

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Children are always welcome in worship and we embrace their presence, their joy and the fun things they often do & say as we worship. However, if your child is actively upset we would invite you to take them into the gathering area to be calmed down. You are also welcome to take advantage of our nursery which is down the hall for children 6 months-3 years old. All children who are ages 4-10 may participate in a children's church ministry called First Steps following the Children's Moment. They will enjoy a snack, an activity or craft, and a lesson based on the sermon text. Lastly, we have crayons and children's bulletins available in the gathering area for those who would like to be creative during worship.



First  
United  
Methodist  
Church  
Madisonville  
Tennessee

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Call: 423-442-2471

Check us out at  
[www.1umcm.com](http://www.1umcm.com)



Firstumcmadisonville



Scan the QR code to give electronically

**Attendance Last Sunday**  
In-Person: 135 On-line: 26  
**Sunday General Giving**  
\$4,186.00  
**Sunday Designated Giving**  
\$875.00  
**Total Giving for December**  
\$11,950.30  
**Needed monthly**  
\$23,866.50

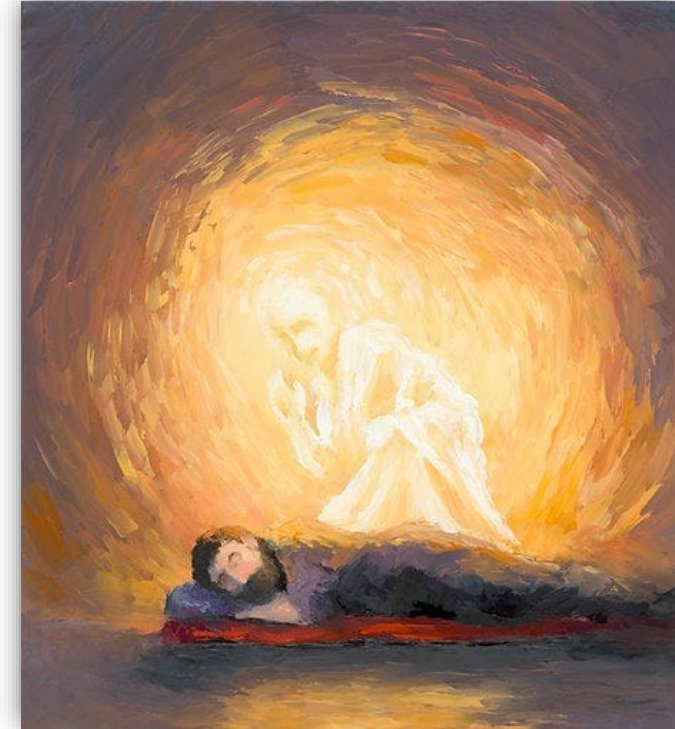
**Flowers:** Advent  
**Coffee Bar:** Kris Browder  
**12/21 Special Music:**  
Joyful Ringers  
**Usher Team:**  
Steve Cornett and Gary Hamilton  
**Production Team:** Steve Tweed,  
Regina Warfel, Carter Kennedy and  
Briley Williford  
**Pianist:** Bev Taylor  
**Organist:** Mary Alice Huff  
**Youth Ministry Leaders:**  
Jerry and Vanessa Barr

**Rev. Chris Black**  
*Pastor*  
**Nikki Rutzen**  
*Executive Assistant*  
**Sue Hamilton**  
*Director of Congregational Care  
& Choir Ministries*  
**Erin Strickland**  
*First Steps Coordinator*

# First United Methodist Church

December 21, 2025

*Fourth Sunday of Advent (Love)*



**“Stepping Into God’s Bigger Story”**

***Matthew 1: 18-25***

*Welcome! We pray that worship here at First United Methodist Church is a blessing for you, as your presence blesses us. Our mission here at FUMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. If you would like to learn more about our church and its ministries you can find a copy of the church newsletter, welcoming brochures and devotionals in the gathering area. There are also refreshments available at our coffee bar. Please fill out the clipboard at the end of your row to register your attendance and tell us a little more about you.*

***“...She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”***

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 21, 2025

10:30AM

*We are glad you have chosen to worship with us this morning. Whether this is your church home or the first time that you have entered our doors, we extend a warm welcome to you.*

✠ *Please stand as you are able*

# PRELUDE

*“Carol of the Bells”*

# Joyful Ringers

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(At this time please register your in-person attendance on the clipboard placed in each pew.)*

# INVITATION TO PASS THE PEACE

*"May the Peace of Christ be with you....and also with you."*

# TRINITY CHIMES

## SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP

*“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”*

## Screen

## ✠ WORDS OF INVITATION

L: God-with-us, Immanuel, comes to give us our own Holy Family,  
here with the body of Christ this day. Rejoice and be glad!

**P: May our hearts and minds be open to experiencing God's love in new ways. Amen!**

## ✠ HYMN OF PRAISE

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

## #234/Screen

## ✠ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

## A Modern Affirmation

**#885**

**✠ GLORIA PATRI**

## #70

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

*Love*

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS

## PASTORAL PRAYER

**Rev. Chris Black**

## Sermon Notes

We hope you use this space for reflections,  
and reminders from the sermon  
or throughout the service.

## Prayer Requests for 12/21/25

The printed requests will stay in our bulletin for 2 weeks and then will be moved to our ongoing prayer list on our website.

- ◆ Family of David Kefauver
- ◆ Quinn Strickland and family
- ◆ Tara Stewart and family
- ◆ Joe Grubb and family
- ◆ Praise for the ramp building project
- ◆ Prayers for those affected by the tragic events at Brown University and in Australia
- ◆ Kendall Wimmer (Charlie's brother)
- ◆ Houvenagle family
- ◆ Janet Ruppel
- ◆ Michelle Pope (Barr)
- ◆ Family of Bob Swartz (Warfel)
- ◆ Mike and Sandy O'Neill and family
- ◆ Sue Kromhout (Warfel)
- ◆ Kat Ahart (upcoming surgery)
- ◆ Barbara Baiz (fall)
- ◆ Miranda Larson and family
- ◆ Ron Leinart (upcoming surgery) and family
- ◆ Ronnie Gay (Veronica Venable's father)
- ◆ Veronica Venable and family
- ◆ Nelson/Stratton family
- ◆ Unspoken Prayers

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## Special Word of Thanks...

The Kefauver family would like to express their gratitude for the tremendous support provided by Rev. Chris Black, Sue Hamilton, and all our church members. All the prayers, wonderful meals, messages, texts, and calls provided much needed comfort in a very difficult time. Thanks again!

### Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service

Christmas Eve worship here at First United Methodist Church of Madisonville will be held at 7:00 pm in our Sanctuary.

We will have communion together and celebrate the birth of our Savior through song, scripture, sacrament, and light. We hope you can join us for this beautiful service of worship on one of the most holy nights of the Christian year.

### December 28th is a fun & special worship service

On the first Sunday after Christmas, (which also happens to be the week leading to New Year's Eve) we want to invite you to join us for a casual and simple worship service at 10:30 am. We will be having a hymn sing where you get to choose what hymns we sing together. Near the end of our time together we will also have a moment to reflect on the previous year and the upcoming year via a Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Meditation. You are invited to join us to have a little fun, sing some great songs, and prepare our hearts to continue to adore Him in 2026!

### Take Note of our Holiday Office Hours

Our office will be open this coming week on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> as normal, but we close at noon on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our office will be closed on December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas Holiday.

Our office will be open as normal on December 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> but we will close at noon on January 31<sup>st</sup> for New Year's Eve. Our office will be closed on January 1<sup>st</sup> for the New Year's Eve Holiday.

We hope to see you in worship as normal on December 28<sup>th</sup> and January 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am in our sanctuary.

### "Into the Bible" with Rev. Chris Black starts back up in January

*Have you ever been intimidated by the Bible? Or felt that you didn't know where to start with reading or studying scripture? Have you ever wanted to go deeper and to learn more?*

Beginning on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, Rev. Chris Black is beginning a new Pastor's Bible Study Class that will help you approach the Bible with confidence. This class will meet in the fellowship hall and will be a homestyle Bible Study for all ages! Pastor Chris will offer an in-depth exploration of the gospel of Matthew, and then he will move into other areas of the scriptures. In the midst of our study the group will discuss some fundamental ways to engage with the Bible, so that you may apply it to your life today. It doesn't matter if you're new to the Christian faith, or have studied the Bible for years you are welcome to attend.

If you have any questions about the upcoming class please email Pastor Chris at [cblack@firstumcmadisonville.org](mailto:cblack@firstumcmadisonville.org).

### A Big Thank You!

A big thanks to all of our youth and adults who came out to complete our ramp project for the Leinart family. It was a great couple of days to build together!



### THE 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**HYMN** "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear" #218/Screen

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** Rev. Chris Black

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**  
*(During this time we worship by the giving of our gifts and offerings for the work of the church in ministry and mission.)*

**OFFERTORY** "Everything Changes Now" Chancel Choir

**✠ DOXOLOGY** #94

**SCRIPTURE** *Matthew 1: 18-25*  
L: The Word of God, for the People of God.  
**P: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** "Stepping Into God's Bigger Story" Rev. Chris Black

**✠ CLOSING HYMN** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Screen

**✠ BENEDICTION** Sue Hamilton

**✠ BENEDICTION RESPONSE** "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" Screen

**✠ TRINITY CHIMES**

**POSTLUDE**



*~Serve the Lord this week where you are able~*