

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of baby Koziel who was born on December 12th!

January 5th Piece Corps at 10am

Christmas Eve Services: 7pm in the Sanctuary & 9pm in the Chapel

Pleasant Street Elementary School, Winter Sanctuary (Homeless Shelter), Royal Family Kids Camp (camp for Foster Children). Midwest Mission (humanitarian relief)

**Any gifts that you're wanting to be included for the 2025 tax year, needs to be in the church office by December 30th.*

New Year's Eve Party on December 31st from 5–8pm in Fellowship Hall. Sign up in the parlor with Joe & Marty Bell, or call the office!

TREE OF SHARING REMINDER:

ALL Tree of Sharing gifts need to be returned to the Red Parlor by Monday morning, December 15th. If there is a problem meeting this deadline, please give Gayle James a call at 740-848-4029.

OUR TREE OF SHARING BECOMES THE GIVING TREE:

For Pleasant Street Elementary; the requests include underwear, socks, shoes, sweat pants and leggings for both boys and girls from Pre-K to 6th grade. These items can be placed on or around the tree in the red Parlor **starting Sunday, December 21st through the end of January.**

The items that are NOT NEEDED this year are hats, scarves and mittens. If you have any questions or concerns, give Gayle James a call at 740-848-4029.

Pastor Christopher will be leading a Bible Study on 'Disciple 1' beginning Wednesday, January 21st from 6:15pm – 7:45pm in the Varsity room. Sign up sheet is in the parlor or you can call the office to sign up. Books are in and cost \$45. Wednesday night meals will resume on this day as well starting at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall.

Our Mission

To make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.

Experiencing God through Worship, Spiritual Growth, Care, and Service



Chapel. December 14, 2025

The Heart of Christmas Brings Joy In All Circumstances

You show me the path of life.

*In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Dealm 16:11

Welcome to Gay Street UMC!

Ways to stay connected; our website: mtvumc.org, Facebook, Instagram, or by signing up for eDevos—our weekly newsletter with devotionals, prayer concerns, and events.

- **Office Hours:** Monday–Friday, 8am–3pm | **Phone:** 740-392-6626 | **Email:** office@mtvumc.org
- **Restrooms:** Located at the end of the hallway on the first floor.
- **Prayer Concerns:** Share on green cards in pews and place them in the offering plate or give to the pastor.
- **Connect Cards:** are in the pew racks. If you are a guest or need to update your information please fill one out and place it in the offering plate or give it to the Pastor following the service.

Sermon Notes:

*The *asterisk is an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dale Sutton

PREPARATION

Prelude *Lullaby*, by John Ness Beck Soloist, Janet Guetle

*Gathering Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* UM Hymnal 213

Lighting of Advent Candle Dwight & Jane Beougher

Unison Prayer

Dear God, as we light this candle, we open our hearts to Your gift of JOY. Fill us, Lord, with that Joy that can come only through a sense of Your presence. We ask for a sense of Joy welling up in our hearts as we become more aware of the hope and love that you bring to give us life – both now and for eternity. Amen

***CALL TO WORSHIP (congregation: please refer to the bold text)**

L: May the joy of the Advent season overflow in you.

C: And also with you!

L: Joy is so much more than happiness! We can know joy even in the midst of our sorrow because Joy comes from a deep knowing that God who loves us so much that He came to die for us has overcome the world and can redeem even the hardships of our lives as we open our hearts to Him.

C: Just as God sent Jesus to an exact time, and place, and circumstance, so you and I are sent to this time and place to share our joy in knowing Him.

ALL PRAISE RESPONSE:

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

INTO THE WORD

1 John 4:7–9 Lay Reader: Jim Borrows

*John 1:1–14

*Response to the Word *Gloria Patri* UM Hymnal 71

Message The Heart of Christmas Brings Joy In All Circumstances
Rev. Dale Sutton

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayer Hymn *What Child Is This* UM Hymnal 219

Morning Prayer Liturgist: Dwight Beougher

Lord’s Prayer

Invitation and Dedication for the Giving of Our Lives, Tithes, Gifts, and Offerings:
When we bring an offering to God, it is a form of worship. Worshipping God with giving of our money reveals our hearts desire. We give sacrificially, generously, and continuously as a way of ascribing value to who God is in our lives. As we do so, our love for God and others grow.

***Doxology** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* **UM Hymnal 94**

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Parting *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* UM Hymnal 218

*Benediction

Postlude *Postlude For Christmas: Czech Carol* Janet Guetle
By Carl Simone

