

### Upcoming Meetings & Events

- ◆ 1/4: Coffee & Cocoa
- ◆ 1/6: Men's Bible Study (7:15)
- ◆ 1/7: Wednesday Nighter (5:30)
- ◆ 1/8: Circle of Faith (10:00)
- ◆ 1/10: Men's Breakfast (9:00)
- ◆ 1/20: Finance Meeting (6:00) Trustees (7:00)
- ◆ 1/21: Nurture Committee (10:00)
- ◆ 1/22: Circle of Faith (10:00) ELC Board Meeting (5:30)
- ◆ 1/24: Food Pantry & Clare's Closet (10:00)
- ◆ 1/25: Leader Training (11:30)

Clare's Closet continues this month and on all Food Pantry Saturdays through March. The collection box is in the connector for donations of new or gently used winter wear: coats, hats, gloves, hoodies, and scarves.

### Food Pantry Items of the Month

For the month of January, the Food Pantry is collecting the following items for our neighbors in need: laundry & dish detergent, canned food with pop-tops, and crackers in sleeves. Donations can be placed in the boxes in the narthex and the connector.

**Rev. Jodie Ihfe** (423)202-6164  
jodie.ihfe@1stchurchjc.org

**Rev. Gary Ihfe** (423)303-6851  
gary.ihfe@1stchurchjc.org

**Rev. Steve Reis** (614)208-3454  
steve.reis@1stchurchjc.org

Prayer Cover: Johnny Qualls

### Prayer List New Additions

Family of Aurora  
Nicole Blevins & family  
Family of Bob May

### Continued List

Randy & Pat Adams  
M B  
Family of Alan Chapman  
Kathy & Eddie Deakins  
Alan Demascus  
Phyllis Eckerson  
Art & Vivian Eckerson  
Tom Eorgan  
Clint Ferguson  
Terri Fleenor  
Jim Furches  
Tony Gentry  
Jennifer Greene  
Karen Hall  
Hannah Hensley  
Joanne Hoke  
Scott Huff  
Tricia Huffman  
Johnny & Peggy Humphreys  
Keith & Jean Jones  
Anna Kapoor  
Lisa Kleven  
Linda Kostreva  
Dave McGaha  
Jim & CarolAnne Milliken  
Jason Mills  
Ophelia Winifred Olson  
Joanne Peterson  
Robin Potter  
Donna Robbins  
Hannah Sage  
Russell Scholz  
Rebecca Smith  
Tommy Thomson  
Family of Katie Walker  
Family of Grier Washam  
Anna Grace West  
Manna House



## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### WORSHIP GUIDE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

**Prelude** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Lewis H. Render/Arr. A.D. Miller

### First Things First

### Call to Worship

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come.

**People: Emmanuel is born; God is with us.**

Leader: God's light now shines brightly in our world.

**People: God's light shines, and the darkness can never overcome it.**

Leader: Walk in the light, and be overwhelmed with joy.

**People: We come to worship Christ, the light of the world.**

### Invocation

**Hymn of Praise** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #240

### Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Almighty God, in Christ You brought light and love into our lives.

**People: Give us strength to follow the light wherever You lead.**

Leader: Forgive us when we choose paths that lead us and others away from You.

**People: Forgive us when we do not act with grace and mercy.**

Leader: Forgive us when we turn our face from those in need.

**People:** Forgive us when we do not see Your light in the faces of family, neighbors, and enemies.

Leader: Forgive us when we fail to live as people guided by Your light.

**People:** Strengthen us by Your Spirit, so we may follow where You lead, and reveal Your glory and love in all we say and do.

*(a time for personal reflection)*

Leader: God shines the light of love into our lives and calls us to shine that light on others. Live by faith and believe the good news of the Gospel:

**People:** Through Jesus Christ, born in human flesh, we are forgiven and freed to try again. Thanks be to God! AMEN

Gospel Reading John 1:1-5, 9-14

Morning Prayer

Hymn of Reflection "My Lighthouse" Screen

Mission Moment

Doxology #94

New Testament Reading 1 John 2:7-14

Anthem "Light of the world"

Sermon "Ending Silence and Darkness" Mr. Steve Gross

Celebration of Holy Communion

Hymn of Commitment "Are Ye Able" #530

Benediction

**Benediction Response**

Holy Jesus, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds Thy glory hide.

**Postlude**

"Fugue in C Major"

G.F. Handel

Join us in the parlor immediately after worship today for coffee, cocoa, and fellowship!

The next Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, January 10 at 9:00 in the fellowship hall. All men are invited for a time of fellowship, devotion, and a hearty breakfast.

The church received a donation of a lovely new bench located at the Pine Street side of the Connector. It was a much needed gift, and we are grateful for the thoughtfulness and generosity.

On Sunday, January 25, we are having a training event for all members of First Church committees and teams. We will meet after worship for lunch in the fellowship hall then begin the training and orientation. Lunch and childcare are provided.

**wednesday Night Fellowship**

Program: The Gospel of John

Menu: taco salad, dessert

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

Please make reservations by **Monday, 1/5 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.*