

# First United Methodist Church

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Mason, Texas 76856

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[www.fumcmason.org](http://www.fumcmason.org)

**February 1st, 2026**

**4th Sunday After Epiphany**



## GATHERING/WELCOME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Donna Ziriaux

Beloved, what worship does God desire of us?

**To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.**

In our life together as the body of Christ, what worship does God desire of us?

**To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.**

When we share the good news with all creation, what worship does God desire of us?

**To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.**

Come, let us worship God with justice, kindness, and humility!

**We come to worship God with our voices and our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### \*SONG OF PRAISE

UMH#433

"All Who Love and Serve Your City" v. 1,3,5"

1. All who love and serve your city, all who bear its daily stress, all who cry for peace and justice, all who curse and all who bless:	3. In your day of wealth and plenty, wasted work and wasted play, call to mind the word of Jesus, "Work ye yet while it is day."
5. Risen Lord, shall yet the city be the city of despair? Come today, our Judge, our Glory, be its name, "The Lord is there!"	

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

**A YEAR WITH GOD.** We color Epiphany green because it is the time we celebrate how God is made known to the world.

## **CENTERING PRAYER SONG: "Goodness is Stronger Than Evil"**

**FWS #2219**

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.	(Oh,) Victory is ours, (victory is ours,) victory is ours (victory is ours) through him who loved us. (Through him who loved us.) (x2)
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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:**

**Donna Ziriaux**

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:** Micah 6: 1-8

**Donna Ziriaux**

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. 2 Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. 3 "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! 4 For I brought you up from the land of

Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. 5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.” 6 “With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” 8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

**SONG OF PREPARATION:** “Be Thou My Vision” v.1,2. **UMH #451**

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.	2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
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**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 5: 1-12  
 5 When Jesus[a] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**SERMON:** The Gift of Poetic Challenge

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY:** “Trust and Obey” v. 1,4 **UMH #467**

**\*SONG OF THANKS:** Doxology **UMH #95**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**  
**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** “Time Now to Gather” **FWS #2265**

**OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND SERVE**

**\*SONG OF COMMITMENT:** “Lord, I Want to be a Christian” v.1,2,4

**UMH #402**

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. (in my heart) In my heart, (in my heart) in my heart, (in my heart) Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. (in my heart)	2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. (in my heart) In my heart, (in my heart) in my heart, (in my heart) Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. (in my heart)
4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. (in my heart) In my heart, (in my heart) in my heart, (in my heart) Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. (in my heart)	

**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 do we live in hope of a reality we cannot yet see or, at best, catch only fleeting glimpses? Where in your community’s life of prayer and service do you see instances of God’s justice, peace, and healing? Then give thanks, and ask God, where am I being called to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly into all blessedness in the ordinary course of my day?*

**Household Prayer: Morning**

*Blessed God, I yearn to see your vision of justice, love, and peace made real for me this day. Open my eyes to the way of love that I may see your brilliant light shining into the hidden places of my heart and the darkened corners of the world. **Amen.***

**Household Prayer: Evening**

*Loving God, you led me in the way of life this day and now call me to the way of rest. I give thanks for your light that illumined my path today. Now, it is night. As you*

beckon me to enter into holy darkness where I am one with you in your realm of uncreated light, I open to you in peace. **Amen.**



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

**Also, let's pray for:** the family of: Kerry Graham  
Rustin, Gary Zesch

**The following individuals:** Dan Feather, Anne  
Chappell & Terri Reardon, Rick & Bonnie Woerner (Father

& Stepmother of Tiffany K.), Katherine Graham (friend of Nikki Watson diagnosed w/ cancer), Amy Reardon, Barbara Young, LeiLei Vermulen (chemo treatments), Marty Evans (son of Dennis & Kay Evans), Aubrey Burrow, Kathy Kerr, Kash (Rodney Flemin 1 yr old grandson), Joan Whitaker, Shirley Beth Lyles, 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



*Drop off box available in  
Social Hall*

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

**Rev. Laura Hewett Becker**  
**Heilyn Gutierrez, 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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## Giving and Attendance

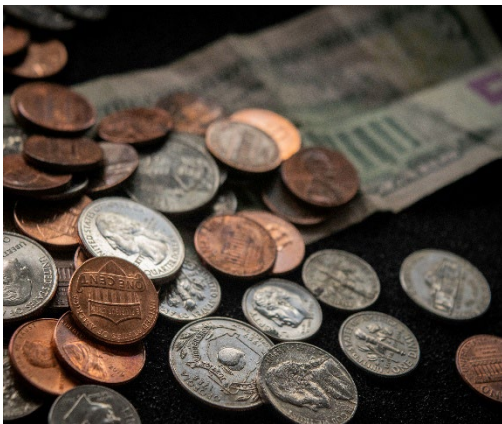
LAST WEEK'S GIVING (JAN 25, 2026) .....	\$ 25.00
JAN. MTD GIVING.....	\$30,750.16
JAN. MTD EXPENSE.....	\$18,909.00
LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE (JAN 25) .....	16



# TODAY!!!

*Elementary Midwinter Bake Sale for Marin & Lyda; help these girls to camp!*

*Don't forget to bring your loose change next Sunday!*



*In benefit of the Family Resource Network,*

# *This week's Calendar*

## Sunday, February 1

### *Prayer Shawl Sunday*

9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages

11:00 AM Worship Service

4:00 – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts

## Monday, February 2

09:30 AM Prayer Shawl

10:30 AM Senior Exercise

*04:00 PM Emily's send-off Reception*

## Tuesday, February 3

### *Birthday: Doris Courtright*

09:45 AM Steady Steps Chapel

10:30 AM Nurture Committee Meeting

## Wednesday, February 4

### *Birthday: Joyce Arnold*

10:30 AM Senior Exercise

*5:00 PM Family Night – Hot Soups & Cool Games!*

06:00 PM Choir Practice

## Thursday, February 5

### *Birthday: Deanna Handlin*

## Friday, February 6

### *Birthday: Jan Dutton & Morgan Willis*

10:30 AM Seniors Exercise Group

## Saturday, February 7

## Sunday, February 8

### *Noisy Bucket Offering- Benefit the Family Resource Network*

09:45 Prayer Shawl Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages

Elementary Midwinter Bake Sale

11:00 AM Worship Service

4:00 – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts

*\* See Deandra for details!*