

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

# Advent

*The Season of Hope and Expectation*



**Westmoreland United Methodist Church**  
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# **WESTMORELAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Reverend Dr. Thom Malcolm, Pastor*

*Pastor's Phone: 304-654-9440*

*December 24, 2023*

**PRELUDE**                    *“AWAY IN THE MANGER”*                    **GARY MAYNARD**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADVENT READING AND LIGHTING OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup>. CANDLE**

**\*HYMN**                    *“O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”*                    **UMH 234**

**\*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**                    **LUKE 1:46B-55**                    **INSERT**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**                    **UMH 70**

**CHOIR**                    *“GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING MEDLEY”*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**                    *“BREATH OF HEAVEN”*                    **NICOLE MAYNARD**

**HEBREW BIBLE READING**                    **2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16**

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

**PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**EPISTLE READING**                    **ROMANS 16:25-27**  
**STEPHANIE MALCOLM, RLLP**

**\*HYMN**                    *“TO GOD BE THE GLORY”*                    **UMH 98**

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION      “ADVENT PRAYER”      UMH 201**

All offer Prayers of Confession in silence.

Hear the Good News: The lord is merciful and gracious, endlessly patient, loving, and true, showing mercy to thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgressions, and sin, and granting pardon. Amen

*(Jewish Prayer for Forgiveness, USA, 20<sup>th</sup> Cent.)*

**\*GOSPEL READING      LUKE 1:26-38**

**SERMON      “PREPARE HIM ROOM!”      PASTOR THOM MALCOLM**

**\*HYMN      “IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR”      UMH 218**

**\*THE LEADING OF THE LIGHT**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE      GARY MAYNARD**

*\*Please stand only if you are able.*

**THANK YOU for SHARING CHRISTMAS JOY**

Thank you to all who participated in sharing the Christmas joy with our December outreach activities. We provided winter clothing for twenty-four (24) children at Fort Gay Elementary/Middle School, supplemented the clothes closet at Tolsia High School, and distributed eleven (11) Christmas bags to “those unable to attend church”. Your giving spirit is a blessing.

**TONIGHT - CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

Come, celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion at 7:00pm. Please join us.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Please remember to pick up your Christmas cards from your church family in the 1<sup>st</sup> classroom on the left on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

**BACKPACK MINISTRY**

Our support of the Backpack Ministry for Kellogg Elementary is feeding 42 children. Please bring individual servings of pasta for December.

***No Choir Practice until January 16, 2024.***

# *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  
Jill & Jim Combs  
Sara Beth Lowry  
Mabel Pillion  
The Roswell Family  
Brian Tuttle  
Gene Ward  
Family of Loretta Hetzer  
Family of Mark Johnson  
Family of William Lockhart

*Remember those not able to join us for church:*

**Betty Craig, Donna & Dave Davis, Joy Fetty, Ruth Kelley,  
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: Sheree Downey***

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

## RESPONSIVE READING

Luke 1:46b-55

**Leader:** "My soul magnifies the Lord,

**People:** and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**Leader:** for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

**People:** for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

**Leader:** His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

**People:** He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

**Leader:** He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

**People:** He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

**Leader:** He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

**People:** according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."



## 4th Sunday of Advent Candle of Love

**Reader 1:** When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God’s plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, “Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’” (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.” (Luke 1:46-49)

**Reader 2:** We, like Mary, hear God’s call to be part of making God’s dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, “How can this be? I am only...” Yet, like Mary, the “onlys” that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God’s love transforms us into bearers of good news.

**Congregation:** We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

**Reader 1:** We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God’s salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.



# Poinsettias

- ❖ In honor of Pastor Thom & Stephanie with love from your WUMC Family
- ❖ In memory of Max and Norma Parks Forever in our Hearts, Love *Sheree, Steve & Sydney Downey*
- ❖ In memory of Spencer Michael Downey – We love you always, *Love, Mom, Dad, and Sydney*
- ❖ In memory of Hazel Shreve and Ben and Grace Parks – *Sheree, Steve & Sydney Downey*
- ❖ In memory of Elsie Perky, forever our backyard neighbor *Sheree, Steve & Sydney Downey*
- ❖ In honor of Sydney Elaine Downey – *Love always, Mom, and Dad*
- ❖ In memory of David & Joyce Ferro and Frederick & Evelyn Wolfe – With love, *Donna and Dan Wolfe and Family*
- ❖ In Memory of John P. Freeman-*Kay Freeman*
- ❖ In memory of loved ones – *Judy Given*
- ❖ In memory of Jim Wheeler, Don & Lillith Linville, Billie Cammarato – *Kay Wheeler and Judy Riley*
- ❖ In memory of loved ones – *Jim and Kay Chandler*
- ❖ In memory of loved ones – *Donnie & Donna Adkins*
- ❖ In memory of Tom Morgan and Kayla Harris- *Michael and Judy Morgan*
- ❖ In memory of Thomas E. Blake and Kiel Ward Blake-*Laura Blake*