

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023



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WESTMORELAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Reverend Dr. Thom Malcolm, Pastor

Pastor's Phone: 304-654-9440

December 3, 2023

PRELUDE "INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY" GARY MAYNARD

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT READING AND LIGHTING OF 1ST CANDLE

***HYMN "EMMANUEL, EMMANUEL" UMH 204**

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: ALL**

LORD JESUS CHRIST, HELP US TO OPEN OUR HEARTS TO THE FULLNESS OF YOUR LIVING WORD THAT WE MAY TRULY LIVE AS YOUR DISCIPLES TODAY AND EVERY DAY YOU GRANT US LIFE. AMEN.

***RESPONSIVE READING PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 INSERT**

***GLORIA PATRI UMH 70**

HEBREW BIBLE READING ISAIAH 64:1-9

SHARING OUR PRAISES & CONCERNS
(PLEASE USE YOUR PRAYER CARD AND PUT IN PRAYER BASKET)

PASTORAL PRAYER

***OFFERING / DOXOLOGY UMH 95**
& OFFERTORY PRAYER

***EPISTLE READING 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9**

***HYMN "COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS" UMH 196**

***GOSPEL READING MARK 13:24-37**

SERMON "KEEP AWAKE!" PASTOR THOM MALCOLM

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

UMH 12

THE INVITATION

CONFESSION AND PARDON

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13

THE LORD'S PRAYER

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

***HYMN**

"JUST AS I AM"

UMH 357

***THE LEADING OF THE LIGHT**

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

GARY MAYNARD

**Please stand only if you are able.*

No Choir Practice Tues. Dec. 5th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for Sunday School on Sundays at 10:00am. We will be studying about Advent during this Christmas Season.

HANGING of the GREENS

Thank you to all who were able to join us to decorate the church for the Christmas Season as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

LAST DAY to ORDER POINSETTIAS

Today is the last day to order poinsettias. Please use the green insert in the bulletin and place in the offering plate, if you wish to order.

NEXT SUNDAY – December 10

The Women's Circle will be putting together Christmas bags for those not able to join us for church. If you have volunteered to contribute an item, please have it to the church by next Sunday, December 10. Stay after worship service to help put these Christmas bags together and we will need volunteers to distribute.

Prayer List

If you have any additions or modifications to the prayer list, please complete a prayer request card or call the church office. For anyone placed on the prayer list, updates within 3 weeks would be appreciated so our prayer list can be kept current.

**Pam Baker
Dawn Baumgardner
Mike Black
Beth Carson
Bob Carrico
Barbara & Jim Christain
Jill & Jim Combs
Mabel Pillion
The Roswell Family
Brian Tuttle
Gene Ward
Family of Mark Johnson**

Remember those not able to join us for church:

**Betty Craig, Donna & Dave Davis, Joy Fetty, Ruth Kelley,
Loretta Hetzer, Patricia Morgan, Jim Reed,
Harold Sowards, Dan & Shirley Webster, Marge Wheeler**

Office Hours: Pastor Thom Malcolm Wed/ Thurs 1:30-4:00

Cell: 304-654-9440

Stephanie Malcolm Cell: 304-654-9148

Secretary: Donna Rumbaugh Wed/Thurs 2:30-4:30

Cell: 304-633-3680

Interim Music Director: Gary Maynard

Pianist: Gary Maynard

Liturgist: Ann Wheeler

**Please note: Any information for the bulletin needs to be
in the church office on Wednesdays by 2:30pm.**



1st Sunday of Advent Candle of Hope

Reader 1: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Reader 2: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come.” (Mark 13:35)

Congregation: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kin-dom all around us.

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

People: before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might and come to save us!

Leader: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

People: O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

Leader: You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

People: You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

People: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

Leader: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

People: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events – December

Tuesdays & Thursdays	10:00am	Exercise Class
<i>(exercise class is cancelled for December 5)</i>		
Tuesdays	5:00pm	Choir Practice
Tuesday, Dec. 5	6:00pm	Christmas Dinner
Sunday, Dec. 24	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Service

NOVEMBER OUTREACH - SHARE the WARMTH

Thank you for participating in “Share the Warmth” to provide gently used warm clothing for those in need. We collected the following items for the Tolsia HS clothes closet.

- 12 Sweaters
- 10 Sweatshirts/Jackets
- 14 Coats/Jackets
- 3 Vests
- 3 Pairs of Pants
- 3 Blankets
- 3 Pairs of Slippers
- 3 Bandannas
- 2 Shirts
- 1 2 pc. Camo Suit
- 1 Toboggan, Pair of Gloves, Pair of Socks

BACKPACK MINISTRY

Our support of the Backpack Ministry for Kellogg Elementary is feeding 42 children. *Please bring pasta for the month of December.* **THANK YOU!**

DECEMBER OUTREACH

If you didn't have the opportunity to pick an ornament from the tree to sponsor a child, we have added a few more ornaments to sponsor a sweatshirt for Tolsia HS. Items need to be returned to the church with the ornament by Sunday, December 10th. We will provide the gift bag. We are sponsoring 20 children, this year.

**1st Annual Christmas Safety Town
December 8 & 16
6:00 - 10:00pm**



Our church is sponsoring a tree for the 1st Annual Christmas Safety Town. Go see this winter wonderland and be ready to vote for the WUMC tree for Crowd Favorite or Best in Show (or both). A big thanks to Ann and Jennifer Wheeler for bringing this outreach opportunity to us.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

If you want an easy way to send Christmas cards to your church family, we will have a card box in the vestibule and we will sort and have them available for pick-up in the 1st classroom on the left on the 1st floor, each Sunday.

United Methodist Communications  2023
GIVING TUESDAY

**Building a Brighter
Future, One Message
at a Time**

At United Methodist Communications (UMCom), we believe in the power of compassion, the strength of community, and the ways lives can be transformed by just a single message of hope and love. For over 80 years, we've dedicated ourselves to sharing the transformational story of God's love and equipping local churches to do the same in communities worldwide.

Now, through December 31st, you can **DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!** Gifts will be matched thanks to the generosity of the Hale Family Foundation. Checks can be made out to "UMCom-Foundation" and sent to **UMCom – Foundation PO Box 440228 Nashville, TN 37244-0228**. You can call (615) 742-5469 to donate via credit card or ACH as well.