

WELCOME  
PRELUDE

Pastor Beth Snarr  
Lynn Sandefur-Gardner  
Carol Morris

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the dark of morning,  
**the stars still shine.**  
In the depth of winter,  
**the birds still fly.**  
At the start of the year, tender and new,  
**God is here. God is near.**  
So like the stars and the birds, let us worship our holy God.

HYMN UMH 254 "We Three Kings"

- <sup>1</sup> 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.*
- <sup>2</sup> Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.
- <sup>3</sup> Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.
- <sup>4</sup> Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
- <sup>5</sup> Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH UMH 881 Apostles Creed

**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.**

GLORIA PATRI UMH 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

RECEIVING GOD'S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

SPECIAL MUSIC

CALL TO PRAYER

Take heart. Take heart! The One who calls to you will give you strength and see you through.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Harold Henderson

LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

GATHERING SONG UMH 217 (vs 3) "Away In A Manger"

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SERMON

Just Say Yes!  
Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor Beth Snarr

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION MEDITATION MUSIC

Lynn Sandefur-Gardner

HYMN UMH 234 (vss. 1, 2, 6) "O Come All Ye Faithful"

- <sup>1</sup> 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.*
- <sup>2</sup> True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
- <sup>6</sup> Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

**BENEDICTION**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** W&S 3154 "Draw the Circle Wide"

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song: no one stands alone. Standing side by side. Draw the circle. Draw the circle wide.

**POSTLUDE**

Lynn Sandefur-Gardner

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WE WELCOME AND AFFIRM THOSE OF EVERY RACE, ETHNICITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION, FAMILY STRUCTURE, AND MENTAL OR PHYSICAL ABILITY INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THE LIFE OF THIS CONGREGATION.



**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Today's altar flowers are given anonymously to the Glory of God and His grace-filled presence among us.

Our Altar Flower Calendar has some open dates in 2026! To reserve a date on the 2026 calendar, you can sign up after worship in the Narthex or email or text our Altar Flower Coordinator, Carol Morris, at [AltarFlowers@fumcgvn.org](mailto:AltarFlowers@fumcgvn.org) or 239-595-6714.

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

If you have prayers to be lifted up or wish to be part of the team who lifts up prayers, drop an email to [prayer@fumcgvn.org](mailto:prayer@fumcgvn.org) or go to <https://fumcgvn.org/PrayerRequest>.

**MISSION FOCUS - COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Our ministry focus for this Sunday is our Community Outreach Ministry. COM provides support to those in need in our community facing eviction, utility shut-off, and other financial challenges. Your second-mile giving will help them to continue helping others through this vital ministry. Please note "COM" on your gift. Thank you!

**STEWARDSHIP 2026**

We in the home stretch of Stewardship 2026 Campaign and even though we just started our 2026 fiscal year, it is not too late to submit your pledge. If you need a pledge card, they are available on the Welcome Table and can be placed in the black offering boxes, or you can submit your pledge card online at <https://fumcgvn.org/pledge> or through the First UMC app. Thank you for supporting your faith family in this necessary and tangible way.



**4-WEEK SPIRITUAL GIFTS CLASS BEGINS JANUARY 11**

Our Stephen Ministry Leaders are planning a 4-week course titled "Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts" and we need YOU! This course will provide a renewed understanding of who God created you to be and how you can use your gifts. Participants will meet from noon-2:00 p.m. in the Bethany Room and can register after worship on Sunday or on this web page. We need at least 8 persons to register by TODAY offer this opportunity. Questions? Please contact our Stephen Ministers at [StephenMinisters@fumcgvn.org](mailto:StephenMinisters@fumcgvn.org).

**JOIN A GROWTH GROUP!**

Growth Groups are a wonderful way to gather with others in our faith family to study, pray, have fellowship, and engage in respectful, challenging conversation in order to be formed more in the image of Jesus. Check out our Growth Group page at [fumcgvn.org/GrowthGroups](http://fumcgvn.org/GrowthGroups) or contact Janet Rocap, our Director of Adult Discipleship, at [janet@fumcgvn.org](mailto:janet@fumcgvn.org).

**HELPING HANDS MATCH CHALLENGE EXTENDED TO JANUARY 14**

The Helping Hands Clinic Annual Holiday Match Challenge has been extended! HHC has consistently served our community's most vulnerable for over 30 years and they continue to be their patients' primary source for healthcare. We hope you'll consider supporting this life-saving work in 2026 and beyond by participating in this Match Challenge where every dollar that is donated will be matched by an anonymous donor!

**WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES**



The light of Jesus shines most brightly when our God-given time and talents are shared in service to others. Learn where you can volunteer by using the QR code above or visit [fumcgvn.org/ways-to-serve](http://fumcgvn.org/ways-to-serve)



**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](mailto:legacy@fumcgvn.org)



**GIVE ONLINE**

use the QR code above or visit [fumcgvn.com/GiveOnline](http://fumcgvn.com/GiveOnline) or via the First UMC app