

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 22, 2024

TODAY:

- **It is the fourth Sunday of Advent.**
- **The Christmas Joy offering will be received.**
- **We have a beautiful Christmas background for family or friend group photos set-up in the Gathering Place.** We hope you will post your photos to social media and tag the church #fupcfay
- **This afternoon at 2:15 pm, meet in the parking lot by the Church Office to join the Caroling Caravan!** We will travel to sing for some FUPC friends who are not able to participate in events on the church campus. There will be a stop for **cookies and cocoa** along the way. Rhythm instruments and festive attire are welcome.
- **Butterfield Trail Residents:** The **Carolers from FUPC** will be caroling in the main BTV Lobby from 3:45pm to 4:15pm the afternoon of December 22.

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.

The **WANDERING WISEMEN** are back! Check the clue by the water fountain in the Gathering Place and see if you can figure out where they are this morning. They are somewhere on the church campus.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS are needed on Wednesday evenings to assist with **YOUTH GROUP** from 6:00-7:30pm. If you feel called to support this important ministry of our church, please contact Amanda McDonald, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (youthandyoungadults@fupcfay.org). She hopes to find a group of volunteers to help on a rotating basis.

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.

On **December 24 at 5:00pm** our Calvin Street Band will be playing **Christmas music** in the Gathering Place, and there will be refreshments. **The Christmas Eve worship service will begin at 5:30pm** and will conclude with singing "Silent Night" by candlelight. Communion will be served. An offering will be received for the **Individual Assistance Fund**. This fund is used to help church members and others from our local community in times of need.

Today through Christmas Eve, there will be a **Christmas themed photo backdrop** set up in the Gathering Place for taking **family photos or friend group photos**. We hope you will post your pictures on social media and tag the church. If you are new to posting and tagging, we will have instructions for you.

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.

ADVENT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Food Angels** for Cooperative Emergency Outreach—Bring canned food to the outdoor Food Angel shelves at any time. Items that are not canned can be placed in the plastic tub next to the angels. There is a large angle in the courtyard near the door into Calvin and a smaller one in the Gathering Place.
- **Hat and Mitten Tree** for Fayetteville Public Schools—Trim the tree in the Gathering Place with hats, mittens, and socks for students in need.
- **Blessing Bags** are available in the Gathering Place. These bags contain items needed by the unhoused. Pick up a few and bless those you see who are in need this holiday season.

The Church Office will be closed on December 25, 2024 and January 1, 2025.

December 23,24, 26, 27, 30 and 31 the Church Office will be operating virtually. If you need to speak to a staff member in person or need access to the buildings, please call ahead (442-4411).

COOPERATIVE EMERGENCY OUTREACH (CEO) CURRENT NEEDS: dish soap (regular size) and dry cereal (12 – 20 oz) **ALWAYS NEEDED:** peanut butter and canned fruit (both regular size).

COMMUNITY 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.

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.

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:

- 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)



Please note that on Sunday, December 29, and on Sunday, January 5, there will be one worship service at 10:30 am and no Christian Education Hour. On January 5, there will be a special offering for Cooperative Emergency Outreach.

Our **Christian Education Hour** will resume weekly on Sunday mornings at 10:00am beginning January 12. The adult bible study discussion group, **Present Word**, will continue to use their Winter 2024-2025 book, *A King Forever and Ever*.