

# Events & Announcements



## Pizza with the Pastor

Sunday, December 11th, Noon, Talbert Building

For anyone newer or interested in membership or baptism, join us for this informal “crash course” on membership, baptism, and what being a Methodist is all about. There will be pizza! Please RSVP at [hello@faithunited.org](mailto:hello@faithunited.org).



## Youth & Parent Mtg Rescheduled TONIGHT!

Sunday, December 11th, 7 pm, Talbert Building

Families with youth in grades 5–12 are invited to join Abby and Pastor Ric for a presentation of the youth ministry program in 2023, including confirmation and the summer mission trip!



## Cocoa & Carols!

Sunday, December 18th, 6 pm, Sanctuary

It's pretty simple: come sing carols and drink hot cocoa! Bring any song requests and Christmas spirit, and we'll have a blast together!



## Christmas Eve at Faith Church

Invite a friend or neighbor to join us for one of our 3 Christmas Eve Services:

5:30 pm, featuring our Children's Pageant

7:30 pm, featuring Special Music

11:00 pm, featuring our Choir

Communion and Candle-lighting will be offered at all services (electronic candles at the 5:30 pm).

\*Christmas Day Service online at 10:30 am



**December 11th, 2022**

*To be a beacon of Christ's love, hope, and grace  
for the community.  
You are welcome here.*

## We Gather as Community

Prelude	Emily Cowgill
Welcome & Introduction	Pastor Ric Shewell
*Call to Worship from Psalm 146	Jennifer Cripe
Advent Candle Lighting	
*Opening Prayer	Jennifer Cripe
* <i>Praise to the Lord/Joyful Joyful (Neandere, Van Dyke)</i>	

Please join us in singing anytime the words are on the screens

Today's Music Team: Dan McLachlan, Greg Rolette,  
Brian Bauman, and Emily Cowgill

\* Indicates to stand in body or spirit

## We Hear God's Word Proclaimed

Prayer for Illumination	Pastor Ric Shewell
1st Reading, Isaiah 35:1-10 (NLT)	Hannah Reasoner
<i>The Friendly Beasts (UMH# 227)</i>	Music Team
2nd Reading, Matthew 11:2–11 (NLT)	Trisha Manns
Children's Time (during 2nd service)	Abby Kleinknecht
<i>After Children's Time, children in 5th grade and younger invited to a lesson and activity with Abby in the choir room, returning at offering.</i>	
Welcoming New Members	Pastor Ric Shewell
"In the Weeds and In the Wheat"	Pastor Ric Shewell
<i>After the message, there will be a moment to reflect and pray.</i>	

## We Respond to God's Word

Prayers of the People	Pastor Ric Shewell
The Lord's Prayer	
Introduction to Offering	Jennifer Cripe
<i>In the Bleak Midwinter (UMH #221)</i>	Music Team
* <i>Doxology (UMH #94)</i>	Music Team
*Prayer of Thanksgiving	Jennifer Cripe
Invitation to Communion	Pastor Ric Shewell
The Great Thanksgiving Prayer	
Instructions for Sharing the Sacrament	Pastor Ric Shewell
<i>I Believe (Miller)</i>	Music Team

\* Indicates to stand in body or spirit

## We Bring the Word to Daily Life

Announcements	Pastor Ric Shewell
*Benediction	Pastor Ric Shewell
* <i>Take to the World (Webb/Tate)</i>	Music Team

\* Indicates to stand in body or spirit

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### Message Notes:

*'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest.'* - Parable of the Weeds and Wheat (Matthew 13:29-30)

*'The ax is already at the root of the trees... His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.'*  
- John the Baptist (Matthew 3:10, 12)

Jesus wasn't meeting Messianic \_\_\_\_\_.

Just as John subverted expectations about true religion, Jesus is subverting expectations about the *kingdom of God*.

Ironically, while John questions Jesus's character, Jesus praises John's. *John's questioning is a longing for the kingdom and it's a virtue.*

We live in a world where the weeds and the wheat grow together, and our hope in Christ is not misplaced.

Continue the conversation:

- Are there expectations that you need to hold more loosely in order to see what God is really doing?
- Who is in the weeds? Make sure they are not alone. Ask God for guidance on how to be present and report about the wheat.