



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.”

10:15 am Sunday Worship

December 22, 2024

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLE

MUSIC TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS

Vivian Eaton

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jason Moore

L: Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

P: We wait as people of God's promise.

L: The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary's womb call to us today.

P: We listen as people of God's promise.

L: Mary's "yes" and Elizabeth's faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we, too, have a role to play in bearing God's good news to the world.

P: We follow as people of God's promise.

L: This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today—God is with us!

P: God is with us! We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

*HYMN #196 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

*OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Jason Moore

Holy God, your prophet Micah foretold with faith that a new ruler would come forth from Bethlehem— today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise; your daughter Elizabeth proclaimed with faith that her cousin was to be the mother of her Lord— today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise; your servant Mary proclaimed with faith that she would be called blessed by all generations— today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise. Make us bold enough to proclaim with faith the coming of your kingdom, the coming of your justice, the coming of your peace. May we sing out the good news of your salvation, trusting in the fulfillment of your

promises. All this we pray in the name of the one who comes. 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.

LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE (Love)

Peter & Susan King

HYMN #211 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (vs 4 only)

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SCRIPTURE Micah 5:2-5a (CEB)

Jason Moore

GOSPEL Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

L: The Word of God for the People of God

P: Thanks be to God

MESSAGE "Let Us Have the Spirit of Mary" Pastor Fernando

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

(call/text Pastor 773-971-7208)

PRAYER FOR PEOPLE

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.

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

Dear God, you blessed Mary by making her the mother of your only Son, Jesus Christ. You have blessed us, as well, with the gift of your Son, and indeed, with the gift of life itself. Out of all these blessings, we give you back these offerings on this day. Knowing that your promises will be fulfilled, we pledge our lives to you in anticipation of the coming of the one who brings us peace. Amen

*HYMN #240 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*GOING FORTH TO THE WORLD

Vivian Eaton

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sandy Froehlich, Glen White, Shirley Hastings, Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Herb, Sandy & Ben Pratt, Lexi Tsoukalas (Molly's great niece), Debbie Bilik (Janet Morlock's friend), Scarlett Huebner, Chrissy Sullivan, Angie (Paula's friend), Roger Furrow, Eli (Bob & Lavona's grandson), Tinslee, Ed & Barb Jepsen, Mary (Belander) Klein, Howard Nichols, John Jachino, Kristin (Bob & LaVona Grissinger's granddaughter), Alyssa Volkers, Lisa (LaVona's friend), Jill (Melinda Dykema's daughter), Susan Foltz (organist at Mt. Carroll UMC), Denise Curtis, LaVona Grissinger, Lola McCutcheon (Tim Cavanagh's friend), Karen Burcham (Paul Mayer's sister), Beth (LaVona's colleague), the Norman family, Dan Zambon (uncle of Kim Gonzalez), Pat Kemp, Denise Curtis, Jon & Jody Kragle (Dianne Percy's friends), Melinda Dykema, Dave Miller (Brigit Jepsen's boyfriend's father), Mary & Phil Nylín (house fire), Karen Hoffman's cousins (house fire), John Norse, Lousie Brouillard (Ronda's friend), Howie Von Haden (LaVona's brother), Rita Mitchell, Jackie Walker, Ron Miller, Betty Hoertz Hottenstein, Amy Hanson, Jamie Harkness Townsend, Elyssa (Bonnie's daughter), the Lars Colgan family, and for closure for the family of Jackson Kradle.

Our shut-ins: Sylvia Reuterfors, Dorothy Taylor, Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison, Joy Turner, Steve Yenney, Brenda Hamm, Janice Wilt, Mary Ellen Dreger, Herb, Sandy & Ben Pratt, Florence Bevins-Powell.

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.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES
December 26 – Jackie Walker
26 – *Tom & Wallene Neumiller (1971)*
27 – *Jim & Vivian Eaton (1962)*
30 – Stephanie Shaw

CALENDAR
Monday, Dec 23
8:30 am to 11:30 am – Office open
1 to 3 pm – Sewing Ladies
3 pm – JOY Recap meeting
Tuesday, Dec 24 (Christmas Eve)
9 am to 12 noon – Office open
7 pm – Candlelight service w/Communion
Wednesday, Dec 25 (Christmas)
Office Closed
Thursday, Dec 26
9 am to 12 noon – Office open
Friday, Dec 27
8:30 am to 11:30 am - Office open
Sunday, Dec 29
9 am – Adult Sunday School
10:15 am – Worship (Baptism Sunday)
11:30 am – Coffee hour

| WORSHIP HELPERS | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | December 24 | December 29 |
| Acolyte | ?? | Ryker McCombie |
| Liturgist | Ronda Rathje | Joe Michels |
| Counter | ? | Lori Miller |
| Verifier | ? | Pam Darrow |
| Coffee Hour | No Coffee Hour | Johnson’s |
| Greeter | Worship cmte | Worship cmte |
| Ushers | Worship cmte | Worship cmte |

Last Week’s Attendance: 110

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Advent Calendar for the West Carroll Food Pantry & Blessing Basket - is in full swing! You can purchase a box for \$50 which contains one of every food item, from the Customer Service Desk at Sullivans or at the office. Blessing Basket items can be brought to the church. Any questions, see Ronda.
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.

Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting – will resume on Thursday, January 2nd, 2025 at 7 pm. You will be emailed with a link as it gets closer to the date.
Church Worship will be at 10:15 am!
Thursday Bible Study – is cancelled for Thursday, Dec 26th.
Office Closed – Wednesday, Dec 25th, Dec 31st, & January 1st.
New Member Class – will be given by Pastor Fernando. This will be a 5 week class, once a week, **either in person or via Zoom**. If you are interested or have questions, let the office know.
Kids Kards - TODAY to make greeting cards for our shut-ins. All materials are provided and everyone is welcome. There will be Lunchables to take home.
Volunteers are needed - to work at the Savanna Food Pantry on December 24th and 26th, 9am-12 noon. If you are interested in helping please let Molly Andersen know, 815-541-6852.
Christmas Eve Service – will be a candlelight service with communion at 7 pm. Bring your family!!!
Church Hours have changed! - Monday, Wednesday, & Friday will be 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Tuesday & Thursday will be 9 am to 12 noon.
Volunteers Are Needed – to help at Classy Closet. The hours are Tuesday thru 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 8th at 3 to 6 pm.

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.
Open Hearts! Open Minds! Open Doors!
We are the people of the United Methodist Church.



First United
Methodist Church
Sunday, December 22, 2024
at 10:15 am

Vision Statement
“Our faith calls us to action in the
body of Christ and in the local
community to love God and to
love others”

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