



## The Community Gathers

PRELUDE AND BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susie Haver

PASSING THE PEACE

\*OPENING HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory

#220

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: We have welcomed the Christ child and declared the glory of God's salvation that comes to live among us. And yet, still, we wait.

**PEOPLE: We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.**

LEADER: We prepare to welcome a new year, thankful for how God has brought us through the past year as we anticipate what the new year might bring.

**PEOPLE: We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.**

LEADER: We join generations of Simeons and Annas who learned and taught us how to listen, notice, and discern divine love at work in the world.

**PEOPLE: May we worship as we live in anticipation of God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.**

SONG OF PRAISE

He is Born, the Holy Child

#228

OPENING PRAYER

**I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

JOYS, CONCERNS AND GOD SIGHTINGS

PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY

PRAYER SONG

Like a Child

#2092

## Thanksgiving

SCRIPTURE SENTENCE

*"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."* ~ **Philippians 4:13**

TITHES, GIFTS AND OFFERINGS



\*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow

#94

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**God of hope and joy, the gifts we offer to you pale when our minds try to grasp all we have been given in this season: wholeness in our woundedness, hope in our despair, peace in our turmoil, forgiveness in our rebellion. Like Simeon, we have listened with our ears that we might not miss you, and our eyes have seen your salvation! You gave us light in our darkness and hope in our discouragement. Help us embrace your extravagant generosity as we give ourselves to others. In our Savior's holy name, we pray. Amen.**

Anthem

"Lullaby in the Wind"

Renata Knox, Director

### Hearing and Responding to the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 4:4-7

HYMN

Away in a Manger (v. 1 only)

#217

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Cindy Kocher

\*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

AFFIRMATION

The word of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

"Where Hope Begins"

Pastor Mark Christ

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL COVENANT

### Going into the World to Serve

\*SENDING SONG

There's a Song in the Air

#249

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Let there Be Peace on Earth

#431

\*POSTLUDE AND TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

**Events this Week:**

**Sunday, December 31, 2023**  
**New Year's Eve!**  
9:30am Crusaders/Searchers  
10:30am Worship

**Monday January 1, 2024**

*Happy New Year's*  
**OFFICE CLOSED**

**Wednesday, January 3, 2024**  
5:00pm Sitting with Jesus

**Sunday, January 7, 2024**  
9:30am Crusaders  
9:30am Searchers  
10:30am Worship  
Unhanging of the Greens  
after Worship

**Monday, January 8, 2024**  
5:30pm FUMC Council

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024**  
5:00pm Sitting with Jesus  
5:30pm Choir Practice  
6:00pm Table Talk Begins



1~Gary Strait  
4~Ashton Kreiter  
4~Gwendolyn Stiles  
6~Sonia Erkenbrack

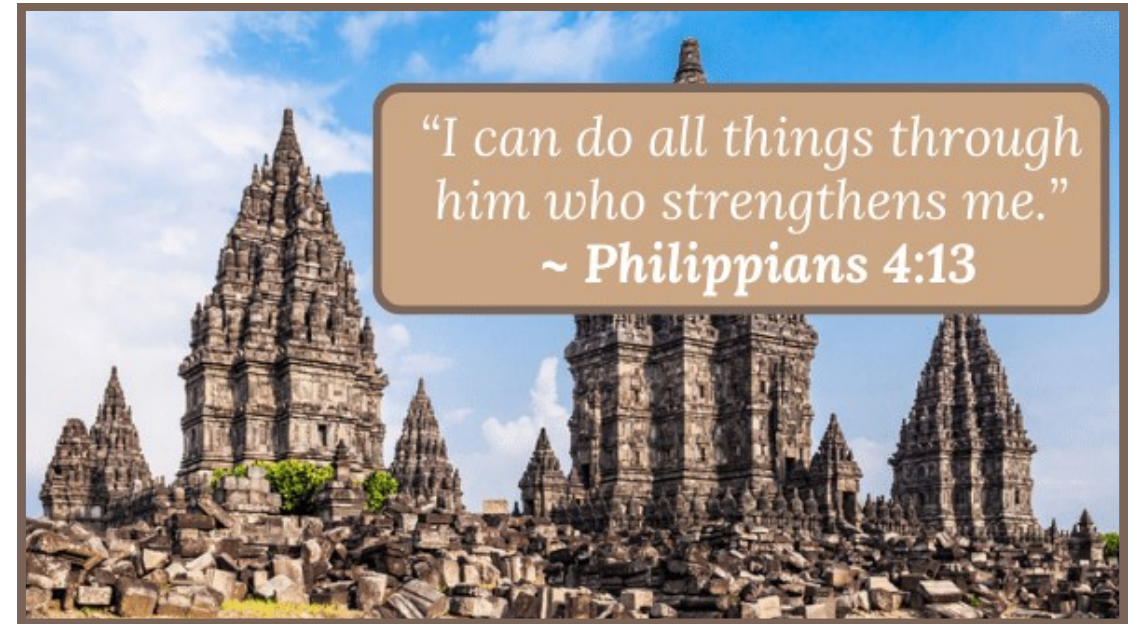


*Prayer Requests*

AMANDA WATERMAN  
LAURA CHRISTENSEN  
TRISH & DAN WATERMAN  
HARLEY & DARLA ADAMS  
BETH WHISLER  
CAROL RUUD



UNHANGING OF THE GREENS  
JANUARY 7, 2024  
RIGHT AFTER CHURCH



*"I can do all things through  
him who strengthens me."  
~ Philippians 4:13*



**December 31, 2023**  
**First United Methodist Church**  
740 West 11<sup>th</sup> St, Concordia, KS 66901  
Church (785) 243-4560

Office Hours:  
Monday — Thursday  
9:00-4:00pm  
Friday  
Closed

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**Rev. Mark Crist, Pastor**

**SERMON SERIES:**

**"GOING A DIFFERENT WAY"**

- JANUARY 7TH ~ AFTER VISITING THE CHILD, THE WISE MEN GO A DIFFERENT WAY.
- JANUARY 14 ~ MY STORY: GOING A DIFFERENT WAY.
- JANUARY 21 ~ MOVING FORWARD; DISCOVERING YOUR WAY.
- JANUARY 28 ~ THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF YOUR WAY.
- FEBRUARY 4 ~ FOLLOWING YOUR WAY.
- FEBRUARY 11 ~ SEEING GOD GUIDE YOUR WAY.



**Welcome to our guests!**  
We are glad you are here. We hope you were blessed by your experience at First United Methodist Church this morning and will tell a friend.

**Do No Harm ~ Do Good ~ Stay in Love With God.**  
**John Wesley**