

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 1:

9:30a-Discovery Class (201*)
 9:30a-Discipleship Journey (209)
 9:45a-Searchers Class (202*)
 9:45a-Christian Friendship (206)
 9:45a-Unity Class (213)
 9:45a-Children’s Sunday School (CW)
 9:45a-Youth SS (WC)
 9:45a-Confirmation Class (WC)
 11:00a-Traditional Worship (S)
 12:30p-Staff Parish Relations (BCR)
 1:00p-Shower Ministry (AC)
 2:00p-Girl Scouts 17176 (WC)
 4:00p-Youth Chapel Bells (210)
 4:30p-Tucker Acts (C)
 5:15p-Sanctuary Bells (210)
 5:15p-Youth Group to the Movies

Monday, December 2:

9:00a-Weekday Preschool
 7:00p-Harmonia (S)
 7:00p-Finance*

Tuesday, December 3:

7:00a-Run-off Election (WC)
 9:00a-Weekday Preschool
 11:00a-Staff Meeting (BCR)
 2:30p-Lectionary Bible Study (J)
 5:00p-Preschool Board Meeting (BCR)
 6:30p-AA Meeting (WC)

Wednesday, December 4:

9:00a-Weekday Preschool
 9:30a-AA Meeting (WC)
 4:00p-Come Paint With Us (AR)
 5:00p-Wednesday Night Supper (AC)
 5:30p-Cherub Choir (MC)
 5:30p-Melody Bells (210)

Wednesday, December 4 (continued):

6:20p-Wesley Singers (MC)
 7:30p-Chancel Choir (MC)

Thursday, December 5:

9:00a-Weekday Preschool
 6:30p-AA Meeting (WC)

Friday, December 6:

9:00a-Weekday Preschool
 10:00a-Backpack Buddies (WC)
 5:00p-Wesley Center Reserved

Saturday, December 7:

8:00a-Pack 129 Breakfast with Santa (WC)
 10:00a-Advent Hope Seventh Day Adventist Church (C, J, CW)
 10:30a-United Women in Faith (AC)
 3:00p-City of Tucker North Pole (Greenspace)

Sunday, December 8:

9:30a-Discovery Class (201*)
 9:30a-Discipleship Journey (209)
 9:45a-Searchers Class (202*)
 9:45a-Christian Friendship (206)
 9:45a-Unity Class (213)
 9:45a-Children’s Sunday School (CW)
 9:45a-Youth SS (WC)
 9:45a-Confirmation Class (WC)
 11:00a-Traditional Worship (S)
 12:30p-Church Council (J)
 1:00p-Shower Ministry (AC)
 5:30p-Christmas Pops Crafts (AC)
 5:30p-Christmas Pops Community Dinner (AC)
 6:30p-Christmas Pops Concert (S)

PRAYER CONCERNS			
Pat Hicks	Donna Powell	Alice Shepard	Jo Anne Maxwell
Garnett Halstead	Olevia Thrasher	Ethel Bay	Dot Melo
George Mize	Henry Wall	Shelly Thomas	Rev. Jess Walter
Cliff Walter	Mary Smith	Charles Bannister	Chuck Stevenson
Marjorie Foster	Julia Torbert	Garnett Fisher	Carole Fisher
Dawn Hines	Gloria Jones	Lisa Tink	Jim Cook
Patti Rioux	Joyce Turrentine		

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Acolytes: Eileen Hunt & EN Hunt
 AV Team: Craig Coleman, Stephanie Shanholtzer, Eric Hunt

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

Malachi 3:1-4 | Luke 1:68-79 | Philippians 1:3-11 | Luke 3:1-6

Last Week’s In-Person Worship Attendance 121
Last Week’s Online Worship Attendance 24

STAFF DIRECTORY

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Church Office: 770-938-3030 | Direct Dial: 678-325- and the extension.

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am-4:30 pm; Friday: Closed

www.tuckerfirst.org

Scan the QR Code to give to Tucker First UMC electronically.



United Methodist Church
TUCKERFIRST

December 1, 2024
 1st Sunday of Advent

Church Mission:

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

God of every season, as we begin our journey through Advent, turn our hearts toward you. Guide us into your realm of peace and joy. Teach us to set aside our worries, as we walk in faithfulness and trust. May the love within us be born anew. Help us remain alert, that we may respond to pain and suffering and notice the signs of abundant life all around us. Come, Lord Jesus; come to us now, we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Arr. Miller
 Dr. Soo Jin Kim, Organist

Please let us know you’re here and take a moment to fill out the pew pad located at the end of each row. Then pass it down to others on your row.

WELCOME & INVOCATION **Rev. Katie Mattox**

Holy God, we confess that we are busy with many preparations.

We are busy with parties, with feasts, with giving.
We are busy cleaning house and wrapping presents.
We are busy with the stuff of the holiday.

And we confess that our busyness may be misplaced, that we spend more time preparing for things than preparing for You. Draw us back to the center, which is You.

Remind us that our hearts and souls have work to do, too.
Enable us to let go of that which does not matter,
and to see what does matter.
This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

** Please stand as you are able*

Vision Statement:

To be a church in connection with God, our community, and each other.

(C) Chapel	(BCR) Becker Conf. Room	(AC) Activities Center
(J) Jenkin’s Hall	(WC) Wesley Center	(AR) Art Room
(S) Sanctuary	(CW) Children’s Wing	*Contact Group Leader for Zoom
(GR) Gathering Room	(MC) Music Center	Link

Reminder: Our Tucker First worship services are live-streamed each Sunday and recorded services are available on our website. To ensure the privacy of our congregation, individuals will not be identified without permission. (lyrics used by permission CCLI# 1456853)

Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way.
All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees. (Psalm 25:8-10)
In the Name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia!
Our King and Savior now draws near: **Come let us adore him.**

*HYMN NO. 206 *I Want to Walk as A Child of the Light*

WHY WE DECORATE **Rev. Dr. John Mattox**

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ADVENT WREATH **Speaker**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH **Missions**

From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

Congregation:
While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

SUNG RESPONSE **TUNE: Bring A Torch**

Love has come, a light in the darkness!
Love explodes 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!

*HYMN NO. 211 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* **Verses 1,2,6,7**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE **Dr. Nathan Frank**

May God increase our love for one another and strengthen our hearts in holiness, as we greet one another in peace.

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

*SCRIPTURE LESSON **Luke 21:25-36 & Psalm 25:1-2** **Rev. Katie Mattox**

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me. Alleluia! Amen!

HYMN NO. 196 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE **Rev. Dr. John Mattox**

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NATIVITY **Eileen Hunt**
Luke 2:1, 3-16

OFFERTORY CAROL NO. 230
O Little Town of Bethlehem

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* **Verse 5**

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION **Rev. Katie Mattox**
Children are invited to come forward for the Children’s Moment

CHILDREN’S MOMENT **Mimi Sanders**
Significance of the Chrismon Tree
You are invited to send a member of your family to come forward and place a Chrismon on the tree.
You can also continue to come up during the postlude and after the service.

HYMN NO. 234 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING NO. 13

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are invited to receive. We receive communion by intinction.
Take the bread, dip it into the chalice, and partake. We have a station for gluten-free elements.
If you need to be served in your pew, please let the ushers know.

MUSIC DURING SERVING

*HYMN NO. 242 *Love Came Down at Christmas*

*BENEDICTION **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

*SENDING FORTH *People Look East* **Verse 1**
People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

SPOTLIGHT

Online Church Directory If you missed the opportunity to stop by the Gathering Room last week, don’t worry! You can reach out to Stephanie Shanholtzer (sshanholtzer@tfumc.org) or Cindy Petersiel (cpetersiel@tfumc.org) for help with updates, profile pictures, or opting into the directory. Additionally, you can update your profile anytime using Realm Connect.

Our Online Church Directory, hosted on Realm, makes it easy for members to view up-to-date contact information and connect with one another. By opting into the directory, you allow other church members to see your contact details and profile picture.

Christmas Pops Join us on December 8th at Tucker First UMC for a festive evening of holiday cheer! The fun starts at 5:00 PM with holiday crafts in the Activities Center, followed by a community meal from 5:30 to 6:15 PM. At 6:30 PM enjoy a spectacular Christmas Pops concert in the Sanctuary featuring Church Street Station, an orchestra, handbells, and choir performing holiday favorites and classics. This free event promises an unforgettable night of music and joy for the whole family—but registration is required. Please register here <https://tinyurl.com/TFUMCPops>

Help NETWorks Support Neighbors Facing Food Insecurity As the need for food assistance grows during this season, NETWorks is working hard to support neighbors struggling with food insecurity. We can make a difference by donating canned meats, vegetables, and soups. Please place your donations in the NETWorks bin in the Gathering Room or drop them off at the church office. Joy Egge has kindly volunteered to deliver these items to NETWorks each week. Thank you for helping make a positive impact in our community!

Special Christmas Offering

Greetings in the joyful spirit of Advent and Christmas! As we approach this holy season, we are reminded of God’s greatest gift to us in the birth of Jesus Christ and the call to love and serve one another with hearts full of grace and generosity.

This year, I am writing with an invitation to participate in a special Christmas Offering to support the ongoing work and ministry of Tucker First United Methodist Church. As we reflect on the blessings we’ve received, we are called to share those blessings in ways that help further God’s work in our community and beyond. This year has been filled with challenges and opportunities. There are lots of blessings of growth and renewal to celebrate, and miracles large and small surround us!

This Christmas Offering will go toward the church budget that supports all our ministries, outreach efforts, building maintenance, etc., ensuring that TFUMC can continue to be a place where people find spiritual nourishment, fellowship, and the encouragement to live out God’s love in tangible ways. Your gift, large or small, will help us end the year on a positive note and maintain a vibrant church that is a beacon of hope, compassion, and faith in the world.

We know many are facing challenges in these times, but we also know that God calls us to give cheerfully, with open hearts. As you consider your year-end giving, we ask that you prayerfully reflect on the ways in which you can support our beloved church and its ministries. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant impact and helps ensure that we can continue to be a place of hope and healing for all.

Thank you for your generosity, your prayers, and your partnership in ministry. We also thank those who have already participated or pledged toward this offering. Your generosity and leadership have given us an excellent start toward our year end goals.

We are so blessed to be part of a church family committed to living out the love of Christ in such powerful ways. May this Christmas bring you peace, joy, and a renewed sense of God’s presence.

Blessings to you and yours this Christmas season and always.

With gratitude and hope,

Pastor John