

### Upcoming Meetings & Events

- ◆ 1/19-21: Resurrection youth event
- ◆ 1/22: Finance Meeting (6:00)
- ◆ 1/23: Men's Bible Study (7:15), Women's Bible Study (1:00), Circle of Hope (6:30)
- ◆ 1/24: Wednesday Nighter (5:30)
- ◆ 1/27: Leader Training (10:00), Food Pantry & Clare's Closet (10:00)
- ◆ 2/11: SOUPer Bowl Sunday Lunch

The Circle of Hope will meet Tuesday, January 23 at 6:30 pm at the Hunter's Lake clubhouse.

The annual Leader Training Event will be hosted by the Three Rivers District this Saturday, January 27, at Wesley Memorial UMC from 10:00-3:00. Each leader will choose 4 workshops to attend and lunch is provided. Contact Pastor Jodie for more information.

### Food Pantry Items of the Month

For the month of January, the Food Pantry is collecting items to supplement food for our neighbors in need. The needed items are toilet paper, laundry detergent, and boxes of crackers in sleeves. In addition, the food pantry can always use canned meat & canned fruit. Donations can be placed in the boxes in the narthex and the connector.

Prayer Cover: Art Eckerson

### Prayer List

Randy & Pat Adams  
Gina Billings  
Bob & Carla Brown  
Catherine Cartus  
Karl Cavanary  
Family of Steve Cochran  
Penny Cole  
Steve Cradic  
Vernon Crawford  
Eddie Deakins  
Jackie Denny  
Paul Duncan  
Phyllis Eckerson  
Vivian Eckerson  
Tom Eorgan  
Cecilia Fleckstein  
Jim Furches  
Mary Goodwin  
Bob Gore  
Betty & Earl Gouge  
Nora & Tony Haynes  
Cindy Holmes  
Scott Huff  
Keith & Jean Jones  
Joyce Josie  
Deni Kiehl  
Tammy Kosa  
Linda Kostreva  
Karen Martin  
Family of Bonnie Marrs  
Bob & Wanda May  
Kent & Midge Merrill  
Jim & CarolAnne Milliken  
Tom Palmer  
Ruby Payne  
Bob & Athena Peebles  
Carolyn Peeples  
Bobby Seay  
Family of Greg Simmons  
Bill Spence  
John Staley  
Mike Terry  
John & Susan Trotter  
Anna Grace West  
Manna House



## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### WORSHIP GUIDE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024

**Prelude** "There is a Balm in Gilead" Arr. Mark Hayes

### First Things First

### Call to worship

Leader: God is forever casting seeds of goodness into our lives:

**People: seeds of compassion and mercy;**

Leader: seeds of grace and forgiveness;

**People: seeds of love and joy.**

Leader: God's faithfulness brings joy to our weary hearts.

**People: with praise and thanksgiving, we will worship our God.**

### Invocation

**Hymn of Praise** "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #57

### Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Loving God, we admit that we are a lot like stony fields.

**People: You have planted the seeds of the kingdom in our lives, but we are not always receptive to Your goodness and guidance.**

Leader: You have sowed abundant mercy in our hearts,

**People: but we have trouble being merciful to others.**

Leader: You have sowed eternal truth in our minds,

**People:** but that truth languishes as we pursue our own personal ideas and interests.

Leader: You have sowed peace in our souls,

**People:** but peace withers in our envy, pride, greed, and fear.

Leader: You have sowed unconditional love in our lives,

**People:** but we withhold love from others in resentment, judgment, and prejudice.

Leader: Save us, God, from the things that choke out Your voice.

**People:** Give us a new desire to love You and serve You with all our hearts.

*(a time for personal reflection)*

Leader: God hears our prayers, heals our wounded hearts, and prepares us for good things to come. Place your trust in God and believe the good news of the Gospel:

**People:** By God's grace in the saving work of Jesus Christ, we all are forgiven. Thanks be to God! AMEN

Old Testament Reading Ezekiel 11:14-20

Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymn of Reflection "Build My House" Screen

Mission Moment

Doxology #94

Gospel Reading Mark 4:1-20

Anthem "Create in Me"

**Sermon** "Lessons at the Lake" Rev. Jodie Ihfe

**Hymn of Commitment** "Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil" Screen

**Benediction**

**Benediction Response**

Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
Open to the seed of Your word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
where love can grow and peace is understood.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Greg Simmons, who passed away on January 15.

The family will receive friends this afternoon from 1:00-2:00 pm at First UMC. A funeral service will follow in the sanctuary. The service will be livestreamed at [www.1stchurchjc.org](http://www.1stchurchjc.org)

The Food Pantry and Clare's Closet distribution has been rescheduled for this Saturday, January 27, at 10:00 am.

On Sunday, February 11, we will have a potluck soup lunch after worship. Please plan to bring a pot of soup or chili (or bread or dessert) to share, and fellowship with church friends. We will also be collecting canned soups during January & February to use in our food pantry. A sign up sheet will be available on Sundays for people to sign up for what they want to bring.

### wednesday Night Fellowship

Program: The Gospel of Mark

Menu: pork loin, green beans, potatoes, salad, bread, dessert

Dinner begins at 5:30 and classes begin at 6:30.

Please make reservations by **Monday, 1/22 at noon** by returning the slip found in the pew pads or by contacting the church office.

*offering boxes are located at the front and rear of the sanctuary and in the narthex.*