

First United Methodist Church

2nd Sunday of Advent — December 10, 2023
A Service of Dedication for a Building Free of Debt



*Welcome! We pray that worship here at First United Methodist is a blessing for you, even as your presence blesses us. The Church newsletter, large print hymnals, name tags, and refreshments are available in the welcoming area. Children are **always welcome** in worship, and we embrace their presence, their joy, and the fun things they often do and say as we worship God. In the welcoming area we have crayons and children's bulletins available. Please fill out the clipboard at the end of your row to register your attendance and tell us a little more about you.*

"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 10, 2023

10:30 AM

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Chris Black

(At this time please register your in-person attendance on the clipboards placed on each pew; or if you are watching on-line register at www.1umcm.com and continue sending us your comments via Facebook, Twitter, email, etc.)

INVITATION TO PASS THE PEACE

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

TRINITY CHIMES

✠ **CALL TO WORSHIP** "This Is the Day" #657/Screen

✠ WORDS OF INVITATION

L: This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

L: This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

P: Blessed be the Lord; may God's glory fill the whole earth.

✠ **HYMN OF PRAISE** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

#715/Screen

✠ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** A Modern Affirmation #213/Screen

✠ **GLORIA PATRI** #70/Screen

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Peace The Strickland Family

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Sandra Johnson

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.

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. For those who are watching online, you may mail your gifts to First United Methodist Church, P O Box 157, Madisonville, TN 37354, or go to our website: tithing.1umcm.com for directions and other options.

OFFERTORY "Holy Ground Medley" Chancel Choir

DOXOLOGY #94/Screen

SCRIPTURE **John 1:1-5, 14-18**
Leader: The Word of God, for the People of God
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "God Broke Through the Silence with the Word" Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett

BURNING OF THE MORTGAGE *Congregation is invited to move outside to the upper parking lot.*

ACT OF DEDICATION Rev. Chris Black


R = "We dedicate this house."

For the worship of God in prayer and praise; for the preaching of the everlasting gospel;
for the celebration of the Holy Sacraments; **R**
For the comfort of all who mourn; for strength to those who are tempted;
for light to those who seek the way; **R**
For the hallowing of family life; for teaching and guiding the young;
for the perfecting of the saints; **R**
For the conversion of sinners; for the promotion of righteousness;
for the extension of God's reign; **R**
In the unity of the faith; in the bond of brotherhood and sisterhood;
in love and goodwill to all; **R**
In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve this church;
in loving remembrance of those who have finished their course; in the hope of eternal
life through Jesus Christ our Lord; **R**

CLOSING PRAYER Led by Rev. Chris Black

We now, the people of this congregation, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, aware of the sacrifices of our mothers and fathers in the faith, and confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of almighty God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett

 *Please stand as you are able.*

All those gathered are invited to join in a celebration meal in the fellowship hall.



The Christmas Cantata on December 17th

Please mark your calendars to be in worship on December 17th for our Annual Christmas Cantata! Our church choir has been working diligently and joyfully during the last month to lead us in worship on the 3rd Sunday of Advent. They are excited to share the piece "Glorious Impossible" created by Russell Mauldin. We hope you will make plans to be in worship with us for this celebration of the advent season through song.

Family Night Supper @ 6:00 p.m. with Children's Christmas Program following:

On Wednesday evening December 20th at 6pm we will have our annual Christmas covered dish dinner. Then all will be invited to join us in the sanctuary where our IGNITE children will sing and we will have a brief, joy filled, funny, and exciting impromptu nativity that will be put on by our young people. This event is always a fun intergenerational way to remember the powerful story of Christ's birth. We hope that every child & youth in our church will be a part of the program. Bring plenty of covered dishes for and, join us for this exciting evening.



Take Note! Our plans for Sunday, December 24th

Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year! So, we will have our normal worship service at 10:30 a.m. in our Sanctuary. Then at 7:00 p.m. we will have our annual Candlelight & Communion Service to

celebrate Christmas Eve. At our evening worship service, we will honor 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.

"Discovery" Sermon Series coming in January...

Beginning on January 7th, 2024, Rev. Chris Black will kick off a 6 part sermon series called "Discovery: Unearthing Your Spiritual Gifts." Pastor Chris will dive deep into the topic of spiritual gifts from a biblical and Wesleyan perspective. Spiritual gifts is a topic that is often surrounded by controversy and confusion within (and outside) the Church.



This series will equip Christians to explore what their own God given spiritual gifts are, and how they can be used to equip them for discipleship & mission both inside and outside our church. We hope you will join us for what promises to be an exciting and rewarding series.



United Women in Faith Christmas Brunch

The United Women in Faith will meet on Saturday, December 16, at 11:15 am at Rarity Bay Clubhouse, 403 Rarity Bay Pkwy, Vonore, TN 37885 for a Christmas brunch. Anyone who wants to carpool can meet in the church parking lot at 10:45 am on the 16th. All are welcome!

Please RSVP to Jill at 423-253-4455 so we can have a count of attendees.



We Welcome Our Bishop!

The Reverend Dr. Debra Wallace-Padgett was elected a Bishop of the United Methodist Church at the 2012 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

At the time of her election, she was the lead pastor of St. Luke United Methodist Church in Lexington, Kentucky – an appointment she served for eight years. During her tenure, St. Luke grew in membership, strengthened its infrastructure, built a \$4.5 million Ministry Life Center and launched a multi-cultural worship service.

Her previous service to the church includes six years as District Superintendent, three years as pastor of Paris First UMC and 11 years on staff at Lexington First UMC and two years as Director of Christian Education at Epworth UMC. She served in a variety of roles in the Kentucky Annual Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction and General Conference. She is currently the chair of the standing Committee on Evangelism for the World Methodist Council. She previously served as a member of the Commission on a Way Forward, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the Connectional Table and the Council of Bishops Executive Committee.

She is a graduate of Berea College (Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education), Scarritt College and Graduate School (Master of Arts in Christian Education), Lexington Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity) and Asbury Theological Seminary (Doctor of Ministry),

Bishop Wallace-Padgett is married to Rev. Lee Padgett, a retired deacon in the Unit-

ed Methodist Church. They are the parents of two adult children, Leandra Thompson (Alexander) and Andrew Padgett and two granddaughters (Crindalyn Thompson and Raylena Mildred Thompson)

We Welcome Our District Superintendent!

The Rev. Sandra Johnson is a native of Chattanooga and attended the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga where she received a B.A. in sociology/social work. Before answering her call to the ordained ministry, she was employed with BellSouth Telecommunications.

In 1995, she began her candidacy and was licensed as a local pastor in 1996. In May 2008, Johnson received a Master of Divinity degree from Gammon Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. Her prior local church appointments include Eastdale Village Community, Hurst Memorial, and Strawberry Plains United Methodist churches. In 2011, she was appointed as district superintendent in the (Abingdon, Virginia) Clinch Mountain District.

Johnson retired at the 2019 Annual Conference but served Pruitt Hill-Tate Chapel in Greeneville during retirement. At the 2023 Holston Annual Conference Johnson came out of retirement to serve as the Hiwassee District Superintendent. She is married to William Leon, and they are the parents of two children, and several grandchildren



Check Out the Event Announcements Listed Below

- **Celebratory Meal** - Today, 12:00 Noon, Fellowship Hall
- **Ornament Class** - Sunday, 1:00 PM, Community Room
- **Cub Scouts** - Monday, 6:00 PM, Youth Room
- **Scouts BSA** - Monday, 7:00 PM, Community Room
- **Community Café** - Tuesday, 5:00 PM, Fellowship Hall
- **Pastor's Bible Study** - Wednesday, 10:30 AM, Main Sanctuary
- **Midweek Communion Service** - Wednesday, 12:00 PM, Main Sanctuary
- **IGNITE Youth** - Wednesday, 6:00 PM - Fellowship Hall, then Admin Wing
- **UMYF** - Wednesday 6:00 PM, Fellowship Hall, then Youth Room
- **Choir Practice** - Wednesday, 5:30 PM, Main Sanctuary
- **United Women of Faith Luncheon** - Saturday, 11:15 AM, Rarity Bay Clubhouse. A carpool meets in the church parking lot at 10:45 AM

The trustee for today is Wes Hibbert.

Coffee bar today is hosted by Gabi Tallent



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