

## 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.



143 College Street  
Mail to: PO Box 157  
Madisonville, TN 37354  
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: 94 On-line: 37

### Sunday General Giving

\$2,970.00

### Sunday Designated Giving

\$505.00

### Total Giving for December

\$20,302.13

### Needed monthly

\$23,866.50

**Flowers:** Communion Sunday

**Coffee Bar:** Glenda Parker

### Usher Team:

Ray Nelson and Wes Hibbert

### 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*  
[cblack@firstumcmadisonville.org](mailto:cblack@firstumcmadisonville.org)

**Nikki Rutzen**  
*Executive Assistant*  
[nikki@firstumcmadisonville.org](mailto:nikki@firstumcmadisonville.org)

**Sue Hamilton**  
*Director of Congregational Care  
& Choir Ministries*  
[sue@firstumcmadisonville.org](mailto:sue@firstumcmadisonville.org)

**Erin Strickland**  
*First Steps Coordinator*  
[eroberts@firstumcmadisonville.org](mailto:eroberts@firstumcmadisonville.org)

# First United Methodist Church

January 4, 2026  
Epiphany Sunday  
Communion



**“What Will We Bring?”**  
**Matthew 2:1-12**

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.

*“Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”*



## **Into the Bible with Rev. Chris Black starts this Wednesday night**

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 this Wednesday, January 7th 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).

## **Presbyterian and FUMC Choir Concert**

On Sunday afternoon January 11th at 3PM our Chancel Choir and Madisonville Presbyterian Church's choir will present the Cantata "A Child is Born...All Is Well" in our sanctuary. An offering for the Community Café will be taken, and we are encouraging folks to bring items for the blessing boxes located at both churches. We hope you will come and bring your friends.

## **United Women in Faith (UWF) invites you to join them!**

Our group of United Methodist Women also known as United Women in Faith is very strong and active here at First UMC of Madisonville. As we enter a new year the leadership of our UWF wants to invite all women of the church to come be a part of

their conversations and their outreach and missions initiatives. This group meets on the third Sunday of every month in the fellowship hall, where they share a meal as they work, learn, and strategize together. Their next meeting will be on January 18th and they would love for you to join them in 2026!

## **We have a New Nursery Worker!**

Our own Mary Humphrey will be joining us as a new staff person in our nursery beginning in the month of January. She and her husband Corey (along with their two children) officially joined our church in November but they have been with us for many months. Mary comes to us with lots of practical experience with young children. She also already has plenty of enthusiasm around our children's ministry and has the desire to see these ministries grow. I know that many of you have met Mary and her family already, but please feel free to welcome her this month as our new staff person.

**Join us for a new January series by Rev. Chris Black called:  
"The Way of Wisdom"**

Life doesn't always come with easy answers—but Scripture offers wisdom for living faithfully. **The Way of Wisdom** is a five-week sermon series exploring the Bible's wisdom literature and what it means for everyday life. We will journey into Job, Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, the Psalms, and even the gospels themselves as they speak honestly about suffering, meaning, daily choices, and prayer. These ancient voices help us name life as it really is—complex, fragile, and full of hope. Each week, we will also discover how Jesus gathers this wisdom into his own life and teachings. We hope you will join us as we strive to discover a wiser way of following Christ in every season of life.

## **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**

**"Rejoice With Exceeding Great Joy"**

**Chancel Choir**

**#94**

## **¶ DOXOLOGY**

## **SCRIPTURE**

**Matthew 2: 1-12**

**L: The Word of God, for the People of God.**

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**"What Will We Bring?"**

**Rev. Chris Black**

## **SERMON**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

## **CONFESION**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

## **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.*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

## **SENDING FORTH**

## **COVENANT RENEWAL MOMENT**

## **¶ CLOSING HYMN**

**"We Three Kings"**

**#254/Screen**

## **¶ BENEDICTION**

## **¶ BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**"We Three Kings" (refrain)**

**Screen**

## **¶ TRINITY CHIMES**

## **POSTLUDE**

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