



December 22, 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Fountain City United Methodist Church  
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865-689-5175

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WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER

Rev. Rachel Collins,  
Rev. Don Hanshew

OFFERING IN MUSIC

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

JS Bach

†HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

UMH 238

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Sarah & John Mays,  
Austin Wall & Julia Powers

LEADER: Love abundant overflows, pouring into our midst. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Love, remembering how God’s deep love was revealed in the most unlikely way—through the birth of a child in a humble manger.

PEOPLE: **The warm glow of God lightens our hearts. God’s love comes to us in unexpected ways, inviting us to love deeply and generously.**

LEADER: *Testimony of Love*

As we light this candle, may we be witnesses of God’s love. We celebrate the ways God’s tenderness and compassion have shaped lives, as we experience and express love for God and for our neighbors. Thank you for hearing my story. Let us respond together:

PEOPLE: **God’s love comes to ground, large enough to embrace, heal, and restore. Come, Lord Jesus, our Love.**

†MUSICAL RESPONSE

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

UMH 242

Verse 1: Love came down at Christmas,  
love all lovely, love divine;  
love was born at Christmas,  
star and angels gave the sign.

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*

OFFERTORY

†DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below,  
Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

†GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:8-15, 17-18, 20

Celia Thompson, Sandy Failing

LEADER: The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, for us, the people of Christ.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

8:30am SPECIAL MUSIC

“Ding, Dong, Merrily on High”  
Kim Meade & Leslie Hill, *piano duet*

arr. Howard Helvey

11:00am ANTHEM

“The Work of Christmas”  
Chancel Choir

Dan Forrest

†SERMON GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:11

Rev. Hanshew

PASTOR: The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, for us, the people of Christ.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“But the Angel Said”

Rev. Hanshew

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & PARDON

LEADER: Friends, the grace of Christ educates us so that we can live sensible, ethical, and godly lives.

As we approach the eve of His birth, we confess that we struggle to receive Him still.

**ALL: God of love incarnate, we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory’s light, we see plainly all that is wrong in the world: how oppression still enslaves, how garments of war are still stained with blood, how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety. We also see what is wrong in us: how we pursue the things of this world, but forget to ponder the mystery of faith; how we do not practice the peace you intend in our relationships, our community, or even in the church. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you. In the Savior’s name we pray. Amen.**

LEADER: Good news and great joy! Jesus Christ, the grace of God is among us, bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in Heaven, and on Earth, peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.**

ADVENT COMMUNION LITURGY

*Please see following pages*

†COMMUNION HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
*To be sung during the serving of the elements.*

UMH 230

†HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

UMH 240

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Hanshew

11:00am BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

“The King Shall Come”

Paul Manz

*†Please rise in body or in spirit*

#### PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Don Hanshew, *Senior Pastor*

Leslie Hill, *Director of Music*

Kim Meade, *Pianist*

Stephanie Wayland, *Organist*

Celia Thompson & Sandy Failing, *Lay Readers*

John & Sarah Mays, *8:30am Advent Candles*

Austin Wall & Julia Powers, *11:00am Advent Candles*

Craig Holtzclaw, David Hueser, Stuart Mitchell,

Richard Bolus & Greg Smith, *Multimedia*

## Advent Communion Liturgy

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

In the rich dark of winter, God makes an astounding promise:

“I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up.”

In the wilderness, a voice cries out, longing for  
the Refiner’s fire, repair, and renewal,  
the promised birth (and rebirth) of hope.

Called to bear the weight and fruit of promise,

Mary sings ancient trust – the song of generations –  
that God comes to fill the hungry and lift the humble.

She sings that love and truth will meet, that justice and peace will kiss.

In the midst of uncertainty, Jesus assures his disciples:

Just as the tree blooms, so the signs are clear  
that the kingdom of God is near.

In the deep of our own winter, we look for them:

bud of hope, branch of peace, sprig of joy, blossom of love.

While around us the snares of fear and conflict lie in wait of infant hope,  
you, O Wisdom, O Endless Love, O Radiant Dawn, are there,  
keeping vigil with us, in this season of expectation.

We gather at this table, praying that crooked ways be made straight,  
that valley’s peace be lifted up and mountain’s might brought low  
so that all God’s people might rejoice together, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one that comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

We give thanks for the mystery and wonder revealed that first night,  
as humble people led by hope gathered in a quiet stable  
and were witness to your promise reborn.

We give thanks for the blessing and love Jesus shared  
with all whom he met, in food and story.

We remember that, on the night before he was handed over to die,

Jesus broke bread with his friends, blessed it, gave thanks, and said,

“Take, eat. This is my body, which I give for you. When you share it, remember me.”

We remember that he took the cup and, giving thanks, said,

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. When you drink it, remember me.”  
Revealed in stable, cross, and empty tomb, we give thanks, O God, for your limitless love for all.

With your people of all times and places, we await with hope the fulfillment of your vision for all creation.

**Bless us, O God, and these your gifts.  
Encourage us to share your life and love,  
which make us, and the gifts we share, truly holy.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Transform us, God, and your world, and bless your children:  
those who feel alone or afraid...

those who whose souls and homes are broken by violence...

those who will go hungry, thirsty, and cold tonight...

those who long only to hear that they are loved...

God made known in Jesus Christ,

**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 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>/HS 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

- 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

### Dates for Your Calendar

- 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
- December 29 Combined 11:00am Worship, Sanctuary
- December 31 Deadline for 2024 financial gifts, 12:00pm
- January 5 Bicentennial Team, 12:00pm, Wesley Hall
- January 15 Fountain City Fellowship Resumes

### Last Chance for Pies for a Cause!

If you are the last minute type around the holidays, you're in luck! Our UWF has a small number of sweet potato pies left. You can pick one (or more) up today in Wesley Hall after 8:30 and 11:00am services. These pies are made with locally gleaned sweet potatoes and baked right here by our UWF. The price is donation based, and all proceeds will benefit flood relief efforts in our region. Last minute doesn't have to be bad-but don't miss out!

### 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. 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 financial 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" Broadcasts

Our choir's Christmas concert will 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!

### Our Sympathy...

...to the family of Mike Hueser, on his death December 12, 2024.

### We Celebrate...

...with Sharon & Harold Jennings, who joined FCUMC in The Journey on December 15, 2024. Welcome!

### WAYS TO GIVE

#### 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



In Person  
or Mail In



Online/Mobile  
Banking

**Your Giving Matters!**

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

### Save The Date!

Father Daughter Dance

February 8, 2025

In the FCUMC Gym