

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 1, 2024

TODAY:

- It is the first Sunday of Advent
- Several Advent resources are available in the Gathering Place.
- It is the last day to apply for the Honduras Mission Trip (see Weekly Update for information)

The calendar for the remainder of the week may be found at the end of the announcements.

ARE YOU NEW TO FUPC? We would like to get to know you. Please use the QR Code **on the back of this page** or type fupcfay.org/links in your browser. You will see a menu of buttons. Please select the button that says, "New to FUPC?" Let us know how to contact you and how we can best help you. Thank you!

CONTACT INFORMATION can be found in the Instant Church Directory App. If you need assistance with connecting with a church member or information about the app, please **call the Church Office (442-4411)** and the church staff will be happy to assist you.

If you would like to **DEDICATE A POINSETTIA** to be used to decorate our sanctuary during the Advent season, dedication cards are available in the Gathering Place. Please put your completed card and donation in one of the envelopes provided and place the envelope in the offering box.

ADVENT RESOURCES available in the Gathering Place: The Communications Ministry Team has compiled a book of devotions for the congregation to use this Advent season. The devotions were written by members of the congregation and church staff. Information about how to access the devotions online can be found in the Weekly Update. Kristi will have resources for families and a Sundays of Advent reflection booklet for adults available.

Our annual Christmas play, **Celebration at the Manger**, will take place in the sanctuary, December 8 at 4:00pm. If you have a child or grandchild that would like to participate, please use the link in the Weekly Update to sign them up. If you have questions, contact Kristi Button.

New parents, grandparents and great grandparents: In the past few years we have honored all the babies born in a year by putting their name, birthdate and a picture in a slideshow during our Annual Celebration at the Manger program. We can choose one baby to be the baby Jesus in the play and honor all the others in this slideshow. Please send a photo, the full name of the baby, birthdate and names of parents as well as the grandparents or great grandparents who are part of the FUPC congregation to Kristi Button, kbutton@fupcfay.org, by December 4th.

Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him! Sunday, December 8, there will be one worship service at 10:30 am. The service will be full of beautiful Christmas music. Music will be provided by the Handbell Choir, the Chancel Choir, our Choral Interns and an ensemble of our children and youth. There will be no Christian Education hour. The children will meet that morning to rehearse.

There will be a **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** immediately following worship on December 8, 2024 for the purpose of electing an elder and voting on three at-large 2025 nominating committee members.

Our Spiritual Growth Ministry is planning two **special Advent/Christmas events for children** and families! Please save these dates:

- On **Wednesday, December 4**, from 6:00-7:30pm, there will be an **Ornament Creation Night** for families to do together- with Advent centerpiece as one of the options. A light dinner of make-your-own sandwich, chips and dessert will be provided. (In Upper Witherspoon)
- On **Monday, December 23**, from 10:30am-Noon, there will be **Cookie Decorating Fun** in Upper Witherspoon. Come decorate cookies together as a family! We will have all the cookies, icing and decorations and teach a couple techniques. Cheese and crackers will be served. Families will go home with several decorated cookies for Santa or for a special gathering.

A printed **ADVENT NEWSLETTER** with lots of Advent event details was mailed to the congregation on November 20. If you did not receive a newsletter and would like to receive future print newsletters, please contact Amy Rossetti (communications@fupcfay.org).

First School is requesting several items to be donated for the **Nature Play Space**. Copies of the list are available in the Gathering Place or from Cathy Hairston (chariston@fupcfay.org).

COOPERATIVE EMERGENCY OUTREACH (CEO) CURRENT NEEDS: cereal (12-20 oz boxes) and canned pasta (like Chef-Boy-Ardee) **ALWAYS NEEDED:** shampoo (small bottles) and chunky soup.


VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES: (more information about these organizations and how you can help can be found in our weekly email newsletter, The Weekly Update.)

- **CEO needs volunteers!** They are looking for substitutes for their regular volunteers. If you are interested, please call or text David Clay.
- **Circles of NWA needs volunteers** to assist with Wednesday evening meal prep and cleanup at FUPC. If you are interested, there is a link in the Weekly Update to sign-up or call Elizabeth Houle.
- **Canopy NWA is looking for volunteers** to join their Circle of Welcome teams that help local legal refugees. More information is available at canopynwa.org.

The FUPC Worship team can use your retired iPhone 11 or later model iPhone if it still works. Weak batteries are not an issue. If you've upgraded to something newer and didn't trade in your old one, we'd be happy to put it to good use in our worship services. Your data will be erased before we use it. Please contact Greg Merrell (fupctech@fupcfay.org) for more information.

There are several ways to make **FINANCIAL GIFTS** to the church. One is by texting GIVE to 479-323-2609. More information and options can be found at fupcfay.org/give.

Please submit any **announcements for the bulletin or Weekly Update** to Amy Rossetti (Communications@fupcfay.org) by Thursday at noon.

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| <p>NEED A LINK? Use the QR code to the right or type fupcfay.org/links in your browser. You will see a menu of buttons to access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Worship Guide • Late Service Bulletin • Announcements • Giving Form • Contact Information Form for Visitors • Current Issue of Weekly Update (contains sign-up links and more detailed information) |  |
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Every Sunday morning, **CHILDCARE** is available in Upper Knox for kids six weeks old through Pre-K age. The **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR** begins at **10AM** on Sunday mornings.*

There is Sunday School for ages 3 through 12th grade in Lower Knox.

- Joy-us Group for Ages 3 – 1st Grade meets in the corner room.
- God's Gardeners for 2nd – 5th Grade meets in the yellow room.
- Epic Youth for 6th – 12th Grade meets in the blue room.

There are two adult discussion groups.

- **The Present Word** focuses on specific biblical texts and themes (Calvin 201). The curriculum for the fall focuses on leaders, songs and psalms from the Old Testament.
- **Thoughtful Christians** discusses various spiritual and theological topics in depth (Church Library and Zoom 1). This fall they will discuss *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21st-Century Church* by Michael Frost & Alan Hirsch.

***On December 8, December 29 and January 5, there will be one worship service at 10:30am and there will be no Christian Education Hour. Children will meet on the 8th to rehearse.**

Calendar for December 2-6

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| Tuesday | 4:00pm | Bells on the Hill (Sanctuary) |
| | 5:30pm | Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting (Church Library) |
| | 7:00pm | Young Adult Dinner (Upper Witherspoon) |
| Wednesday | 6:30am | Men's Prayer Breakfast (Village Inn) |
| | 6:00pm | Ornament Creation Night (Upper Witherspoon) |
| | 7:00pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) |
| Thursday | 5:30pm | Worship Ministry Team Meeting (Zoom1) |
| Friday | 10:00am | Hooks and Needles (Upper Witherspoon) |
| | Noon | Women's Bible Study (Church Library and Zoom1) |