



NOVEMBER 30: UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY - SPECIAL ENVELOPE

Right now there are UMC young people—who might not have had the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all—who've been sent by you into the world God loves because of your giving to United Methodist Student Day. When you give generously you support these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge.

Leading Worship:

Michael Swimley, Pastor

570-447-5331 mswimley@susumc.org

Patty DeCapria, CLM, Children and Youth Minister

814-777-3376 pattydecapria@gmail.com

James Beatty, Minister of Music

Liturgist: Patty DeCapria



Livestream at 9:30am on
our Facebook page.

Welcome to worship at
[Mt Nittany Church](#)
Throughout human history, there have been political/religious leaders who demand respect/worship that does not belong to them, but to God alone; when they don't get what they want, they enact unjust punishment to try and force the respect/worship they wrongfully crave.

Giving:

Mt. Nittany UMC.org

Mount Nittany UMC

1500 E. Branch Rd

State College, PA 16801

mnumcoffice@gmail.com

814 237-3549



Greeting Prelude

Advent Celebration

Christmas invites us to much more than a celebration. Christmas invites us to take a journey toward hope. The invitation of Christmas comes through a voice in the darkness that whispers. Fear not, Emmanuel is coming. God will be with us.

The Road to Bethlehem **was announced by the prophets.**

The Road to Bethlehem **was the journey of the heart of God.**

The Road to Bethlehem **calls us to come just as we are.**

The Road to Bethlehem **carried the light of the hope of humankind, the only unconditional love, sent by the father to his fallen creation. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

Isaiah 60:2; 9:2 NRSVue

2 For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

John 1:1-5 NRSVue

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

Lighting Advent Candle and Hymn

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (vs 1) 196

Centering Words

John 18: 36-37

36 Jesus answered, **“My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from**

being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”

37 Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, **“You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”**

Opening Prayer

God of fiery flames, Even the most raging fire could not destroy your servants when they called upon you in faith. Give us faith to withstand anything that rages to deter us from following you Indeed Father of light, come to us, hear us, enlighten us, light our path that we may find our way to our Bethlehem-like hope. May we this Advent Season not be a violent raging light of fire, but the warm, comforting, welcoming light; like this candle of hope. In this softer light, may others see and know the truth, the Spirit of love that was given by you in a cradle at Bethlehem. Amen.

*Opening Praise

Come, Thou Almighty King # 61
Hail to the Lord's Anointed # 203 vs. 1,3,&4

Scripture

Daniel 3:1, [2-7], 8-30

Children's Message

Message

Tyrant Temper Tantrums

*Gospel Praise

God Almighty, We Are Waiting

The Peace

*Offertory Response

Come and See the Glory of the Lord

*Prayers of Thanksgiving

Prayer of confession

Projected

The Lord's Prayer

Communion

*Closing Praise

Ye Servants of God #181

*Sending

Postlude

*You are invited to stand as you are able or willing.

Prayer List

Pat Sankey, Kurt & Debra Behers, Barbara Gotwalt, Darla Franks, Carol Bair, Emily Gregory, Emma Dixson Family, The VanTres Family, Steve Ripka, Wm. Hill Jr.

Announcements

“Too Busy NOT to Pray”

Pastor Mike is offering a study based on "Too Busy NOT to Pray". This study will begin December 1 at 10 am in the Board Room. This study will be offered both in-person and on ZOOM on Monday mornings through Advent. Pastor Mike will also offer this same study on Monday Evenings at 7 pm and this will be on ZOOM only. If you wish to participate in this study at either time, please sign up on the sign up sheet on the Bulletin Board outside of the FLC; there is a sign up sheet for Morning and one for Evening.

Craft Fair

This year's Holiday Craft Fair is Saturday, December 6 from 9-3. Volunteers are needed throughout the day to help in the kitchen. If you are able to help, please see Wendy. Also, could use some help on **Thursday night December 4 to set up vendor spaces.** If you aren't able to volunteer, please stop by and shop to support the local vendors attending this year's fair. Enjoy some baked goods and great food from the kitchen and you can finish your Christmas shopping all in one day. **Bakers are needed to add to our Bake Sale table.** Find those fantastic recipes and get your baker's hat on. **Drop off baked goods on Friday, December 5 from 6-8 or by 8:30 on Saturday, December 6.** Direct any questions to Wendy. Thank you for all your support. It is a fun filled day



Let's celebrate the Christmas season.

Join your Mt. Nittany Church family for a Christmas brunch after the church service on Sunday, December 14. Please bring a dish to share. Drinks, plates and silverware will be provided. Sign up on the bulletin board if you plan on attending and how many in your family so we make sure we have enough seats. Contact Wendy with any questions.

ANGEL TREE

Grocery Gift Cards for Elementary Families

In a year of financial unpredictability from world events, natural disasters, and frightening inflation stories, it's a good time to begin thinking about what the Christmas season will be like for those who find it difficult to meet regular needs. For many years, through the generosity of our congregation, we have provided toys, books, clothing, and household items to families within our community by pulling angels from a tree in our lobby.

However, in the last few years, we have recognized a need to provide food for families when the schools are on break during the Christmas holiday. Seeing this need, we have partnered with 2 Elementary Schools to provide grocery gift cards. These gift cards are purchased with money we receive for this mission. The cards are then shared with those identified within the schools who may struggle to provide a holiday meal or food during this time when school is not in session. Last year, we were able to provide 52 Grocery Gift Cards to families within these two elementary schools. We will again be partnering with these schools to provide grocery gift cards and will be collecting money through December. Please visit our display in the lobby area for our donation box. If you write a check, please make check out to Mount Nittany and list Angel Tree in the memo section. If you would like an envelope to place a check or cash, there are some located in this display. Please prayerfully consider how you may contribute to this ministry and share our love with those in need in our community.

Tithing Envelopes

January will soon be here. For some of you, that means picking up your offering envelopes for 2026. You may notice a change ... due to changes in membership from death, moves, and use of online giving, significant gaps have formed in the numbers assigned to individuals who receive envelopes. Because of the way offering envelopes must be ordered (i.e. numbers must be consecutive), we have been ordering many more boxes than we actually use. As a means of ensuring responsible use of funds, the Finance Committee has decided to reassign numbers on the envelopes. This will mean we will be able to cut our envelope order in half (thus saving us half the current cost). So, if you notice your envelopes have a new number, this is the reason. We are attempting to ensure responsible use of the resources God has blessed us with, so that we ensure vital ministry of disciple-making is possible.

Emergency Shelter Team

Mt. Nittany UMC is one of 5 shelters here in the Centre County Region. We have been asked to ensure we have a team of people ready to activate our building for emergency shelter if needed. The Red Cross would like to do some training with our Emergency Team (along with teams from the other shelters) to ensure we are prepared in case of an emergency. If you would be interested in this ministry please add your name to the Emergency Team signup sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway or send an email to Pastor Mike, mswimley@susumc.org.

Advent/Christmas Mission

This year, we are extending an opportunity to be a blessing to several ministries in our local community. In the main entryway of the church, we have a space set aside to bring in gifts to benefit persons who receive help from three (3) local ministries: St. Paul UMC shoe bank, Mommy Shoppe, and Schlow Library.

You will find the outline of a tree above the credenza in the hallway. As you bring in gifts, we invite you to put the associated picture of your gift on the "tree" as a decoration. Here are the items we are inviting persons to purchase or make: Sneakers, Diapers, Hats, Mittens, Gloves, Scarves. These items will then be taken to each of these outreaches on Monday, December 22nd. Any items that come in after this date will be taken to these ministries and outreaches the first week of January.

Greeters and Ushers for December

Greeters are the first people to welcome folks to worship; they offer a smile, a greeting, and provide direction to the nursery, restrooms, offering plates, as well as answer other questions about our worship service. Ushers help people locate seats and advance the offering to the altar at the appropriate time. They also help with communion from time to time.

We are asking if you could be a friendly face to serve in these duties during December. Please see Patty DeCapria after worship in the FLC if you would be willing to serve in these important roles.

Calendar

November 30 -December 6

Sunday

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------|------------|
| Friendship Class | 8:30am | Boardroom |
| Worship | 9:30am | Sanctuary |
| Children's Sunday School | 9:30am | S/C Ed. Rm |
| Donuts + fellowship | 10:30am | FLC |

Monday

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| Pastor Office Hours | 9am | Pastor's Office |
| Quilters | 9:30am | Spring Creek Rm |
| Bible Study | 7pm | Boardroom |

Tuesday

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| DCOM | 8am-12:30pm | Boardroom & |
| Pastor Office Hours | Cancelled | Spring Creek Rm |
| Scout Leader | 7-9pm | Boardroom |

Wednesday

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|-------------|----------|-----|
| Girl Scouts | 6-7:30pm | FLC |
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Thursday

FLC Closed

Friday

FLC Closed

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|------------|---------|-----|
| Craft Fair | 9am-3pm | FLC |
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