December 24, 2023  
10:15 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.  

We Gather to Praise God  

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  
(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 PRELUDE  
O Come All Ye Faithful  
arr. Cherwien  

+THE HYMN OF PRAISE  
O Come, All Ye Faithful  
RED 234  

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE  
Luke 1:34  
The Lee Hickmott Family  

Reader 1: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God’s plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, “Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’” (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth,  

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49).  

Reader 2: We, like Mary, hear God’s call to be part of making God’s dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, “How can this be? I am only…” Yet, like Mary, the “onlys” that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God’s love transforms us into bearers of good news.  

Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.  

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God’s salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.  

+THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH  
The Apostles’ Creed  
#881  
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  
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.  

We Offer Our Prayers  

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS  
Shelly Burgess  

THE PASTORAL PRAYER  
Pastor Kenny  

THE LORD’S PRAYER  
#895  
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 Share God’s Tithes and our Offerings and Gifts  

OFFERING  

THE OFFERTORY  
Interlude on Coventry Carol  
W.S. Lloyd Webber  

+THE DOXOLOGY  
# 94  
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!  

We Hear God’s Word  

ANTHEM  
Jesus Christ Is Born Today  
Lau  

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES  
Luke 1:26-38  
This is the Word of God for the people of God.  

Thanks be to God!  

THE SERMON  
“What Do You Want for Christmas?”  
Kenny Lee  

We Go Forth as Disciples  

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP  

+THE HYMN OF COMMITMENT  
O Little Town of Bethlehem  
RED 230  

+THE POSTLUDE  
All My Heart This Night Rejoices  
arr. McConnell  

+Please stand as you are able.  

Thank you to all who made delicious soups and cookies for the Advent luncheon December 13. I appreciate being asked to provide a piano and organ program for the special day. From the bottom of my heart, I thank everyone who came. You are a wonderful congregation to serve. Merry Christmas to all of you!  

Your organist/pianist and children’s choir director,  
Sharon Ard
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24
9:15 AM 
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
Glegg/Open Door - Pastor led by David Cole, Sillei Dadgar, Roger Guevara, Explorers/Morning Star - Upstairs - Scott Nipper/Dan Grantham Children Sunday School - Preschool - 5th Grade - Upstairs in Treehouse - led by Shelly Burgess and Diana Courson Jr. High - Basement led by Pastor Kenny High School - Basement led by Pastor Kenny
9:15 AM 
CONFIRMATION CLASS
10:15 AM 
SANCTUARY WORSHIP
Ways to attend: In-Person, Facebook Live, Recording (posted later) on Website, YouTube
4:00 PM 
NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY
“THE ROCK, THE ROAD AND THE RABBI (AVERITT)
5:00 PM 
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25
CHURCH OFFICE & STEWPOT CLOSED - CHRISTMAS DAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM 
Church Office Hours
10:00 AM 
THE CARING PLACE
4:00 PM 
STEWPOT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM 
Church Office Hours
4:00 PM 
STEWPOT

THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 25 THROUGH JANUARY 2.

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

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

Serving God with United Methodists
The Rev. Laura Merrill, Arkansas Conference Bishop
The Rev. Edna Morgan, Southwest District Superintendent

Everyone receiving & giving ministry!
Pastor Kenny Lee
pastorkenny@magnoliafumc.org

Director of Music, Dr. Kim Shirey
kfshirey@saumag.edu

Organist, Sharon Ard
sharonard@yahoo.com

Director of Children and Families Ministries
Shelly Burgess
shellyb@magnoliafumc.org

Executive Secretary, Tracie Nipper
tracie@magnoliafumc.org

Building Supervisor, Shawn Warlick

Custodian, Kenneth Manning

Nursery workers, Burlene Easter, Kim Easter & Kathy Easter

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