

Tithes and offerings...

The mission and ministry of Dyersburg FUMC is now more vital than ever. Although you can bring your offerings with you to church on Sunday, you can also mail them or give online. Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 452, Dyersburg, TN 38025, online @ <https://fumcdyersburg.com/donate>, or scan the following QR code with your phone.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

✚ Please stand as you are able

Prelude

Welcome and Centering Words

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reader: We unwrap a present on this fourth Sunday of Advent, anticipating the gift that God will reveal!

People: And we open our hearts, just like we open this gift!

Reader: The promise of Love is God's divine gift to us!

People: And what will we do with it?

Reader: The gift of Love is most fully and completely revealed to us in the birth of Jesus. God wanted to be present with us so much that God became flesh to live with us. Love is the fundamental characteristic of Jesus's disciples. The more love we put into the world, the better the world will know the love of Jesus.

People: We light this Candle of Love as a sign that we will be Present with Love in the world.

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give him: I will give my heart.*

Reader: Holy Living Light of God, you are our Loving Presence. Let this peace grow in our lives each day, so that we can be a Present of Love to others. Unwrap our hearts and open them. Amen.

✚ Opening Hymn UMH 98 TO GOD BE THE GLORY
To God Be the Glory
(vss. 1, 2, 3)

Celebration of Young Disciples

Children ages 3 through 1st Grade may join Mrs. Tori in the back of the sanctuary for Children's Church.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 24

9:00 a.m. Christmas Special – Sanctuary
10:15 a.m. Worship
5:30 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Worship – Sanctuary

Monday, December 25

Holiday – Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Holiday – Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast – FH

Thursday, December 28

9:30 a.m. Yoga – FLC

Saturday, December 30

1:00 p.m. Pickleball – FLC

Sunday, December 31

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:45 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship – Narthex
10:15 a.m. Worship

FLC – Family Life Center

FH – Fellowship Hall

Assisting in Worship...

Rev. Dr. Mary Beth Bernheisel
Pastor

Nancy West
Liturgist

Josh White
Accompanist

Tori Armstrong
Children's Ministry Director

Steve Guttery
Audio

Clare Bernheisel
Video

Scripture Lessons

2 Samuel 7:1-11

CEB

When the king was settled in his palace, and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, “Look! I’m living in a cedar palace, but God’s chest is housed in a tent!” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go ahead and do whatever you are thinking, because the Lord is with you.” ⁴But that very night the Lord’s word came to Nathan: ⁵Go to my servant David and tell him: This is what the Lord says: You are not the one to build the temple for me to live in. ⁶In fact, I haven’t lived in a temple from the day I brought Israel out of Egypt until now. Instead, I have been traveling around in a tent and in a dwelling. ⁷Throughout my traveling around with the Israelites, did I ever ask any of Israel’s tribal leaders I appointed to shepherd my people: Why haven’t you built me a cedar temple? ⁸So then, say this to my servant David: This is what the Lord of heavenly forces says: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be leader over my people Israel. ⁹I’ve been with you wherever you’ve gone, and I’ve eliminated all your enemies before you. Now I will make your name great – like the name of the greatest people on earth. ¹⁰I’m going to provide a place for my people Israel, and plant them so that they may live there and no longer be disturbed. Cruel people will no longer trouble them, as they had been earlier, ¹¹when I appointed leaders over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies.

Psalms 89:1-4

CEB

Liturgist: Forever I will sing the wonders of your love, oh God, proclaiming your faithfulness to all generations!

People: I’ll tell them that your love stands firm forever; your fidelity is fixed in the heavens.

Liturgist: I have made a covenant with my chosen; sworn an oath to David, my faithful one:

People: I will establish your line forever, and make your throne firm throughout all generations.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Bringing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music

You’re Here
Dione Wilson

Battistelli

✠ Doxology 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*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!*

✠ Hymn of Praise UMH 384

BEECHER

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
(vss. 1 and 4)

Sermon Notes...

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

NRSV

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (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.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

✠ Sending Hymn UMH 229

W ZLOBIE LEZY

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

✠ Announcements

✠ Benediction

✠ Postlude