



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 31, 2023
Preparing for the New Year

Please be aware that our services are livestreamed, and any adults and/or children participating in musical groups, children's messages, and liturgist roles will appear on camera.

*Children will remain in worship today. There are activity bags at the entrance to the Sanctuary.
Sunday School resumes January 14. A nursery is available for children ages 5 and under.*

Prelude *Veni Emmanuel*

Parker Hinnenkamp, organ

Aaron David Miller

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

* **Hymn** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

UM Hymnal #240

Children's Message

Morning Prayer

Wesleyan Prayer of Covenant

Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal. Almighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Lord's Prayer

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Anthem *Our Perfect Christmas Tree*

words and music by Thomas Wayne King

Thomas Wayne King, vocals and guitar

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:41-52

One: Every year, Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days, they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished.

All: His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

One: Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and people.

* Hymn *Love Came Down at Christmas*

UM Hymnal #242

Sermon *"Dear 8-Pound, 6-Ounce Baby Jesus"*

Brandon Veale

* Hymn *Canticle of the Turning*

attachment

Offering Our Gifts

Offering Prayer

* Hymn *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

UM Hymnal #224

Benediction

Unison Prayer

God, searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own. As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into covenant with you, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being, and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Postlude *Postlude on Mendelssohn*

Sir David Willcocks

Parker Hinnenkamp, organ

* please stand as you are comfortable



Please remember to fill out the Connect Cards each week. Keeping attendance and making sure the church has your current contact information is an important part of church records. **On the back of the card**, is a list of ministry opportunities, where your help can make a difference! These will change often, so check them each week and please sign up where you can.

Guests: Welcome to First United Methodist Church. We are so glad you are worshipping with us today! Please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Narthex; we have a packet and small gift for first-time visitors.

Please join us for coffee and doughnuts in Lakeview Social Hall following the worship service.

Thank you to Parker Hinnenkamp for being our organist today while Velda Graham Bell is on vacation. Velda will be back with us next Sunday.

Pastor Jeanine has been on vacation this week and will be back in the office Tuesday, January 2. Thank you to Rev. MaryAnne Korsch for leading worship and to Brandon Veale for preaching.

A gift to light the church for the week of December 31 was made by Rebecca Peterson in appreciation of Linda Wiig. The gift will be shared with the Parish Nurse fund.

Communion Sunday Food Shelf donations. Every communion Sunday (usually the first Sunday of the month), you are asked to bring a donation of food or money for the CHUM Food Shelf. There will be a cart available for food donations. If you make a financial gift, please note "Food Shelf" in the check memo and make checks out to FUMC. Thank you for loving our neighbors in need.

Thank you to Alex Flinger, Tommy Kishida, and the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.

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