Christmas Party

All are invited to our Children's Christmas Party! We will have a breakfast, crafts, a photo booth, and pictures with Santa!

Sunday, December 21st | Children's Christmas Pageant

Our Children's Christmas Pageant is not to be missed! Join us during the worship service at 11am and stay for cookies after the pageant.



Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve at 7pm & 9:30pm – Worship & Communion

Worship this Christmas Eve with First UP Church! We will have special music, hymn singing, a time for children, and candle lighting.