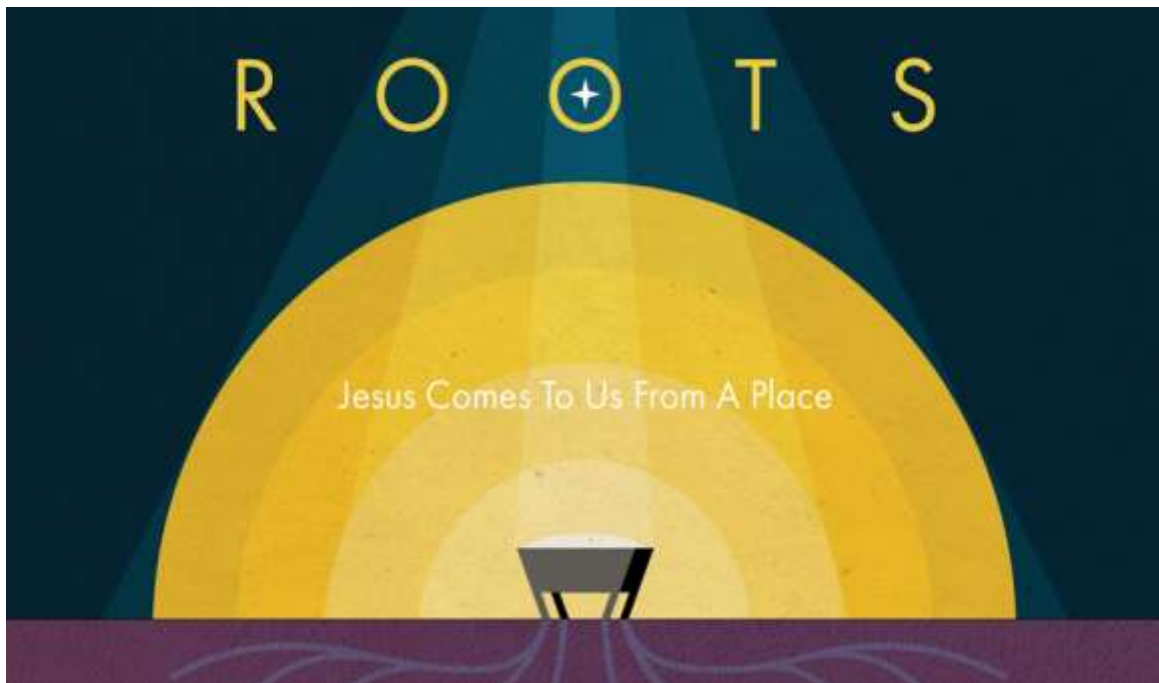


# First United Methodist Church December 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022



## ***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 so inclined***

## **Preparing Our Hearts, Souls and Minds**

### **Prelude**

### **Greeting**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**Reader One:** 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;

**Reader Two:** The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

**Reader One:** 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,

**Reader Two:** And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!

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!

**Reader One:** If you have not done so already won't you ask the Christ child to enter in and be born in you today? If He has already entered in, begin to prepare your hearts to celebrate His birth in the upcoming weeks. You have "the One who is our Peace" dwelling within – May you walk in His Peace this Christmas season.

*Light the three candles on the Advent wreath.*

### **Opening Prayer (unison)**

We praise you, O God, for being not only the God of history but the God of our story. You have gathered us here today to remind us that although you are the one to whom all power belongs, yet you care for the weak and powerless. You care for us. We praise you for joining your story to ours in such a special way through Jesus, our Lord. He proved His great love for you and for each person in the way He lived—releasing what was captive, lifting up the burdened, empowering the powerless. God, source of loving kindness and strength, we worship you. Jesus, foundation of our faith, we worship you. Holy Spirit, ground of our very being, we worship you. Amen.

**Opening Hymn:** *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

**#230 UMH**

### **Giving of Ourselves and Our Offerings**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)**

Generous God, as we bring our gifts to you this day, we acknowledge that we have been given so much by your goodness, but we have been tight-fisted and slow in giving to help others. In this Advent season of preparation, we ask you to help us live in a new way, to

walk a new highway, to set ourselves on the path that leads to a closer walk with Jesus, our example and redeemer. May this be the season when He finds the highways to our hearts prepared for His coming. In the name that is above all others. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen. (Isaiah 35:1-10)

Chancel Choir

*"There's a Baby Born in Bethlehem"*

Passing the Peace from a Distance

**Focusing on God's Call to Us**

Preparing to Hear God's Word:

*"The Family of God"*

William Gaither

*(We will sing this song throughout Advent)*

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:4-6**

When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Message:

Roots: Jesus Comes to Us from a Place

Pastor Tim Mitchell

**Responding to the Call of God**

\* Hymn of Response

*"Love Came Down at Christmas"*

#242 UMH

**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:

*"There's a Song in the Air"*

#249 UMH

\*God's Blessing

\*Postlude

**Credits for Liturgy:** Pastor Tim, Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Hymnal, Dan Wilt, Nancy Burnett and "The Family of God", CCLI Song #17023 © 1970 William J. Gaither, Inc.

The 2 white poinsettias are in memory of the women of the Women of Faith (UMW) who have passed since our last memorial service.



Susan Grobe  
Carrie Cartwright  
Audrey Roop  
Lois Brownlee  
Carol Peterson

Johanna Berman  
Marsha Butterfield  
Alberta Nusbaum  
Ardith Ruthe  
Corinne Hunsberger



The white rose on the altar is to announce the birth of **ROWAN DOUGLAS HAAS** who was born on Friday, December 2, 2022 to Megan and Todd Haas. Congratulations!



### **GOING DEEPER - Questions for deeper reflection**

**Reflecting on Pastor Tim's message is there anything that touched you that you wish to talk about?**

#### **Read Matthew 2:4-6**

When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

1. Have you ever had an experience where your life was impacted in a big way by something (or someone) small in the eyes of the world?
2. We all feel powerless at times. Have there been times you felt insignificant and unable to make change or progress in your life? How did God help you?
- 3 Think about the very simple way God entered the world in Christ. A young girl, a bewildered husband, shepherds, a manger, animals, a small town and dusty roads—all are an integral part of the story of Advent and Christmas. How did God use the small and insignificant to deliver his brightest message in the world, what does that tell you about what and who God wants to use now?

**Closing Prayer:** Father, it is amazing how often you choose the small and insignificant things and people in the world to actually change it. We are grateful that you know each of our names, our stories, and our hopes and dreams, and that you welcome us to partner with you in touching our communities and relationships with your love. Help us to become the Love of God to those we touch this week. In Jesus' name we come, Amen.

# The Family Of God

Words by  
William J. Gaither and Gloria Gaither

Music by  
William J. Gaither

**CHORUS**

F G<sup>9</sup> Em/G G<sup>7</sup>

I'm so glad I'm a part of the fam - ly of God; I've been

5 C<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/C C C<sup>9</sup> F

washed in the foun-tain, cleansed by His blood! Joint heirs with Je-sus as we

13 G<sup>9</sup> Em/G G<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> Last time to Coda C<sup>9</sup> C<sup>13</sup> C<sup>7</sup> F B<sup>b</sup>/F

trav - el this sod, for I'm part of the fam - ly, the fam - ly of God. \_\_\_\_\_

**VERSE**

17 F F C/F F

1. You will no - tice we say "broth - er" \_\_\_\_\_ and "sis - ter" \_\_\_\_\_ 'round here; It's be -  
2. From the door \_\_\_\_\_ of an orph - nage to the house of \_\_\_\_\_ the King; No \_\_\_\_\_

22 C<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/C C<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/C C<sup>7</sup> F B<sup>b</sup>/F F

-cause we're a fam - ly and these folks are so near; When one has a  
long - er an out - cast, a \_\_\_\_\_ new song I sing; From rags un - to

27 B<sup>b</sup>/F F C/F F C<sup>7</sup>

heart - ache we \_\_\_\_\_ all share the tears, and re - joice \_\_\_\_\_ in each vic - try in this  
rich - es, from the weak to the strong; I'm not wor - thy to be \_\_\_\_\_ here, but praise

32 C<sup>9</sup> C<sup>13</sup> C<sup>7</sup> 1. F B<sup>b</sup>/F F 2. F B<sup>b</sup>/F F D.S. al Coda

fam - ly so dear. \_\_\_\_\_ I'm so long! \_\_\_\_\_ I'm so  
God, I be -

33 C<sup>9</sup> C<sup>13</sup> C<sup>7</sup> F B<sup>b</sup>/F F

fam - ly of God. \_\_\_\_\_

**LET'S HELP RESIDENTS OF LEE COUNTY NURSING HOME EXPERIENCE A "WHITE CHRISTMAS" WITH CHRISTMAS GIFTS!**

Please put unwrapped gifts in the bags under the tree in the sanctuary starting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will deliver them to Lee County Nursing home in time for the social director to tag them for the proper residents, before their annual Christmas party. Some suggestions for gifts follow (or you can use your own ideas): deodorant, lotion, soap, writing tablet, pens and pencils, puzzle books (crossword, word search, etc.), crayons, colored pencils, markers, coloring books, candy, chocolates, nuts, perfume, shaving sets, jewelry, lap robe, snow globe, hard sole slippers and books (fiction, inspirational, funny, etc.). They appreciate all the gifts we have provided in past years! It helps brighten Christmas for all.

Call the church office at 815-284-2849 with any questions.

Our deadline for "White Christmas Gifts" for the residents is December 18, 2022.



**Christmas Eve Services - December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5, 7 & 9:00pm**

**Christmas Morning Service - December 25th at 10am**

(no Powerhouse Kids or Agape Youth)

### Announcements

**Prayers:** Katie Kromeke (Willey), Denny Arjes, Dalton Smith, Cindy Gabany, Karen Hundrieser, Bill Maass (Phyllis Doan's brother), and Travis Malston.

**AGAPE YOUTH** will meet on the 2nd & 4th Sundays each month at 11:30AM in the youth lounge on the 3rd floor. They typically share lunch together. Includes 5th grade through high school.

**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.

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**CHURCH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT** Mark Saturday, January 14, 2023 from 8:30 to 2:30 down 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. There will be a potluck lunch!

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**DISTRICT TRAINING EVENT** Saturday, January 21 we will host the **Prairie South District Training Event** from 8:30 to Noon. We will have more information on the classes being taught as soon as it becomes available. It is a wonderful opportunity to gather with other churches and people from across our district to worship and learn together. **Volunteers will be needed to help host this event.**

**CHECK THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX FOR YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPES. THEY ARE IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.**



It's not too late to get nuts for Christmas gifts!  
Contact Kevin Stach at 815-288-5473



**CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE  
THIS SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> AT 11:30AM, RIGHT AFTER CHURCH.**







### **LAST CALL!! Another great fellowship opportunity!**

The movie "5000 Blankets" is playing at the AMC Rockford Theater on December 12th at 7:00PM. The tickets are \$15. Becky Macklin has graciously offered to arrange purchasing group tickets so we can all sit together. Phone/text Becky at 815-973-7177 or email her at:

**rebeccal1957@yahoo.com** to have her purchase your tickets **and** to make arrangements to reimburse her for your tickets.

**VERY IMPORTANT!!** We will be dining together at Portillo's before the movie!

### **TODAY IS THE LAST DAY for Christmas Prayers and Blessings for Shut-ins, those in Care Facilities and the Military**

Once again the Prayer Team will be collecting and delivering cards for the shut-ins and military of our congregation. Boxes to collect the cards will be placed on the table in the Narthex along with bags of Christmas cards. A list with names and addresses of these people will be available in the Narthex. Please write the name and full address on the envelope and put your return address on it also.

**Last day to participate will be December 11, 2022 so cards can be delivered well before Christmas.**

Cards for the military and shut-ins will be mailed or delivered by the Prayer Team on December 13 so please turn in any you wish to distribute before that date.

**Jesus is the Reason for the Season!**

### **Christmas Offering**

**The Christmas Offering for 2022 is designated for the Food Pantry and the Lee County Council on Aging Senior Center specifically for helping out with the cost of prescription medications.**

**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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