



# The Ambassador

November 2024

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## From the Pastor

*There is one body and one Spirit,  
just as you were called into the one hope of your calling,  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all,  
who is above all and through all and in all.  
Ephesians 4:4-6*

Dear Friends,

Throughout our One Another worship series that began in September, we have explored what it means to be in relationship with one another. We have examined how we are to love, care for, encourage, look out for, live in harmony with, be kind to, forgive, and not provoke one another. Our series opened with the above Bible passage and how we are called into oneness with one another and with God. Our last Sunday in the series, we end up right where we began, as we hear words from Romans proclaiming that we belong to one another.

As a person who likes to organize things, this oneness can get a little messy. I want one thing to go here and another thing to go there. But Paul tells us that Christian community does not work like that. Instead, we all belong together because we are one body. We remember this call to be one every time we come to the communion table. And not only are reminded of this call to be one with each other, but also the call to be one with Christ. At communion we are, by the grace of God, welcomed to the table and, by the grace of God, we are invited into deeper unity and communion with Jesus and with one another.

While our one another series concludes this month, our call to be one continues throughout our journey. Like the bread and the cup at the communion table, it becomes a part of us, energizing and shaping us for the journey of faithfulness that is ahead. I continue to be grateful that we get to share in this journey together.

Peace,  
Pastor Kim  
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## Staff

Senior Pastor Kim Armentrout  
Assoc. Pastor Daniel Cardenas  
Worship Mary Ellen Clinard  
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## Worship With Us

Online & In Person  
Worship @10:30 am  
Sunday School @ 9

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 **first  
church**  
M I D D L E T O W N  
*a united methodist community*

## Disciplines

### A Book of Daily Devotions for 2025

Join other church members in a daily devotional time that will help you deepen your relationship with Christ. Each week the devotional offers a theme, a weekly overview, and questions that guide the daily devotions. Then each day a scripture reading, prayer, and reflection is offered. While the devotional is designed for individual use, other members of your church family will be using the same devotional resource so we will be sharing in the same journey.

Pastor Kim has ordered a regular print and large print for you to glance through to see if this is a resource you want to try. When the sample copies come in they will be on display on the desk in The Commons. A sign up sheet will be there as well for you to reserve your copy. Cost for the devotional is \$18 for regular print and \$20 for large print. Scholarships are available to cover the cost. Call the church office if you have any questions.

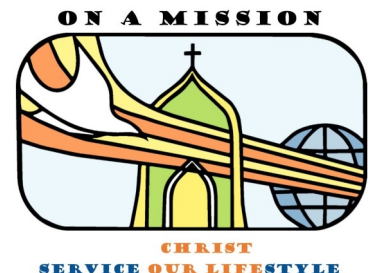
## When You Give Info Session

### Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> following worship

If you have questions about where your offering goes or if you are interested in learning more about the church's finances, please plan to attend an informational meeting after worship on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Kim will offer an overview of our finances, the work of our financial committees, as well as answer any questions you may have. If you cannot be at the meeting but are interested in receiving Pastor Kim's handouts, please let the church office know.

## Worship Schedule November 2024

Date	Series & Sermon	Scripture	Preacher
11/3/2024	One Another: Belong to One Another <i>All Saints Day &amp; Holy Communion</i>	Romans 12:1-5	Pastor Kim
11/10/2024	On a Mission: Christ Our Life	Mark 12:28-34	Pastor Kim
11/17/2024	On a Mission: Service Our Lifestyle	Mark 10:35-45	Pastor Kim
11/24/2024	On a Mission: All In <i>Stewardship Sunday</i>	Mark 12:38-44	Pastor Kim



## Election Day Communion Tuesday, November 5, 2024

### Noon and 7:00 p.m.

On a day where we are led to believe that we are divided as a country into red states and blue states, divided as a people between republican, democrat, green, libertarian and independent, we will gather as one around a communion table. The communion table - a place where Jesus calls us to become one with him and one in ministry around the world. Please join us at noon or at 7:00 p.m. for a time of worship: song, prayer and holy communion. If you have questions, please call the church office.

## All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 3rd we will be observing All Saints Day. In addition to receiving Holy Communion and lifting up the names of those from our church family who have passed away since last All Saints Day, we would like observe this holy day by being surrounded by pictures of the saints in our lives. We invite you to bring in framed photos of loved ones who have passed away and it does not matter how long ago they passed. We will be placing these photos around the sanctuary for worship on November 3rd so that when we celebrate communion, we can physically see part of 'the great cloud of witnesses' that come to the communion table with us. To accommodate as many pictures as possible, we would prefer 5x7 photos or smaller, but if you only have a larger photo, we will make it work! If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ellen or call the church office (513-423-4629).



## Stewardship Sunday Nov. 24th

Please plan on turning in your pledge card and ministry commitments as an act of worship on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. A letter with your pledge card and ministry commitments will be sent out the week of November 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you do not receive your letter and card, please let the church office know. Thank you!

## Ministry Commitments

This year your pledge card will look a little different. In addition to the monetary commitment that you make to the church, you will have the opportunity to commit to the church's mission, *Christ Our Life, Service Our Lifestyle*. The 2025 commitment card lists lots of different opportunities for you to commit to living out the church's mission. A brief explanation of each of the opportunities is provided as well.

The church expects questions whenever there is a change in how things get done. Pastor Kim will be providing an explanation of the commitment card during announcements in worship beginning November 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to call the church office. We look forward to this opportunity to not just commit financially to the church but to commit to the church's mission too!

## Hanging of the Greens— Sunday, Nov 24th

One of the most enjoyable events of the church calendar is coming up in November. Enjoy a collection of soups and sandwiches as you help put up our Christmas decorations in the sanctuary and other places in our church!

There's a job for all ages—from getting up on ladders, to adding little hooks to ornaments, to tying garland, holding tools, and attaching bows. The decorating and soup-eating begins immediately after the worship service. Hope to see you there. You can stay as long as you like. Come and join the fun.



## Page 4 A Note from Rev. Daniel Cardenas, Associate Pastor

The Day of the Dead is a celebration where “the living” honor and remember “the dead ones”. On this day, the living ones put “an offering” which is a great and colorful banquet to pay tribute our beloved ones that passed away. The offering is made of all kind of food, drinks, and things that our relatives enjoyed when they were alive.



Through every dish and drink, we still feel their presence, their words of encouragement, and their memory among us even when they have passed away years and years ago. The Day of the Dead, instead of being a sad day is a party and a celebration to honor our dead relatives.

Also, the Day of the Dead is a remembrance of our destination. We recognize that life is just a voyage and sooner or later we are going to pass away as well. So on this day we meditate and we think about our life and the way we are living it so far.

Day of the Dead helps us remember our beloved ones, their legacy and heritage but also it brings to our minds that we are all dust and one day our lives, too, will end. Therefore we need to live lives full of encouragement, love, mercy, and tenderness.

In the same way, the author of Hebrews encourages us to live our lives full of strength and free of any burden. This is necessary to keep going in the path of righteousness and obedience but sometimes it isn't easy as it seems. Therefore, the writer of this letter encourages us to look at the crowd of witnesses that surrounds us, because their memory is an incentive to us that it is possible to complete and achieve the race God has set before us.

In a few days, we will celebrate All Saint's Day (similar to the Day of the Dead) so, as the author of Hebrews invites us, let's take a look to this huge crowd of witnesses and let's encourage ourselves to keep moving forward in this race. Let's remember our beloved ones with love and affection. Let's bring to our minds and hearts their beloved memory and remember their examples, testimony, and values.

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.*

*Hebrews 12:1*

Con cariño y afecto.  
Rev. Daniel Cardenas

### **Church Conference Tues. Nov. 19th**

Our annual church conference will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 19th at 6:00 pm. This meeting will give all church members voice and vote on the church business. Things to be discussed are 2025 leadership, Pastor Daniel's journey toward ordination, pastor salaries, and more. Call the church office with any questions.

### Volunteers Needed for South Main St. Historic Homes Tour on Dec. 8th

Once again, our church is part of the South Main Street Historic Tour on Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> from 2-8 pm. We will have a sign-up sheet in the North Foyer and you can volunteer for as long as you like on that day. We will have handouts available for those attending the tour notating the history of the church and interesting facts. We will also have a carol sing and organ/piano music throughout the tour. Our restrooms will also be open. This is a fun event and a great chance to show our community that we are a friendly church!!

### Coming Soon To a Porch Near You!

The United Women in Faith are selling Porch Pots again this year. These pots work well indoors as well as outdoors! They are very hardy and will last all season long. You can choose from 2 designs: Traditional or Luster. Order forms are available in the North Foyer or you can call the church office (513-423-4629) to place an order. All orders/money are due by Sunday, Nov. 10th. Porch Pots may be picked up on Tue. Nov 26th or Sun. Dec. 1st after worship.

### Congregational Care with Christmas Cards

You are invited to join the Congregational Care team in providing holiday blessings to those members of our congregation that we do not get to see as often as we like. We will be gathering Christmas cards and delivering them to our beloved friends so that they know we carry them in our hearts throughout the holiday season. Here is how you can be a part of this outreach:



1. Pick up the list of names that can be found on the table in the narthex or ask for a copy from the church office.
2. Write a card to as many people on the list as you would like. Make sure to identify yourself as a part of the First UMC family so that there will be less of a chance for confusion on the part of the recipient.
3. Put the individual's first and last name on the envelope. You do not need to address it or stamp it, the congregational care team will deliver these in person.
4. Bring your cards to the church and put them in the container on the desk in The Commons.

Please have your cards turned in by Sunday, December 8th so that the Congregational Care team has time to sort and deliver before the Christmas holiday. Thank you in advance for extending love this holiday season!

### 2024 Poinsettia Order Form



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

All POINSETTIAS will be red with a traditional foil wrap. **ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024**

Memory of:	Honor of:	Name flowers are for:	From: (How your name(s) will be listed)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**MUST PAY WHEN PLACING ORDER**

\_\_\_\_ Quantity of Arrangements @ \$16 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due (check payable to FUMC; also accepting credit/debit)



## MISSION MOMENT

An update from Dr. Les and Debbie Dornon, missionaries to Nepal working in the Tansen Hospital



Usually the month of October is one of the most beautiful in Nepal. The monsoon is ending, and the skies are blue and clear. The Himalayan mountains are sparkling with a new layer of snow. However, this year, we didn't really get that beautiful weather until Oct 23/24! We are glad for these days.

Thank you for your prayers for Nepal after the disastrous flooding and landslides in late September. People are slowly picking up the pieces and trying to rebuild their lives. Unfortunately, we don't have much government help here, so neighbors, friends and family are trying to help. Prayers are still needed.

One miraculous side effect of the flooding here is that we were able to get our visas renewed without having to go into Kathmandu! That was a huge blessing to us! Thanks for those prayers!

October is also the month of the big Hindu festival called Dasai. Thousands of people travel to get to their homes to be with family and everything closes. Our hospital is one of the few which actually has doctors working during Dasai. Government offices are often closed for 10 days.

Because people are so intent on being with family and celebrating those Dasai days, one of our surgeons shared an unusual day he had here just after the main day of Dasai. In 24 hours, he operated on 4 appendix cases – and all 4 were perforated! The patients had not wanted to come during Dasai so that they wouldn't have to be in the hospital over the holidays, so they waited...too long! Fortunately, the surgeon was able to successfully complete the removal of the burst appendixes and the patients recovered. We are thankful for our doctors and staff who are committed to being here working even on holidays.

Thanks again for your prayers!

### **Bishop Jung to host an All-Ohio Day of Thanksgiving & Unity**

Bishop Jung invites all Ohio United Methodists to join together for an inspiring day of prayer, worship, and learning on **Saturday, November 23**. With the theme "Hearts Strangely Warmed," the day will begin at 10am at Worthington United Methodist Church, 600 High St, in Worthington and will conclude by 3:30pm.

The guest speaker for the day is Rev. Dr. Paul W. Chilcote, an award-winning author, Methodist historian, and renowned scholar in Wesleyan theology and Christian discipleship. His theme for our day together is "A Hope-filled United Methodist Future: A Rediscovered Deep Connection and A Refreshed Wesleyan Vision."


The cost is \$10 and includes lunch. Pastor Kim would be glad to spend the time with you. For information on how to register, please call the office at 513-423-4629. Registration deadline is Monday, Nov. 11th.

# November 2024

## November Birthdays

2 Pat Duffey,
Rose Morgan
7 Danica Murphy
10 Patt Gibson,
Kathi Wilson
11 Herman Emmert
12 Sally Jo Inwood
14 Joni Regensburg
16 Karen Deddens
18 Carol Byrd
19 Erin Overpeck
22 Kerry Byrd
25 Leo Davis
26 Stephen Garrett
30 Les Dornon

Happy  
Birthday!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Dates to remember in December</b> Dec. 1: Poinsettia orders due Dec. 1: Porch Pot Pick up Dec. 6 : First Friday Concert, Noon Dec. 7: UWF Christmas Tea Dec. 15: UMF Cookie Walk 			Dec. 24: Communion Service, 10:30 am Dec. 24: Candlelight Service, 7 pm Dec. 25: Christmas Day/ Church Closed Dec.26 <b>Church Office Closed</b> Dec.26 <b>Church Office Closed</b> Dec.31: News Year's Eve		1 Noon First Friday Concert: Jimmy Leach Trio	2
<b>3 COMMUNION/ ALL SAINTS</b> Daylight Saving Time 9 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship	4 8 am Breakfast Club	5 10 am Staff Meeting Election Day Communion Noon & 7pm NO Pantry	6 3 & 7 pm Choir Rhrsl 6 pm Hispanic Bible Study	7	8 10 am UWF Brd. Mtg.	9
10 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 When You Give Information Session UWF Porch Pot orders due	11 8 am Breakfast Club 6 pm Legal Clinic	12 10 am Staff Meeting 1pm SPRC 2 pm Pantry	13 3 & 7 pm Choir Rhrsl 6 pm Hispanic Bible Study	14 2 pm Elizabeth Circle at Mt. Pleasant	15 AMBASSADOR DEADLINE	16 9 am Hope Circle @ Bob Evans
17 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	18 8 am Breakfast Club	19 10 am Staff Meeting 2 pm Pantry 4 pm CMC 5:30 pm Finance 6:00 pm <b>CHURCH                      CONFERENCE</b>	20 3 & 7 pm Choir Rhrsl	21	22	23 Bishop Jung/All-Ohio Day of Thanksgiving & Unity
<b>24 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY</b> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship After Worship, Hanging of the Greens	25 8 am Breakfast Club	26 10 am Staff Meeting Porch Pot Pickup NO Pantry NO Trustees	27 NO Hispanic Bible Study NO Choir Rhrsl	28 <b>THANKSGIVING                      DAY/CHURCH                      OFFICE                      CLOSED</b>	29 <b>CHURCH                      OFFICE                      CLOSED</b>	30



# **2024 First Friday Concert & Artist Series**

**November 1, 2024  
Jimmy Leach Trio**

**This classy trio, trumpeter and  
vocalist Jimmy and piano and  
drums will be playing Louie  
Armstrong, Gershwin, Cole Porter  
and more!**

**First UMC - Middletown  
@noon  
Free Admission**