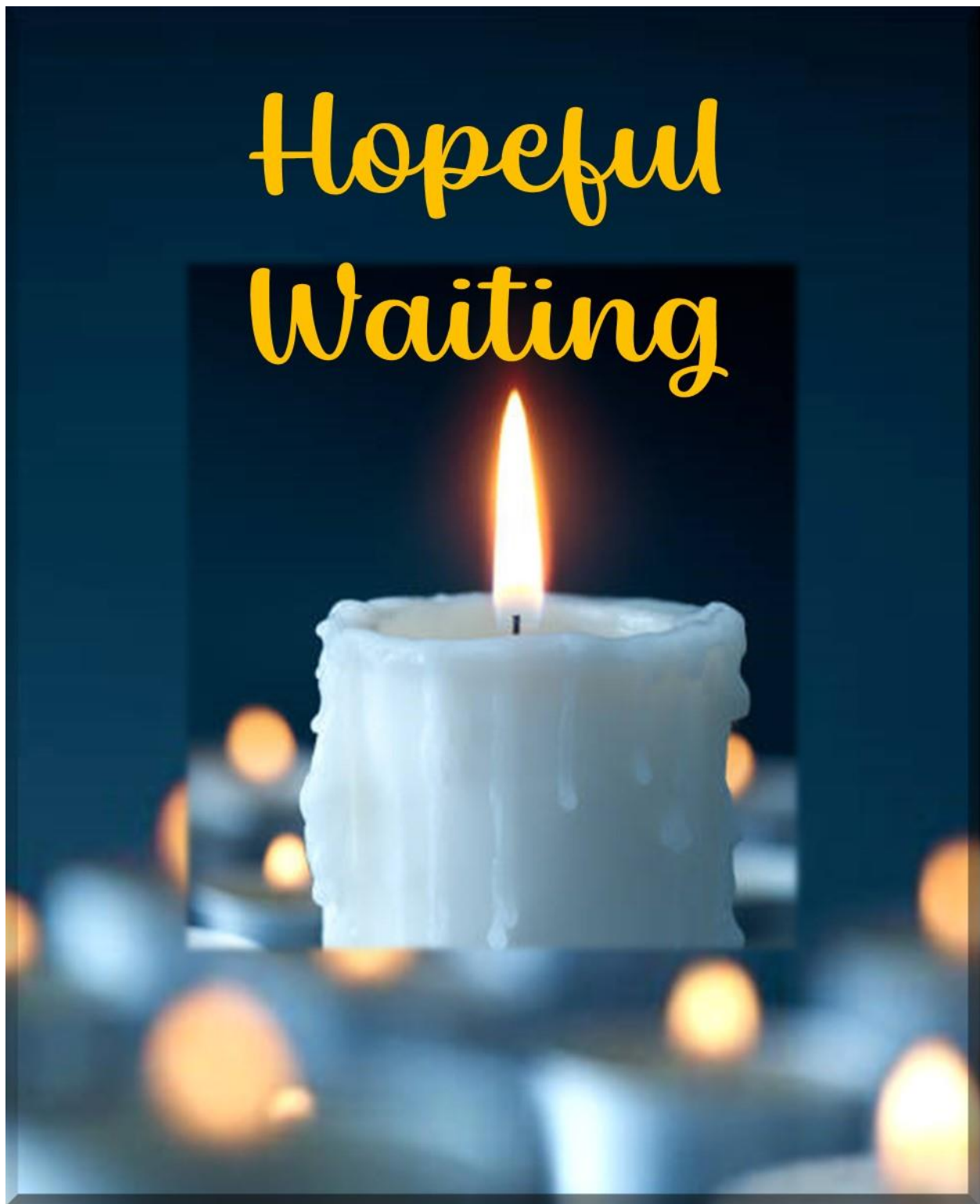




First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

Prelude

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599

Bach

Greetings

*The assembly responds or joins in unison when our text is **bold**.*

Centering Words:

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say, rejoice! For the goodness of God's bounty is sufficient for our needs each day. God's steadfast love never ends.

Call to worship:

The God of peace calls us to this season of anticipation.

The God of love summons us to this time of worship.

Seek the light that God offers.

We will prepare to walk in God's path.

Let us watch for the One who makes all things new.

We will equip ourselves as Jesus' disciples, watching and waiting and serving in Christ's name.

*Opening Hymn

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

[♯] UMH # 196

1.

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

2.

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 196

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744

Music: HYFRYDOL; Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Advent Candle Lighting # 1

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)

Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

Advent hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

[♯] UMH # 211 v. 1

1.

**O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 211

Words: 9th century Latin; trans. Sloane Coffin. 1916

Music: 15th century French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854

Call to Confession

Silent Prayers of Confession

Words of assurance

Baptism

Zachary Daniel Long

Old Testament Reading: **Isaiah 2:1-5**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Epistle Reading: **Romans 13:11-14**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

The Coventry Carol

Johnson

*Gospel Reading: **Matthew 24:36-44**

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn of Preparation

Seek Ye First

UMH # 405

1.

Seek ye first the kingdom of God And His righteousness;

And all these things shall be added unto you.

Hallelu, Hallelujah!

2.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; Seek, and you shall find.

Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Hallelu, Hallelujah!

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 577

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930

Music: CWM RHONDDA; John Hughes, 1907

Words by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Used by permission CCLI 673591

Message

"Hopeful Waiting"

Hymn of Response

People Look East

UMH # 202

1.

People, look east. The time is near Of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

2.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there:

Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

3.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall brim,

Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

4.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 202

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928

Music: Trad. French carol' harm by Martin Shaw, 1928

Words by permission of David Higham Assoc, Ltd.; harm. by permission of Oxford University Press

Used by permission CCLI 673591

Invitation to the Offering

Please submit your offering as you feel led by placing it in the plates on the altar railing, or text your gift to 833-756-0325, or on our website: www.elyriafirstumc.org.

Offertory

Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 623

Bach

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

[♯] UMH # 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 95
Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: OLD 100TH; Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

*Offertory Prayer:

With these gifts, we seek to accomplish the good you intend, O God. With these offerings, we commit ourselves anew to your way of peace. Prosper the work of your church in this place and link us with all who watch and wait for your revelation. Amen.

Announcements

*Closing Hymn

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

[♯] UMH # 569

1.

**We've a story to tell to the nations that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light.**

Refrain:

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright,
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.**

2.

**We've a song to be sung to the nations, that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword.**

Refrain

3.

**We've a message to give to the nations—that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us His Son to save us and show us that God is love, and show us that God is love.**

Refrain

4.

**We've a Savior to show to the nations who the path of sorrow hath trod,
that all of the world's great peoples might come to the truth of God,
might come to the truth of God.**

Refrain

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 569
Words: H. Ernest Nichol, 1896
Music: MESSAGE; H. Ernest Nichol, 1896

Benediction

Postlude

Variations on Puer nobis nascitur

Sweelinck

**Please stand as you are comfortable*

Worship Participants

Preaching: Pastor Marcus Atha

Liturgist: Kristen Jones

Media: David Wilm

Musicians: Kingsley Wood, Jack Roberts and the Chancel Choir

Sound room: Neal Hubbard

Ushers and Greeters: John Borer and Mike Zahnke

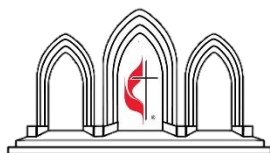
This service is broadcast live on the radio station WOBL 1320 AM and 107.7 FM. Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Claudette Williams and family in loving memory of Bruce Williams in celebration of his November 23rd earthly birthday.

The altar flowers are sponsored by Claudette Williams and family in loving memory of Wilda Moore.

If you are interested in joining our church family, or if you have any pastoral needs or prayer concerns, please call the church office at 440.322.6622.

♫ UMH ~ *United Methodist Hymnal* (hard cover hymnal)

♫ FWS ~ *The Faith We Sing* (soft cover hymnal)



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035 440.322.6622

www.elyriafirstumc.org

An equal opportunity provider

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599 by J.S. Bach. ***The Coventry Carol*** by Victor Cohen Johnson, Copyright © 1999 The Sacred Music Press. ***Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 623*** by J.S. Bach. ***Variations on Puer nobis nascitur*** by J.P. Sweelinck. All songs are performed under license # 673591.

Third Street Review



November 30, 2025

November Mission Focus:

Staying Connected

Worship communities are essential to your understanding and growth in Christ. This month we are focusing our efforts on ensuring those who are unable to join us in person stay connected to us through our Radio Ministry. As life moves us forward, and many of us become physically unable to join us in person, the value of the radio ministry is essential to keeping all of us connected. The four walls are not what binds us. It is the love of Christ and community that joins us and keeps us in doing the work of God.

Your gift is a practical expression of care, equipping us to continue to spread our love for justice, love, and mercy everywhere beyond the four walls of the church. Contributions to the radio fund can be made through Cash or checks made payable to: **First United Methodist Church**, (indicate **Radio Fund** on the memo line). Donate online via our website:

www.elyriafirstumc.org.

All-Church Meeting

Today **Sunday, November 30th after worship** come to the **Asbury Room**, where the leadership team will share information gathered from the Small Group meetings. They will present several options under consideration.

Hanging of the Greens!

Thank you all who helped with the *hanging of the greens!* Many hands did indeed make light work!

312 Happy Hour

Happy Hour is a twice per month event held on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays** at **noon** in **Fellowship Hall!** Join us for a great meal, fun, and fellowship on

December 9th and no Happy Hour on the 23rd

Share Your Gifts/Talents

YOU have gifts and talents to share. The Community Breakfast and our Free stores need you!

***Volunteering once a month can make a
big difference in the life of our ministries,
the community, and YOU!***

Please contact the church office to cheerfully offer your gifts and talents to serve in these vital ministries.

Community Breakfast

Thank you to those who have joined a breakfast team! There are a few spots still available.

Prayerfully consider joining a breakfast team then call Julie Joy in the church office (440.322.6622) to volunteer.

Free Clothing Store

We continue to organize what has been received.

The store will be open to the community on **Saturday, December 27th 10 am-12 pm**, please contact the church office at 440.322.6622 with questions or to volunteer.

"Biblically, waiting is not just something
we have to do until we get what we want.

Waiting is part of the process
of becoming what God wants us to be."

~John Ortberg

Christmas Eve

Join us for worship!

4 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Invite your family and friends for this special service.

December Mission focus:

Adopt-an-Angel

Join us in adopting a local child to have a wonderful Christmas! Our staff has chosen a few local families who frequent our Free Clothing and Hygiene Store to show God's love this season and beyond. These families are working hard day after day to make their way in life but still struggle to get by week to week.

On the altar rail garland, you will find some paper angels with wishes on them. Please pick one, *or two*, then return the **wrapped gifts with the angel tag** by **Sunday, December 21st**. Let's spread God's love and give these families a very special Christmas!

Free Hygiene Store

We are grateful for your continued support of this much needed ministry. Being open to the community and filling in the gap for many families is a blessing!

Our needs for November include:

- **Baby wash and lotion**
- **Cleaning Supplies** (glass, bathroom, and toilet bowl cleaners)
- **Laundry & Dish Soap**
- **Shampoo & Conditioner** (dry shampoo too)
- **Women's and men's Body wash, Deodorant, and Razors**

Please place these items in the box located on the main level. The store will be open on **Saturday, December 27th** from **10 am-12 pm!**

Open Sponsorship Dates

Radio dates:

December 7, 14, 21, and 28

Cost \$300 (includes advertising!)

Please call the church office at 440.322.6622 to reserve your special date!

2025 Year-End Statements

If you would like to receive your year-end statement electronically instead of in the mail, please contact Heather in the church office. Or you can indicate your desire on today's Connection Card! Please be sure to include your email address.

Scripture readings for the week:

Sunday, November 30: **Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14;**

Matthew 24:36-44

Monday, December 1: **Psalm 124; Genesis 8:1-19; Romans 6:1-11**

Tuesday, December 2: **Psalm 124; Genesis 9:1-17; Hebrews 11:32-40**

Wednesday, December 3: **Psalm 124; Isaiah 54:1-10; Matthew 24:23-35**

Thursday, December 4: **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 4:2-6; Acts 1:12-17, 21-26**

Friday, December 5: **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 30:19-26; Acts 13:16-25**

Saturday, December 6: **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 40:1-11; John 1:19-28**

Sunday, December 7: **Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13;**

Matthew 3:1-12

2025 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



This year we will have red medium-sized pots.

Please bring or send this form to the Church with payment.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: Sunday, December 14th

Checks should be made payable to: First United Methodist Church (designate "Poinsettia")

ORDERED

\$ ENCLOSED

_____ x \$13

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE # _____

In Memory ~ Honor ~ Appreciation of: (please circle one)

Poinsettias can be picked up after the 4PM Christmas Eve service

or on Sunday, December 28th after the 11AM worship service.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035 Phone: 440.322.6622

11-25



December 2025 Daily Readings

Monday, December 1: **Psalm 124; Genesis 8:1-19; Romans 6:1-11**
Tuesday, December 2: **Psalm 124; Genesis 9:1-17; Hebrews 11:32-40**
Wednesday, December 3: **Psalm 124; Isaiah 54:1-10; Matthew 24:23-35**
Thursday, December 4: **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 4:2-6; Acts 1:12-17, 21-26**
Friday, December 5: **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 30:19-26; Acts 13:16-25**
Saturday, December 6: **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 40:1-11; John 1:19-28**
Sunday, December 7: **Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12**
Monday, December 8: **Psalm 21; Isaiah 24:1-16a; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12**
Tuesday, December 9: **Psalm 21; Isaiah 41:14-20; Romans 15:14-21**
Wednesday, December 10: **Psalm 21; Genesis 15:1-18; Matthew 12:33-37**
Thursday, December 11: **Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 1:6-18; 2 Peter 3:1-10**
Friday, December 12: **Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 4:13-17; 2 Peter 3:11-18**
Saturday, December 13: **Psalm 146:5-10; 1 Samuel 2:1-8; Luke 3:1-18**
Sunday, December 14: **Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11**
Monday, December 15: **Psalm 42; Isaiah 29:17-24; Acts 5:12-16**
Tuesday, December 16: **Psalm 42; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Jude 1:17-25**
Wednesday, December 17: **Psalm 42; Zechariah 8:1-17; Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34**
Thursday, December 18: **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:1-17; Galatians 3:23-29**
Friday, December 19: **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:18-22; Galatians 4:1-7**
Saturday, December 20: **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:23-29; John 3:31-36**
Sunday, December 21: **Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25**
Monday, December 22: **Luke 1:46b-55; Isaiah 33:17-22; Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20**
Tuesday, December 23: **Luke 1:46b-55; 2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29; Galatians 3:6-14**
Wednesday, December 24: **Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20**
Thursday, December 25: **Isaiah 62:6-12; Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 97 and 98; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14**
Friday, December 26: **Psalm 148; Wisdom 4:7-15; Acts 7:59-8:8**
Saturday, December 27: **Psalm 148; Proverbs 8:22-31; 1 John 5:1-12**
Sunday, December 28: **Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23**
Monday, December 29: **Psalm 20; Jeremiah 31:15-22; Luke 19:41-44**
Tuesday, December 30: **Psalm 20; Isaiah 26:1-9; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18**
Wednesday, December 31: **Psalm 20; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19**

The readings can also be found on the church's website:

<https://www.elyriafirstumc.org/december-scriptures>