

**First United Methodist Church
10:30 AM Service of Worship
December 30, 2018**

**FIFTH SUNDAY UNITY SERVICE
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

GATHERING

Before the Service Begins

Please write your praises or prayer concerns and either give them to the ushers or bring them to Pastor Mike during the Passing of the Peace. Prayer request slips are available in the Registration Pads in each pew and on the table in front of the Church Office.

WELCOME, REGISTRATION OF ATTENDANCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Rev. Mike Brown
(Please sign and pass the attendance pad down your pew.
Guests: please include your phone number and complete address.)

OPENING VOLUNTARY "O, Come All Ye Faithful"..... Marcel Dupré
LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

A CALL TO WORSHIP FROM COLOSSIANS 3:12-17.Rev. Brown and Congregation

Leader: We are God's beloved people!

People: **Called to lives of kindness, humility and compassion!**

Leader: God seeks to clothe us with love and to bind us together in harmony.

People: **God desires that we bear with one another and forgive as Christ forgives.**

Leader: We are God's beloved people!

People: **Called to lives of peace and patience; called to live with grateful hearts.**

All: **We worship the God who calls us beloved!**

-- Rev. Dr. Safiyah Fosua at www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources

OPENING PRAYERRev. Brown and Congregation

Almighty God,
Who wonderfully created us in Your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through Your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as He came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of His divinity;
Who is alive and reigns with You,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

--www.lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/2018/12/23

***HYMN OF PRAISE WS. 3052 "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 889 "The Nicene Creed"**

***RESPONSE NO. 70 "Glory Be to the Father"**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

SHARING PRAISES AND CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER Rev. Brown and Congregation

Let us pray to God, saying:
Gracious God, **bind us together in perfect harmony.**

As we gather in the waning days of 2018,
hear us as we gather in Your name
to pray for those concerns on our hearts this day.
Gracious God, **bind us together in perfect harmony.**

We pray for those who have traveled to visit their families during this Christmas break.
Keep safe those who travel on the roads and in the air.
Give the students and school workers among us
the rest they need before they soon begin a new semester.
Be with those who are journeying through the holidays for the first time
without a loved one who was lost this past year.
Gracious God, **bind us together in perfect harmony.**

As we turn to a new year,
we pray that our nation might learn from the violence and division
we've experienced far too often in the year past.
May 2019 be a year of kindness, compassion, and, above all, justice.
Gracious God, **bind us together in perfect harmony.**

We pray for the politicians who have been elected and will start their terms in the new year.
May they conduct their work with humility, honor, decency, and righteousness.
Gracious God, **bind us together in perfect harmony.**

We pray for this congregation.
Help us as we begin a new year.
Lead us onward with intelligence, imagination, enthusiasm, love.
Gracious God, **bind us together in perfect harmony.**

We pray for those on our hearts this day
whom we lift up to You in silence...
Gracious God, **bind us together in perfect harmony.**

Hear us now, Mighty Counselor,
as we pray the prayer You taught us to pray, saying:

--Stephen M. Fearing at www.stephenmfearing.com/liturgy, alt.

THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Brown and Congregation

***HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 219** "What Child Is This"

OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Mike Brown

OFFERTORY "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" setting by Gerald Near

***PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS NO. 95** "The Doxology"

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Ida Cooksey
(Children, Kindergarten and younger, are invited to leave the Sanctuary for age-appropriate learning activities.)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE Colossians 3:12-17 Rev. Mike Brown
(Pew Bible NT p. 201)

SERMON "The Church at Christmas: Transformed!" Rev. Mike Brown

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT NO. 249 "There's a Song in the Air"

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION Rev. Mike Brown

CLOSING VOLUNTARY "Adeste Fideles" Marcel Dupré

*PLEASE STAND (AS ABLE)

Bulletin Baskets: are found at the back of the Sanctuary for your convenience to discard your bulletins.

Reminder to parents: Safe Sanctuary Policy - "No child left unsupervised for any reason at any time". Parents are encouraged to take their children to the restroom before any worship service begins. If a child needs to go to the restroom during worship, an adult or buddy needs to be with them.

Thank Our Members Who Minister

Ushers for December 2018: Jack Leverett, Todd Martin, Steve Morrison, Ansley Yarbrough

Greeter for December 30, 2018: 10:30 AM Martha Hatcher

Calendar for December 30, 2018

Sunday, December 30, 2018 - FIFTH SUNDAY UNITY SERVICE

*9:30 AM----- Fifth Sunday Unity Breakfast, J.O. Smith Building
*9:45 AM----- **NO** Sunday School
*10:30 AM----- Fifth Sunday Unity Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, December 31, 2018 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

12:00 PM-----Church Office Close at Noon

Tuesday, January 1, 2019 - NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:00 AM----- **NO** Food Bank
12:00 PM-----Church Office Closed

Thursday, January 3, 2019

10:00 AM-----Thursday Morning Bible Study, Library

Sunday, January 6, 2019 - EPIPHANY SUNDAY

*9:00 AM-----Contemporary Worship Service, J.O. Smith Building
*9:45-10:45 AM----- Sunday School, Sharp Building and Adult S. S. Building
*11:00 AM-----Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
4:30 PM-----Youth Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
5:00 PM-----Children's Snack Supper, J. O. Smith Building
5:30 PM-----Children's Fellowship, Sharp Building
5:30 PM-----Youth Snack Supper, J. O. Smith Building
5:45 PM-----Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Handbell Room
6:00 PM-----1 Timothy 4:12 UMYF, Youth Basement

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

9:00 AM-----Food Bank, Adult S. S. Building
9:30 AM-----Church Staff Meeting, Simmons Parlor
6:00 PM-----Cub Scout Pack #519 Meeting, Scout Hut

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

12:00 PM-----Keenagers, J. O. Smith Building
3:00 PM-----Knitting/Crochet Ministry, Simmons Parlor
5:30 PM-----Two Year Old Music Group, Circle Room
*6:00 PM-----Christian Fellowship Dinner, J. O. Smith Building
*6:25 PM-----Children's Worship Arts, Drama Room & Sanctuary
*6:25 PM-----Preschool Music and Arts, Circle Room
*6:40 PM-----Youth Small Group Bible Study, Youth Basement
*6:40 PM-----Esther Bible Study, Esther Bible Study Room
*7:30 PM-----Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

* denotes 'nursery provided'

Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Thursday Morning Bible Study will resume on January 3, 2019. If you are interested in joining, contact the Church Office or Judith Maxwell, or show up on Thursday and find out what's happening.

Keenagers

Our January 2019 Keenagers will be held a week later this month due to the holiday. We will meet on Wednesday, January 9, at 12:00 noon. Kim Mills from the local YMCA will present our program. Please call the Church Office by Tuesday, January 8, at noon if you are able to attend.

Acolyte Training

We will start training our new Acolytes after the beginning of the New Year. Anyone in grades 2nd-5th grade is welcome to become an Acolyte. Call the Church Office at 229-246-1864 to sign up. Christi Murray, Meg Yarbrough, or Suzi Loeffler will contact you in January to schedule your training class.

Church Office Closures for the Holidays

The Church Office will close at noon on Monday, December 31, and will be closed New Year's Day, January 1. We will reopen on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

Food Bank Schedule

The Food Bank will be closed on Tuesday, January 1. We will be open again on Tuesday, January 8.

Sunday Evening Activities

Our regular Sunday evening activities will start back on January 6 with the Youth Choir at 4:30 p.m. Children's Snack Supper will be at 5:00 p.m. followed by Children's Fellowship and Youth Snack Supper at 5:30 p.m. followed by UMYF. Handbell Choir will rehearse at 5:45 p.m.

Wednesday Night Activities

Our regular Wednesday night activities will start back on the second Wednesday of January, the 9th, with the Christian Fellowship Dinner beginning 6:00 p.m. Our Children's Music and Worship Arts programs will also start back, beginning with the Two Year Old Music Group at 5:30 p.m.

Members Who Minister

Ushers for December 2018: Jack Leverett, Todd Martin, Steve Morrison, Ansley Yarbrough

Ushers for January 2019: Johnny Reynolds, David Holt, Kevin Lewis, Jim Rentz

Greeter for December 30, 2018:	10:30 AM	Martha Hatcher
Greeters for January 6, 2019:	9:00 AM	Dorinda & Rich Cox
	11:00 AM	Beth & Butch Yarbrough

Contemporary Worship Leader for January 6, 2019: Nancy Kirbo