



## Christmas Shoppe Sign-Up Open

Our annual Christmas Shoppe is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of many families in our community. These families have been referred to us by the school systems, TORCH, MIST, and other local organizations. We have been collecting items for the past six months, including underwear, socks, books, mittens, scarves, stuffed animals, and toys.

Currently, we are in need of individuals who can visit the front page of our [FUMCOR.org](http://FUMCOR.org) website and sign up to sponsor a child (or two). Each sponsor is invited to spend \$75-\$100 per child and return the unwrapped gifts to the church by Sunday, December 10. Please make sure to clearly mark the gifts with the child's ID number (example 3B). If you feel uncomfortable registering on the website, our volunteers will be available to assist you in the Welcome Center on the mornings of Sunday, December 3 and 10.

Additionally, we are pleased to offer a shopping service for those who prefer not to select specific gifts. You can simply drop a check in the collection basket with "Christmas Shoppe" written on the memo line. Alternatively, you can make a donation online by visiting our "Give" page at [fumcor.org/give](http://fumcor.org/give) and selecting "Click here to make a donation online." On that page, you will find an option to donate funds specifically to the Christmas Shoppe. Our team can then shop tax-exempt for unsponsored and last-minute emergency children and other activities related to the Shoppe.

These gifts truly make a significant impact on the lives of real people. We want to express our heartfelt thanks in advance for demonstrating your faith through action.

## Community Assistance Fund Downturn

Our congregation has a long history of financially helping families who have received utility cut-off notices through our Community Assistance Fund. We invite everyone to consider contributing to this special fund on those Sundays when we share Holy Communion. Currently, the fund has less than \$4,000 in it. If you have disposable income and are looking for a good place to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors, please prayerfully consider making a donation to this important fund.

## Guess Our December Movie

How many clues will it take for you to guess our December 4 "Marvelous Monday" Movie?

Clue #1 - A friend named Violet. Clue #2 - A pharmacist named Mr. Gower. Clue #3 - Set in Bedford Falls, New York. Clue #4 - the quote: "Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives. When he isn't around he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?"

You probably knew it at Clue #1! Our Adult Ministries Committee is excited to invite you to watch the Christmas classic "It's A Wonderful Life" on Monday, December 4 at 1:00 p.m. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy wonderful performances by James Stewart, Donna Reed, and Lionel Barrymore.

## Looking for Romeos

Interested in being a Romeo? No, not a star-crossed Shakespearean character! We are looking for guys who want to join our Retired Old Men Eating Out (ROMEO) small group that meets on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. in the parlor. This lively group spends an hour in study and fellowship before heading out together for lunch at Shoney's. Questions? Contact Rev. Mark Flynn at [mflynn@fumcor.org](mailto:mflynn@fumcor.org).

## A Service of Lessons and Carols

To celebrate the beginning of Advent, our community and congregation are invited to a Service of Lessons and Carols. This joyful service will take place on Sunday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Nave. We will alternate between traditional Advent scripture readings and congregational carols, along with Christmas music performed by instrumentalists and vocalists.

## Labyrinth in Advent and Christmas

Are you ever overwhelmed during the Advent and Christmas season and wish you could find a way to focus and relax? The Labyrinth will be set up in Room 305 during Advent. You can stop by anytime except during worship and the Sunday School hour. Directions will be available in the room.

For those unfamiliar with this spiritual discipline, the labyrinth is an ancient pattern found in many cultures around the world. It has only one path that leads from the outer edge in a circuitous way to the center. There are no tricks or dead ends. Unlike a maze where you can lose your way, the labyrinth is a spiritual tool that can help you find your way. You can walk the path while praying, meditating, or simply opening yourself up to God.

Give yourself a needed break and focus on your spiritual self during this sacred and busy season. Come walk the labyrinth.

## Thanksgiving Reminder

Our building is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday, November 23-24.

We will be back Sunday!

## In the Hospital:

Dick Schreiber (MMC)

## Our Giving:

Weekly offering:	\$ 33,785
2023 YTD offering:	\$ 1,178,184
2022 YTD offering:	\$ 1,176,499
Mission offering:	\$ 1,360

# Worship for November 26

## Reign of Christ

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23

Sermon: The Love You Get Is Equal To...

8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship - Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship - Multipurpose Room  
Preaching: Rev. Mark Flynn



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## Christmas Book Study With Rev. Bob Cantrell

Join Rev. Bob Cantrell as we journey together during the Advent season studying a book that his son, Rev. Will Cantrell, wrote with Rev. Paul Seay titled *From Heaven to Earth: Christmas for New Believers, Old Believers, and Nonbelievers*. This class will meet each Sunday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., beginning December 3, in the Fellowship classroom. Books may be ordered from [marketsquarebooks.com](http://marketsquarebooks.com).



## Garland Making Event

Join us on Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m. as we make garlands to be used in the Hanging of the Greens worship service on December 3.

This event is appropriate for children in 1st grade through adulthood! Come join the fun as we celebrate the beginning of the Advent season! Contact Denna Hornby ([dhornby@fumcor.org](mailto:dhornby@fumcor.org)) or Shelby Fowler ([sfowler@fumcor.org](mailto:sfowler@fumcor.org)) for more information.



We are pleased to announce that this year's Christmas Concert at First United Methodist Church will be a "Messiah Sing-Along." Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 10, at 4:00 p.m. The Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah will be presented by the FUMC Christmas Choir, a professional orchestra, and the audience! Concertgoers will have the option to sit in general seating to listen, or may be seated near the front according to voice parts to sing along with the choruses. We will provide sheet music for those interested. We invite you to come and enjoy this timeless classic with us.

## Chrismon Tree Decorating

Join us as we decorate the Chrismon tree in the sanctuary on Tuesday, November 28 at 5:00 p.m. The event will last approximately 90 minutes.

**Pastors** Mark Flynn, lead • Jenny Caughman, spiritual care • Denna Hornby, associate  
**Contact Information** 865.483.4357 • [www.fumcor.org](http://www.fumcor.org) • Pastor on call: 865.272.9862