

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

#### 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

#### 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.



#### PRAYERS NEEDED

Please be in prayer for the boys at Magale Manor during the holidays. They are Joshua, Yahia-Keem, Zaiden, Braylon, Dalton and Kaden. One is getting adopted 12/22 and one aging out in spring, may get in a foster family and attend SAU. Thank you!

#### THE GIVING TREE



Gloves, hats, scarves, underwear and socks are being collected and will be donated to the area schools. You can place your item on the Giving Tree located in the Stewpot entrance.

**Giving warmth is a blessing**

#### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE CAROLS, CANDLES, AND COMMUNION

5:00 P.M.  
FUMC Sanctuary



Monday, December 25	CLOSED
Tuesday, December 26	CLOSED
Wednesday, December 27	CLOSED
Thursday, December 28	8:00AM-4:00PM
Friday, December 29	8:00AM-12:00PM
Monday, January 1	CLOSED
Tuesday, January 2	8:00AM-4:00PM
Wednesday, January 3	8:00AM-4:00PM
Thursday, January 4	8:00AM-4:00PM
Friday, January 5	8:00AM-12:00PM





320 W. Main  
Magnolia, AR 71753  
(870) 234-4530  
www.magnoliafumc.org

*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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Nursery is available from 9:00 am till 11:30 pm.

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 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.

#### Prayers

Our Church  
Our Church Staff  
Our Nation  
Our Community  
Military Service  
Members  
The Stewpot  
The Caring Place  
FUMC Child  
Development Center  
Methodist Boys Home

#### Unspoken Prayer

#### Special Prayers

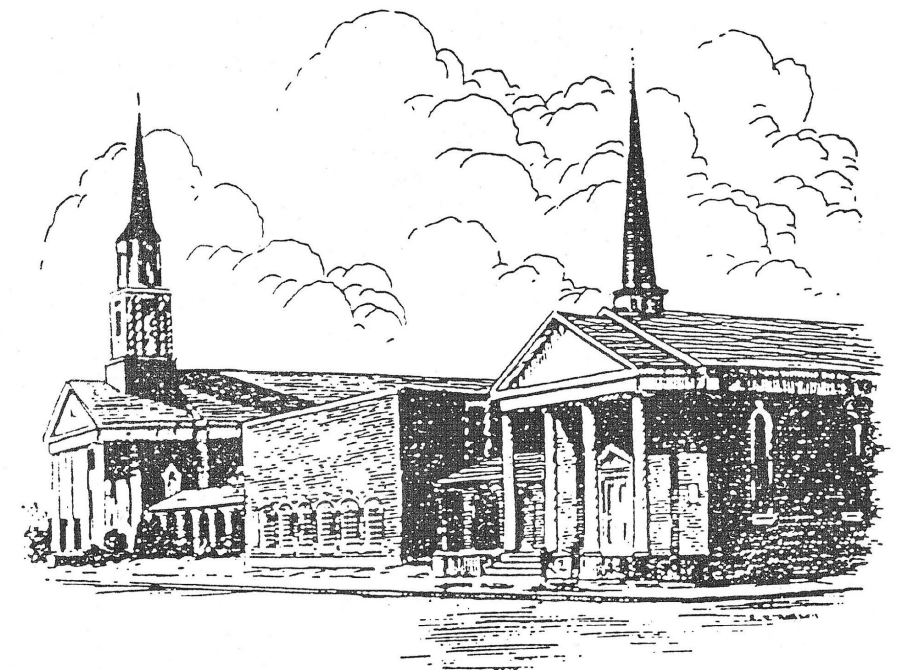
Bob Burns  
Harriett Franks  
Helen Guevara  
Alvarene Peace  
Buddy Jordan  
Nancy Henry  
Dan Grantham

#### CDC Prayers

Eddie Mae Cooper  
Ivy Jo Beasley  
Kashenna Smith  
Deloris Blackmon



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



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