

December 8, 2019 • 11:00 am

*The Ministry of Music  
presents*

# *Illumination*



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for worshipping with us today. As we, once again, proclaim the good news of Christ through music, I pray your heart will be touched and God will be glorified. I am grateful for all the work and faith our choirs and musicians have poured into making this an extra special time of worship.

This Advent we are seeking the light through our Advent theme "Walk in Darkness. See Great Light." We all face times of grief, pain, loss, failure, or tragedy. At some point we will all walk in darkness. Advent and Christmas are the reminder that we are never left alone in the dark. The Christ Child is born to us, for us, and in us to be the Divine Light. Join us each Sunday morning for worship at our First Word service at 9:00 a.m. or our First Tradition service at 11:00 a.m.

If you are looking for a place to worship on Christmas Eve, we would love to have you join us for one of our three services at 12:00 p.m. (in the Chapel), 6:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. All three services will feature carols, Holy Communion, and candlelight. These are some of the most powerful worship experiences we share together all year and we hope you will join us.

Again, we are happy that you are here and hope your experience in this service will illuminate the grace of God.

Gracefully,



David C. Freeman  
Senior Pastor



*Illumination*  
December 8th, 2019 at 11:00 am  
The Second Sunday of Advent

**GATHERING**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Haley Jones

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

*Traditional Carol Medley*

Allison Martin, Harp

Arr. Martin

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

*Gloria Fanfare*

Combined Choirs

Jeffery Ames

† **PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

† **OPENING HYMN 234**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Rev. Donna Hankins

**Patient and loving God, we so easily launch ourselves in preparation for the secular festival of giving, and parties, and the swirl of social events; but we forget that the true preparation for your coming is the readiness of our hearts to receive you. Help us look again at our lives and turn them around so that they may be alert to the coming of Jesus, the light of the world. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Tammy Felder

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

*The First Nowell*

Combined Choirs

Arr. Mack Wilberg

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

In our darkness

**Let your light shine**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

*Lunar Lullaby*

Combined Choirs

Jake Naverud

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

The Word of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 11: 1-10

**RESPONSE 206 REFRAIN**

HOUSTON

*In him there is no darkness at all, the night and the day are both alike, the Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

**SERMON**

Walk in Darkness. See Great Light.

Rev. David C. Freeman

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Those who walked in darkness have seen great light.

**We give thanks to God for the light you bring to our world.**

Cindy & Hal Hedges

**RESPONSE 206 REFRAIN**

*In him there is no darkness at all, the night and the day are both alike,  
the Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

HOUSTON

**OFFERTORY**

*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*

Soloist: Ronald Jensen-McDaniel, Baritone

Robert MacGimsey

† **DOXOLOGY 221 STANZA 2**

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor the earth sustain; heaven and earth shall  
flee away when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed.  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

CRANHAM

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

*Joy to the World*

Combined Choirs  
Arr. Mack Wilberg

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

† **HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP 240**

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

† **BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*Beautiful Savior*

Arr. Christiansen

**POSTLUDE**

*Postlude: Christmas Carol Festival*

Arr. Nagle

*A very special thank you goes to all who serve in the Adult Music Ministry at FUMC.  
Your gifts and dedication are vital to our worship experience.*

R. Kyle Linson, Director of Music and Worship Arts  
James Stanley, Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts

### **CHANCEL CHOIR**

Courtney Barr  
Tim Bartlett  
Steven Beggs  
Kathy Blackmon  
Pat Blackstone  
Melanie Churchill  
Stacy Clark  
Richard Cochran  
Maggie Collins  
Greg Daniels  
Amanda DiPippa  
Toby Fair  
Bari Halbrook

Laine Harber  
Jonathan Hankins-Hull  
Jennifer Harness  
Everett Hawks  
Cindy Hedges  
Jaimee Jenson-McDaniel  
Bee Kelley  
Clint Kesterson  
Lillian Lee  
Hannah Manire  
Julie McCarthy  
Ronald McDaniel  
Brenden McInerney

Ginny McMurray  
Emory Molitor  
Allan Pieroni  
Kelley Ponder  
Lynn Rockenbach  
Caryn Taulbee  
Glenn Taulbee  
Melissa Thoma  
Diane Thomas-Holladay  
Janet Uchendu  
Mary Ellen Vandegrift  
Mark Wyers  
Katie Walton

### **ENSEMBLE**

Georgia Bell  
Craig Berry  
Marian Berry  
Cal Biggers  
Debbie Boyd  
Harry Brown  
Elaine Bultena  
Loyd Bultena  
Jeanie Burton  
Elizabeth Bynum  
John Choate  
Jeanne Colglazier

Susan Erickson  
Erik Gauffin  
John Gill  
Jane Harkey  
Betty Harris  
Julie Holt  
Kent Holt  
Sarah James  
Bee Kelley  
Heidi King  
Margie Lickert  
Stuart Mackey

Aerial Marston  
Lynn Rockenbach  
Carol Roddy  
Jeanne Schallhorn  
Scott Schallhorn  
Sara Shalin  
Cindy Shenep  
Jim Shenep  
Janet Uchendu  
Ginger Young  
Teri Watkins  
Nancy Wilson

### **INSTRUMENTALISTS**

Kiril Laskarov, Violin  
Drew Irvin, Violin  
Kater Reynolds, Viola  
Allison Martin, Harp

Jordan Coleman, Bass  
David Gerstein, Cello  
Kyle Roberts, Trombone

Brandon Lugo, Trumpet  
Baylee Womack, Trumpet  
Ashley McIninch, Trombone  
Jacob Wyatt, Percussion

## **In Search of Bakers and Deliverers**

Member Care is planning to spread a bit of joy this holiday season, and we'd love your help. We'll be delivering bread to some in our church family mid-month and need volunteers both to bake bread and to deliver a loaf or two. If you'd like to bake, I'll give you the recipe and baking pans. If you'd like to deliver and visit with someone you haven't seen in a while, let me know and I'll get you names and addresses. This is an easy and delightful way to brighten someone's day and spread a bit of joy. If you'd like to be part of the fun, let me know. Thank you! Donna, [dhankins@fumclr.org](mailto:dhankins@fumclr.org)

## **Christmas Poinsettias**

Make a contribution to the Christmas Poinsettia fund in honor or memory of your loved ones. Your \$15 gift will make possible the poinsettias that adorn the chancel with all the proceeds of this fund given to our Church Community Gatherings and Celebrations Fund. Your gift will be listed in the December 15th bulletin. If you would like to make a contribution, contact Sara Williams in the church office at 372-2256 or via email at [swilliams@fumclr.org](mailto:swilliams@fumclr.org) by Dec. 9th. Please make checks payable to FUMC and note 'Christmas Poinsettias' in the memo section.

## **Cookies and Cards for Prisoners**

The UMW Sarah Circle is coordinating our annual "Cookies for Prisoners" with a goal of making 250 dozen cookies by Thursday, December 19. The cookies will be delivered to the prison on Christmas morning, and we want each prisoner to receive 3 cookies. Betsy Hoffman has already made sufficient Christmas cards for the prisoners.

We need your help to make the 250 dozen cookies! Please e-mail Jean Rolfs at [jcondogirl@gmail.com](mailto:jcondogirl@gmail.com) with how many dozen cookies you will bring to the church. It's a fun family project and a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. You can deliver your cookies to the church anytime between now and Thursday, December 19. The preferred option is to take them to the front office--church staff will make sure they are carefully placed into the freezer. If you need to leave them in kitchen instead, mark them well as Cookies for Prisoners. Try to bring them in shoe boxes or on extremely sturdy paper plates, so they remain unbroken while being stacked in the freezer. Thank you for participating!

## **Calling all LGBTQ United Methodists and Allies**

Sunday, January 5 is a National Day of Resistance, as the first Sunday after the Traditional Plan goes into effect. A worship service is planned for 5:30, at First United Methodist Church in Little Rock. The service will be led by LGBTQ UM's, and we need ushers, readers, etc. Please contact Kathy Webb, [kathywebb14@gmail.com](mailto:kathywebb14@gmail.com), to help.

LGBTQ UM's and Allies--we need your voices in the choir for the special service, please contact Kyle Linson, [klinson@fumclr.org](mailto:klinson@fumclr.org). All participants will be asked to come at 4:30 the day of the service.

We hope all who support full inclusion of our LGBTQ families will participate or attend this service. For other opportunities for the National Day of Resistance, including planning your own service, contact [kathywebb14@gmail.com](mailto:kathywebb14@gmail.com) for a toolkit.

## **United Methodist Women's Christmas Party**

### **Monday, December 9, at 11:00 am, in the Fellowship Hall**

The four-year-old class from our Child Development Center will sing Christmas songs at 11:00 am. This is earlier than we normally meet because the children need to go back to the CDC for their lunch. We will have our lunch after they leave. The cost is \$5.00. Each woman is asked to bring a wrapped Christmas gift to auction off. The proceeds will go to missions.



## ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE

**Clergy:** Rev. David C. Freeman, Rev. Donna Hankins, Rev. Haley Jones

**Music & Worship Arts:** Kyle Linson, James Stanley, Chancel Choir, Ensemble

**Audio/Visual:** Christen Stanley, Christopher Cone

**Acolytes:** Jilly Pacheco, Jaxson Marks

**Altar Guild:** Paula Johnson, Judy Chastain

**Liturgist:** Caitlyn Hendrickson

**Offering Stewards:** Chris Shenep, Claire Barton, David Smith, Mary Hawks, Sam & Rickie Smith

## IN OUR PRAYERS

**Requesting Prayer:** John Gann, Jan Roberts, John Lile, Mary Ann Lee, Carol Ann Nolley, Gaye Lanford, Judy Chastain

**Families and friends of First Church:** Jerry Hinkle, Myra Cobb, Terry Ann Renaud, Charlie Farr, Paul Brown, Janet Rhoades, Jim Newell, Lola Lee Warren, Rebecca Davis, Roland Launius, Phyllis Stahl, Sheila Terrell, Sammie Cravens, Ann Shollmier, David Rabeneck

## Brief Blessings and Toasty Toes

Each year at Christmas, FUMC is generous to those around us! Again, this year we have chosen to focus on the basic necessities, through Brief Blessings, Toasty Toes & More! We will be collecting NEW items each Sunday for men, women and children in need.

Following you will find a schedule:

**December 8th- Women's Socks and Underwear**

**December 15th- Men's Socks and Underwear/Boxers**

**December 22nd- Gloves & Hats for Men and Women**

On Sunday, place your items in the baskets located in the Sanctuary, Chapel and Cokesbury Center. The season of Advent is the time we prepare for God's incarnation, God's tangible gift to us. Providing the basic necessities for our neighbors is one of the ways we acknowledge God's presence among us in human form. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



*"Here is the testimony of faith; darkness is not dark to God; the night is as bright as the day."*

*—Barbara Brown Taylor, Learning to Walk in the Dark*

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined. —Isaiah 9:2

Advent and Christmas are seasons of light. We light candles on the Advent wreath. We string lights on our trees and houses. We sit by the fire. We drive around town to view light displays. Then we each hold light in our hands while we sing Silent Night. All of these lights are symbolic of the fulfillment of God's promise that those "who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

In addition to extraordinary music, each Sunday during Advent, we will hear stories of walking in darkness from special guests who will share their personal stories of struggle, pain, and grief. But they will also share how they have seen great light even in the midst of the darkness. We will hear how Christ, the Light of the World, has shone on them and be challenged to seek light, be light, and share light ourselves. Join us each Sunday in December as we walk in darkness and see great light.

## JOURNEY CARD

*We're glad you're here.*

Please fill-in and place  
in the offering plate.

CHECK IF FIRST-TIME GUEST

FULL NAME – Please Print

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CHILDREN & YOUTH PRESENT TODAY

Names & Ages

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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My info has changed.  
Please update my records.

Repeat Guest

Member

Friend

Subscribe to E-Newsletter

I am interested in joining FUMC.

I would like more information  
about FUMC.

I would like a call from the pastor

December 8, 2019 – First Tradition

## PRAYER REQUEST

NAME – Please Print

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Person or situation for which you are requesting prayer.

- Share this information with the congregation.
- For Pastors Only
- For Pastors & Prayer Team Only

## OTHER INVITATIONS

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Make a contribution to the Christmas Poinsettia fund in honor or memory of your loved ones this season. Your \$15 gift will make possible the poinsettias that adorn the chancel with all the proceeds of this fund given to the children's music programs. You gift will be listed in the December 16th bulletin.

If you would like to make a contribution, please fill out this card and place it in the offering plate or contact Sara Williams in the church office at 372-2256 or via email at [swilliams@fumclr.org](mailto:swilliams@fumclr.org) by Dec. 10.

**Please make checks payable to FUMC and note 'Poinsettia' in the memo section.**

In Memory of (Please **print** each name):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of (Please **print** each name):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## CHRISTMAS EVE

### Volunteers Needed!

- Greet at Noon (2 needed)
- Usher at Noon (2 needed)
- Usher at 6 pm (9 needed)
- Greet at 6 pm (3 needed)
- Serve Communion at 6 pm (8 needed)
- Usher at 11pm (4 needed)
- Greet at 11pm (2 needed)



**brief BLESSINGS & toasty TOES**

**Give the gift of comfort and warmth!**

December 1: Children's Socks and Underwear  
December 8: Women's Socks and Underwear  
December 15: Men's Socks and Underwear  
December 22: Hats and Gloves for Men & Women

Please place your donations in the bins and baskets located around the church.



**Christmas Caroling**

**December 22 at 3PM**

Are the holidays a difficult time for you?  
Are you lamenting the loss of friends and family this season?  
Do you feel lonely this time of year?

We will invite you to reflect through worship on the pain, the loneliness, and the sadness you may feel and offer it all to our great sign of hope, the Christ Child.

**Service of The Longest Night**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22  
5:30 PM IN THE CHAPEL

**FUMC LR**  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - LITTLE ROCK