

Christmas Eve

*Candlelight and Children's Nativity
4:00 p.m. Worship Service*

We welcome and affirm those of every age, race, ethnicity,
sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic condition,
family structure, and physical or mental ability into
all aspects of the life of this congregation.



WORSHIP GUIDE

WELCOME

Pastor Beth Snarr

PRELUDE

"The First Noel"
arr. Linda Lamb

Michael Ekbladh &
Lynn Sandefur-Gardner

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Thompson Family

CAROL UMH 234 (vs. 1, 3, 6) "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

¹ O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

³ Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

⁶ Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

What Do You Fear?
Insisting on Light
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Pastor Beth Snarr

RECEIVING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The children will present the characters of the story as the carols are sung.

THE GIFT TO COME

Isaiah 11:1-10

CAROL UMH 245 (vss. 1, 2) "The First Noel"

¹ The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

² They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

MARY AND JOSEPH

Luke 2:1-7

CAROL UMH 240 (vss. 1, 3) "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

¹ Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

³ Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

THE ANGELS

Luke 2:8-14

CAROL UMH 218 (vss. 1, 4) "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"

¹ It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

⁴ For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.



THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:15-20

CAROL UMH 217 (vss. 1, 2) "Away In A Manger"

- ¹ Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
² The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes; I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

THE WISE PERSONS AND THE STAR Matthew 2:1-11

CAROL UMH 254 (vss. 1, 5) "We Three Kings"

- ¹ We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
⁵ Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

THE NATIVITY

CAROL UMH 219 (vss. 1, 3) "What Child Is This?"

- ¹ What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
³ So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF CHRISTMAS

(To light your candle, please turn your unlit candle into the lit one to avoid spilling melted wax.)

CAROL UMH 239 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

- ¹ Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
² Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!
³ Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
⁴ Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

CAROL UMH 246 (vs. 1, 4) "Joy to the World"

- 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.
⁴ He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, and wonders of his love.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo"
J. S. Bach

Maggie Tran

(Please extinguish and deposit your candles in the baskets in the Narthex as you leave.)

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



WELCOME!

FROM THE FIRST UMC FAITH FAMILY

Our Mission is to Connect our Church with our Community and our Community with Christ.

As a community of faith that believes in Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors, we're so glad you're here and we hope you can join us again for worship!

Final 2025 Worship Service **Sunday, December 28 at 10:30 a.m.**

(both on-campus and online)

As this year draws to a close and the new year awaits, join us as we celebrate the timeless birth of Jesus!

First 2025 Worship Service **Sunday, January 4 at 10:30 a.m.**

(both on-campus and online)

Follow the star of Epiphany into the New Year during this worship experience which includes the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Join us online at

Web site: fumcgvn.org/watch

Facebook: facebook.com/fumcgvn

YouTube: youtube.com/FirstUnitedMethodistChurch

Mini-Exhibit in our Fellowship Hall: A Journey from Arrival to Self-Sufficiency

From 2024, right up until the Presidential Inauguration Day in 2025, the Greater Gainesville International Center worked with the International Rescue Committee to resettle seven refugee families from Afghanistan, Guatemala, Venezuela, and Ukraine here in Gainesville. Experience the journey of these seven families as they work to make Gainesville their new home through the line drawings of Terrence Ho and narrative by Lauren Poe. This mini exhibit will be available for viewing before and after our Christmas Eve services and worship services on December 28 and January 4. The full exhibit can be viewed online at <https://mrhotravel.com/the-story-of-refugee-resettlement>.

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." ~ Matthew 25:35b



WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES

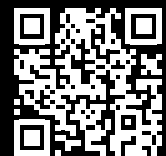


GIVE BY CHECK

Mail or bring your check to the Church Office
419 NE 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32601



Have you considered long-term support of our church ministries through our Legacy Endowment Fund? For more details, contact legacy@fumcgvn.org



GIVE ONLINE

use the QR code above or visit fumcgvn.com/GiveOnline or via the First UMC app

Share your God-given time and talents in service to others. Learn where you can volunteer by using the QR code above or visit fumcgvn.org/ways-to-serve