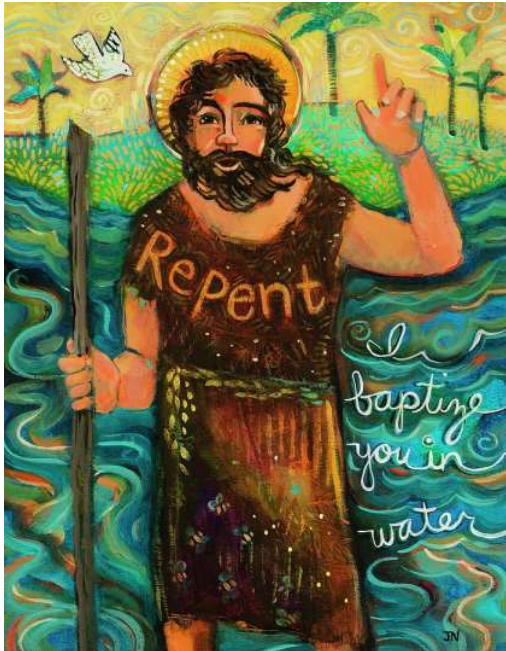


# First United Methodist Church

1st Sunday of Advent — December 3, 2023



“An  
Unlikely  
Sign of  
Hope.”

Mark 1:1-8

*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 3, 2023**

**10:30 AM**

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## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lee Anne Strickland

*(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](http://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      **“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”** (vs.1) #213/Screen

## ✠ WORDS OF INVITATION

L: A voice cries in the wilderness,

**P: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make God’s way clear.**

L: Lift up every valley; lower every mountain.

**P: For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.”**

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE      **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**      #211/Screen

✠ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH      **The Apostles Creed**      #881/Screen

✠ GLORIA PATRI      #70/Screen

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING 1 (HOPE)

PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS      Rev. Chris Black

PASTORAL PRAYER      Rev. Chris Black

HYMN      **“Angels From the Realms of Glory”**      #220/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. 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](http://tithing.1umcm.com) for directions and other options.*

## OFFERTORY

**"Candles of Advent"**

Chancel Choir

## DOXOLOGY

#94/Screen

## SCRIPTURE

**Mark 1:1-8**

Leader: The Word of God, for the People of God

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

**"An Unlikely Sign of Hope."**

Rev. Chris Black

## COMMUNION

### 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.*

## ✠ CLOSING HYMN

**"Heralds of Christ"** (vs. 1)

#567/Screen

## ✠ BENEDICTION

## ✠ BENEDICTION RESPONSE

**"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"**

#204/Screen

## ✠ TRINITY CHIMES

## POSTLUDE

✠ *Please stand as you are able.  
Serve the Lord this week where you are able!*

## Advent is here!

The season of Advent begins on today. Followers of Jesus often use the days leading up to Christmas to intentionally prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas. Our congregation will mark the 4 weeks in Advent leading up to the Christmas season in some very rich, unique, and fun ways both on Sundays and throughout the week.

Each week leading up to Christmas Eve will have a different theme to be centered around:

**December 3rd: Hope**

**December 10th: Peace**

**December 17th: Joy**

**December 24th: Love**

Please be on the lookout for all the ways we will be preparing as a community to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

## 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.

## Welcome the Holiday Season with Hanging of the Greens

On Sunday evening December 3rd at 6:00 p.m. we will be having our annual Hanging of the Greens service in the sanctuary. This is a beautiful worship service filled with scripture, carols, and symbols of the season of Advent & Christmas. In many parts of the world this ceremony has traditionally been used to kick off the season of expectation called "Advent." We hope you will join us for this meaningful service of worship.

**Following the Service: We will have a time of fellowship and finger foods. Please feel free to bring your favorite finger foods for others to sample, and share.**

## Join us for a celebration 16 years in the making...

On Sunday, December 10th, 2023, our congregation will have the opportunity to share in a dedication service for our church building that will be free of debt! Many of you remember that on December 10th, 2007, a fire broke out in our church that destroyed the old church Sanctuary and offices. In order to rebuild the sanctuary, offices, classrooms, and additional gathering spaces of 1st UMC Madisonville, the church took out a building loan of \$900,000. These funds were combined with insurance money and other donations for the rebuild, which was finished in 2011.



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Our church community is now poised to celebrate a great milestone by burning our mortgage note (Outside, of course!), and rededicating our debt-free Sanctuary & facility on the 16th anniversary of the devastating fire that destroyed it. Our resident Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett is planning on preaching for us that day, and our District Superintendent Rev. Sandra Johnson is also planning to be with us as well. Following worship we will join together for a wonderful meal in the fellowship hall. December 10th, 2023 promises to be a great day of worshipping our risen Lord and Savior...all while celebrating how the Holy Spirit has inspired us to strengthen our church so that it will be here for generations to come!



- Mary and Tony Nelson
- Dwight West (friend of Mike Tallent)
- Vince Maiuri (John's brother)
- Doug Riddle (Patty Williford Jones' brother)
- Mike Cole (friend of Larry Davis)
- Patti and Jim Leamon
- Kimberly Leamon
- Our Church (Marlee's request)
- Betty Hicks
- John & Judy Maiuri
- Mason family
- Unspoken Requests
- Military personnel

*There are more continuing prayer requests in **The Flame** (our monthly newsletter). The Prayer List is constantly updated live at [1umcm.com](http://1umcm.com)*

## Attendance and Giving Last Week

In-Person - 70 Online - 10 Youth - 8  
Pastor's Bible Study - 8

Giving to the General Fund	\$ 1,894
<b>Needed in November</b>	<b>\$ 23,188</b>
<b>*Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 20,261</b>
Building Fund	\$ 100
<b>Needed in November</b>	<b>\$ 6,400</b>
<b>*Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 3,185</b>
Community Assistance Fund	\$ 150
<b>*Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 788</b>

## December 3, 2023



### NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Sierra Mc (Gabi Tallent's friend)
- Susan Sherrer and family
- Julie Sullivan's friend Zane
- Family of Gregory Gay (Veronica Venable's cousin)
- Quinn Strickland and family
- The people of Israel
- Unspoken Prayers

### CONTINUING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Tina Smith and family
- Joy P. (entering hospice—friend of Melanie Slouka))

## Check Out the Event Announcements Listed Below

- **Advent Study for Christmas** - Today, 11:45 AM, Youth Room
- **Hanging of the Greens** - Today, 6:00 PM, Main Sanctuary
- **Cub Scouts** - Monday, 6:00 PM, Youth Room
- **Scouts BSA** - Monday, 7:00 PM, Community Room
- **Nurture the Next Holiday Celebration** Monday, 5:00 PM, Fellowship Hall
- **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, Meet first in Fellowship Hall, then Admin Wing
- **UMYF** - Wednesday 6:00 PM, Meet first in Fellowship Hall then Youth Room
- **Choir Practice** - Wednesday, 6:00 PM, Main Sanctuary
- **Isaiah 117 Team** - Thursday, 5:30 PM Fellowship Hall
- **Alcoholics Anonymous** - Friday, 5:30 PM, Community Room
- **Beason Family Christmas** - Saturday, 5:00 PM, Fellowship Hall
- **United Methodist Men** - Sunday, 8:30 AM, Youth Room
- **Adult Sunday School** - Sunday, 9:30 AM, Library
- **Celebration Lunch** - Sunday, 12:00 Fellowship Hall

The trustee for today is Carolynn Greenwood.

Coffee bar today is hosted by Janet Tweed.



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**Rev. Chris Black**

Pastor

**Richard Beaubien**

Office & Technology Coordinator

**Sue Hamilton**

Director of Congregational Care & Choir Ministries

**Erin Roberts**

1st Steps Coordinator

Website: [1umcm.com](http://1umcm.com)

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