

# CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 24, 2025  
7 PM



# First United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2025  
7:00 PM

\*Please stand if able

Prelude	“Carol of the Bells” Logan Dively & Mary Lou Fisher, piano duet	(arr. Catherine Rollin)
	“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” “The First Noel” Youth Handbell Choir— Peter Omundsen, Director	(arr. Jason Krug)

Welcome Pastor Jason Ríos &  
Pastor Laura Sambrick

\*Call to Worship

We gather to worship God, who became human in Jesus.

**Thank you, God, for this amazing gift.**

The Christ child came into the world to give us forgiveness, salvation, wholeness.

**Thank you, God, for this amazing gift.**

The Christmas story invites us to share what we've been given.

**Thank you, God, for your gifts of peace, hope, joy, and love!**

**Fill us with these gifts. Let us shine!**

\*Hymn No. 234 “O Come All Ye Faithful” (stanza 1-3, 6)

Lighting the Advent Wreath Penny Ridgeway family

Unison Prayer

**O Lord, our Advent journey has inspired us and transformed us. You have shown us how you create amazing things from the ordinary. Stir up within us your peace, hope, joy, and love so the world can be changed into something we can't even imagine. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Amen**

*Please sing stanza 1 of “Angels We Have Heard on High” Hymn No. 238*

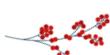
**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Glo----ria, in excelsis De-o! Glo----ria, in excelsis De--o!**

Scripture Luke 2:1-20 (pew Bible, NT, p. 4)

Meditation

“Wandering”  
Christmas Orchestra (Brian Norcross)

Anthem	“I Wonder as I Wander!” Claire Guy, soprano	(Kyle Pederson)
Meditation		
Anthem	“Gabriel’s Oboe” Christmas Orchestra– Brian Norcross, Director	(Morricone/arr. Johnson)
Meditation		
Anthem	“The Virgin’s Slumber Song” John Darrenkamp, bass	(Max Reger)
Meditation		
Anthem	“Angels Are Making Their Rounds” Cherub & Carol Choirs– Jan Betty, Director	(P. Choplin, arr. B. Norcross)
Lighting of the Christ Candle		
*Hymn No. 246	“Joy to the World”	
Words of Invitation & Passing of the Light		
*Hymn No. 239	“Silent Night, Holy Night”	
*Congregational Prayer	<p><b>Caring One, in our doubts and fears you claim us as beloved. When life feels heavy you meet us where we are. Lord, help us to be bearers of your love in the world by affirming the worth of others. Inspire us to trust in what is possible, dwelling in each of us. May love be our guide. Amen.</b></p>	
*Dismissal with Blessing		
Extinguish Candles		
Response	“Festival First Nowell” Congregation ( <i>sing stanzas 1 &amp; 3</i> ) Jan Betty, soprano ( <i>solo, stanza 2</i> )	(Dan Forrest)
Postlude	“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” Peter Omundsen, organ	(arr. Franklin Ashdown)



### **Tonight's Christmas offering supports the work of Anchor Lancaster.**

Our Christmas offering this year supports the work of Anchor Lancaster. From serving a hot nutritious breakfast every weekday morning, providing showers and laundry services, offering caseworkers who help with a myriad of urgent needs, and operating a day center each weekday, Anchor Lancaster is indeed an “anchor” in our community. To support our neighbors through this outreach, please make checks payable to “First UMC”, with memo note “Anchor Lancaster”, use your special Christmas envelope from your box, or [use this link](#). Thank you for your generosity in this season of Light!



Join us for a New Sermon Series

## “RESET”

**Sundays, January 11-February 1**

8:15 & 10:45 AM Traditional

9:30 AM Contemporary & Sunday School  
for all ages

Nursery and Children's program available  
at all services

God's mercies are new every morning! But sometimes it is easy for us to get stuck in the same old routine. This New Year let's hit the "reset button," so we can claim the fresh start God makes available to us. As we rediscover our true identity in the love of God, we will discover new purpose and, guided by the compass of God's values, head off in an exciting God-given direction! Designed for the New Year.

### **January 11 | Week 1: Soul Reset | Luke 3:21-23**

Resetting your soul begins with remembering who you are. In baptism, God calls us beloved.

### **January 18 | Week 2: Reset Purpose | Mark 1:32-39**

Spending time with God enables us to start our year with intention. Centered living comes from understanding God's purpose in this season.

### **January 25 | Week 3: Reset Values | Galatians 5:24-6:10**

What does it mean to live by God's Spirit and not our own, to live according to God's values and not those of the world?

### **February 1 | Week 4: Reset Direction | Acts 9:1-15**

Whether we've been in the church for a long time or are exploring the faith, Jesus sometimes calls us to move in a new direction, even when we think we are already heading in the right direction.

### **VISITING FROM OUT OF TOWN?**

You can still worship with us online. Our 10:45 AM Sunday worship service is livestreamed each week and available anytime on YouTube. Links are easy to find on our website [engagegodfirst.org](http://engagegodfirst.org) or by searching for us on YouTube.