The altar flowers are for the glory of God and are donated by Bobbie & Ruth Schmidt in memory of Philip Schmidt's birthday.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Elizabeth Young, Taylor Hastedt, Walter Hackworth, Reed Burton, Pam Hinkle, Brenda Trevino, and Kim Menke & family.

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, Sandy B. Coffman, & Nita Renick.

OUR CHURCH LEADERS

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

PRAYERS:

Prayers needed for Jill - cancer diagnosis.
Continued prayers for Brenda Howard's sister, Linda Owen who is still in the hospital.
Prayer for those without shelter.

PRAISE:

Having a warm place to worship.

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.

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

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

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

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



SUNDAY, November 22, 2026

10:00 a.m. ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 22, 2026 **Reign of Christ/Christ The King**

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	Come, Ye Thankful People, Come	UMH 694 vs 1, 4
Young Disciples	Jesus Loves Me	UMH 191
Offertory Prayer		
Offering	Great is Thy Faithfulness	
†Doxology		
Joys & Concerns		
Pastoral Prayer		
Lord's Prayer		
Prayer of Illumination		
First Reading	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Janis Arnold
Music	Count Your Blessings	Karen Gardner & Rick Walla
Second Reading	Ephesians 1:15-23	Janis Arnold
Centering Song	Sanctuary	FWS 2164 (2x)
†Gospel Reading	Matthew 25:31-46	Pastor Sunshine Reyes
Sermon		
†Apostles Creed		
†Hymn of Invitation	Give Thanks	FWS 2036

(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 22, 2026
Liturgist - Janis Arnold
Ushers - Jerome Emmel & Sonja Huffman

NEXT Sunday, November 29, 2026
Liturgist - Jerome Emmel
Ushers - Rick Mattix & Shirley Kearbey

Happy Birthday!

11-22 Kay Halcom
11-23 John Wooten
11-25 Lurlyn Neisner
11-26 Ava Blymyer
11-26 Jackie Gooch
11-27 Dustin Blymyer
11-27 Cheryl Rose

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!

Thank you to the volunteers who helped facilitate this year's Friendsgiving meal!

The Week At a Glance

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

Monday, Nov. 23
6:00pm-8:30pm - Community Choir practice, FLC.

Tuesday, Nov. 24
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. 25
Office closes at noon for Thanksgiving

Thursday, Nov. 26
Thanksgiving Day - office closed



Friday, Nov. 27
Office closed
1:00pm-5:30pm - **Blood Drive**, FLC.

Saturday, Nov. 28

Sunday, Nov. 29
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.
11:00am-3:00pm - **SYC Receiving gifts**, FLC

Poinsettia order forms are available in the Narthex. Deadline for ordering is Sunday, Dec. 6

GOING DEEPER 11.22.2026

EZEKIEL 34:11–16, 20–24

What kind of King is the Christ? All of our readings for Christ the King Sunday point in the same direction, but Ezekiel is the clearest and most comprehensive. Christ is a Shepherd King. That is both a surprising and a familiar metaphor. There were, of course, other models of kingship all around Israel, not least the oriental ruler surrounded by luxury and feared for his absolute power. Israel desperately needed a Shepherd King, because they had no king, were scattered in the Babylonian Exile, and were hurting in multiple ways because of their own sin and the injustice under which they suffered. The prophet Ezekiel was one of those exiled sheep. God had sent him along with one part of the flock, so that the Word of the Lord would be heard even in that God-forsaken place. There are three things worthy of special note in these verses: care, justice, and the Prince. Unlike those Israelite kings who were only interested in taking care of themselves, Yahweh will take care of his flock. In view of their failure, says God, "I myself" will do the shepherding. First, I will bring them home "from all the places where they have been scattered, out of the nations, and I will bring them to their own land." Second, in their own land, I will give them all the sustenance they need—no longer will they scrabble for food, scrounging for a morsel of nourishment. "I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down." Third, the Shepherd King will take care of the neediest. Those who are lost, I will search for. God promises to seek the lost who aren't looking for him, because they are too lost. In the contemporary church, there is a division between those who pursue compassion ministries and those who pursue social justice ministries. Here the Shepherd King of Israel says that he cares about both. On the one hand, we must seek the lost and bind up the wounded, but we must also bring justice to those people and systems that caused people to get lost and become wounded in the first place. On the other hand, it's not enough to seek justice; we must also seek and save the lost. It's not either/or. The Shepherd King says that he will do both. Today we celebrate the reign of Christ the Shepherd King, who came to seek and save the lost, who binds up the wounded and carries the weak in his arms, who came to bring justice and peace to his world, not just by teaching and doing miracles, but preeminently by laying down his life for his flock. He is our hope in this hurting world.

EPHESIANS 1:15–23

Ephesians proclaims the exalted position of the resurrected Jesus as evidence of God's power, the same power that is at work in the church. Throughout the letter, the author affirms that the church already occupies a high position while also calling them to attend to their spiritual advancement. On the one hand, the author later describes the church as seated with Christ in the heavenly places. On the other hand, even though it is Christ's body, the church is instructed to "grow up in every way into him who is the head". Thus, the image of the church as Christ's body, which begins in 1:23, should not be taken as a simple equation of Christ and the church. Instead, the author suggests that, as Christ's body, the church needs to continually strive to "lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called". Because of this, the prayer for wisdom and knowledge in verse 17 is not simply a convention of prayer but a real request that the church may grow in knowledge. The author prays specifically that the church might know three things: the hope of their calling; their rich inheritance from God; and the power of God who raised Jesus from the dead and seated him in the heavens.

GOING DEEPER (continued)

Christ is envisioned as being above all powers. The four words in verse 21— "rule and authority and power and dominion"—are roughly synonymous. Their collection here suggests a power that is all-encompassing. The call is for the church to "know" God's power as it is revealed in Christ. This Christ, who is above all things, is also the head of the church, which is his body. The letter goes on to call the church to unity, a unity that is founded on Christ's reconciling work. God appointed God's Son to be over all things "for" the church. This claim is nearly as mysterious as it is startling. But at the very least, the apostle seems to suggest that God appointed Christ to be the head of all things for the sake of his body. Christ is King so that his Church may flourish in its loving service to God and its neighbor.

MATTHEW 25:31–46

The Lord's teaching on the final judgment challenges every disciple of Jesus to be a messenger of God's kingdom in a broken world. In this text, Christ is portrayed as a fearsome King. All the nations of the world have gathered before him and behold his majesty. Throughout the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus' teaching has announced and illustrated the kingdom of God. God's kingdom does not function like a typical kingdom. This divine reign has invaded the world and is good news — especially for those on the fringes of society. This rule welcomes those with no status and seeks to serve others rather than exploit them. The righteous have inherited this kingdom. Those who claim to follow Jesus and hope to endure to the end are called to live faithfully within God's righteous empire. Those who have experienced God's kingdom cannot return to life as it once was. Stanley Hauerwas writes, "The difference between followers of Jesus and those who do not know Jesus is that those who have seen Jesus no longer have any excuse to avoid 'the least of these.'" The blessed ones are those who have seen a King who is not like the kings of this world. They are blessed because they know a King who brings real peace, sees the needy, and hears the cries of the oppressed. In God's kingdom, no one is hungry, naked, sick, or alone. To bear witness to Christ as King is to be a messenger of this kingdom–to serve others and thereby proclaim the invasion of God's glorious empire. None of us are perfect, and we keep failing in our attempts to be faithful and obedient to God's intent in our output and methods. But there is a difference between being willing to keep trying because we trust in the love invested in us by God and trying to make excuses, caveats, or limitations on interpretation that get us off the hook for being loving and kind. That sort of self-deceit will eventually make us ignorant of God's presence in ourselves and in others, to the point that we won't know when we've had a Spirit-led opportunity, and we'll ask the Lord why we didn't respond when we saw him in need.

Readings for Next Sunday, November 29, 2026

Isaiah 64:1–9	**Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19**	**1 Corinthians 1:3–9**	**Mark 13:24–37**