



everything happens for a reason
God helps those that help themselves
where there's a will, there's a way

things better left unsaid

hate the sin, love the sinner
God must have needed them more than you

JANUARY 29, 2023 | FIRST TRADITION 11:00 AM | FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

GATHERING

PRELUDE

A Jubilant Peal | Michael Helman

Center Street Ringers

CALL TO WORSHIP †

Adapted from Micah 6: 6-8

Rev. Donna Hankins

With what shall we come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God?

Shall we come before him with burnt offerings with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

**Shall we offer our firstborn for our transgression,
the fruit of our bodies for the sin of our souls?**

He has shown us what is good. And what does the Lord require of us?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.

Let us join our voices together and bless God's holy name.

OPENING HYMN 467, verses 1 & 2 †

Trust and Obey | United Methodist Hymnal 467

PASSING OF THE PEACE †

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

OPENING HYMN 467, verses 3 & 4 †

Trust and Obey | United Methodist Hymnal 467

PRAYER OF THE DAY †

Rev. David C. Freeman

Adapted from Psalm 15

O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from their heart; who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon their neighbors; in whose eyes the wicked are despised but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to hurt; who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me | United Methodist Hymnal 191

Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me – the Bible tells me so.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Shannon Rookey

ANTHEM

Center Street Ringers

Let All Things Now Living | Susan E. Geschke

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CHORAL ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

Everything Beautiful | Jonathan Adams

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

GOSPEL LESSON †

Renee Bethel

John 11: 32-35 | **PEW BIBLE, NEW TESTAMENT PAGE 100**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON “God Must Have Needed Them More Than You” Rev. David C. Freeman
Things Better Left Unsaid – Week 4

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

Cory Olson

The Lord is My Shepherd | Samuel Liddle

DOXOLOGY †

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow | United Methodist Hymnal 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

COMMISSIONING OF 2023 LEADERS

SENDING FORTH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

CLOSING HYMN 396†

O Jesus, I Have Promised | United Methodist Hymnal 396

During the singing of the hymn, individuals desiring to join the church are asked to come to the chancel so the pastors may offer membership vows and welcome you to the congregation.

RESPONSE FOR NEW MEMBERS

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

BENEDICTION †

CHORAL BENEDICTION †

The Lord Bless You and Keep You | Peter Lutkin

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "All Creatures of Our God and King" | Gilbert M. Martin

James Stanley

When You Meet Someone Deep in Grief

by Patricia McKernon Runkle

Slip off your needs
and set them by the door.

Enter barefoot
this darkened chapel

hollowed by loss
hollowed by sorrow

its gray stone walls
and floor.

You, congregation
of one

are here to listen
not to sing.

Kneel in the back pew
make no sound

let the candles
speak.

ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE

Clergy: Rev. David C. Freeman, Rev. Donna Hankins

Music & Worship Arts: James Stanley, Shannon Rookey, Center Street Ringers, Cory Olson, Chancel Choir

Liturgist: Renee Bethel

Audio/Visual: Christopher Cone

Altar Guild: Jessica Szenher & Cindy Shenep

Altar Flowers: To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Richard Johnson on what would have been his 87th birthday, given by Rita Johnson.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Requesting Prayer:

Nick Thompson, Jeff Crowe, Kaye Hoover, Glenn Taulbee, Lillian Lee, Steve Cross, Bobby Williams, Jason West, Lynda Langford, Irma Jewell, Lee Johnson, Ceile Faulkner, the people of Ukraine, victims of gun violence, our leaders, our church.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Kaye and Paul Hoover following the birth of their granddaughter, Waylynn Paige Hoover, on January 17th.

Sympathy:

Sympathy to Brenda Rodgers following the death of her brother, Jimmy Battles, on January 24th.

Five dates remaining for Sanctuary Flowers in 2023!

What better way to honor friends and family members than to donate the Sanctuary Flowers in their name on a Sunday? Your gift of \$75 will cover the cost of the two arrangements in Sunday services. You may reserve your date by phoning 372-2256 or emailing Lanie Konecny (officemanager@fumclr.org).

Open Dates: March 12, 26 July 9, 30 Dec. 31



SCAN ME

Try our Digital Connect Card!

Use the camera on your cell phone to scan the QR Code!
Online Giving ● New Here ● eNewsletter Sign-Up

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, January 29, 2023

- 9:00 am First Word (Cokesbury)
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am First Tradition (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 pm Planning your service
- 4:00 pm UWF Cooking for Our House
- 5:00 pm First YOUth
- 5:00 pm Youth Parents Meeting
- 5:30 pm Canvas Community Worship

Monday, January 30, 2023

- 9:00 am Flower Girls
- 1:00 pm Community Café
- 6:30 pm Taiko Drumming Class

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

- 7:00 am Tues Morning Bible Study (Hybrid/Rm. 204 & Zoom)
- 10:00 am Extended Staff Meeting off site
- 1:00 pm Community Café
- 6:30 pm Bowen-Cabe Next 200 Gathering

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

- 9:30 am CDC Chapel
- 1:00 pm Community Café
- 5:30 pm Center Street Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 2, 2023

- 7:00 pm Ensemble Rehearsal

Saturday, February 4, 2023

- 3:30 pm Kids@First - UALR Basketball




First United Methodist Church
DOWNTOWN
Little Rock

WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN DOWNTOWN LITTLE ROCK. We have embraced our role in urban ministry. Our members and friends come because they are attracted to our vitality, warmth, friendliness, and energy. They stay because we travel with them on their journey.

AUDIO AND VIDEO OF TODAY'S SERVICE IS AVAILABLE. CD's and DVD's of today's service are available by calling the church office at 501.372.2256 or by emailing Lesley Andrews at landrews@fumclr.org.

ATTENTION PARENTS. We understand worshiping with children can be an adventure, but it is an essential part of their growth in Christ. If your child is staying in worship, please see an usher if you would like a worship bag. However, if you desire a nursery, one is available on the second floor outside the Sanctuary. If you need assistance, please see an usher or a member of the Hospitality Team.

Follow us on social media: @fumclr    



First United Methodist Church

723 CENTER STREET | LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS | 501.372.2256 | www.fumclr.org