

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Hymn

As With Gladness, Men of Old

DIX

*As with gladness, men of old
Did the Guiding star behold
As with joy they held its light
Leading onward, beaming bright
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by thee.*

*As they offered gifts most rare
at thy stable rude and bare
so may we with holy joy
pure and free from sin's alloy
all our costliest treasures bring
Christ, to thee,
our heavenly King.*

*As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior to the holy bed
There to bend the knee before
Thee whom heav'n and
earth adore
So may we with willing feet.
Ever seek thy mercy seat.*

*Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way
and when earthly things are past
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide
Where no clouds thy glory hide.*

*In the heavenly country bright,
Need they no created light,
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.*

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction

Amen

*Postlude

Improvisation

(Please remain standing and silent as the organ concludes our worship.)

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Alan & Jana-Hodge Tilly in honor of the Monday Morning Prayer Team.

ACOLYTE Isaac Drinnon

CRUCIFER Thomas Drinnon

COMMUNION SERVERS John Stroud, Pam Wright, Bob and Kaye Schwalb

JANUARY USHERS Rusty Cantwell, captain; Susan Capps, Dick Copeland, Ron Reel, Ralph Stelzman



GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

WORSHIP & HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES ON CAMPUS

Worship Series | Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously | January

Pastor Asa will walk us through the new vision statement of the United Methodist Church- *The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.*

Pastor Dennie's Retirement Celebration | January 11 | 10am | Gym

Join us for brunch as we celebrate Pastor Dennie's retirement. Thankfully, he and Sondra will still be here at our church worshipping and serving.

New Member Celebration | Wednesday | January 28 | 5pm

Bring soup, salad, or sandwiches to share as we celebrate those who joined our church family in 2025.



GROW TO BE LIKE JESUS

DISCIPLESHIP, TEACHING & SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Joyful Hearts | Thursday | January 15 | 11am

Digital Defense - F.B.I. Special Agent Reanna O'Hare will be joining Joyful Hearts to present information to us on staying safe in an everchanging tech world. Sign up in the church office or on the Church Center app.

Joyful Hearts | Tuesday | January 27

Joyful Hearts will travel to the Bible Museum in Pigeon Forge. Sign up in the church office or on the Church Center app.



GO TO SERVE THE WORLD

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES OFF-CAMPUS & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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.

Fence Ministry | Wednesdays | 6pm

NO MORE PLASTIC BAGS NEEDED AT THIS TIME! We do need more people to flatten, cut, loop, and roll plastic bags into plarn (plastic yarn). No skill required and fun guaranteed! We will provide the mats that we make to homeless ministries in our area.

Christmas Offering

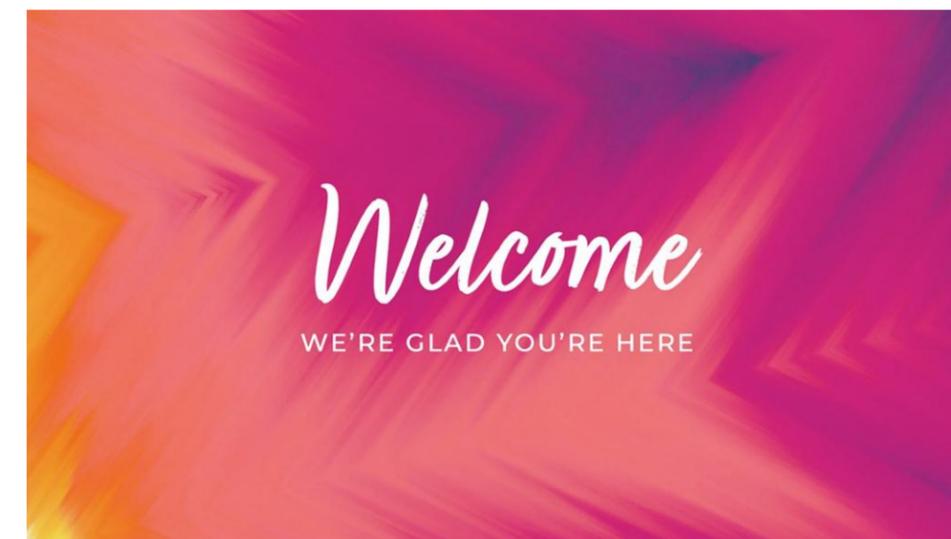
We collected \$275 for our Community Fund to help those in need in our community.

WELCOME TO First United Methodist Church

-est. 1852-

January 4, 2026

Making disciples as we gather, grow, and go.



WELCOME to **F**irst **U**nited **M**ethodist **C**hurch (FUMC). We would love to have you fill out your name and any information you feel comfortable sharing on the red attendance pad. If you need help with anything today, please contact one of our ushers, pastors, or security team members. We hope you will join us again as we *Gather, Grow, and Go* at FUMC.



GATHER



GROW



GO



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TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Epiphany of the Lord
Holy Communion
Liturgical Color: White

January 4, 2026

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 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright arr. by Paul Manz

Choral Introit This is the Day Robert Wright

***Hymn** UMH 245 The First Noel THE FIRST NOEL
(sing verses 1-3, 5, and the verse printed below)

**Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought
Noel, noel, noel, noel
Born is the king of Israel.**

***Affirmation of Faith** UMH 881 Melanie Hime
The Apostles' Creed

**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.**

**universal

***Gloria Patri** UMH 70 Glory be to the Father MEINEKE

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

***Passing of the Peace**

Celebrations and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Asa

Prayer for Illumination Melanie Hime
**O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give
us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to
follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 60:1-6

***New Testament Lesson** Matthew 2:1-12
The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Follow the Light (Even When It's Inconvenient) Pastor Asa

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our
whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have
not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled
against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have
not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for
joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that
proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are
forgiven!

**In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God.
Amen.**

***Hymn** UMH 617 I Come with Joy DOVE OF PEACE

Worship of God by Giving Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light
(text on UMH 223)

J. S. Bach

***Doxology** UMH 94 LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

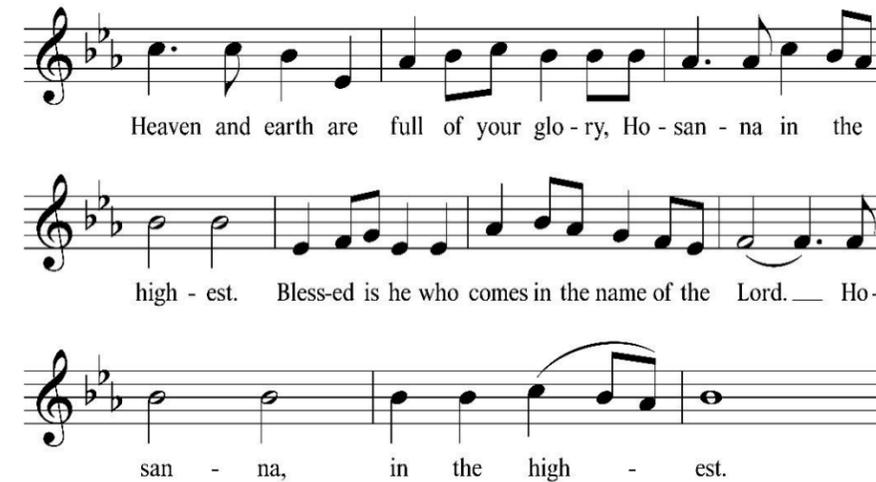
(The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion,
remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:)

... as we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Sing as directed.)



Ho - ly ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, God of po - wer and might.



Heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, in the high - est.

(The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's
Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:) ... as we proclaim the
mystery of faith. (Sing as directed)



Christ has died, Christ is Ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!

(The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then
praises the Trinity, concluding:) All honor and glory is yours, almighty
Father, now and forever.
(Sing as directed).



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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.**

Instructions for Communion

All are invited to come to the table as you are able.
Please tell an usher if you would like to be served in the pew.
Gluten-free bread is served at the center station.
After being served, all are invited to kneel at the altar rail.

Breaking the Bread