

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
arr. Joel Raney

Pastor Beth Snarr  
Cameron Perrin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elise Caton

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?  
**We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands,  
when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.**

You are right. Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us.  
**We only have to look for it. May God open our eyes to see more clearly in this time of  
worship and beyond.**

HYMN FWS 2095

"Star-Child"

<sup>1</sup> Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God, love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod,  
*This year, this year let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!*

<sup>2</sup> Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,

<sup>3</sup> Grown child, old child, memory full of years, sad child, lost child, story told in tears,

<sup>4</sup> Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more, wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store,

<sup>5</sup> Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign, down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine,

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Donna and Tony Witts

RESPONSE UMH 254 (refrain)

"We Three Kings"

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

RECEIVING GOD'S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Christmas Communion Song"  
Susan Naylor Calloway

Chancel Choir

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 Beth Snarr

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

What Do You Fear?  
Insisting on Peace  
Matthew 11:1-11

Pastor Harold Henderson

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION MEDITATION MUSIC

Cameron Perrin and Lynn Sandefur-Gardner

HYMN UMH 245 (vss 1, 2, 5)

"The First Noel"

<sup>1</sup> 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.*

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee, and offered there, in  
his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.



**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**

“Variations on O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
*Robert M. Thompson*

Maggie Tran

*lyrics used by permission - CCLI License #20865697*

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Today’s altar flowers are given by Devony Harnist in loving memory of her parents, Meda and Robert Young.

Our 2026 Flower Calendar is now open. To reserve a date on the 2026 calendar, please email or text our Altar Flower Coordinator, Carol Morris, at [AltarFlowers@fumcgnv.org](mailto:AltarFlowers@fumcgnv.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@fumcgnv.org](mailto:prayer@fumcgnv.org) or go to <https://fumcgnv.org/PrayerRequest>.

**POINSETTIA ORDERS**

As we celebrate Advent, help us beautify our Sanctuary with poinsettias starting next Sunday, December 14. You can place your poinsettia order and dedication after worship at the Welcome Table outside the Sanctuary, by contacting the church office at 352-372-8523, or via our web site at <https://fumcgnv.org/poinsettia>. Each poinsettia is only \$15 and can go home with you after the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Orders need to be placed by Monday, December 15 and the poinsettia dedications will be published on Sunday, December 21.

**MINISTRY FOCUS - HELPING HANDS MATCH CHALLENGE**

During this special season of giving, we celebrate the ministry of our mission partner, Helping Hands Clinic who has consistently served our community’s most vulnerable as their primary source for healthcare for over 30 years. You can support this life-saving work in 2026 and beyond by participating in the Helping Hands Clinic Annual Holiday Donation Match Challenge where every gift is matched by an anonymous donor!

Donations can be made by check (put “Helping Hands Clinic” in the memo line), or through the First UMC web site at <https://fumcgnv.org/give> and using the Helping Hands 2nd Mile Giving link on the right. 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. God bless you.

**STEWARDSHIP 2026**

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

**SAVE THE DATE - DICKENS INN**

Dickens Inn, our traditional First UMC potluck holiday dinner will be on Tuesday, December 16th, and Wednesday, December 17th, at 6:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall. Reservations can be placed today after the service or via the church office during the week.

**ADVENT SERMON SERIES**

Our current sermon series is titled “What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Light”. Every Advent, we light candles, sing carols, and pray for Christ’s coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring good news. Our hope is not flimsy or fleeting. It’s gritty, resilient, and can endure - no matter what we fear or face. This season, let us insist on hope, peace, joy, love, and light, trusting that good news is greater than fear.



**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 [fumcgnv.org/ways-to-serve](https://fumcgnv.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@fumcgnv.org](mailto:legacy@fumcgnv.org)



**GIVE ONLINE**

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