



**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."*

10:15am Sunday Worship December 24, 2023

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLE Jisung Yim

MUSIC TO PREPARE OUR HEART Vivian Eaton

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE (LOVE)  
Lexi Piercy & Mark & Ronda Rathje

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Bonnie Davies

L: Stop. Listen. Pay attention. Love is coming near.

**P: We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.**

L: The Hope Bringer, Peace Maker, Joy Sustainer grows in a womb, preparing to be born among us.

**P: We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.**

L: With Mary, we long for the coming of the Child who will transform the world, bringing justice where injustice reigns, fullness where hunger persists, and favor to the ones the world calls lowly.

**P: We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.**

L: So let us join our voices and our lives in magnifying God, our Savior!

**P: We come to wait and to declare the coming of the Love that transforms us! Amen.**

SONG: "Emmanuel" from Worship DVD

**OPENING PRAYER (in Unison)**

Loving God, we welcome you to our house, the sacred space we have built to gather together as your people. Here we come to offer you our thanksgiving and praise in response to the

abundance of your creation. Here we come to share with you our prayers of confession and petition, for they lie heavy on our hearts. Even knowing that you are here and everywhere, we come longing to hear you say, "I am with you always." 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.**

CHILDREN'S TIME Esther Losh

SCRIPTURE Romans 16:25-27 (CEB) Rev. Bonnie Davies

\*GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38 (CEB) Pastor Dave Yim

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

**A: Thanks be to God!**

HYMN #221 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

MESSAGE: Nonsense ? Pastor Dave Yim

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS (Text Pastor Dave, 224-600-0446)

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE

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

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God only Wise, accept these offerings, the fruit of our labor and lives, in obedience of our faith, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.**

\*HYMN #240 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

\*GOING FORTH TO THE WORLD

Vivian Eaton

**In Our Prayers**

Billy David, Emilee Derrer, Merry Florence, Matthew Foltz, Rod Furrow, Rhonda Harlock Smith, John Irons, Judy Law, Mike Foltz, John Ritchie, Gi-Tae Yim, Inga, Sandy Froehlich, Vanessa & Tom Grissinger (Bob & LaVona's children), Barb McFadden, Glen White, Baby Adrian & his mom, Alice (Esther's sister), Janet Smith, Eli (Bob & LaVona's grandson), Pastor Bill Landis, Shirley Hastings, Alice Riffe-Torrison (Ronda's mom), Pastor Karen Schilling (Bonnie Davies' friend), Donny Hughes, Jeff O'Leary, Kim Walker (Jackie's daughter), Barb Green, Bentley Audi (Diane Brinkmeier's grandson), Debbie Schriener (former member), Dale Wurster, Randy Law (Shirley Fritz's son-in-law), Owen (Bonnie's son), Cindy Westbrook (Pastor Dave's friend), Curtis Pilgrim (Kris Yingling's friend), Randy & Susie Bonjour, Tim Addie (relative of Bob & LaVona), Steve Runge (Ronda's friend), Jim Eaton, Sharon Atherton (Kris Yingling's aunt), Cody Rose (Courtney Johnson's friend), Pam Darrow, John Jachino, Joann Badtke (Bruce's mom), Connie Zink, Barb & Ed Jepsen, Paul Mayer, Will Bussan (Bonnie's grandson), Angie Lennon (Paula Mayer's friend's daughter), Pastor Lee (Pastor Dave's friend), Don & Judy Greenfield, Sandy Pratt, Pearl Michels, Shirley Fritz, Becky Weidman, the Michels family, Lexi Tsoukalas (Molly's great niece), Alyssa Volkers (Burt & Peg Dauphin's granddaughter), Judy Orn (Mary Irons' sister), the family of Deb Endress, the family of Rodney Thornton, our Confirmands (Jon, Aidan, Jiho, Asia, Caleb, and Lexi), and WC staff & students.

**Our shut-ins:** Mary Ann Larsen, 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, and Shirley Fritz.

Our country & government, Military Personnel & their families, The safety of Ukrainians & end of wars, Syria, Israel, the Gaza strip, peace in the Middle East, the people in Tennessee dealing with the aftermath of the tornadoes, and the victims of everyday gun violence and their families.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

December 24 – Mary Ann Larsen

26 – Jackie Walker

26 – Tom & Wallene Neumiller (1971)

27 – Jim & Vivian Eaton (1962)

30 – Stephanie Shaw

## CALENDAR

Monday December 25<sup>th</sup> (Merry Christmas!)

Office closed!

Pastor on vacation Dec 25<sup>th</sup> thru Jan 1<sup>st</sup>

Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup> (New Year's Eve)

No Youth Sunday School

10:15 am – Worship

## WORSHIP HELPERS

	December 31	January 7
Acolyte	Dalton Shaw	???
Liturgist	Ronda Rathje	???
Counter	Vivian Eaton	Molly Andersen
Verifier	Linda Jachino	Tom Michels

Last Week's Attendance: 99

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WC Food Pantry** – Thank you all very much for your participation in the advent calendar! Your generous donations gave the food pantry 1346 individual items!!!

**Blessing Basket** – You can still make a \$30 donation to cover all the items on the calendar or purchase your own. **Blessing basket items/donations are due no later than 11 am Wed., Dec 27<sup>th</sup>!**

Again, you all have been so incredibly generous for this advent promotion!!! Your support is greatly appreciated!

**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.

**Still collecting for Children's Fund!** – Please give your monetary donations to the office or Mary Irons.

**Office will be closed Monday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

**Christmas Eve Services** – there will be a candlelight service with communion at 7 pm.

**Pastor Dave will be on vacation December 25<sup>th</sup> thru Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

Rev. Bonnie Davies will be covering pastoral care. If you have any needs or concerns, please reach out to Ronda at (815)275-8045.

**No Bible Study on Thursday Dec 28<sup>th</sup>!**

**Choir practice** – will be Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am.

**Confirmation class** – will be Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 to 5 pm

**Youth Group** – meets January 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 to 6:30 pm

**Blood Drive** – will be January 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 6 pm.

**Soul Sisters Winter Warm-up** – next outing will be on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the fellowship hall. Hot chocolate bar, finger foods, BINGO! Bring a sweet or savory “finger food to share and a “white elephant” prize for the Bingo game. All women are welcome to attend! RSVP to Linda Jachino at 815-541-4760

**Pictures for Church Directory** – Stay tuned for more details

**New Sewing Ministry** – We invite all sewers to get involved in our sewing ministry but getting a kit in the sewing room. Several are available. (Pattern & material) Check out this ministry in the sewing room after church or ask any member of United Women in Faith. This gives those who cannot come Monday afternoons to sew a chance to be part of this important ministry by sewing at home at your convenience. Check this out!!!



First United  
Methodist Church  
Sunday, 10:15 am  
December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Vision 2023 –“Make Jesus’ Disciples”**

Focus on making Jesus’ Disciples  
to transform lives and the world!

Strong in Worship, Strong in Mission, Strong in Education

*“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”(Matthew 28:19)*

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**Pastor Dave Yim cell phone: 224-600-0446**

**Pastor Dave email: [daveyim15@gmail.com](mailto:daveyim15@gmail.com)**

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