

In the FIRST PLACE

Happy Holy Days!

There are approximately 15 religious holidays during December according to the Interfaith Calendar. It seems there is something to celebrate every day. The phrase Happy Holidays has been tarnished in the past few years as if it's an attempt to remove Christ from Christmas. However, the word Holiday is an Old English word meaning Holy Day. So, to say "Happy Holidays" is not some anti-religious code, but really a way of claiming that this is a season of holy connection with God. As Christians, we are celebrating that God entered this world as the Christ child, thus making every day a holy day.

Happy Holy Days will be our Advent theme this year. Some of you may remember this was our theme a few years back, and since this year Christmas and New Years fall on Sundays, meaning we'll be together for worship on those days, we thought we'd reprise the theme. We also realize that COVID-19 kept us all from being able to celebrate the holidays "normally" in the past two years. So, this year we feel the need to celebrate in big ways with lots of fun. Each Sunday we'll have a different experience to make the day special. There are other experiences throughout the season that will help you highlight the holiness of each day and the incarnate presence of God. Here are a few things to look forward to:

Sunday, November 27, 9:00 and 11:00 am, **A Big Sing We Now of Christmas**--a musical service in the style of the Big Sing we shared back in August.

Mondays, 6:30 pm, starting November 28, **Holidays to Holy Days Advent Study** led by Phil Reemes. (Zoom).

Sunday, December 4, 9:00 and 11:00 am, **Holy Communion**.
10:00 am **Advent Fair** (Church-wide).

Sunday, December 11, 11:00 am, **Christmas Back on Center Street**--Our annual choir presentation returns in person with some of the most beautiful music in the area.

Sunday, December 18, 9:00 and 11:00 am, **A Moravian Love Feast**-- many of our most coveted Christmas traditions come from Moravian Christians, and this day we'll share a Love Feast in both services.

Wednesday, December 21, 6:00 pm, **Service of the Longest Night**.

Saturday, December 24, Noon, **Family Friendly worship** in the Cokesbury Center.
6:00 pm, **Candlelight and Communion Service**.
11:00 pm, **Candlelight and Communion Service**

Sunday, December 25, 10:00 am, **Church-wide Brunch** and potluck in the Fellowship Hall.
11:00 am, Worship in the sanctuary.

Sunday, January 1, 11:00 am, Worship in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion.

There are many other opportunities for fun and celebration this season. Check for more details in this newsletter. May everything we do make the joyful presence of God obvious, and we experience every day as a Holy Day.

Gratefully,
David

Follow us on Social Media...



Toasty Toes & Brief Blessings

Help us keep our unhoused neighbors warm this winter by providing hats, gloves, socks, and underwear. Bring your donations of new items to worship each Sunday or to the front office Monday-Friday. Donations will be given to Our House, Jericho Way, The Van, Women and Children's First, Compassion Center, and Canvas Community.

November 27 - Men's Socks and Underwear
December 4 - Women's Socks and Underwear
December 11 - Children's Socks and Underwear
December 18 - Gloves and Hats for All



**Advent
Devotional
by Text!
Would you
like to get a
short happy
thought/
devotional
daily during
Advent.**

To subscribe,
email Lesley at
news@fumclr.org

Community Café to Open December 1

The First Cup Community Café will open again on December 1. The café is a safe place for our unhoused neighbors to come and rest during the harshest times of year (winter and summer). We offer WiFi, a phone, snacks, coffee, and a cozy place from 1:00-3:00 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. We also apply for housing, Medicaid, and EBT benefits. We are looking to add a few more volunteers to our team. Volunteers help with coffee and snacks as well as be a face of hospitality and grace. Please contact Rev. Haley to learn more about the Café and ask about volunteering!



From Holidays to Holy Days Advent Study

Want to take a walk during Advent? Willing to take a 10-15 minute stroll from the comfort of your favorite chair? Then join us as we explore From Holidays to Holy Days, a book of daily Advent devotions by Albert Holtz. Holtz is a Benedictine monk who touches on every-day themes as diverse as wreaths, holiday recipes, Christmas lights, wrapping paper, and the post-Christmas letdown. Phil Reemes, a member of our church who is also a Benedictine oblate, will lead the discussion on Holtz's reflections. We will meet Monday nights at 6:30, starting on November 28. Click here to sign up, email news@fumclr.org, or call the church office at (501) 372-2256.



Service of The Longest Night

Wednesday, December 21, 6 pm in the Chapel

Are the holidays a difficult time for you? Are you lamenting the loss of friends and family this season? Do you feel lonely this time of year? We will invite you to reflect through worship on the pain, the loneliness, and the sadness you may feel and offer it all to our great sign of hope, the Christ Child.

Christmas back on Center Street - December 11 at 11 am

The Music Ministry of First United Methodist Church presents Christmas Back on Center Street- a joyous choral celebration of brass, organ, flute, and drum! Enjoy seasonal works from yesterday and today as we look forward to a hopeful tomorrow.

Christmas Poinsettias

Make a contribution to the Christmas Poinsettia fund in honor or memory of your loved ones. Your \$15 gift will make possible the poinsettias that adorn the chancel with all the proceeds will be given to the Bo Adair Fund at the Child Development Center. The Bo Adair Fund benefits Child Development Center staff in emergency situations. The funds have been depleted over the last couple of years, so your contributions will be greatly appreciated! Your gift will be listed in the December 19th bulletin. If you would like to make a contribution, please fill out the Journey Card in the bulletin and place it in the offering plate or contact Lanie Konecny in the church office at 372-2256 or via email at office.manager@fumclr.org by Dec. 13th. Please make checks payable to FUMC and note 'Christmas Poinsettias' in the memo section.



Did you know we have a Columbarium?

Members of First United Methodist Church in Little Rock are fortunate to have a Columbarium located in our courtyard. Of the 180 niches embedded in the wall of the building 44 have been used for inurnment of members and 34 have been purchased for future use. There are 102 niches still available to church members for purchase for \$2,000. Each niche can hold up to two urns for inurnment. After a death, remains may be cremated and placed in the urn; the current estimate for cremation is \$3,500. In this area, estimations for burial in a cemetery including the plot, embalming, and the price of a casket is much higher. For \$2,000 you can purchase a niche at FUMCLR that will provide your family peace of mind regarding your end-of-life choices. Money received for a purchased niche is put in the general fund which covers maintenance and repairs of the columbarium. The cost of the installation of the columbarium has been paid in full by previous inurnments. Please contact Lanie in the church office at 501-372-2256 to get more information.

Sanctuary Flowers – Reserve yours today!

What better way to honor friends and family members than to donate the Sanctuary Flowers in their name on a Sunday in the next year? The 2023 calendar is open. Our flowers are re-arranged each Monday by the Flower Girls who take them to members in hospitals and homes -a true example of adaptive re-use and sustainability! Your gift of \$75 will cover the cost of the two large arrangements in Sunday services. You may reserve your date by phoning 372-2256, or emailing Lanie Konecny (officemanager@fumclr.org).

Canvas Community Worship

Sunday's at 5:30 pm

1111 W 7th St., Little Rock, AR 72201

As we turn our attention to the new Church vision God has placed before us, we seek to build a stronger relationship with our unhoused and near homeless neighbors. We can best do that by building relationships with organizations assisting neighbors. Canvas Community, just down 7th street, helps our unhoused and near homeless neighbors meet their basic needs and work towards their goals. We want to build a stronger relationship with Canvas Community and join the good work of loving our neighbors well. We invite you to join us on Sunday nights at 5:30 pm for a unique worship experience with our unhoused neighbors.

KIDS@FIRST

Dates to Remember for Kids and Families

Sunday, December 4 at 10 am: Family Advent Fair

The entire family is invited to a fun, interactive event where you can learn more about how to celebrate Advent at home!

Sunday, December 11 at 4 p.m.: Parents/Kids Christmas Party

Two parties in one night! Kids are invited to a fun and sweet party in the Gym! Parent's are invited to gather in the First Cup Cafe for a party of their own.

Sunday, December 18 at 10 a.m.: Nativity Pageant

Gather at 10 a.m. to get dressed and rehearse our super fun Christmas Pageant! The pageant will be a part of the 11 a.m. worship service.

Saturday, December 24th at 12 pm, 6 pm and 11 pm:

Christmas Eve Worship

All services will include carols, communion, and candles BUT our noon services will be particularly family friendly!

Sunday, December 25- Sunday, January 8:

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

FRIENDS & FAMILY



Congratulations on Baptism

Congratulations to Lucy and Bart Kempf (daughter and son-in-law of Carole Lynn Sherman) on the baptism of their son James on Sunday, November 13th.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Nathan and Ellen Coulter on the birth of their son, James Nathan, on November 8th. Nate and Nathalie Coulter and Hope Coulter are the grandparents.

Sympathy

Sympathy to Martha Faulkner and Larry Woodard following the death of brother (Martha) and uncle (Larry), Tom Love, on November 16th.