The altar flowers are for the glory of God and are donated in memory of Ray Lout & in honor of veterans.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Elizabeth Young, Taylor Hastedt, Walter Hackworth, Reed Burton, Pam Hinkle, & Brenda Trevino.

PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

Kay Halcom

THOSE IN NURSING HOME/CARE FACILITIES

Lynne Bigelow, Stuart Hill, Gladys Leyendecker, Jean Redus, Delores Stancik, Dolores Odstrcil, Doug Lilie, Jesse Armstrong, Dolly Ladokas, Bob & Nancy Stiles, and Sandy B. Coffman.

OUR CHURCH LEADERS

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey
District Superintendent Rev. Tracey Beadle
Pastor Sunshine Reyes

PRAYERS:

Prayers needed for Nita Renick who is in Encompass Rehab in Houston.
Kim Menke and family - Kim is the caregiver for her mother who has cancer & she helps her dad.
Linda Owen - Brenda Howard's sister in hospital in San Antonio for sepsis.

PRAISE:

Bonnie Lout - back at home, continued prayers.

NOTE:

Names on the prayer list in the bulletin will be printed for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, the names will be removed from the bulletin unless the church office has been notified to keep them.

Columbus Food Pantry

"HEB Turkey Vouchers" will be presented to clients on a first-come-first-served basis at the November distribution.

If you would like to participate by mailing a donation, please mark "Turkey" or "holiday vouchers" on the memo line of your check. Please make check out to the Columbus Food Pantry. Alternatively, you may donate on their website on the home page: www.columbusfoodpantry.org

First United Methodist Church

1229 Milam, Columbus, TX 78934

Office: 979-732-2643

Email: fumctx@gmail.com

Website: fumccolumbustx.com

Scan here to learn more

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm
Friday: Closed

Pastoral Emergency
Pastor Sunshine Reyes 512-308-2616

Wesley Nurse 979-732-5275

Facebook: From your Facebook account, search *First United Methodist Church Columbus, TX*

Or scan here

Blue Christmas Service
When Christmas Hurts!
December 21st at 4:00pm

"The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."



SUNDAY, November 15, 2026

10:00 a.m. ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 15, 2026 — 25th Sunday After Pentecost

Reminder: As we enter into a sacred time and space, a friendly reminder to please set your cell phone to silent.

Welcome/Announcements		
†Prelude	Let us be in an attitude of prayer as they bring in the Light of Christ.	
†Call to Worship		
†Song of Worship	To God Be the Glory	UMH 98 vs 1
Young Disciples	Jesus Loves Me	UMH 191
Offertory Prayer		
Offering	Open my Eyes, Lord	
†Doxology		
Joys & Concerns		
Pastoral Prayer		
Lord's Prayer		
Prayer of Illumination		
First Reading	Judges 4:1-7	Jane Walla
Music	In My Life, Lord	FWS 2150
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Jane Walla
Centering Song	Sanctuary	FWS 2164
†Gospel Reading	Matthew 25:14-30	Pastor Sunshine Reyes
Sermon		
Communion		
†Hymn of Invitation	Blessed Be the Name	UMH 63

(Those wishing to join our church family, please come forward during Hymn of Invitation)

†Benediction		
†Shalom	Shalom to You	UMH 666

Please turn and face the center aisle and sing.
Please wait until the Light of Christ passes before leaving your pew.

†(Please stand as you are able.)

Worship Servers

Accompanist - Patsy Sobel
Guitar - Bob Stiles

TODAY Sunday, November 15, 2026
Liturgist - Jane Walla
Ushers - Rudy Rodriguez & Robert Turk
Communion - Rick Mattix & TBD

NEXT Sunday, November 22, 2026
Liturgist - TBD
Ushers - Jerome Emmel & Sonja Huffman

Happy Birthday!

11-17 Seth Krenek
11-17 Dolores Odstrcil
11-18 Kirk Lowe
11-19 Janet Wolters
11-21 Ester Chandler
11-21 Sawyer Mau

If you would like to volunteer for the Children's Choir. Please contact Karen Gardner for more information.
Phone: +1 713-437-2341
Email: the-gardners@att.net
To become certified, visit
safegatherings.com

Online Giving
Simply scan the QR code with your phone.

Thank you for your contribution!

Happy Anniversary

11-08 Ken & Libby Babcock
11-15 Hank & Sharlene Husky
11-17 Blake & Kalli Schulte

The Week At a Glance

Sunday, Nov. 15
10:00am - Worship & Communion
11:05am-12:00pm - **Admin Council meeting**, Sanctuary.

Monday, Nov. 16
6:00pm-8:30pm - Community Choir practice, FLC.

Tuesday, Nov. 17
11:00am-12:00pm - Women's Enrichment Study, Ed. Bldg., Room 6.
3:30pm-5:30pm - Children's Choir practice, Choir Room & Fellowship Hall in Ed. Bldg.

Wednesday, Nov. 18
2:00pm-3:00pm - Lectionary Class with Pastor, Ed. Bldg., Fellowship Hall
4:00pm-5:30pm - **Friendsgiving Meal**, FLC.

Thursday, Nov. 19
Pastor out - afternoon
8:00am-12:00pm - **Food pantry - food arrives to be unloaded**, FLC. Sts. Peter and Paul & St. Roch Catholic churches to work.

Friday, Nov. 20
Office closed
8:00am-12:00pm - **Food pantry - food distribution**, FLC. Sts. Peter and Paul & St. Roch Catholic churches to work.
4:00pm-5:00pm - **Food Pantry Board meeting**, FLC.

Saturday, Nov. 21

Sunday, Nov. 22
10:00am - Worship
11:05am-12:00pm - Adult Sunday School, Ed. Bldg., Fellowship Hall.
11:05am-12:05pm - Children's Sunday School, Ed. Bldg., Room 18.

FRIENDSGIVING DRIVE-THRU MEAL

Volunteers are needed for this year's meal on November 18. If you would like to volunteer, a sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex or you may call the church office at 979-732-2643.

GOING DEEPER 11.15.2026

JUDGES 4:1–7

This text introduces the theme of how God responds to—and works through—humans. The book of Judges is marked by a repeated cycle: the Israelites do evil and abandon God, so God delivers them into the hands of foreign leaders who oppress them. Then the Israelites cry out to God, who hears their cry and raises up a judge to deliver them. The judge—also a military leader—is successful, and the Israelites enjoy peace. But when the judge dies, the people forget to follow God, and the cycle begins again. While many themes suggest themselves as one reflects on this story, an especially relevant one for our time is the role of women in the story and the song. It is a great misunderstanding of the biblical tradition to think that women were entirely subservient to men and had no voice or role in public affairs. Deborah was a married woman. She served as both a judge and a prophet, roles most often associated with men. One slogan circulating in our churches these days is "God's work, our hands." These stories remind us that the hands carrying out the work of a mighty and merciful God are women's hands, too. Some of us are victims of violence and oppression. Others, however, are, in some ways, perpetrators of violence. And even if we don't participate in social, economic, and racial oppression, some of us at least indirectly benefit from it. So Judges 4 invites us to ask on which side of its Canaanite-Israelite conflict we fall in our own context. It also challenges us to align (or perhaps re-align) ourselves with God and with God's good plans and purposes.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1–11

How we mark time reveals much about how we assign meaning to our existence. Paul reminds us that beyond cradle-to-grave moments accompanied by seasons of aging, our lives are embraced by a larger time frame—one described by the incarnation of Christ and the coming of Christ again in the fullness of time. Paul views the coming of Christ as a source of hope because, at that moment, we will be raised with Christ. He also looks to the coming of Christ as a moment of accountability, for at that moment we must face God and ourselves honestly. For both reasons, he urges us to live joyfully, anticipating the coming of Christ. It does not matter whether you view the coming of Christ as a temporal moment or as a metaphor; the significance holds. To encourage the Thessalonian followers of Jesus, Paul uses a familiar rhetorical device, setting up a contrast between "them" and "us": We are children of the day; they are children of the night. We maintain sobriety; they dull their senses with drunkenness. We remain alert; they fall asleep. The coming of Christ holds us to a time that cannot be put off, when we will be called to accountability, when the labor pains come upon us, when it is revealed where we have sought peace and security. It is tempting to focus on "them" and their shortcomings. But Paul's purpose is to focus on us and who we claim to be.

GOING DEEPER (continued)

If we are children of the day, then we remain alert, keeping our wits about us, because we know that Christ is near at hand. Faith, love, and hope do not protect these followers of Jesus from harassment, but they do, says Paul, protect them from fear of the wrath to come. Jesus' followers sometimes wonder about the spiritual well-being of those we love who will survive our death. Some of us also worry about the eternal fate of those we love. Perhaps that's one reason why, in verse 11, Paul summons Christians to continue to be and form communities of mutual encouragement. "Encourage one another and build each other up," the apostle writes there. The Message's paraphrase of verse 11 provides a perhaps especially timely ending for this commentary: "Speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so that you'll be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind."

MATTHEW 25:14–30

Does the parable of the talents admonish disciples to be useful, or risk facing judgment? Or does it subvert traditional images of an authoritarian and threatening Jesus? Like the parable of the virgins, the parable of the talents raises questions. Contrary to what some best-selling televangelists model, the parable does not justify a gospel of economic prosperity. Instead, it challenges believers to emulate their Master by using all that God has given them for the sake of the kingdom. In its literary setting, Jesus tells this story to his disciples to prepare them for the days ahead, when their faith will be tested. The parable depicts how the disciples are to demonstrate their faithfulness as they anticipate the return of the Lord. What does faithfulness look like in a time of waiting? In Matthew's Gospel, faithfulness means emulating the ministry of Jesus. Jesus has announced the arrival of God's kingdom by feeding the hungry, curing the sick, blessing the meek, and serving the least. All who would follow Jesus are to spread the good news of the kingdom to the whole world by doing the work the master has called them to. This work includes visiting the sick and imprisoned, clothing the naked, welcoming the stranger, and feeding the hungry. Those who are found faithful may hear their Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." When we refuse to grow in the things God has for us, we lie to ourselves. We haven't faithfully kept God's plans if we've only kept a record of the words, refusing to become doers of it. We haven't honored the message if we have neither let it transform our very existence nor shared love with those in need. But if we refuse to take any chances to explore life in the kingdom, we will prove that we do not truly know the Good Master who promises to provide and who gives us any number of blessings meant to be shared with others. If this is our story, the gospel is undamaged, but we are the ones who are deeply broken and damaged. The alternative is to pursue the gifts and opportunities and to live as kingdom people in all the places and spaces God has called us to. As we do so, we will increase God's joy in heaven. Through experience, we will enter the joy of our Master.

Readings for Next Sunday, November 22, 2026

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 **Psalm 100** **Ephesians 1:15–23** **Matthew 25:31–46**