

January 4, 2026



LIGHT THAT CHANGES US



## WELCOME

## PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

PRELUDE      *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*  
arr. J.C. Bach

## CALL TO WORSHIP

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.**

## OPENING HYMN No. 249

*There's A Song in the Air*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Ever-patient God, we are a people who live in thick darkness. We stumble around bombarded by news of war and poverty, famine and genocide, injustice and oppression. The maelstrom of things and issues and people of the dark, can overwhelm and paralyze us. Help us be people of the light, shining your light of righteousness, peace, and joy into all the dark places of our lives and world. Unlock the mystery and glory of the babe born in Bethlehem. Turn our aimless wanderings into a journey of purpose guided by your star. Let the light break into our lives and our world, and transform us into people of the light.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As certain as the dawn follows the night, so is the promise of God's forgiveness and love for us all. Arise and Shine. Follow the star. Find the light of the world born in Bethlehem . . . and be transformed from darkness into light.

## SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

## MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

SUNG RESPONSE No. 191, vs. 1      *Jesus Loves Me*

**Jesus loves me! This I know,  
for the Bible tells me so.**

**Little ones to him belong;  
they are weak, but he is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

SCRIPTURE      Matthew 2:1-12

## SPECIAL MUSIC

MESSAGE      *Light That Changes Us*

## OFFERING

*You may give your offering by text— UMCWC \$50 to 73256, by using the QR code on your screen, at umcwc.org, through the mail, by automated giving through Realm, or by dropping it off at our office. Thank you for your generosity.*

OFFERTORY      *Pastorale*

Archer/Smith

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

## COMMUNION HYMNS

*Come to the Table of Grace*

**Come to the table of grace.**

**Come to the table of grace.**

**This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.**

**Come to the table of grace.**

**Come to the table of peace...**

**Come to the table of love...**

**Come to the table of joy...**

*One Bread, One Body*

No. 620

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN No. 254      *We Three Kings*

## BENEDICTION

The God of our salvation has called us from darkness into the eternal light of Christ. So, go from this place walking and shining in that blessed light. May it brighten every room you walk in, every conversation you have, and every person you encounter, now and forevermore. In the name of Jesus, the hope of our salvation. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

*Lift Up Your Heads*

arr. Paxton

***Bold text indicates congregational response.***

### ***Worship Participants***

Message: Rev. Cyndi Stouffer

Liturgist: Rev. Allen Keller

Reader: Pete Rozea

Message for Growing Christians: Kelly Lynn

Chancel Choir and Praise Team Director: Jeannie Nelson

Organist: Steve Campitelli

Cover Art: Carol Meiswinkel

Live Stream Team: Tim Case, CC Clark, Brad Rush, Jacqueline Rush, Cory Smith

## Education and Growth Opportunities

Sunday School for all ages is at 10:00 AM

Children's Sunday School (Rm 4-5)

Youth Sunday School (Youth Rm)

Adult Sunday School

Mustard Seed (Rm 12)

Seekers (Rm 7)

Upper Room (Chapel)

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7:30 AM

Youth Group

Sundays at 6:00 PM

Pastor Jo Higgins Children's Library - Books for 1 year olds through teenagers. Located on the lower level.

## Connection and Sharing Opportunities

Chancel Choir (Adults)

Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Children's Choir

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

Praise Team

Wednesdays at 7:15 PM

Carillon Choir

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

Sunshine Memory Café

Tuesdays at 1:00 PM

*A welcoming place for persons with memory loss and their care partner.*

Coffee With the Pastor

2nd Monday, 10 AM, at

Gramm's Diner Wednesday Night Out Dinner

Wednesdays at 5:45 PM

Retired Men's Lunch Group

2nd Wednesday at 11:30 AM

United Women in Faith

1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM,

Sept-May

*Circles meet at various times throughout the month.*

Web Dance

1st Sunday of each month, 6:00 pm,

Sept-May

*High school hosted themed dance party for adults with intellectual disabilities*

## Opportunities for Growth, Fellowship, and Service

**ACT Now (formerly Act In Faith)** - Items for their Community Cupboard can be dropped off at the table in the Gathering Area. Donations of paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, all purpose cleaner, and laundry detergent are needed, as these items are not available at other cupboards.

**Unused hotel toiletries needed** - Items go to Ronald McDonald House, Safe Harbor, and Salvation Army. Place items in the basket by the elevator in the Gathering Area.

**Stephen Ministry** - Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one confidential lay caring ministry for people who are going through a tough time. If you would like more information about how one of our trained Stephen Ministers can walk with you during this time, contact Kelly Lynn (Kelly@umcwc.org).

**PRAYER NEEDS** - The full list of prayer concerns can be found on the round table in the Gathering Area. Requests are also sent through our "Prayer Link". To receive the prayer link contact Luanne Sims (lsimsumcwc@gmail.com). To submit a prayer request, please sign the form in the friendship folder or contact Pastor Cyndi (pastorcyndi@umcwc.org).

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK

### Today, January 4

8:45 AM - Worship (Sanctuary)

10:00 AM - Sunday School

11:00 AM - Worship Café (Fiesta Center)

6:00 PM - Web Dance (Yourh Room)

### Monday, January 5

7:00 PM - Digital Disciple I (via Zoom)

7:00 PM - Narcotics Anonymous (Fiesta Center)

7:00 PM - Boy Scouts (Rm 4)

### Tuesday, January 6

1:00 PM - Sunshine Memory Café (Fiesta Center)

6:30 PM - United Women in Faith (Rm 10)

### Wednesday, January 7

7:30 AM - Men's Bible Study (Chapel)

9:30 AM - Women's Bible Study (Chapel)

5:45 PM - Wednesday Night Out Dinner

6:30 PM - Digital Disciple III (Chapel)

6:30 PM - Children's Choir (Rm 10)

7:30 PM - Carillon Choir (Rm 12)

### Thursday, January 8

6:30 PM - Chancel Choir

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

**Rise Against Hunger** - Registration is now open for our Rise Against Hunger Event on January 19, 2026. Sign up on the church website. We're getting closer to our goal of \$14,000 to pack 35,000 meals. Right now we have raised a little over \$11,000. Thank you for your support. With your help we will reach our goal.

**Please continue to bring in the following items for ACTnow:** shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, deodorant, dish soap, toothpaste, mouthwash, baby lotion/wash, all purpose cleaner, laundry pods, toilet paper, and paper towels. Items can be placed at the table in the lounge area.

**Don't forget to return your 2026 Commitment Card** to the church office or fill it out online at UMCWC.org.

**Sunshine Memory Café welcomes new people.** It provides a welcoming place where persons with memory loss and their care partner can enjoy activities, share stories, and socialize. The café meets each Tuesday from 1:00-2:30 pm in the Fiesta Center. There is reserved parking for participants behind the church. If you know someone who might benefit from this ministry contact Adean Bridges at adean0413@gmail.com.

**United Women in Faith** - The first general meeting of the new year will be on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 6:30 PM in room 10. UWF is a great fellowship group that focuses on missions. Come and bring a friend.

**Looking for a bible study in the new year?** Men's Bible Study meets each Wednesday morning at 7:30 am. Women's Bible Study meets each Wednesday at 9:30 am. Both studies are in the chapel and are open to anyone.