

December 24, 2023

5:00 PM Worship

*Christian fellowship is very much a part of First United Methodist Church. Engage one another in friendly conversation until the sounding of the chimes—which calls us to worship.*

## Christmas Eve We Gather to Praise God

**THE PRELUDE**    *Ding Dong Merrily on High*    arr. Gordon Young

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**    Pastor Kenny Lee  
(Please use the red attendance pads to register your attendance and pass attendance sheets to the center aisle where ushers will pick them up after the offertory.)

**+THE HYMN OF PRAISE**    *Joy to the World*    RED 246

**+\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**    The Apostles' Creed    #881  
\*Unison Reading by the congregation

*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.*

**+\*GLORIA PATRI**    #70  
\*Unison Singing by the congregation

*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. Amen.*

**CHILDREN'S MOMENTS**    Shelly Burgess

## We Share God's Tithes and our Offerings and Gifts

**OFFERING**

**THE OFFERTORY**    *The First Noel*    arr. Joseph Martin

**+\*THE DOXOLOGY**    # 94  
\*Unison Singing by the congregation

*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!*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**    *Do You Have Room?*    Penny Lee, soloist

## We Offer Our Prayers

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**    Isaiah 9:2, 6  
Pastor Kenny Lee and Family

*Reader 1:* To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared,

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

*Reader 2:* Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

**Congregation:** We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kin-dom.

*Reader 3:* We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

**THE PASTORAL PRAYER**

The Lord be with you. **And Also with you.** Let us pray.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**    #895  
\*Unison Reading by the congregation

*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.*

## We Hear God's Word

**READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES**    Luke 2:1-20

**\*\*Responsive reading by the congregation is listed in bold italics.**

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion 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.*

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,*

*heaven and earth are full of your glory,*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died;*

*Christ is risen;*

*Christ will come again.*

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with your Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

*Amen.*

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*(You may leave a cash offering at the rail.*

*Please receive the bread with cupped hands.)*

## We Go Forth as Disciples

**+THE HYMN OF COMMITMENT**    *Silent Night*    RED 239

Join us in shining the Light of Christ when directed by Pastor Gary Maskell.

You may extinguish your candles during the benediction and place them in the baskets in the foyer as you leave.

**+THE BENEDICTION**

**+THE POSTLUDE**    *Masters in this Hall*    arr. Gordon Young

**+Please stand as you are able.**

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright. Silent and calm, until a newborn wails and angels illumine the fields! Holy indeed.*

*Merry Christmas, and welcome to worship!*



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*Serving God with United Methodists around the world*

The Rev. Laura Merrill,  
Arkansas Conference Bishop

The Rev. Edna Morgan  
Southwest District Superintendent

*Everyone receiving & giving ministry!*

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**Building Supervisor, Skippy Warlick**  
**Custodian, Kenneth Manning**

**Nursery workers, Burlene Easter,**  
Kim Easter & Kathy Easter

### **WELCOME**

How good it is when we, the Body of Christ, can gather to praise God. We are especially pleased that guests have joined us for worship today. We hope you will feel at home with us as we worship God together. If you are looking for a new church home, you are encouraged to visit with us or our pastor immediately following our worship service or later in the week. Please join us again.



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

**Nursery is available from 9:00 am till 11:30 am**

9:15 AM CONFIRMATION CLASS  
9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Clegg/Open Door - Parlor- led by David Cole, Billie Dadgar, Roger Guevara,  
Explorers/Morning Star -Upstairs - Scott Nipper/Dan Grantham  
Children Sunday School - Preschool - 5th Grade  
Upstairs in Treehouse - led by Shelly Burgess/Diana Courson  
Jr. High and High School- Basement- led by Pastor Kenny

10:15 AM **SANCTUARY WORSHIP**

Ways to attend: In-Person, Facebook Live, Recording  
(posted later) on Website, YouTube

4:00 PM **NO THE ROCK, THE ROAD AND THE RABBI**  
5:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

**CHURCH OFFICE, CDC & STEWPOT CLOSED - CHRISTMAS DAY**

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

**CHURCH OFFICE & CDC CLOSED**

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

**CHURCH OFFICE & CDC CLOSED**

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours  
10:00 AM THE CARING PLACE  
4:00 PM STEWPOT

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

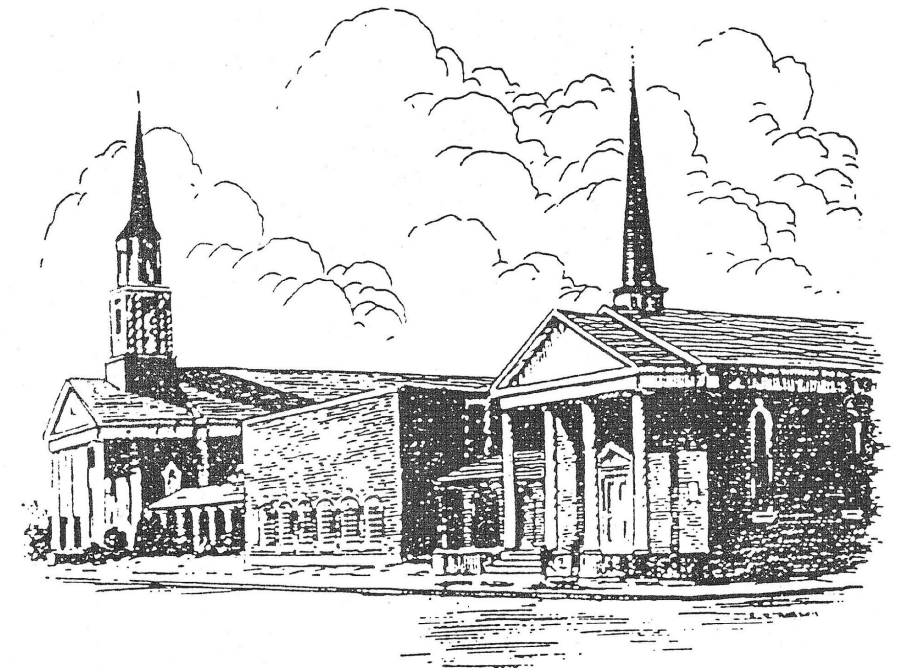
8:00—12:00 Church Office Hours

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, January 4, 2023 Stewpot Can Sorting 10 am  
Sunday, January 28, 2023 CHILI SUPPER 5:30 pm



*To invite all to know the love of God, share grace, develop relationships.*



**Kenny Lee, Senior Pastor**  
**Dr. Kim Shirey, Music Director**  
**Sharon Ard, Organist**