

**\*Doxology**

W ZLOBIE LEZY



**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn** UMH 246 *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH

**\*Benediction**

**\*Choral Benediction** *Give Him My Heart* Darke

**\*Postlude** *Improvisation*  
(Please remain standing and silent as the organ concludes our worship.)

**DECEMBER USHERS** John Cranford, captain; George Bryan, Steve Combs, Bill Compton, and Stan Johnson

**ACOLYTE** Kara Hotel  
**CRUCIFER** James Hotel

**MUSIC NOTES**  
*Rejoice and Be Merry*  
**Words:** English Traditional  
**Music:** John Rutter  
©2004 Collegium Music Publications

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*  
**Words** Rory Cooney  
**Music:** Traditional Irish tune arr. by Rory Cooney  
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By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

For more information about activities/events or calendar items, please go to the Church Center app. If you need assistance operating the app, see Lisa Cavallucci or Ben Stapleton. They are happy to assist you. You may also pick up an FUMC calendar of events in the narthex or gym.



- 101 E. 1st North Street
- fumc@fumcmorristown.org
- (423) 581-2180



**Love Feast | December 14 | 6pm | Sanctuary and Gym**  
Revelation Youth Choir and Carillonoures Handbell Choir lead in this service of scripture, carols, candlelight, cinnamon rolls and hot beverages.

**Old Fashioned Christmas | 5pm meal | 6pm program | Gym**  
Pasta bar, Christmas cookie contest, Children's Choir, Fun singalong and craft.

**Chancel Choir Lessons and Carols Service | December 21**  
**9am and 11am | Sanctuary**  
Festive and tender anthems with choir, organ, brass quartet, and more.

**Blue Christmas | December 21 | 6pm | Sanctuary**  
A service of hope, healing, and support to recognize the difficulties of life, death, disease, poverty, and other losses. All are invited to come to rest and reflect.



**Finishing the Year with Gratitude**  
Together, we are the body of Christ, and every offering – every dollar, every prayer, every act of service – strengthens our shared witness. If you find that you have fallen behind on your giving this year, there is still time to catch up. A year-end gift helps your church finish the year strong and start the new year on a solid footing. Most of all, it is an act of gratitude – a way of saying “thank you” to God for blessings received. As 2025 draws to a close, we pause to express our gratitude for your faithful generosity. Every gift has helped our church live out its mission – worshipping God, serving neighbors, and growing disciples. Your giving makes ministry possible, from the lights in the sanctuary to the lives touched in our community. -Your FUMC Finance Committee

**LEGACY CLASS: CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
December 14  
11:30am | Tea Room

**ADHD CLASS: CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
December 20  
6pm | Room 207

**YOUTH CITY: CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
December 21  
7:30pm | Youth Bldg.

**PDO CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
December 16  
1:00pm | Sanctuary



**Christmas Offering**  
Our Christmas Offering this year will go to our Community Fund which goes to help those in our community that need assistance through the year. Use the Christmas offering envelope in the pews to contribute.

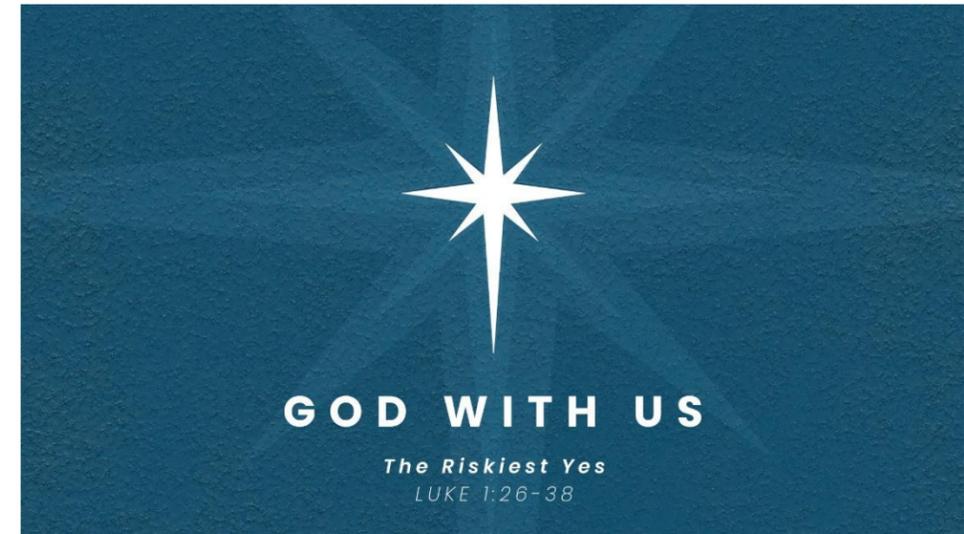
**Food Pantry | Mondays and Wednesdays | 10am-1pm**  
Spread the word about our church food pantry and email Denise Aludo at denise.aludo1@gmail.com to volunteer.

# WELCOME TO First United Methodist Church

-est. 1852-

## December 14, 2025

*Making disciples as we gather, grow, and go.*



**GATHER**



**GROW**



**GO**

**WELCOME** to First **U**nited **M**ethodist **C**hurch (FUMC). As we enter this season of watching, waiting, and longing for Christ's coming, we're grateful you've chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the red attendance pad and share whatever information you're comfortable with. If you need assistance at any point, our ushers, pastor, and staff team are close by and happy to help ; just wave us down. We hope you'll continue to journey with us through Advent as we gather in hope, grow in joy, and go to share Christ's light with the world.



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2. AIM IT AT THE QR CODE
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WORSHIP  
3<sup>RD</sup> Sunday in Advent  
Liturgical Color: Purple

December 14, 2025

9:00am

Please remember to silence cell phones.

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** and devices for the hearing impaired are available for this morning's service. Please see an usher.

(\* Please stand as you are able.)

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude** Good Christian Men Rejoice arr. by Wilbur Held

**Choral Introit** Of the Father's Love Begotten DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

\***Hymn** UMH 196 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus HYFRYDOL

\***Lighting the Advent Wreath** Gene and Becca Lynch

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of JOY. JOY comes to Mary like a jolt in the night. In her surprise, in her yes, in her wild openness, JOY beckons, a joy that flows not from what is rational but what is holy, a joy that flowers in the night and bears fruit that feeds a world in need. We gather today to be reminded that Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

Candles are lit.

**Sing Response as directed**

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,  
ev - er more and ev - er - more Em - man - u - el.

Let us pray:  
Generous God,  
Give us JOY that flowers in the night. May your presence surprise us and even jolt us as we go through our days. May your presence open us to say yes to what brings wholeness for us and others. We celebrate your presence with joyful hearts and commit ourselves to spreading your joy to the world around us. **Amen.**

**Sing Response as directed**

\***Passing of the Peace**

**Anthem**

Rejoice and Be Merry  
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

Rejoice and be merry in songs and in mirth;  
O praise our Redeemer, all mortals on earth!  
For this is the birthday of Jesus our King,  
who brought us salvation - his praises we sing!

A heavenly vision appeared in the sky;  
vast numbers of angels the shepherds did spy,  
proclaiming the birthday of Jesus our King,  
who brought us salvation - his praises we sing!

And soon in the sky a bright star did appear,  
which led the wise men from the east to draw near;  
they found the Messiah, Christ Jesus our King,  
who brought us salvation - his praises we sing!

And when they were come, they their treasures unfold,  
and unto him offered myrrh, incense and gold.

So blessed forever be Jesus our King,  
who brought us salvation his praises we'll sing.

Rejoice and be merry. Rejoice!

**Celebrations and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

Pastor Dennie

**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.**

\***Prayer for Illumination**

Becky Reel

**Speak to us, Lord.  
Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,  
the hoping, the longing,  
the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.  
Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,  
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.**

\***Gospel Lesson**

Luke 1:26-38

\***Hymn**

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your  
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne. The  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This

fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not  
ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you  
hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can nev - er  
sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which holds us

spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the  
yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the  
earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery mouth be fed, for the  
bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is

world be a - bout to turn? My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the  
world is a - bout to turn.  
world is a - bout to turn.  
turn - ing the world a - round.

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the

world is a - bout to turn.

**Sermon**

God With Us: The Riskiest Yes

Pastor Asa

**Prayer of Response**

**God of presence and promise, you call us into the unknown, but you never call us alone. When fear rises in us, remind us that you are near. When courage feels thin, breathe your Spirit into our hearts. As you were with Mary, be with us in our yes. Give us faith to trust you and courage to follow where you lead. We pray in the name of Jesus, Immanuel, God with us. Amen.**

**Worship of God by Giving Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

J S Bach