



*Christmas Eve Festival Worship*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LONDON, OHIO

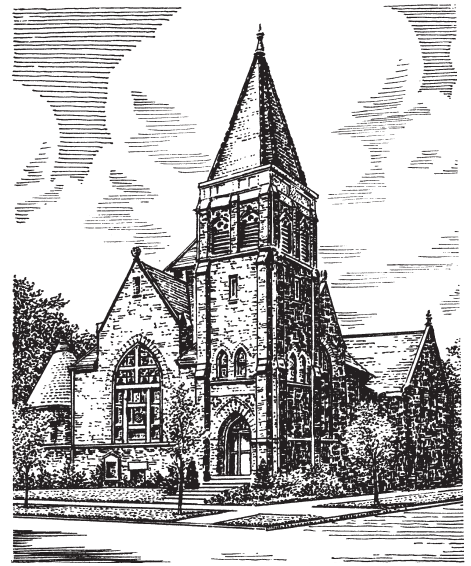




FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
OF LONDON  
*Christmas Eve*

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

11:00 p.m.



CHIMING THE HOUR     *In silence, let us quiet our voices and prepare our minds  
and hearts to worship the Lord*

GREETING *and* INVOCATION

ORGAN PRELUDE     *Noël de Saintonge*     Jean François Dandrieu

CHORAL INTROIT     *The Linden Tree*     Arr. Crawford Thoburn

In Heaven stood a linden tree with pure white flowers laden; yet not a bloom was fair as she, Sweet Mary, chosen maiden.  
Great Gabriel, God's angel bright, from high above came winging yo one, the purest in God's sight, a joyful message bringing  
"Hail Mary, blessed virgin mild, with God you have found favor, you shall conceive and bear a child, to all the world a Savior."  
"My soul does magnify the Lord! I am His servant lowly; be all according to His word," said Mary, meek and holy.  
Away the angel flew to share the news of Mary's duty; and heaven rejoiced that she would bear the Blossom of all Beauty.

*(Text: Traditional German, Trans. K. A. Hindenlang)*

CALL TO WORSHIP\* *(stand)*

*Leader: Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy*

**People: Which shall be to all people**

*Leader: For to you is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord*

**People: Glory to God in the highest**

OPENING HYMN\* *(stand)*     *O Come, All Ye Faithful*     *see page 6*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH\* *(stand)*     *The Apostles Creed* (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



GLORIA PATRI\* (stand)

*Glory be to the Father*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

(be seated)

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

GOSPEL LESSON\* (stand)

Luke 2:1-20

HYMNS\* (stand)

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear  
Away in a Manger*

see page 7

see page 8

SERMON

Rev. Dave Leckrone

RECEIVING THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING +

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*The Wexford Carol*

Traditional, arr. Don Michael Dicie

Good people all this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind  
What our Good God for us has done in sending his begotten Son.

With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day.  
In Bethlehem this Christmas morn there was a blessed Messiah born.

In Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding Sheep,  
To which the angels did appear which put the shepherds in great fear.

“Prepare and go,” the angels said, to Bethlehem, “be not afraid,”  
“For there you’ll find this happy morn a princely babe, sweet Jesus born.”

With thankful hearts and joyful mind, the shepherds went the babe to find,  
And as God’s angel had foretold they did our Saviour Christ to behold.

Within a manger he was laid, and by his side the Virgin maid,  
Attending to the Lord of Life who came to earth to end all strife.

(Text: 17th cent. traditional French carol)

PRESENTATION RESPONSE\* (stand) *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

**NOTE:** Please pass the light of Christ to others until all have received the flame. For your safety, and the safety of others, please **DO NOT** tip lit candles - let the person next to you tip their unlit candle. Continue to burn candles through the singing of our next carol.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL\* (stand)

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

see page 9

BENEDICTION\* (stand)

ORGAN POSTLUDE (be seated)

Chorale-Prelude on *Von Himmel Hoch*

Johann Pachelbel

\*denotes please stand if able

# Prayer Requests

## CONTINUAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Evone Banks, Bobby Dorn, Gladys Griffith, Joyce Hildebrand, Phyllis Miller,  
Sue Minner, Sally Sisterhen, Doris Spahn

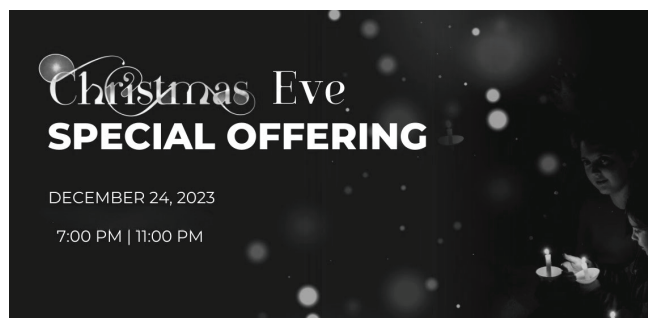
## CURRENT PRAYER REQUESTS

Avalee Adams, Carol Albright, Rachael Allen, Harriet Baker, Laura Beyer, Kim Braddock, Jayden Clark, Becky Cress,  
Toni Daniels, Bob Daugherty, Michelle Decoe, Diana, Woody Draper, Allison Engle, Linda Finney, Michael Fisher,  
Phyllis Follrod, TJ Franklin, Tylor Freeman, Nancy Giles, Carole Gordon, Jane Hackworth, John Harbage, Hope Hecht,  
Dee Heilman, Jenn Heuser, Linda Holloway, Gary and Cindy Hoback, Roger Horsely, Gary Hunter, Dan Jones,  
Claudia Justice, Jeannie Justice, Ray Justice, Cody Leavens, Jessica Martin, Cris Martinez, Jerod McKenzie, Chuck Miller,  
Aiden Norton, Sue Osborn, Pauline Persing, Richard Peterson, Alicia Pullin, Jeff Quatkemeyer, Michele Ramsey,  
Marco Ranalli, Steve Richmond, Frank Salyers, Laura Schoeller, Miles Schrock, Jill Wyatt Setty, Nancy Snyder,  
Robert Stallings, David Stewart, Rob Suter, Alta Vance, Hayden Weese, Gretchen Wingert,  
Gordon Wyllie, Avalene Wyllie, Sandy Young, Heather Zollman

## SERVING ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY

Lt. Colonel John Crisp ~ Navy Lt Commander Tom Crisp  
2nd Lt Cheney Gross ~ 2nd Lt Luke Peart ~ Sgt First Class Mathew Rowley  
Caiden Craig—Basic Training

*Please pray for the family and friends of those who have given their lives for our nation.*



*+Half of this evening's offering will go to the pastor's discretionary fund. This is a designated fund made available to our senior pastor to distribute for emergency financial aid to those in need in our community.*

*The other half of this evening's offering will go to the Ignite! Youth Group's mission trip fund. In June they will go to Costa Rica to offer aid in a community in need.*

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

satb 1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 satb 2. God of \_\_\_\_\_ God, \_\_\_\_\_ Light \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Light, \_\_\_\_\_  
 unison 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, \_\_\_\_\_  
 unison 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing, \_\_\_\_\_

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 Lo! he ab - hors \_\_\_\_\_ not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n \_\_\_\_\_ a - bove;  
 Je - su, to thee \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ glo - ry giv'n;

Come and be - hold him Born the King of An - gels:  
 Ve - ry \_\_\_\_\_ God, Be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted:  
 Glo - ry to God \_\_\_\_\_ In \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O

come, let us a - dore him, — Christ — the Lord!

# It Came upon the Midnight Clear 218



1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,
3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,



from an - gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow,  
when with the ev - er - cir-ling years shall come the time fore - told



"Peace on the earth, good will to men,\* from heaven's all-gra-cious King."  
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains, they bend on hov-ering wing,  
look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift-ly on the wing.  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
O rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!  
and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.



\*"all" may be substituted

WORDS: Edmund H. Sears, 1849 (Lk. 2:8-14)  
MUSIC: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

CAROL  
CMD

## Away in a Manger

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes;  
 close by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray;

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look down from the sky  
 bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.  
 and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

WORDS: Anon. (Lk. 2:7)  
 MUSIC: James R. Murray, 1887

AWAY IN A MANGER  
 11 11.11 11



# Silent Night, Holy Night

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1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright  
 1. *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht*  
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight;  
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won-drous star, lend thy light;

round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in-fant, so ten-der and mild,  
*nur das trau-te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar, Hold-er Kna-be mit lock - i - gem Haar,*  
 glo-ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav-en-ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ra-diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
 with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
*schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh, schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!  
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt.; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. by John F. Young;  
 st. 4 trans. anon. (Lk. 2:6-20)  
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT  
 Irr.

# *2025 Christmas*

## Poinsettia

### Acknowledgements

#### **In Celebration**

Chris, Carrie, Corinne and Cara Baker  
Gail Baker

Hazel & Alina  
Judy Brunner

Gail Baker  
Greg Cooley & Cathie Littleton

Pastor Dave, Jill, Kyra, Ben  
Greg Cooley & Cathie Littleton

Our Church Choir  
Greg Cooley & Cathie Littleton

Sandy Fisher  
Greg Cooley & Cathie Littleton

Ruth and Luke Peart  
Jamie & Valerie Peart

Great Granddaughter Quinn A. Stout  
Great Grandmother, Judy Stilwell

#### **In Gratitude**

The Zoo Crew  
Gail Baker

All the nurses and doctors and the Stephanie Spielman  
Comprehensive Breast Center  
The Schoeller Family

#### **In Honor**

My sister Paula her JQ and Kat  
Gail Baker

Sally Moser  
The Kenny Davis Family

Sue Minner  
Ray & Claudia Justice

Ben & Kyra  
Dave & Jill Leckrone

Ann Edwards  
Sue Mosier & Valerie Peart

#### **In Memory**

My Beloved Husband Randy Baker  
Gail Baker

Parents, Carl and Phillis Garber,  
and brother Patrick Garber  
Gail Baker

Dick Abner  
Darlene Abner & Family

Our Parents and Grandparents  
Tim & Gina Bogenrife

Ed Chatfield  
Bonnie Chatfield

Claris Davis Owens  
The Kenny Davis Family

Dad (David Maple)  
The Fellure Family

Walter & Ruth Purnell  
The Gowdy Family

Jack & Joan Acri  
Thy Gowdy Family

Shanon Gowdy  
The Gowdy Family

Frank Hildebrand  
The Hildebrands

*The crèche of the Holy Family on the Altar table is a  
memorial gift to First Church in memory of Frank.*

Dr. John & Louise Jordan  
Jenny & Drew Hildebrand

Wolfgang & Hannelore Griesenbrock  
Michael & Christa Jenkins

Reba Norris  
Michael & Christa Jenkins

Ed & Helen Leckrone  
Dave & Jill Leckrone

Mike McCann, Ruth & Frank McCann,  
Warren & Catherine Lightle  
Matt McCann and Dottie McCann

Robert Edwards  
Ann Edwards, Sue Mosier & Valerie Peart & Families

Gary & Mary Peart  
Jamie, Valerie, Ruth & Luke Peart

Chip Jackson  
The Schoeller Family

Paul & Grace Phillips, Larry & Jim Phillips,  
William & Deloras Spatz  
The Schoeller Family

Albert Baer Schoeller & Henning Schoeller  
The Schoeller Family

Dan Snell, Harold & Petie Snell,  
Norman & Hortense Jones  
Carolyn Snell & Family

Husband, Bill Stidwell  
Wife, Judy Stilwell

Mother, Betty Stone  
Daughter, Judy Stilwell

## *A Christmas Eve Prayer*

by Robert Louis Stevenson



*Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in  
the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every  
greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds  
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven,  
for Jesus' sake. **Amen***



*Please join us for*  
**Sunday Worship**  
December 28, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.  
January 4, 2026 - 10:00 a.m.



## **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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General Email: [FUMC52@londonfumc.org](mailto:FUMC52@londonfumc.org)

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*Listed in the National Register of Historic Places*

### **WORSHIP TEAM**

#### **Sound & Video Technicians**

Brian Benedum

David Cover

#### **Liturgist**

Lorraine Terry

#### **December Ushers**

Matt McCann, Chair

Karen Summers

Michael & Christa Jenkins

#### **Lay Leader**

Henry Comer

#### **December Hospitality**

Matt McCann

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### **CHURCH STAFF**

#### **Senior Pastor**

Rev. Dave Leckrone

[dleckrone@londonfumc.org](mailto:dleckrone@londonfumc.org)

*For Pastoral Care contact*

*Pastor Dave Leckrone at*

*(614) 406-4240*

#### **Director of Youth Ministries**

Katelyn Hanna

[katelyn@londonfumc.org](mailto:katelyn@londonfumc.org)

#### **Executive Assistant**

Gail A. Baker

[gail@londonfumc.org](mailto:gail@londonfumc.org)

#### **Finance Manager**

Tara Shoemaker

#### **Director of Music & Organist**

Jeff McConnaughey

#### **Housekeeping**

Sandy Fisher

#### **Nursery**

Dawn Kepner