



The Community Gathers

PRELUDE AND BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN "We Three Kings" #254

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: As we come to you at midday, Lord, we have gathered ourselves for the days of work ahead.

PEOPLE: We know that in the true light of day, you can see what we've hidden and covered up.

LEADER: Lord, we confess that too often we play it safe, staying clear of the forbidden places that we pass on our way to somewhere more important to us, forgetting that we carry your Spirit, your Spark, your New Life within us, and that you are found when we veer off the track.

PEOPLE: Have mercy on us, O God, for we are sorry for all we have done in forgetting that we belong to you.

ALL: Help us to live in the Spirit's power and in the light of your love. through Jesus Christ. Amen!

SONG OF PRAISE It Came Upon a Midnight Clear #218

OPENING PRAYER

Light-giving God, we seek your light. Each of us is on our own life journey. We are like the magi, wondering if we should go another way and we can be like Herod, afraid of how your light might shine into our lives. May we receive your light, learning to be at ease with our common humanity, so what ease we feel may give us an assurance it comes from you. Make us beacons in the darkness of our world and may our lives be an expression of your hope expressed through us. In the name of the One the magi followed the star to visit. Amen.

JOYS, CONCERNS AND GOD SIGHTINGS

PRAYER FOR COMMUNITY AND ALL SAINTS

PRAYER SONG Alleluia #186

HOLY COMMUNION #12

SCRIPTURE SENTENCE

Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11B



TITHES, GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY #94

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Living God, your radiance shines in the beauty of creation. In Christ your Son, you have given the world eternal light that burns brightly in the midst of darkness. Like the magi, when you draw us near, we are overwhelmed with joy! Lead us by your Spirit to share your warmth and grace with our neighbors. Let our lives in this new year be an offering. We pray through Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Hearing and Responding to the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ephesians 3:1-12

HYMN Thy Word is a Lamp #601

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

AFFIRMATION

The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "After Visiting the Child, the Wise Men Go By a Different Way" Pastor Mark Crist

Thanksgiving

PRAYER

Lord's Prayer

Going into the World to Serve

SENDING SONG The First Noel #245

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE On Eagles Wings #143

POSTLUDE AND TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Events this Week:

Sunday, January 7, 2024

9:30am Crusaders
9:30am Searchers
10:30am Worship
Unhanging of the Greens

Monday January 7, 2024

5:30pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

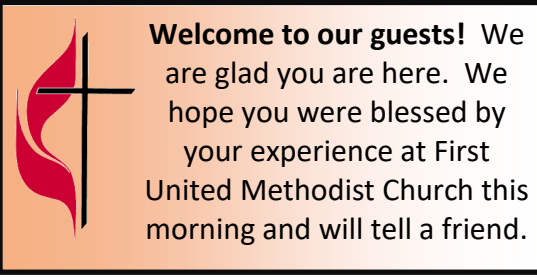
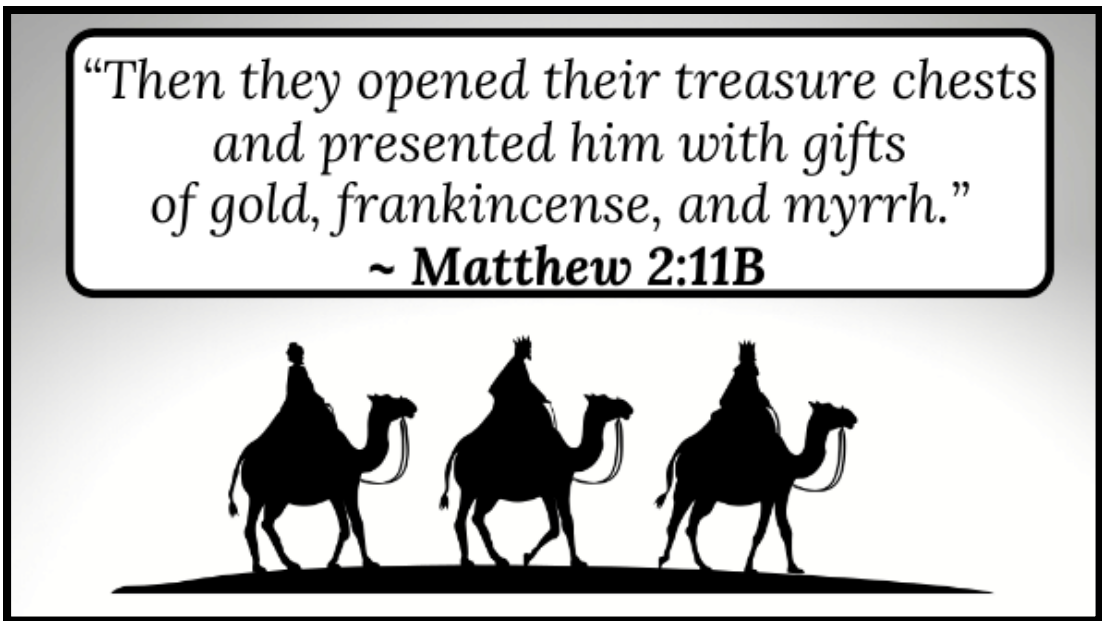
5:00pm Sitting with Jesus
5:30pm Choir Practice
6:00pm Table Talk

Sunday, January 14, 2024

9:30am Crusaders
9:30am Searchers
10:30am Worship

Monday, January 15, 2024

9:00am M&M's meeting



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