



First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We're glad that you are here.
 To all who need comfort; all who need friendship.
 all who are lonely and need companionship.
 all who want sheltering love, all who sin
 and need a Savior; and whosoever will
 —we open wide our doors and say, "Come; let us worship together."

Epiphany of the Lord, Year A

10:15 am Sunday Worship

January 4, 2026

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLE: Priscila & Ennie Marie de Castro

MUSIC TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS Vivian Eaton

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP Joe Michels

L: We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

C: God, help us find your glory.

L: We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the Good News in the least likely places.

C: God, help us notice your glory.

L: We gather as people yearning for Love's presence, the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word

C: God, help us encounter your glory.

L: On this Epiphany Sunday, may the Light of Love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.

C: God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.

*HYMN # UMH 64 HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD GOD ALMIGHTY

*OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Joe Michels

O God, Searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own. As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into a covenant with you reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being, and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED #881

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2: 1- 12 Joe Michels

L: The Word of God for the People of God
P: Thanks be to God

SONG: OF PREPARATION

MESSAGE : Following the Star of Hope in 2026 Pastor Fernando

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS (message Pastor 773-971-7208)
PRAYER FOR PEOPLE

HOLY COMMUNION
INVITATION/CONFESSON AND PARDON
SILENT PRAYER
SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OFFERING OURSELVES

*DOXOLOGY #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Oh, giver of all, may our giving be gracious – not out of any sense of compulsion but joyous response to the fullness of your grace in Christ. In whose name we give and live.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy

kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD
SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*HYMN # 128 UMH "HE LEADETH ME"

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*GOING FORTH TO THE WORLD

Vivian Eaton

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sandy Froehlich-(doing immune therapy), Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Tinslee (recuperating from transplant), The Norman family, Dan Zambo has cancer, Mia (Paula's co-worker), Tim Cavanagh (waiting for Heart surgery). Derek Osborn, Vicki & Michael Thomas (Paula Mayer's friends) Janet Smith (Denise's sister), The Lars Colgan family. Christa Jachino- Battling breast cancer (daughter-in-law of Linda & John Jachino) Kris Dornbush, sister of Kim Stuart has a blood clot in her spinal cord and is paralyzed from the waist down. She is in rehab at Shirley Ryan Rehab in Chicago. Emily Medley and her brother are dealing with health issues. Abea- Early pregnancy-prayer to go to term. Sally Marken is in the Clinton hospital with pneumonia. Please keep Burt Prins because he has sprained his ankle. Jason Moore in your prayers; he had a kidney stone. Marilyn Kline. She fell and broke her neck, Bob Bauer, for complete healing. after surgery. Susan Michelle complete healing from her surgery

Our shut-ins: Sylvia Reuterfors, Dorothy Taylor, Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison, Joy Turner, Steve Yenney, Brenda Hamm, Janice Wilt, Mary Ellen Dreger, t, Florence Bevins-Powell, Judy Law

Our country & government; Military Personnel & their families; the safety of Ukrainians & end of wars; Haiti; Syria; Israel; the Gaza Strip; peace in the Middle East; people affected by the wildfires, snow, cold temperatures; the towns, families, students, school administrators, and those who experience everyday violence and their families.

You can also find our online service on our church website.

We welcome all visitors to our worship time today.

We are glad you are here

Love Boldy, Serve Joyfully and Lead Courageously

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

January 4 – Ben Pratt
6 – Amanda Gonzalez
7 – John Irons
Katy Cook-Frederick
8 – Mary Irons

CALENDAR

Monday, Jan 5
9:00 am to noon – Office open
1 to 3 pm – Sewing Ladies
3:30 to 5 pm – WC Food Pantry

Tuesday, Jan 6
9 am to 12 noon – Office open

Wednesday, Jan 7
9:00 am to noon – Office open
3 to 6 pm – Blood Drive (in fellowship hall)

Thursday, Jan 8
9 am to 12 noon – Office open

Friday, Jan 10
9:00 am to noon - Office open

Sunday, Jan 11
9 am – Adult & Youth Sunday School
10:15 am – Worship
11:30 am – Coffee hour

WORSHIP HELPERS

	January 4	January 11
Acolyte	Priscilla & Ennie Mari	Pearl Michels
Liturgist	Joe Michels	Susan King
Counter		
Verifier		
Coffee Hour	Coffee Hour	Coffee Hour
Greeter	Worship cmte	Worship cmte
Ushers	Worship cmte	Worship cmte

Last Week's Attendance:

Dec 24th, 2025 - 96
Dec 29th, 2025 - 58

ANNOUNCEMENTS

West Carroll Food Pantry -

Thank you so much for your generosity!

The Blessing Basket - Thank you for all your donations! Please consider supplying a bottle of shampoo, deodorant, or body lotion this month.

The Women's Group - is asking you to bring clean and dry plastic bags. The group will make sleeping mats out of them for homeless people. You can drop them off in a box in the sewing room at church.

New Member Class – will be given by Pastor Fernando. This will be 5 classes, either in person or via Zoom. If you are interested or have questions, let the office know.

Volunteers Are Needed : to help at Classy Closet. The hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am - 1 pm or 1 pm - 4 pm. If interested, let the office know.

Impact Life Blood Drive – will be here at FUMC on Wednesday, January 7th at 3 to 6 pm

FUMC Church Leadership Training – on Saturday, January 24th, 2026 at 8:30 am-1 pm. Christ UMC in Rockford 4509 Highcrest Rd. Church cost \$50—includes Hot Lunch—Registration Online—Please talk to Pastor Fernando
Soul Sisters: Linda Jachino (815) 541-4760



First United Methodist Church

Vision Statement

“Reaching out to all people and inviting them to experience the Love Of God through Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors.”



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