

**First United Methodist Church**  
224 Broad Street PO Box 178  
Mason, Texas 76856  
(325) 347-5105 [www.fumcmason.org](http://www.fumcmason.org)

***2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmastide***  
***January 4, 2026***

**GATHERING/WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Jenny Tucker**

We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

**God, help us find your glory.**

We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the good news in the least likely places.

**God, help us notice your glory.**

We gather as people yearning for Love's presence, the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word.

**God, help us encounter your glory.**

On this Epiphany Sunday, may the Light of Love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.

**God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.*

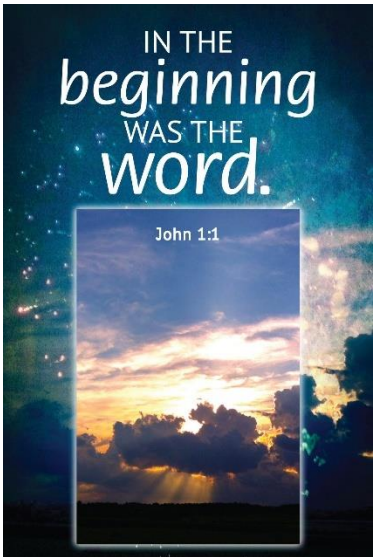
**\*SONG OF PRAISE**

**UMH #224**

**"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"**

*Acolytes bring in the light of Christ acknowledging the Presence of God.*

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today, Christ is born today!	2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!
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3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!	
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***Acolytes bring in the light of Christ acknowledging the Presence of God.***

**A YEAR WITH GOD** *We color Christmas white because it is the time we celebrate how God became human.*

**CENTERING PRAYER SONG: UMH #204** “Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

<p><b>Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.</b></p>
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**CONFESSION:** Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*All pray in silence.*

### **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

*Leader to people:*

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

*People to leader:*

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**Leader and people: Glory to God. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **YOUNG DISCIPLES TIME**

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:**

**Jenny Tucker**

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

#### **SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2: 1-12**

**Jenny Tucker**

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi<sup>[a]</sup> from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east<sup>[b]</sup> and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah<sup>[c]</sup> was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd<sup>[d]</sup> my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the magi<sup>[e]</sup> and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east,<sup>[f]</sup> until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped,<sup>[g]</sup> they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And

having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**SONG OF PREPARATION:** *“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise” v.2*

**UMH #611**

**2. Child of love, our love’s expression,  
love’s creation, loved indeed!  
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,  
into joy and laughter lead.**

**SCRIPTURE:** John 1: 1-18

**Pastor Laura**

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life,<sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

**6** There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.<sup>[b]</sup>

**10** He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own,<sup>[c]</sup> and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**14** And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son,<sup>[d]</sup> full of grace and truth. **15** (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) **16** From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.<sup>[e]</sup> **17** The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who<sup>[f]</sup> is close to the Father’s heart,<sup>[g]</sup> who has made him known.

**SERMON:** The Gift of Incarnate Word

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY “Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring”**

**\*SONG OF THANKS:** Doxology

**UMH #664**

**UMH #95**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND SERVE**

**\*SONG OF COMMITMEN: UMH #246 “Joy to the World”**

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, <b>and heaven and nature sing,</b> (and heaven and nature sing,) <b>and heaven and nature sing,</b> (and heaven and nature sing,) <b>and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.</b>	2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains <b>repeat the sounding joy,</b> (repeat the sounding joy,) <b>repeat the sounding joy,</b> (repeat the sounding joy,) <b>repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</b>
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow <b>far as the curse is found,</b> (far as the curse is found,) <b>far as the curse is found,</b> (far as the curse is found,) <b>far as, far as the curse is found.</b>	4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, <b>and wonders of his love,</b> (and wonders of his love,) <b>and wonders of his love,</b> (and wonders of his love,) <b>and wonders, wonders of his love.</b>

**SENDING FORTH - BLESSING**

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**UMH=United Methodist Hymnal; FWS=The Faith We Sing; W&S=Worship and Song**

**Questions for Reflection**

How have you received “grace upon grace” in your life through Jesus Christ? Can you think of times when God has turned your mourning into joy, your sorrow into gladness? Does the incarnation of Christ call us to “make flesh” the love of God for others?

***Household Prayer: Morning***

God who gives birth to the new heaven and the new earth,  
midwife in me your love made flesh for others  
as I live in your world today. Amen.

***Household Prayer: Evening***

Holy One, as I review my day and all I have done—or not done—  
lavish me once again in your grace,  
that I may rest in the inheritance of being one of your children,  
trusting this evening in the renewing power of your love. Amen.

*FOW Worship Companion, Year A*



***Please pray for our members and loved ones who are homebound or residing in nursing homes.***

***Also, please pray for:*** the family of Donna Nelson, Randy Eastes, Debbie Boatright, Martha Cervantes Dotson, Gary Zesch, Kerry Rustin

***the following individuals:*** Natalia Ramon, Anne Chappell & Terri Reardon, Katherine Graham (friend of Nikki Watson diagnosed w/ cancer), George Eastes, Amy Reardon (CJ Reardon's daughter), Barbara Young, LeiLei Vermulen (chemo treatments), Marty Evans (son of Dennis & Kay Evans), Aubrey Burrow, Gerry Gamel, Kathy Kerr, Kash (Rodney Flemings 1 yr old grandson), Rick Woerner (Father of Tiffany K.), Bonnie Woerner (Stepmother of Tiffany Klaerner), Joan Whitaker, Shirley Beth Lyles, Lauren Hoerster, Connor Reardon, Doris Grote, Lorine Metz, the church, the homeless, and all those affected by war and those affected by natural disasters.

***Please pray for our members and loved ones who are in the military.***

**U.S. Army:** Joseph Alba, T.J. Schovajsa, Britney Schovajsa and Kalyn Bauer **US Marine Corp:** Hunter Goodwin **USAF:** Matt Adam **US Navy:** Ferd T. Slocum III & Truman Coe

**MINISTERS—ALL MEMBERS OF FUMC  
STAFF—LISTED BELOW**

**Rev. Laura Hewett Becker**  
**Emily Sapien, Office Manager**  
**Deandra Palacio Family Ministries**  
**Terri Reardon, RN Wesley Nurse**  
**Rhett Vacek, A/V Tech**  
**Freddy Sapien Steady Steps Dir.**  
**Leslie Whitworth Music Dir.**

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**[steadysteps@fumcmason.org](mailto:steadysteps@fumcmason.org)**

# *This week's Calendar*

## **Sunday, January 4**

Prayer Shawl Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages

11:00 AM Worship Service

4:00 – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts

## **Monday, January 5**

9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Gathering

10:30 Seniors Exercise Group

## **Tuesday, January 6**

9:30 AM Steady Steps Chapel

10:30 AM Nurture Committee

## **Wednesday, January 7**

10:30 AM Seniors Exercise Group

5:00 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Family Night

~ Join us for delicious Gumbo!

## **Thursday, January 8**

## **Friday, January 9**

10:30 AM Seniors Exercise Group

Mid-Winter Weekend Retreat – Prayers for Grace Gonzalez,  
Grace Klaerner, Amanda McMillan, & Deandra Palacio as they  
Travel to New Braunfels to attend

## **Sunday, January 11**

Noisy Bucket Offering – to benefit Mason Ministerial Alliance

## **Giving and Attendance**

LAST WEEK'S GIVING (DEC 24 & DEC 28) .....	\$3,466.00
DEC. MTD GIVING.....	\$31,550.16
DEC. BUDGETED INCOME.....	\$31,424.58
DEC. MTD EXPENSE.....	\$18,909.00
DEC. BUDGETED EXP.....	\$77,224.64
DEC. EXTRA BENEVOLENCE...(ANGEL TREE).....	\$ 4,810
LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE (DEC 24/DEC 28) .....	58/37

