



Welcome to First United Methodist Church Fox Hill

A vibrant church, making Christian disciples & enriching lives through outreach.

December 17, 2023

Sunday's Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Traditional Service: In-Person/ <u>Livestream</u>
10:30 a.m.	Modern Service: In-Person/ <u>Livestream</u>
10:30 a.m.	Faithlink Class: Classroom
10:30 a.m.	<u>Searchers</u> Class: FH Stage
	Zoom Passcode: 000846
10:30 a.m.	Rise Children's Ministry: Ed Wing
12:00 p.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal
6:00 p.m.	Elevate Youth Fellowship



Isaiah 61:1-11, Luke 1:26-37
"The Present of Presence"



We continue to pray for our housebound, those with chronic conditions that may require ongoing treatment, and those unspoken prayers.

Announcements

Christmas Eve Plans

Please note one small change from previous years – we are planning on a 10am single service Christmas Eve morning (Dec. 24) and then a 4pm service, including children's choir, and probably Rainbow Puppets, then a **6pm** second Christmas Eve service. Then, on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, we will also have a single 10am service, with Pastor Tommy preaching. We will be back to our regular schedule on January 7.

Christmas Eve: 10am, 4pm, 6pm

New Year's Eve: 10am

Children's Choir

We will be having a children's choir sing at the 10am and 4pm Christmas Eve services. If you would like to have your child, grandchild, or any other child in your life join us, we will be holding **rehearsals on the following dates: 12/17 @ noon, 12/20 @ 6pm, 12/23 @ 6pm**. If you have any questions please contact Larissa Luma at larissa@firstumcfoxhill.org.

ChristmasGIVING for Our Incredible Staff

The joyous Christmas season is a time for happiness and GIVING. Please join us in recognizing and supporting our fabulous staff. They give tirelessly to enrich our spiritual lives preparing the message, a song, a bulletin, a beautiful musical selection or a powerful prayer. Other staff members provide a nurturing safe place to leave our children during church services and special events, enhance the spiritual development of our youth, make sure all our bills are paid, and maintain a clean and safe environment.

Please join us in GIVING to the Staff Christmas Bonus Fund **through this Sunday, December 17**. Make sure to note "Staff Christmas Bonus Fund" on your envelope or online donation.

Our staff are exceptionally talented and skilled, and the ChristmasGIVING staff bonus is a good way to show our appreciation.

Sincerely, Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee

December 17, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Traditional Service

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude "Prelude in G Major" Andrew Minguez, Violin Solo
JS Bach

* Call to Worship

Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Grant us vision to behold your glory.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Choral Introit "Christ Be Our Light"
Farrell

Advent Candle Lighting Becky Holland

This morning we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The **second candle** is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The **third candle** awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.

Choral Response "Christ Be Our Light" (Refrain)
Farrell

* Hymn UMH 218 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Children's Time Pastor Brian

Offering Prayer and Offertory "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"
Smith/Jones Andrew Minguez, Violin Solo

* Doxology UMH 72 "Gloria, Gloria"

* Hymn UMH 229 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Prayer of Confession

Lord, there is a gap between the way the world is and the way you want it to be. That same gap exists in me. Forgive me when I ignore or gloss over the gap within and beyond myself. Help me strive for a closer walk with you so that I can help You bring about a closer walk with others, for this I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

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

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer Pastor Tommy

Anthem "In the Bleak Midwinter"
Shackley Andrew Minguez, Violin Solo, &
First Fox Hill Family Choir

Scripture Isaiah 61:1-11, Luke 1:26-37

Sermon "The Present of Presence" Pastor Brian

* Hymn UMH 221 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

* Benediction Pastor Brian

May God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be present to us this week so that we can share the presence of God with everyone we meet. So be it – Amen.

* Benediction Response UMH 204 "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able

December 17 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Modern Service

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship

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We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Grant us vision to behold your glory.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Advent Candle Lighting

Larissa, Seth, and Caspian Luma

This morning we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The **second candle** is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The **third candle** awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.

* Songs

"Rest On Us"

Maverick City Music

"Your Love Never Fails"

Jesus Culture

"God with Us"

All Sons & Daughters

Offering Prayer and Offering

Scripture

Isaiah 61:1-11, Luke 1:26-37

Sermon

"The Present of Presence"

Pastor Brian

Reflection

"Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King"
Gateway Worship

Worship Team

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Pastor Tommy

* Benediction

Pastor Brian

May God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be present to us this week so that we can share the presence of God with everyone we meet. So be it – Amen.

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able

Youth Group Clean Up

Our youth group is growing and we need more space! We will be moving some of our group into the (much larger) middle school room. It has turned into a bit of a storage area so we ask that you please have all personal items or items for your group removed by December 29th. We will have a group cleaning out the room on December 30th at 3pm. There are a couple of heavy items to get out and we could use the help of some strong individuals! If you would like to help out please contact Larissa Luma at larissa@firstumcfohill.org.

Fifty Plus – 2023

We have secured an extension of the deadline to sign-up for our April 10-13, 2024 trip to Charleston, SC. We have only a few seats left and need to close those by Jan 9. First come, first served. Flyers and reservation forms are on the rack next to the Welcome Desk in the Narthex. **Don't miss out; reserve now!**

Watch the bulletin for additional announcements. Contact Anne or Bill Bryan to sign-up -- in person, at abandbb1@cox.net, or by phone to 757-851-0748.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 17

- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Service: In-Person/Livestream
- 10:30 a.m. Modern Service: In-Person/Livestream
- 10:30 a.m. Faithlink Class: Classroom
- 10:30 a.m. Searchers Class: FH Stage/Zoom Passcode: 000846
- 10:30 a.m. Rise Children's Ministry: Ed Wing
- 12:00 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 1:30 p.m. Music Recital - Pam Roberts (private use)
- 6:00 p.m. Elevate Youth Fellowship

Monday, December 18

- 10:00 a.m. Tri-X Monday School: Tri-X Room
- 1:00 p.m. Monday Bible Study Group: Tri-X Room
- 6:30 p.m. UMM Meeting : FH

Tuesday, December 19

- 8:00 a.m. Facilities Team Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Shawl Makers: ESR
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting: Tri-X Room
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 151 Meeting: FH
- 7:00 p.m. BSA Troop 151 Meeting: FH

Wednesday, December 20

- 9:30 a.m. Soul Sisters: Faithlink Room
- 4:00 p.m. Love Unites: Faithlink Room
- 5:45 p.m. Wesley Bells Rehearsal: Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal: FH
- 7:00 p.m. 1st Fox Hill Family Choir Practice: Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Elevate Youth Bible Study: 2nd Fl Ed Wing
- 7:00 p.m. Buckroe New Hope AA Group: FH Kitchen

Thursday, December 21

- 11:00 a.m. Pastor Tommy's Reunion Group
- 4:30 p.m. TABS: Tri-X Room
- 6:00 p.m. Karate for Christ: FH Stage
- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 1051G: FH Kitchen

Friday, December 22

- 6:00 p.m. Buckroe New Hope AA Group: FH Kitchen
- 6:00 p.m. BSA Crew 1151 Meeting: Tri-X Room
- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 1038 Meeting: Ed Wing

Saturday, December 23

- 9:00 a.m. Buckroe Men's AA Group: FH Kitchen
- 9:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Prayers: Faithlink Room
- 2:00 p.m. Book Club: Robinson Home
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary

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First UMC
Fox Hill



Next Sunday,
December 24

10 am service:
Service of Lessons and Carols:
"Make Me a Present!"



4 and 6 pm evening services:
Luke 2:1-20
"Jesus is our Presence"

Last Week's Attendance 12/10/2023

<u>In person</u>	<u>130</u>
9:00 a.m. Service	96
10:30 a.m. Service	34
Sunday School	58
<u>Internet Live Streaming</u>	<u>172</u>
9:00 a.m.:	124
10:30 a.m.:	48

Last Week's Tithes & Offerings

Total One Fund:	\$ 7,755.85
Year to Date:	\$ 525,743.06

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Last Week:	\$ 20.00
Year to Date:	\$ 3,341.10

Worship Assistants for December 17, 2023

December	9:00 a.m.: Calvin Leary (Capt.), Jean Pickin, Bill
Ushers	Drummond, Susan Morehouse, Mike May 10:30 a.m.: Dave Sharp (Capt.), Daniel Clark
Liturgist	9:00 a.m.: Jim Bly 10:30 a.m.: Andi Meyer-Orozco
Projection	9:00 a.m.: Mary Parker 10:30 a.m.:
Sound & Lights	9:00 a.m.: Jim Bly 10:30 a.m.: Joey & Andi Meyer-Orozco
Camera/ Video	9:00 a.m.: John Payne 10:30 a.m.: Mike Williams
Livestream	9:00 a.m.: Jim Branstetter 10:30 a.m.: Jim Branstetter
Ambassadors	9:00 a.m.: 12/17 LaRose Richardson & Lisa Hite 12/24 Nancy Geith & Joann Smith 10:30 a.m.: 12/17 Lynn Landrum
Night Watchmen	12/17 Dave Rogers, 12/24 Joey Meyer-Orozco, 12/31 Calvin Leary

Pastor: Brian Sixbey - PastorBrian@firstumcfoxhill.org

Assistant Pastor: Tommy Markham - PastorTommy@firstumcfoxhill.org

Youth Director/Worship Team Leader: Larissa Luma - Larissa@firstumcfoxhill.org

Music Director/Organist: Mark Biondolillo - musicianmark@firstumcfoxhill.org

Office Manager: Cassandra Brown - churchoffice@firstumcfoxhill.org

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