

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent - November 30, 2025

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Lee DuCote

PRELUDE.....*Prelude on VENI EMMANUEL*.....E. Ray Peebles, organ
[O Come, O Come, Emmanuel]
Setting by Alec Wyton

INVITATION, CONFESSION, AND PARDON.....No. 730.....Dr. David Hobson

† HYMN OF PRAISE.....“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”.....No. 169

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 691.....Dr. Will Address

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE.....Hobson Family (8:30)
Beck Family (11:00)

BAPTISM (11:00).....Jonathan Graham Young.....Dr. Steven Bell

The Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Pastor: *Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have witnessed this baptism. God requires that we be accountable for our part in the welcoming of this child into the household of faith. Therefore, I hereby commend him to your love and care.*

Congregation: *Jonathan Graham Young, we welcome you and receive you into the fellowship of the church. We promise to surround you in a community of love and forgiveness as you grow in Christ, so that you may confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in the royal priesthood of all his people, to the glory of his name. Amen and amen.*

† SCRIPTURE READING.....Luke 1:5-25.....Eric Sullivan

† GLORIA PATRI.....No.33

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.*

CHILDREN’S BLESSING.....Erin Hogg

MORNING & OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Rev. Emily Blair

PRAYER RESPONSE.....No. 192, Stanza 4

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob*.....Ensemble (8:30)

[Numbers 24:17]

Chancel Choir (11:00)

Felix Mendelssohn

† DOXOLOGY.....VENI EMMANUEL
*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!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

MESSAGE.....BROUGHT TO THE LIGHT:.....Dr. Steven Bell
HOPE

Faithfulness Does Not Protect Us from Disappointment.

Unmet Longings Can Become Places of Encounter.

God's Answers to Our Prayers Often Look Different Than We Imagine.

Scripture Memory Verse

“Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.”

Psalm 42:11

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING.....No. 731-732.....Dr. Steven Bell

THE LORD’S PRAYER.....Congregation (speaks in unison)

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.

‡

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*I Wonder as I Wander*.....Melonie Hilton, soprano

[Appalachian Carol]

John Jacob Niles

WESLEYAN COVENANT PRAYER.....No. 710.....Rev. Kathy Wafer

† HYMN OF INVITATION.....“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”.....No. 163

(During the singing of this hymn, those who wish to join the First Methodist family are invited to come to the front of the church for reception and recognition.)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS.....Dr. Steven Bell

We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ’s holy church and bid you welcome to the congregation of First Methodist Church. With you, we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

† BENEDICTIONDr. Steven Bell

† SENDING FORTH.....*Word of God, Come Down on Earth*.....Ensemble (8:30)

LIEBSTER JESU

Chancel Choir (11:00)

POSTLUDE.....*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*.....E. Ray Peebles, organ

[Now Come, Savior of the Nations]

Johann Sebastian Bach

8:30: *Crucifer – Lila Holley-Lerchie • Acolyte – Evie Holley-Lerchie*

11:00: *Banner Carrier – Asher Storer • Crucifer – Abram Storer
Acolytes – Anna Claire Caudle and Audrey Storer*

† *Those who are able may stand.* ‡ *Latecomers may be seated at these times.*

* **IF YOU WISH TO JOIN** the First Methodist Church family, please come forward at this time.

***Children leaving the service for Children's Chapel may be picked up after the service.*

• *3–4 years (8:30 & 11:00): Children's Ministry Center*

• *K5–3RD graders (11:00): Dawson Building, Room 208, behind the Sanctuary*

Childcare for infants through 4 years is available from 8:15 to 12:15 in the Children's Ministry Center. From the sanctuary, follow the sign located in the hallway between the sanctuary and the Dawson Building. Outdoor access is located on the corner of Douglas and Milam Street.