



Lessons and *Carols*

December 19, 2021
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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.



OPEN HEARTS
OPEN MINDS
OPEN DOORS





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!

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Children's Nativity and Candlelight Service at 4:00 p.m.
Choir, Candlelight, and Communion Service at 7:00 p.m.
(4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. services both on-campus and online)

Candlelight and Communion Service at 11:00 p.m.
(11:00 p.m. service is on-campus only)

Christmas Plus One

Sunday, December 26 at 10:30 a.m.

A special worship experience of sharing scripture, telling the stories
behind some of your favorite Christmas Carols, and then singing them!
(both on-campus and online)

Join us online at

Web site: fumcgv.org/worship

Facebook: facebook.com/fumcgv

YouTube: youtube.com/FirstUnitedMethodistChurch

419 NE 1st Street, Gainesville, Florida 32601
(352) 372-8523 | contact@fumcgv.org

WELCOME

Pastor Beth Snarr

PRELUDE

"Sixfrydol"
arr. Michael E. Ekbladh

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Harold Henderson

This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, a time to rejoice in the wondrous things that God is doing.

Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world.

The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presents, but for the awareness of God's loving gift to us - the gift of the Christ child.

Help slow us down, Lord, that we may realize that your gift of love is at the center of our lives and our celebrations.

Thanks be to God who again reminds us of God's eternal love.

Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive your blessed gift. Amen.

HYMN UMH 250 (vs 2, 3, 4)

"Once In Royal David's City"

Anna Farabee

² He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall. With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

³ Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us he grew; he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew; and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

⁴ And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Ed and Christine Hoffmann

Dear God, your faithfulness has been great, leading us to this day of anticipation and celebration. May the glorious light of your steadfast love shine brightly in us and through us, that all may give you praise and glory. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

Sadie Court

CAROLS

"Glad Tidings"

"Mary Did You Know"
arr. Jack Shrader

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Alan Taylor

CAROL

"Still"
Heather Sorenson

CAROL UMH 238

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

¹ Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

² Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

³ Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

⁴ See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

READING

"The Visitation"
Malcolm Guite

Adrienne Strong

SPECIAL MUSIC

"A Soalin"

Chris and Magnolia Demers

READING

"In Search of Our Kneeling Places"
Ann Weems

Carol Morris

CAROL UMH 230

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

- ¹ O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- ² For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
- ³ How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
- ⁴ O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray, cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

PRAYER

"The Word Was Made Flesh"

Pastor Beth Snarr

*Joyce Rupp***SPECIAL MUSIC**

"Lully, Lulla"

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:1-5

Charlotte Rockwell

SPECIAL MUSIC

"The Trumpet Shall Sound"

Elvis Gomez

*G. F. Handel***REMEMBERING OUR TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS****SPECIAL MUSIC**

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

*arr. Kevin McChesney***READING**

"Shepherds"

Chris Qualmann

*Teresa Bateman***CAROL** UMH 251 (vs 1, 2)

"Go, Tell It On The Mountain"

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

- ¹ While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light.
- ² The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.

CAROL UMH 220 (vs 1, 2)

"Angels From The Realms Of Glory"

¹ Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

² Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:

CAROL UMH 254 (vs 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.

READING

"Where the Light Begins"

Marlene Udell

*Jan Richardson***SPECIAL MUSIC**

"Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain"

HYMN W&S 3059

"Love Has Come"

- ¹ Love has come, a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high!
- ² Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.
- ³ Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

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



Special thanks to everyone who helped and contributed long hours and hard work to making this year's Lessons and Carols a fabulous success! Please see below for a list of the groups and musicians that made this worship experience possible. You are all greatly appreciated!

Michael Ekbladh, Director of Music Ministries

Brett Bechakas, violin
Isabella Caffee, violin
Steve Couch, contrabass
Maurya Dickerson, viola
Ben Elgan, trumpet
Juan Florez, violin
Garrett Hecker, percussion
Mattia Imponenti, cello
Jacqueline Kim, violin
Gavan Mcvey, organ

Sean Muller, cello
Lynn Sandefur-Gardner, piano
Isabelle Tseng, violin
Emelia Ulrich, violin
Jahirah Williams, percussion
Mingyin-Zhu, violin
Celebration Ringers
Chancel Choir
Tech Crew

CONNECTION CARDS

If you didn't stop by the Welcome Table on your way in to worship or are joining us online, please fill out the Connection Card so we know you were here. You can find the Connection Card online via the First UMC app or at fumcgvn.org/ConnectionCard.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

This year's First UMC Christmas ornament is available at the Welcome Table in the Narthex. We hope you'll pick one up and hang it on your tree as a reminder of the best Christmas gift of all - Jesus Christ!



POINSETTIAS

Our Sanctuary is adorned with poinsettias for the Advent and Christmas season in dedication to loved ones. Listed below are the many who have joined together to create this beautiful worship space.

GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

LeAnna Gooden

by Katie Basinger-Ellis

Matthew and Stephanie Core

by Olivia Cason

Susan Webb

by Disciple II Class

Michael and Glen Greathouse

by Dan & Kay Greathouse

Georgiana, Lloyd, and Phillip

by Devony Harnist

Lynn Sandefur

by Robert Jackson

Our children, Daniel, Mike, Evan, Jessy and Ryan

by Evelyn & Casey Jones

The welcoming First UMC community

by Steve & Betty Kee

Our grandchildren

by Mickey Milam & Family

Our church family, and our special loved ones Beth, Anna, and Phil

by Carol & Tom Morris

James and Dorothy Nation

by the Tuesday Night New Beginnings Class

To the Glory of God

by Alice Reakes

Our First UMC Faith Family, our parents, Richard and Karen Snarr, Tom and Carol Morris, and our children, Steven, Rebecca, Zack, Abby and Anna

by Phil and Beth Snarr

My children and grandchildren

by Margaret Steptoe

Our family

by Carol & Joe Ward

Richard Wilson's 90th birthday

by Ruth Ann Wilson

Janet Rocap

by the Women's Book Study Group

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

My sister Anne Burch

by Sandra Allen

My grandmother, Annie Cannon Pound

by Betty Alsobrook

Paul "Mutt" Gooden

by Katie Basinger-Ellis

Ray and Jane Cason, and Claire Noble

by Olivia Cason

Bud Harrell and Mary E. Greathouse

by Dan & Kay Greathouse

Mrs. Mayme E. Evans, Mr. Andrew J. Evans, Mrs. Teresa R. Livingston, Mr. Henry T. Harris, and Mrs. French L. Alkire

by Sandy Evans & Karen Harris

Grandpa Skaugset

by Rae Gitzendanner

Phil Bostrom, and Laurence and Jennie Lou

by the Halsey Family

Eric Thomas Anderson

by Kathy & Harold Henderson

My parents, Jack and Edith Jackson, and Dan Francavandero

by Robert Jackson

Barbara and Taylor Kirby

by Evelyn & Casey Jones

Our parents

by Steve & Betty Kee

Robert Ray Logan

by Martha Sue Logan

Dick and Louise Williams, and my sweet wife, Mary Kathryn Williams Milam

by Mickey Milam

Lois and Fred Cone, Fred M. Cone, Jr., Susan Cone Anderson, and Celia Marie Cone

by Mickey Milam & Family

My parents

by Melanie Pate

My dad, Gary Reakes

by Alice Reakes

Our father, Rowland Medler and our mother, Elaine Medler

by Jan, Marilee, & Sue Sharp

Billy Steptoe and George Sample

by Margaret Steptoe

Archie Stewart and Tucker Morris

by Glenn & Martha Stewart

Tommy Thompson

by Bryan, Lori, Will, & Jack Trippler

Bob Van Winkle

by Joan L. Van Winkle

Our parents

by Ruth Ann Wilson



HELPING HANDS MATCH CHALLENGE

During this special season of giving, we celebrate the ministry of our mission partner, Helping Hands Clinic. 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 support this life-saving work in 2021 and beyond by participating in the Helping Hands Clinic Annual Holiday Donation Match Challenge!



Thanks to last year's drive, HHC was able to provide 1,549 visits through their various medical clinics and programs. In addition, they had many additional needy people come to the Monday meals and needed items closet, and 587 visits to the Women's Health & Empowerment Program. The women's program continued to offer a nutritious meal, clothing, showers, hygiene products, education programs, and support groups in a safe and supportive environment.

Despite this prolonged Covid pandemic, the year saw many volunteers joining the efforts of Helping Hands Clinic. In fact, you can easily argue that this health and humanitarian mission is still even more needed in a time of crisis. The monetary value of the volunteers is estimated at well over a half million dollars: \$541,488. HHC is extremely grateful for both the dedication of the volunteers and the financial support they have received from many like you.

Wow! Once again, a volunteer donor and "Uncle Ike Family" has pledged to match monetary donations given to the clinic by December 31st. These funds will be used by the clinic to support all aspects of program operations. Donations by check can be made to First UMC with "Helping Hands Clinic" in the memo line, directly to Helping Hands via their web site at hhclinicgmv.org, or through the QR code.

We are so grateful for all the ways Helping Hands and First UMC have been in partnership for so many years to bring healing, not only to broken bodies but also to broken spirits. Please also feel free pass the word to anyone who'd be interested in helping to support this life-giving work!

God Bless You.



WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES



TEXT TO GIVE

Text FUMCGNV
to
1-888-364-GIVE (4483)



GIVE ONLINE

Visit our website
www.fumcgmv.com/give-online
or via the First UMC app



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@fumcgmv.org

ADVENT 2021

After the physical separation we endured last year, being back together again during this very special season is such a blessing. Speaking of blessings, it's been our privilege to share them in several ways:

- Over \$1500 was donated to purchase Christmas gifts cards for our Florida United Methodist Children's Home.
- A poinsettia and homemade cookies were delivered to members of our faith family who find it difficult to get to church due to poor health.
- Individually wrapped packs of homemade cookies for each staff member were delivered to Metcalfe Elementary along with a teacher-themed Christmas tree from the Holiday Marketplace.
- \$400 was donated to support our FUMPers preschool scholarship fund and our mission partner, Family Promise, during our "Dickens Inn Live Holiday Music Extravaganza."
- "Christmas in a Sock" gifts, which are filled with items to keep Helping Hands Clients warm, will be given to all who attend our special Christmas meal on Monday, December 20.
- We continue to receive financial support for the Helping Hands Clinic Match Challenge.

Music has also lifted our spirits and the spirits of those in our community with special events like the:

- Advent Organ Recital
- Musica Vera Holiday Concert
- Barbergators Holiday Music Concert
- Dickens Inn Live Holiday Music Extravaganza

Finally, we hope you enjoy this morning's premier of our new antiphonal pipe organ. We are so thankful to those who made this addition possible. We know it's music will bring glory to God and inspire those who hear its music for generations to come.

