

# First United Methodist Church

December 31, 2023—Pajama Church!!!  
1st Sunday after Christmas



Pajama  
Church  
2023/2024



Luke 2: 22-40

*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 31, 2023

10:30 AM

## 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            “Jesus, Name Above All Names ”            Screen

## ✠ WORDS OF INVITATION

L: We recount the gracious deeds of God, all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:

**P: Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.**

L: Praise God for the good news of Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation.

**P: Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.**

L: Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and carrying us.

**P: God’s glory shines in heaven and on earth. Praise the Lord!**

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE            “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”            #240/Screen

✠ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH    A Christmas Affirmation            Screen

We believe in God: the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit: Who breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ: Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.

And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Amen.

✠ GLORIA PATRI #70/Screen

SPECIAL MUSIC "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Reba Dopkins

A TIME TO SING Hymns Chosen By the Congregation

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 "Glorious Impossible" Chancel Choir

DOXOLOGY #94/Screen

SCRIPTURE **Luke 2: 22-40**  
Leader: The Word of God, for the People of God  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY Rev. Chris Black

A TIME TO SING Hymns Chosen By the Congregation

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Chris Black

**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 "There's A Song In The Air" #249/Screen

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ BENEDICTION RESPONSE "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Chorus) #234/Screen

✠ TRINITY CHIMES

POSTLUDE

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

## Read Together in 2024

This year Rev. Chris Black invites you to join him in participating in the Holston Conference's "Read Together" initiative. This opportunity challenges us to read through the whole Bible in one year. In 2024, we will be reading the Bible chronologically using a path laid out in J. Ellsworth Kalas's "The Grand Sweep: 365 Days from Genesis through Revelation." This reading plan asks us to read only 2-3 chapters a day which will be much less burdensome than previous years studies.

Participating in this initiative as a whole congregation can uniquely bind us together as Christ's disciples all while rooting us more deeply in God's word. There will be book marks available in the welcome center with each month's readings, and the readings for the week will also be printed in the bulletin. As always if you have a question about a passage or verse you are reading then please call (or text) Pastor Chris or stop by the church office.

Here are the readings for this coming week:

December 31st = Genesis 1  
January 1 = Genesis 2  
January 2 = Genesis 3,4  
January 3 = Genesis 5,6  
January 4 = Genesis 7,8  
January 5 = Genesis 9-11  
January 6 = Genesis 12,13

## "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.



## Start the New Year off right by joining the Choir!

Our Choir ministry meets weekly on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. in the main sanctuary. This group enjoys plenty of fellowship and fun each week as they learn new music to help lead our worship. Even if you have never sung in a choir before you would be welcomed to participate. Joining a choir group is a great way to build relationships with others, and to learn a new skill that can glorify God. If you have questions about our Choir ministry or wish to join please contact Sue Hamilton at [sue@firstumcmadisonville.org](mailto:sue@firstumcmadisonville.org)

## Take Note!

The Church office will be closed on Monday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day. However Chris, Sue, and Richard will be around the church as normal beginning on Tuesday the 2nd. For pastoral care emergencies please text or leave a voice mail at 423-442-2471 or call Pastor Chris' cell phone.

## December 31, 2023

### NEW PRAYER REQUESTS



Becky Chester & Family (Chad's Sister)  
 Ann Sutton and Family  
 Capoldi Family (Australian friends of the Hibberts - lost a baby)  
 Mary Alice Huff and family (surgical procedure this upcoming week)  
 Pat Rapping family (lots of illnesses)  
 Unspoken prayers by Stewart family  
 Family of Emily Bushey (Sequoyah student)  
 Conlie Rasnake (moving to Morning View Independent Living)  
 Katie (Collins) Woodby—health issues (Laurie and Roger McNeece's daughter)  
 Marilyn Atchley (friend of Sue)  
 Unspoken Prayers

### CONTINUING PRAYER REQUESTS

Tina Smith and family  
 Mary Ann (health) and Ken Nelson (friends of Dopkins)  
 Stan Rice (Sequoyah High School staff)  
 Sierra (friend of Alexis Jones battling cancer)  
 Family of Reverend John Thierbach (friend of Mike Tallent)  
 Family of Dawson Reagan  
 Christine and Joel (Melanie Slouka's request)  
 Pamela Weston (health issues) friend of Laurie McNeece  
 Misty Barger (had surgery) and family  
 Family of Gregory Gay (Veronica Venable's cousin)  
 Quinn Strickland and family  
 Julie Sullivan's friend Zane  
 Calvin and Rose Williams (Alford's neighbors)  
 Praise that the Tabers are improving (Hibbert

neighbors)  
 Sierra Mc (Gabi Tallent's friend)  
 Mary and Tony Nelson and family  
 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 and family  
 Kimberly Leamon  
 Our Church (Marlee's request)  
 Betty Hicks and family  
 John & Judy Maiuri and family  
 Jane Frerichs and family  
 Wayne and Lucille Peery and family  
 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 - 104 Online - 6 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 117

Tithing	\$ 3,394
<b><i>Needed in December</i></b>	<b>\$ 23,188</b>
<b><i>*Receipts</i></b>	<b>\$ 16,861</b>
Maintenance/Improvement	\$ 100
<b><i>Needed in November</i></b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>
<b><i>*Receipts</i></b>	<b>\$ 1,290</b>
Community Assistance Fund	\$ 0
<b><i>*Receipts</i></b>	<b>\$ 445</b>
Community Café	\$ 318
<b><i>*Receipts</i></b>	<b>\$ 538</b>
Designated /Non Budget	\$ 0
<b><i>*Receipts</i></b>	<b>\$ 1,197</b>

## Check Out the Event Announcements Listed Below

- **New Year's Day - Office Closed** - Monday
- **Community Café** - Tuesday, 5:00 PM, Fellowship Hall
- **Midweek Communion Service** - Wednesday, 12:00 PM, Main Sanctuary
- **United Methodist Youth** - Wednesday, 6:00 PM, Youth Room
- **Choir Practice** - Wednesday, 6:00 PM, Main Sanctuary
- **Adult Sunday School** - Sunday, 9:30 AM, Library



The trustee for today is Ray Nelson

Coffee bar today is hosted by Angela Tallent.



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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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