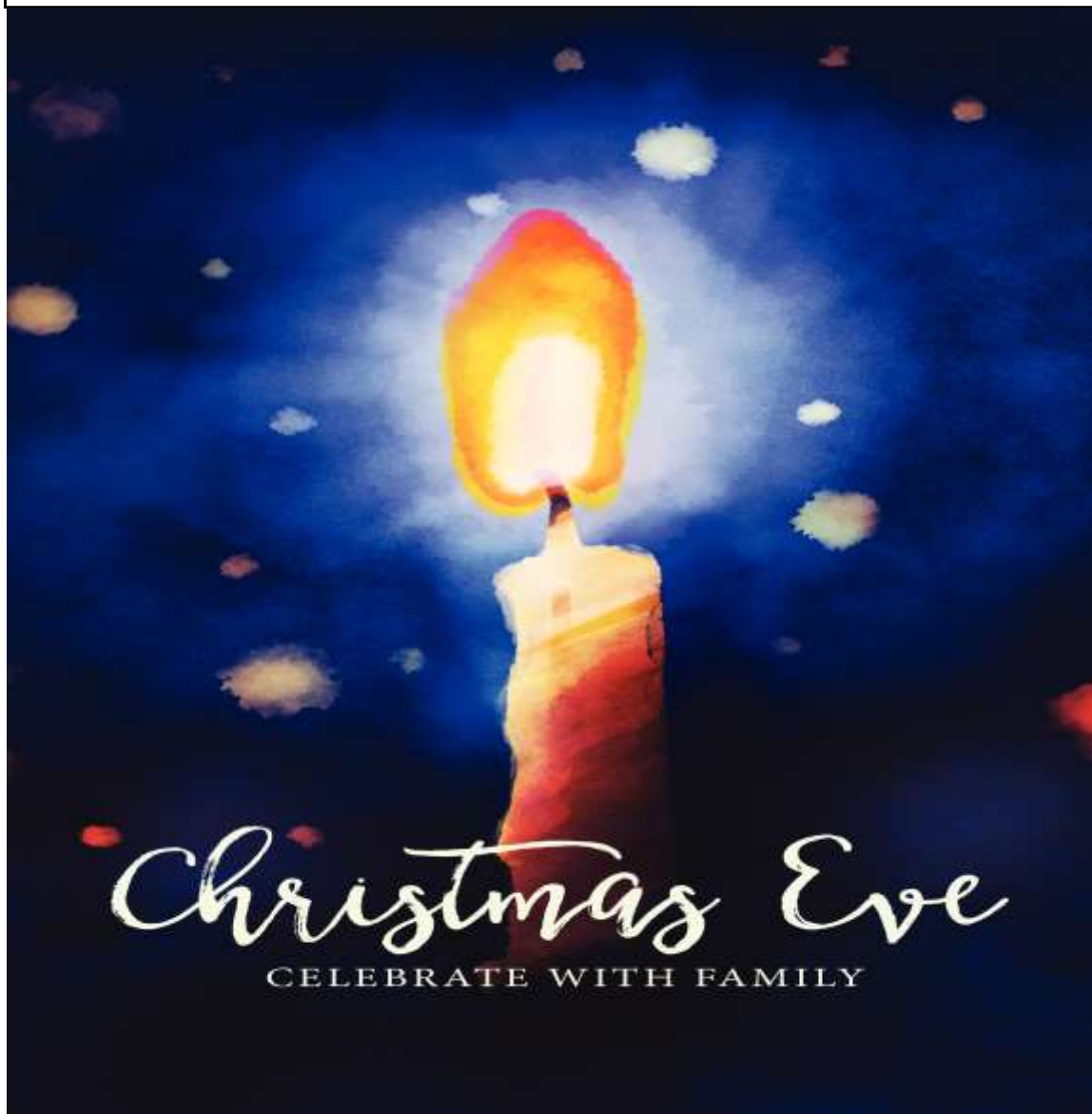


First United Methodist Church

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

5:00 - 7:00 - 9:00pm Christmas Eve Services



*Christmas Eve*

CELEBRATE WITH FAMILY

*“\*” Indicates to stand as you are able or inclined*

## **Prelude**

### **Invitation to Worship**

*(Light the first candle.)*

We remember the family roots that Jesus was bound to. We light the first candle, reminding us of God’s promise of peace on earth.

*(Light the second candle.)*

We remember that Jesus roots began in Bethlehem. Where His family called home. We light the second candle, reminding us that we are to dispel the darkness of sickness, poverty, injustice, and suffering all around us.

*(Light the third candle.)*

We remember the covenant that God made with Abraham. We too are part of the “stars so numerous that we can’t count them.” We light the third candle, reminding us to be constant and patient in our relationships and in our living.

*(Light the fourth candle.)*

We remember that we too are part of the family of God, our roots are intertwined with the Roots of Jesus’ family. We light the fourth candle, reminding us that the way of following Jesus is the way of righteousness, trust, and faithfulness.

God, we have watched for your coming with longing and with expectation, with patience and with hope. Now, as the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

*(Light the white Christ candle.)*

Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

**Song:**

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (v 4)*

UMH 230

**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!**

**(All): Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.**

### **First Lesson**

Micah 5:2, 4-5a

***The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.***

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; and He shall be the one of peace.

**Song:**

*"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"*

UMH 196

### **Second Lesson**

Luke 1:26-35, 38

***The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son whose Kingdom shall never end.***

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; He will be called Son of God.

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### **Meditation**

**Song:**

*"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (v 1, 4, 7)*

UMH 211

### **Third Lesson**

Matthew 1:18-25

***In a dream Joseph learns that he will be the earthly father of the Son of God.***

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name Him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named Him Jesus.

### **Meditation**

<b>5 and 7 pm Song:</b>	<i>"O Little Town of Bethlehem"</i> vs 1-2	UMH 230
<b>9pm Choir Anthem:</b>	<i>"The Cradle in the Shadow of a Cross"</i>	

### **Fourth Lesson**

Luke 2:1-7

***Against the backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.***

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in bands of cloth, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Response (All): Now, is the time of Christ's coming. His light is shining in a stable in Bethlehem. Come let us celebrate the light of Jesus Christ. Come, Lord Jesus Come. Amen.**

## **Meditation**

**Song:** *"The First Noel" (v 1)* UMH 245

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

**\*Doxology** *"Praise God, from Whom...."* UMH 95

## **Fifth Lesson**

Luke 2:8-16

### ***The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.***

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

## **Meditation**

**Song:** *"Angels We Have Heard On High"* UMH 238

## **Sixth Lesson**

Matthew 2:1-11

### ***The Wiseman follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.***

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed His star at its rising, and have come to pay Him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to

shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found Him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay Him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother; and they knelt down and paid Him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

### **Meditation**

**Song:** “We Three Kings” (v 1)

UMH 254

### **Seventh Lesson**

John 1:1-14

#### ***John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him; yet the world did not know Him. He came to what was His own, and His own people did not accept Him. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

**5 & 7pm Services Only: Celebration of The Lord’s Supper**

**(See insert)**

**Sending Song:**

*"Silent Night"*

UMH 239

(The passing of the Christ Light to each other)

**1. Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin  
mother and child.**

**Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**2. Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!**

**3. Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**4. Silent night, holy night,  
wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!**

**Dismissal with Blessing**

**HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

**We dedicate these beautiful Poinsettias in memory and in honor of our loved ones this Christmas Season. Thank You to all who have decorated our Altar with plants. You may take your plants home after Christmas Eve Services or after Christmas Day service at 10am.**

**In Memory of:**

<b>Sally Spence</b>	from A Friend
<b>Carol Holland</b>	from A Friend
<b>John H. Berg</b>	from Lynn D. Berg
<b>Dale &amp; Lois Brownlee, &amp; Isabelle Jones</b>	Cheryl Smith
<b>Family &amp; Loved Ones</b>	from Jim & Carla Book
<b>Don &amp; Joe Colwell</b>	from Nola Colwell
<b>Ralph &amp; Rogene Day, Wayne &amp; Jean Lantz</b>	from Terry & Jan Day
<b>William Doan</b>	from Phyllis Doan & family
<b>Brett &amp; Rod Fetterolf</b>	from the Fetterolf family
<b>Randall &amp; Helen Highsmith, Eldon &amp; Dorothy Fox, &amp; Andrea Fox</b>	from Wylie & Pat Fox & family
<b>Richard &amp; Capitola Welch</b>	from Sandra Friemoth & family
<b>Betty L. Nicklaus, Louis &amp; Alice Gabany</b>	from Cindy & Keith Gabany
<b>Our Parents</b>	from David & Judy Gusse
<b>Stanley Hann</b>	from Shirley Hann
<b>James Harper</b>	from Arlene & Ashley Harper & Kalli Grant
<b>Rex Heacock</b>	from Lynne Heacock, Jenny, Jody & Jill
<b>Anna Johnson</b>	from Russell Johnson & family
<b>Leonard Thomaschfsky, Loving Husband and Dad</b>	from Pat, Dorry & Jon Kingry
<b>Our Loved Ones</b>	from Peg & Greg Kingry & family
<b>Our Loved Ones</b>	from Delores Kness
<b>Bill Moore</b>	from Harriet Moore
<b>Son, Ronald &amp; our Parents</b>	from Alex & Carolyn Paisley
<b>George Renne</b>	from George Renne family



**In Memory of: (cont.)**

**Our Parents  
Bobby Schwarz**

**Francis Schoaf**

**Vearl & Midge Benoy  
William & Claude Shehorn,  
& Dorothy Yarger  
Hugh & Norma Voorhies  
Alberta Nusbaum  
Stan Heckert &  
Norma Wigginton  
Clay and Rita Mitchell,  
& Bert Wise**

from Ray & Meg Schmidt  
from Schnake, Shehorn & Abell  
families

from Karin Schoaf, Ramona &  
Dan Engh

from Bob & Judy Shomaker  
from Kevin & Sue Stach

from the Voorhies family  
from the Wadsworth family  
from Dave & Carolyn Wigginton

from Pastor Tim & Jody Mitchell

**In Honor of:**

**Everyone Working for the 80th Annual Holiday Bazaar**

**Shirley Trepout**

**Loved Ones**

**My Mother & Mother-in-Law**

**Diana Wise**

**Pastor Tim & Jody Mitchell,  
& Pastor Young Sun Lee**

from Lynn D. Berg

from the Giltner family

from Young Sun Lee

from Pastor Tim & Jody Mitchell

from FUMC Prayer Team





## Come Join us...

Saturday and Sunday Service  
Saturday - 5:00pm  
Sunday - 10:00am with  
Special Holiday Service Dates & Times  
(Christmas Morning at 10:00)

Powerhouse Kids - 10:00am (toddler - 4<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Agaape Youth - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday - 11:30am (5<sup>th</sup> - High School)  
(except Christmas morning this year)

Ask us about Adult Small Group Studies, Adult Sunday School,  
Women's Circles, UMMen's & UMWomen's Groups, Mission Trips  
and other Volunteer Opportunities

## Music Ministries

Bell Choir, Women's Ensemble, Men's Ensemble, Sunday Morning  
Chapel Choir & other Special Music Opportunities



# Announcements

**Prayers:** Katie Kromeke (Willey), Denny Arjes, Dalton Smith, Cindy Gabany, Karen Hundrieser, Bill Maass (Phyllis Doan's brother), and Travis Malston, Glenn Kersten, Carla Anderson, John Cramer, Diana Wise, Carlie Cox & Kevin and Sue Stach on the passing of Kevin's mother, Dorothy Yarger.

**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.

**Heirborn** blessed our community with a Christmas Concert performed here last Sunday. If you missed it, you can watch a recording on Facebook @FUMCDixon OR you can see them again performing live at Lost Lake Nazarene Church on December 30th at 7pm.

## **CHURCH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

Mark down 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. There will be a potluck lunch!!

## **DISTRICT TRAINING EVENT**

On 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 & learn together. **Volunteers will be needed to help host this event.**

## **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 MISS THIS MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY!**

**Tonight we will kick off a very special monthly outreach event that will continue throughout 2023!**

Dixon FUMC's **Beyond the Horizon Vision** statement for the next five years says:

*"We want you, your family and everyone in our community and the surrounding area to flourish....Our vision is to see our community, nation, and the world grow together into a loving relationship with God and our neighbor."*

To start off the event tonight, you have been provided a Connect Card with your bulletin and filling it out will help us stay connected to you and your family. As an added incentive to filling out the card **and turning it in**, your card will be entered in a monthly drawing for a **gift certificate** to a local business. Supporting local business owners is a part of our mission and vision statement. What better way get to know and support our local businesses and their owners! 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"!**

**December's Gift Certificate is from:**

**Oliver's Corner Market**

Tim & Patty Oliver have been serving our community for 35 years! Oliver's offers fresh salad bar, deli, bakery... and ALWAYS a friendly smile & a helping hand to their customers!

**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

Website: [www.fumcdixon.org](http://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***