



December 15, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent



Fountain City United Methodist Church
212 Hotel Road
Knoxville TN 37918
865-689-5175

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*Whether you've attended for years or this is your first visit, please sign the pew pad and pass it down so we can get better acquainted.
Please use the Notes section of the Pew Pad to register for events, for questions, or for prayer requests.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Rachel Collins, Sandy Failing

OFFERING IN MUSIC

†HYMN

“Joy to the World”

UMH 246

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Susannah Clabough, Patty & Gary McMahon

LEADER: Arise and celebrate, for good news of deep joy is here! Today, we light the candle of Joy, recognizing that God's joy often surprises us in the midst of the ordinary and unlikely - just as the shepherds were filled with joy when they heard the angels' message.

ALL: **The warm glow of God lightens our hearts. God's joy fills us unexpectedly, even in the most surprising moments.**

LEADER: *Testimony of Joy*

As we light this candle, may we be witnesses of joy - joy that takes us by surprise and lights our lives. We hope for God's joy. Thank you for hearing my story. Let us respond together:

ALL: **The joy of Christ is good news, unexpected and overflowing. Come, Lord Jesus, our Joy.**

†MUSICAL RESPONSE

“Joy to the World”

UMH 246

Verse 1: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“The Apostles' Creed”

UMH 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

11:00am CHILDREN DISMISS TO FOUNTAINKIDS BIBLE EXPERIENCE

Children (K-5th) may exit to Rm 212. If this is your first visit, please accompany your child for check-in.

PRAYER TIME

Please see following “Responsive Prayer” page.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY	“Gabriel’s Message”	Paul Manz
†DOXOLOGY		UMH 95
	Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.	
†HYMN	“Once in Royal David’s City”	UMH 250
SCRIPTURE LESSON	Isaiah 60:6, Psalm 72:10-11	Molly Searcy, Buzzy Freeman
	LEADER: The story of God’s love, for the people God loves. ALL: Thanks be to God!	
8:30am SPECIAL MUSIC		
11:00am ANTHEM	“Baby in the Hay” Chancel Choir with Lyndsey Ullom, <i>soloist</i>	by Heather Sorenson
†SERMON GOSPEL LESSON	Matthew 2:8-12	Rev. Daniel Castillo
	PASTOR: The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, for us, the people of Christ. ALL: Thanks be to God!	
SERMON	“A Curious People”	Rev. Castillo
†HYMN	“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”	UMH 224
†BENEDICTION		Rev. Castillo
†11:00am CHORAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE		
POSTLUDE	“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”	Paul Manz

†Please rise in body or in spirit

PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Rachel Collins, *Associate Pastor*
 Rev. Daniel Castillo, *Associate Pastor,*
Broadway UMC (Maryville)
 Leslie Hill, *Director of Music Ministries*
 Kim Meade, *Pianist*
 Stephanie Wayland, *Organist*
 Lyndsey Ullom, *Soloist*
 Susannah Clabough & Patty & Gary McMahon,
Advent Candles
 Molly Searcy & Buzzy Freeman, *Lay Readers*
 Craig Holtzclaw, David Hueser, Stuart Mitchell,
 Richard Bolus, & Greg Smith, *Multimedia*



The altar flowers this morning are given
 in celebration of Matthew Lecompte’s birthday
 by his mother, Carlene LeCompte.
 Happy birthday, Matthew!

Responsive Prayer

Leader: God of wonder and mystery, in this season of Advent, we remember the story of the Magi – curious seekers from afar – who brought their gifts in anticipation of the arrival of a king. Like them, we bring before you the gifts of our hearts, our prayers, and our longings as we await the coming of Christ. Let us pray.

People: Lord, hear our prayers.

Leader: Just as the Magi followed a star, seeking the light that would lead them to the newborn King, we too are seekers. Guide our steps, O God, as we journey through seasons of doubt and faith, longing to see your light in the world. May we never lose our curiosity and desire to draw closer to you.

People: O God of wisdom, lead us by your light.

Leader :We pray for all who are searching, for those who feel far from you, and for those who seek meaning in unexpected places. Like the Magi who brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, may we bring the treasures of our lives, our talents, and our love, laying them before you in humble adoration.

People: O God of grace, receive the gifts we offer.

Leader: Just as the gifts of the Magi symbolized kingship, divinity, and sacrifice, we pray for the leaders of our world. Grant them wisdom and hearts that seek the common good. May they, like the Magi, be filled with awe and wonder as they encounter your presence in unlikely places and people.

People: O God of justice, grant us leaders who seek your truth.

Leader: We remember those who live under the shadow of fear, oppression, and uncertainty, like the Holy Family who fled from danger. Help us to be generous with the gifts we have received, offering comfort and support to those in need, just as the gifts brought to Jesus were signs of hope and reverence.

People: O God of compassion, move us to love and serve our neighbors.

Leader: As the Magi rejoiced with great joy upon finding the Christ child, we too rejoice in the promise of your coming. Fill our hearts with anticipation and joy as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, and as we await the day when your kingdom will come in its fullness.

People: O God of joy, make our hearts ready to receive you.

Leader: In this season of Advent, we bring before you the prayers of our community, the gifts of our hearts, and our hopes for the future. Like the Magi, may we approach you with curiosity, reverence, and expectation, trusting that you meet us in both the ordinary and extraordinary moments of our lives.

People: O God of love, come and dwell among us. Amen.

Welcome to Fountain City UMC! We are so glad you are here today. Whether you've been attending for years or this is your first visit, we would like to get better acquainted.

Sunday Morning Schedule

- 8:30am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
- 9:45am Sunday Morning Discipleship church-wide
- 11:00am Journey Worship (Gym & YouTube)
- 11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)

FountainKids (K-5th) & FountainLittles (Birth-PreK)

- Miss Donna, donna.lewis@fountaincityumc.org
- KidCheck check-in kiosk at Welcome Center
- FountainKids 8:30 & 9:45am Sunday
- Kids Bible Experience 11:00am Sunday
- Kids Club Wednesdays 6:30pm *returns January 15, 2025*

FCUMC Youth (MS 6th-8th/HS 9th-12th)

- youth@fountaincityumc.org
- 9:45am Sunday Morning Discipleship, Room B17
- Wednesday Night Youth, 6:30pm OFH *returns Jan. 15, 2025*
- Sunday Night Youth, 6:30pm *returns January 2025*

Celebrate Recovery

- Seth Charles, seth.charles@fountaincityumc.org
- Tuesdays 6:00pm Meal, Wesley Hall
- 6:30pm Worship, Gym
- 7:30pm Open Share Groups
- Children's Programs for 6mo-5th grade 6:15pm-8:30pm
- Crosswalk (6th-12th) 6:30pm
- Saturdays 9:00am Step Study, Room 201
- Wednesdays 6:30pm Step Study, Room 201 *ends Dec. 18*

Dates for Your Calendar

- December 15 "Come, Celebrate Christmas" concert, 3:00pm, Sanctuary
- December 16 "Come, Celebrate Christmas" concert, 7:30pm, Sanctuary
- December 22 Longest Night Service, 6:30pm, Chapel
- December 24 Christmas Eve Services:
 - Family Nativity, 4:00pm, Sanctuary
 - Contemporary, 6:30pm, Gym
 - Traditional, 11:00pm, Sanctuary

Pie Pickup is Today!

If you signed up for one of the "Pies for a Cause" to benefit flood relief in our area, you may pick up your pie(s) today in Wesley Hall after 8:30am worship, after the Sunday School hour, and after 11:00am worship. If you missed out on reserving a pie, you're in luck-you can still pick one (or more) up at the door! The cost is donation based to benefit flood relief efforts.

Combined 11:00am Worship Sunday, Dec. 29

On Sunday, December 29, we will have an 8:30am Traditional Worship service in the Sanctuary. At 11:00am, we will have a combined Traditional & Journey (contemporary) worship service, also in the Sanctuary. Don't miss a great way to help our church be united around worship!

2025 Stewardship Commitments

It's not too late to make a financial commitment to our 2025 Ministry Fund. We are making budgetary projections, and it would be helpful to have all commitments submitted by **December 20, 2024**. Commitment cards can be placed in offering plates in worship services, submitted directly to the church office, or you can scan the QR below to make your commitment online. Thank you, FCUMC, for your continued support of our ministries.



Year-End Giving News

Any financial gifts for 2024 *must* be dropped off in the church office by 12:00pm on Tuesday, December 31 or postmarked by Tuesday, December 31. Thank you again for your faithful and generous support of our ministries!

Church Office Closures

The church office will be closed December 24 & 25, 2024, as well as January 1, 2025.

Advent Devotionals Are Available

Our Advent devotional, "Unlikely Characters in God's Story," is being released weekly through Advent. They are located in baskets outside the Gym and in the Narthex. We also have devotionals from the Society of St. Andrew, one of our mission partners. Use these devotionals to spend time in meditation and prayer throughout Advent!

"Come, Celebrate Christmas" With Our Choir

For more than 40 years, our Music Ministry has celebrated the Christmas season by holding a program of beloved classics as well as newer selections, performed by our Chancel Choir, Fountain Voices (children's choir), Tollers Bell Choir, and Youth Ensemble, accompanied by a very talented orchestra. Join us at 3:00pm today or 7:30pm tomorrow in our Sanctuary for a wonderful way to enjoy the season! The performance will also air on WBXX Ch20 at 7:00pm on Christmas Eve, at 6:00am on WATE & WBIR on Christmas Day, and 12:00pm on WBIR Christmas Day. Come, Celebrate Christmas with us!

Don Hanshew, Senior Pastor

pastor.don@fountaincityumc.org

Rachel Collins, Pastor of Discipleship

pastor.rachel@fountaincityumc.org

Pastor On Call After Hours & Weekends

Text or Call 865-689-7894

Regular Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm
Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

WAYS TO GIVE



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or Mail In



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Banking

Your Giving Matters!

Ashley Garren, Financial Assistant
ashley.garren@fountaincityumc.org • (865) 689-5175

**Fountain City
Christmas Parade**
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
9 A.M.
JOIN US ON THE FOUNTAIN KIDS FLOAT