First United Methodist Church
January 7th & 8th, 2023

First United Methodist Church

www.fumcdixon.org

Facebook: FUMC Dixon

5:00 pm on Saturdays; 10:00 am on Sundays

Our mission is making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by faithfully uplifting the message of Christ

"*" Indicates to stand as you are able or inclined

Prelude

Bell Choir *"We Three Kings"*

Welcome and Greeting

***Call To Worship**
L: The Voice of God prods our hearing.
P: The activity of God stretches our seeing.
L: Together they invite us down into the waters of life where the Spirit flows.
P: From there we may rise to go, to dare, to walk, and to serve beyond where we have been before.

Opening Prayer – (unison)
You alone can change us, Lord. Wash us in the waters of baptism so that we may become a new people. Wash away everything that stands between us and your holiness. Wash away this temper that gets me into more trouble than I can handle. Wash away the massive wants that place us in constant financial jeopardy. Wash away our envy that separates us from the people we should love. Wash away everything that stands between us and your holiness. Wash me with your cleansing power so that I may be a child of God. In the name of your precious child Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** *"When Jesus Came to Jordan"* **#252 UMH**

Giving of Ourselves and Our Offerings
God of the water that cleans us, the land that feeds us, and the air that allows us to breathe your Spirit in and out of us; you claim us in our baptism, but too few of us even remember our own baptism. And if we remember (or imagine) our baptism, we too rarely grasp its meaning and power. As we present our tithes and offering in worship and witness Christ's baptism once again, may we remember that in that water we were, like Christ, commissioned to go: to teach, preach, heal, and even to take up a cross. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (Matthew 3:13-17)

Chancel Choir *"When We Meet at Your Table, Lord"*

Passing the Peace from a Distance

Preparing to Hear God's Word: **"***Lord I Want to Be a Christian"* **UMH #402**
(*We will continue to sing this song as the choir joins the congregation)*

Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17
13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. **14** But John tried to deter Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" **15** Jesus

replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. [16] As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.
At that moment heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. [17] And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."

L: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

Message: ***The Water's Fine*** **Rev. Timothy Mitchell**

***Hymn of Preparation:** *"Down to the River to Pray"* **#3164 W&S**

Celebration of Holy Communion

Call to Reconciliation

To a world of brokenness, God speaks of healing. To a time of confusion, God tells of that future grounded in love. To a people longing for redemption, God comes to bring us home. Let us confess how we have not heard God speaking to us, as we pray, saying:

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of Spirit and fire: baptized, we have not done a good job as your people. We are drawn to the shadows of sin, hoping you will not see our foolishness. We fall into the arms of temptation, letting it spin us until we are out of control. We selfishly cling to your hope and grace, convinced that others will misuse these gifts.

Forgive us, Bearer of Grace. Touch us with your Spirit, so we may be restored to new life; touch us with your grace, so we may offer forgiveness to all people; touch us with your peace, so we might be healers to our world. This we pray in the name of the One who went into the waters of baptism to cleanse us of sin, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept.

Assurance of Pardon

We expect the fire of judgment,
but are given the Spirit of grace;
we expect God to yell at us,
but we are called by a new name;
we expect God to stay angry,
but we are handed the dove of peace.
This is the good news for us!
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of glory be with you!
And also with you!
People of God, offer your hearts to God.
We give them to the One who comes to redeem us.
Sing songs of praise and joy, Children of God.
We lift our voices to the One who journeys with us through the waters of baptism and who feeds us at the Table of hope.

With the waters of baptism reminding us of your love for us, Heaven's Voice, we lift our praises to you. Before you breathed the Word which tamed chaos, you named us your children, heirs of all the goodness you desired for us. You sang to us in Eden's fields, inviting us to glorify you forever. Yet, we walked into the shadows of the world, leaving the songs behind. You persisted in your hopes for us, knowing that where no life is anticipated, no hope is expected, no future is seen, there you gather us up to carry us into your kingdom.

So, with angel choirs in every region, with shepherds who caroled a homeless family, with those who came home singing from exile, we lift our voices in joy and hope:

P: Holy, holy, holy, God every time and space.
All creation sings of your majesty and glory.
Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who gives us the water of life.
Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Bearer of grace and Singer of truth. When we lost our voice to sin, you sent your Word to teach us new hymns of joy and praise. When our feet were muddy from playing in life's puddles, He stepped into the Jordan, to make us clean.

When our ears were filled with the lies of the world, He spoke the truth of your hopes for us. When we were about to die, He came running to us, defeating sin and death, marking us as your own with the kiss of the Holy Spirit.

As we remember Christ's baptism, as we recall His life and ministry, as we follow Him through death into the resurrection of new life, we proclaim that mystery called faith:

P: Christ died, so sin would have no more power over us;
Christ rose, destroying death's grip on us;
when the new heaven and new earth come,
Christ will make all things, including us, new.

Holy Spirit, fill us with the Bread of forgiveness and the Cup of hope.
Flow through us with baptismal waters, so we might become a river of reconciliation; grant us your peace, so we might carry it to others; set our hope on Christ, so we might build such hope in our neighborhoods and communities.

And then, when the river of time stops flowing, and we gather around your Table, we will join our voices as one people, singing "Glory!" to God, Son, and Spirit, God in Community, Three in One. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Congregational Prayers
Telling of God's Activity and sharing Joys and Concerns
Silent Prayer
Pastoral Prayer
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 and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn of Going Forth:** **"Baptized in Water"* **#2248 TFWS**
(Sung to the tune of "Morning has Broken")

***God's Blessing**

***Postlude**

NEXT STEPS:
___ I will do my best to fulfill the Wesleyan covenant I made with God throughout 2023.
___ I will invite someone to our new worship series, Glimpses of the Kingdom.

Credits for Liturgy: Pastor Tim Mitchell, Thom Shuman, Discipleship Ministries, and Nancy Burnett.

DON'T MISS THIS MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY STARTING IN 2023!

Supporting local businesses is a part of our mission and BTHV vision statement. We can all be a part of guiding ourselves, our families and everyone in our community and the surrounding area *"into a loving and life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ"* by building relationships with others and with our local business owners.

So...in the new year, please continue to fill out the Connect Card to help us stay connected and build relationships. As an added incentive to filling out the card and turning it in every service, each card will be entered in a monthly drawing for a **gift card/certificate** to a local business. What better way get to know and support our local businesses and help others flourish too!

Announcements

Prayers: Katie Kromeke (Willey), Denny Arjes, Dalton Smith, Cindy Gabany, Karen Hundrieser, Bill Maass (Phyllis Doan's brother), Travis Malston, Glenn Kersten, Carla Anderson, John Cramer, Jean Reed & Karlie Cox.

AGAPE YOUTH will meet in 2023 on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11:30am in the youth lounge. See you on January 8th and 22nd!

POWERHOUSE KIDS meet every Sunday morning at 10am in the 3rd floor Arena Room. Join Pastor Tim, Pastor Young Sun and our loving "shepherds" for lessons, activities, snacks, and crafts. Ages toddler through 4th grade.

We're so glad to be part of this family of God! Thank you for your love and support following the sudden stroke and passing of my mother, Dorothy Yarger. **Kevin & Sue Stach**

CHURCH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT Mark Saturday, January 14, 2023 from 8:30 to 2:30 on your calendar. That will be the day our church leadership and anyone who wants to be a part of fulfilling our **Beyond the Horizon Vision** will gather. We will spend the first 2 hours talking about the process of discerning and moving toward implementing the One Board model of church leadership. The rest of the time will be spent developing our Ministry Plan to bring our **Beyond the Horizon Vision** to reality. Having a Ministry Plan in place ensures that we have tangible goals to achieve so that in five years we will be able to have a wonderful celebration as we fulfill our **Beyond the Horizon Vision.** *Be thinking about what your are bringing to the potluck lunch!*

Our Beyond the Horizon Vision (BTHV)

Dixon First United Methodist Church is a community of faith that provides a caring place to thrive and flourish. Being a part of Dixon FUMC is being part of a family, not perfect, but a loving and caring place to call home.

Faith is a building block for life that is essential to flourish. If anything robs you of that foundation, you will discover the loss of faith will be devastating. You will realize this reality in moments of terror as tragedy overwhelms your life. Most of the time we live life on autopilot, but when struggles happen, we need a strong faith-based foundation that is unshakable.

Over the next 5 years, our community of faith will be the compass for guiding hundreds of families into a loving and life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ. Through our discipleship pathway, we will help them grow Jesus-Shaped lives that reflect Christ's values and not those of the world.

We want you, your family, and everyone in our community and the surrounding area to flourish. Come and join us as we journey together, seeking to make Christ our cornerstone, the anchor in the storms of our chaotic world. Our vision is to see our community, nation, and the world grow together into a loving relationship with God and our neighbor.

DISTRICT TRAINING EVENT - Saturday, January 21 we will host the **Prairie South District Training Event** from 8:30 to Noon. **Volunteers will be needed to help host! See sign-up sheets on Welcome Table.**

DON'T FORGET TO FILL OUT YOUR *CONNECT CARD* AND DROP IT AND YOUR PEN IN THE BINS INSIDE THE SANCTUARY DOORS!

Staff Phone Numbers

Pastor Tim Mitchell, 815-440-0278
Pastor Young Sun Lee, 217-778-7898
Jody Mitchell, Office, 815-284-2849
Tommy Whitcombe, music, 815-440-9623
Carla Anderson, organist, 815-590-6698
Jessie Marie Dir, records, 815-288-1326
Sharon Welker, treasurer, 815-652-4384
Keith Gabany, custodian, 815-288-5001

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