

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Third Sunday in Advent



If you are a first-time guest or returning visitor to our church family, please allow us to extend a special welcome to you. We offer an invitation for you to join us in the Parish Hall after worship for coffee, tea, cookies, and a chance to learn more about Old First.

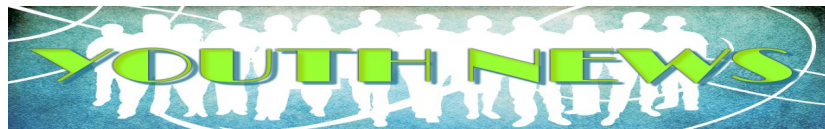
Please take this opportunity to be greeted by our members and be introduced to our Pastor, Matthew Means. We thank you for visiting us today and welcome you to our family of faith!

Get Connected to Your Church Family at Old First!



With so many exciting opportunities for us to gather together in worship, fellowship, and service; now more than ever, it is important to “stay connected” to and with Old First! We share information about our ministries by phone, email, and through our website and Facebook page.

If you are not receiving these communication from Old First, please contact the church office **TODAY** and provide us with your information! We look forward to getting ... and *staying* ... connected with you!



With our **AMAZING** lock-in this past Friday night through Saturday morning behind us, Youth Group is off until **Sunday, January 7th!**

*On behalf of Kerry, Amy, and Pastor Matthew ... “thank you” to our youth and their families for a **FANTASTIC** first half of the year! Have a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and here’s to next year bringing even more opportunities for us to gather in faith and fellowship!*

ATTENTION KIDS’ & YOUTH CHOIRS:

THIS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH @ 4:30 PM

CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT HUNTINGTON HOSPITAL!!!

Please meet at Old First @ 4:30 for an evening of caroling, followed by a special Christmas dinner and celebration in the Parish Hall!

Please remember to bring a small bag of groceries to donate!



Today We Light the Third Advent Candle ... JOY!

Today is the **Third Sunday in Advent**, the time in the life of our faith when we prepare our hearts to receive the gift of God’s **JOY**, given in Jesus Christ. As we worship each week around the themes of God’s **hope, peace, love, and joy**, may each service assure us of the Spirit of God present among us as we prepare to welcome Christ in our lives!

Join Us for a Special “Service of Comfort and Hope”

Is Christmas a time when you remember friends, family, or loved ones who are no longer with us? A powerful way to remember our losses is to bring our heartaches before God. You are invited to join us for a very special **“Service of Comfort and Hope”** on **Monday, December 18th at 7:30 pm** in the Parish Hall as we remember those no longer with us and share the hope, peace, and love of God together.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services at 5:30 pm AND 11:00 pm!!!

Please join us for Christmas Eve worship on **Sunday, December 24th at 5:30 and 11:00 pm**. Each service will begin one half hour prior, with special music provided by the Kids’ and Youth Choirs (5:00) and the Sanctuary Choir (10:30).

LAST CHANCE for Christmas Wrapping Paper!!!

The Middle and High School Youth Group is selling rolls of wrapping paper to raise funds for upcoming youth activities and mission projects. Show your support by purchasing rolls of Christmas wrapping paper for **\$3 per roll** in the Parish Hall. Thank you ... happy wrapping ... and Merry Christmas!!!



The Mitten Tree Is Here!

During the season of Advent, the children of Church School are once again sponsoring a “Mitten Tree” ... now available in the Parish Hall. You are invited to bring hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves to hang on the tree and our children will donate these items to kids in need! On behalf of our young disciples, thank you in advance for your generous support!

The Clothesline Thrift Shop Is Looking For Volunteers!!!

Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 11 am to 1:30 pm (**especially Thursdays from 1:30 to 4:00!**). Please call the Thrift Shop or let **Susan Worledge** know if you can work occasionally or every week. Clothing donations are received during hours of operation, but you may place donations in the AA Room when the Thrift Shop is closed.

Sermon Notes for Sunday, December 17th

Third Sunday in Advent

Today, we bear witness to the miraculous story of God's love born among us as we remember the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

In what places ... themes ... people ... or events do you most easily place yourself in this story?

What does your place in the story mean to you?

Sharing in today's telling of the Christmas story through the Annual Children and Youth Christmas Pageant are ...

Jake Amend	Gavin Deegan
Claire Dello-Iacono	John Dello-Iacono
Lauren Dopico	Michaela Dopico
JR Gibbons	Thomas Girimonti
Alyssa Gonzalez	Jordan Gonzalez
Kevin Gordon	Ryan Gordon
Paul Grasso	Amalia Heinz
Eric Heinz	Spencer Lapp
Steven Lapp	Isabella McQuillen
Briahna Means	Lyla Means
Nolan Means	Gus Panagacos
Avery Pellicone	Lucas Pellicone
Miller Polak	Evy Richmond
Alexa Schirripa	Sarah Thatcher

Teen Helpers

Charlie Girimonti and Lilly Polak

Adult Leaders

Kerry Degnan, Katie Dopico, Bob and Pat Miller

Sunday, December 17th

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Worship

Third Sunday in Advent — JOY

Children and Youth Christmas Pageant during Worship!

6:15 - 8:45 p.m. AA (Lower Level - Room 10)

Monday, December 18th

9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Gentle Bends (Room 102)

7:30 p.m. Service of Comfort and Hope (Parish Hall)

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. NA (Lower Level - Room 10)

Tuesday, December 19th

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thrift Store (Lower Level - Room 11)

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. AA (Lower Level - Room 10)

7:00 p.m. Stitching Together (Room 101)

Wednesday, December 20th

9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Gentle Bends (Room 102)

12:00 p.m. Hebrews Bible Study (Room 101)

4:30 p.m. Kids' & Youth Choirs (Choir Room)

Christmas Caroling at Huntington Hospital followed by special Christmas dinner in the Parish Hall

7:00 - 9:15 p.m. AA (Lower Level - Room 10)

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 32 (Gym)

8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, December 21st

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thrift Store (Lower Level - Room 11)

5:00 - 9:30 p.m. Giant Steps (Room 102)

Friday, December 22nd

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Al-Anon (Room 101)

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thrift Store (Lower Level - Room 11)

Saturday, December 23rd

Virginia McDonald Memorial Service

Sunday, December 24th

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Worship

Fourth Sunday in Advent — LOVE

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
with special music at 5:00 p.m. (Kids' & Youth Choirs)

11:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
with special music at 10:30 p.m. (Sanctuary Choir)

6:15 - 8:45 p.m. AA (Lower Level - Room 10)