



Worship Schedule Beginning January 2

- 8:45 am:** Traditional service in the Nave
- 10:00 am:** Sunday School
- 11:00 am:** Contemporary service in the MPR
- 11:00 am:** Traditional service in the Nave

Longest Night Worship Service

December 21st is the longest night of the year, that night when we experience the least amount of light and the longest period of darkness. While our abundance of electricity may make us no longer feel this is relevant, the metaphor is very important for us.

Special Worship Services Are Coming

Mark your calendars now for the special services that lie ahead and make a note about their beginning times:

Christmas Eve Services (all with Communion and Candlelight)

- 4:00 pm:** Children and Family Traditional Service
- 7:00 pm:** Contemporary Service
- 11:00 pm:** Traditional Service

Sunday, December 26

One worship service beginning at 11:15 am, featuring a host of Christmas carols.

Sunday, January 2 and beyond

Our new worship schedule begins, and we celebrate the new year with a return of coffee and doughnuts in the Welcome Center.

During Advent, we are preparing for the arrival of Christ into the world. As Christians, we believe Jesus was and is the Light of the World. However, that does not mean the Christmas Season is all beautiful lights and joyful feelings. Many of us struggle during the holidays, and all our struggles have been augmented because of the prolonged pandemic.

With all this in mind, our congregation will offer a worship service on December 21 at 7:00 pm which both honors the challenges of the season while also reminding us of the gift of the promise that Christ is with us always, to the end of the age.

That night, we will worship together with honesty and hope. *The Longest Night: A Service of Lamentation and Hope* will make use of scripture and song to help those who need the reminder that they are not alone in their struggles and that God is indeed with us, even when we are surrounded by darkness. Come, find renewed hope and be blessed.

8:45 Traditional Worship and Holy Communion

After reading last week's article regarding the changes coming to our Sunday morning worship schedule beginning January 2, several people pointed out that we failed to disclose the result of Question #6, which read:

In Options #1 and #2, it would be possible to add an earlier service that offered Holy Communion every Sunday. How important is it to you that we have a worship service each week that offers Holy Communion?

Not important to me - I am neutral toward it - I love it
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Please forgive that oversight. This question received a 4.38. The great majority of comments that were shared reported that respondents were either "neutral" to the idea of weekly Communion or that it was "not important to me." Therefore, beginning in January, our 8:45 am traditional worship service will return to having Holy Communion monthly, usually on the first Sundays of the month and on special occasions.

This Weekend: Christmas Concerts

Our congregation and United Church, Chapel on the Hill are teaming up for this year's Christmas at First Church concerts: Here We Come A-Caroling. The concerts will take place on Saturday at 3 pm and Sunday at 7 pm. Attendance is free, **but a reservation is required.** If you would prefer to enjoy the concert from the comfort and safety of your home, you can register for a "virtual ticket" and receive an email with a livestream link to the concert. Reserve your ticket at fumcor.org/concert-tickets. Please contact Pastor Seth (sokegley@fumcor.org) if you have any questions.

KARM Cards, a New Ministry

Will you write a short, uplifting note to encourage a nearby homeless person? The downtown Knoxville Area Rescue Ministry (KARM) uses 300 handwritten cards every day. Each morning as prayers are offered, new cards are placed on the clean, indoor, warm beds where our homeless neighbors will sleep that night. For more information, please contact Susan Garrott, susangarrott1525@gmail.com.

In Loving Memory

Barbara Lawson

mother of Wendel Lawson, who died December 3.

Paul Fuller

who joined the FUMC family May 23, 1999, and died Dec. 4th. We extend sympathy to his parents Sherry and Dr. Robert Fuller.

In the Hospitals

Judy Statzer: released from MMC

Our Gifts

Offering This Week: \$ 16,820
2021 Year to Date: \$1,224,404
2020 Year to Date: \$1,225,747
Monthly Mission Offering: \$355

Pastors

Mark Flynn, lead
Jenny Caughman, spiritual care
Seth O'Kegley-Gibson, worship

Contact Information

865.483.4357 www.fumcor.org
Pastor on call: 865.272.9862

Worship for December 12

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sermon: Finding Peace In An Anxious World
Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7

8:45 & 11:15 am Traditional Services
9:45 Contemporary Service
Preaching: Mark Flynn, Lead Pastor



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Adult Ministries Survey

Earlier this week, you should have received a short email survey from the Adult Ministries Team regarding adult ministries at First Church. We hope you will take a few moments to answer the four questions and submit it.

The Adult Ministries Team wants to know where you are currently involved, how you might like to be involved and what ministries you would like to see the church offer with your support. If you did not receive the survey or have questions about it, contact Jenny Caughman (jcaughman@fumcor.org).

It's Pie Time...Again!

Thank you all so much for the delicious pies you donated for our Thanksgiving Community Meal distribution. It was wonderful to be able to complement the 140 meals given out with pies. The generosity of this church is a blessing! Good news for anyone who wants to be a blessing—we will be collecting pies again the week of December 20 to distribute on the 22nd with the Christmas meal. Please bring them to the office or Vienna Road entrance by 4:00 on December 22nd.



Two Opportunities for Giving in December

December Special Monthly Offering:
Clinch River Habitat for Humanity

Christmas Special Offering:
Restocking 18 Anderson County Food Pantries

About our Christmas Offering:

Did you know that 22% Anderson County's children are living in poverty and suffering from food insecurity and 32% of our residents are considered working poor? Providing basic needs for their family is an overwhelming daily concern for some of our very-nearby neighbors.

To love and to minister to these friends who are in crisis, **FUMC's Christmas offering** will be used to restock 18 Anderson County food pantries. During the last year, our county pantries served approximately 4,500 families per month and expect to be called upon even more frequently in 2022. At year end, some forms of support will expire, amplifying the already-dire situation.

Our church's donations are crucial and will make an immediate difference. Please give generously to help feed the many hungry families close to home. Make checks payable to FUMC (memo: Christmas offering).