The altar flowers are for the glory of God and are in honor of the congregation.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Kim Menke & family, Jill, and Linda Owen.

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 for Pastor Sunshine's surgery on Monday.
Travel mercies for those travelling for the holidays.
Prayers for the marginalized and the lonely.
Prayers for families navigating holiday tension, and for the first responders spending their holiday keeping our communities safe.

PRAISE:

Bonnie Lout is improving, gaining stamina and feeling much better.
Janice MacBride - Grateful for the wonderful world I have to live in!

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.

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



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 29, 2026

10:00 a.m. ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 29, 2026 **1st Sunday of Advent**

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.	
Advent Reading & Wreath Lighting		
†Call to Worship		
†Song of Worship	Come, Christians, Join to Sing	UMH 158 vs 1
Young Disciples	Jesus Loves Me	UMH 191
Offertory Prayer		
Offering	There's Something about That Name	
†Doxology		
Joys & Concerns		
Pastoral Prayer		
Lord's Prayer		
Prayer of Illumination		
First Reading	Isaiah 64:1-9	Jerome Emmel
Music	Into My Heart	FWS 2160
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Jerome Emmel
Centering Song	Sanctuary	FWS 2164
†Gospel Reading	Mark 13:24-37	Pastor Sunshine Reyes
Sermon		
†Apostles Creed		
†Hymn of Invitation	O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing	UMH 57 vs 1, 3

(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

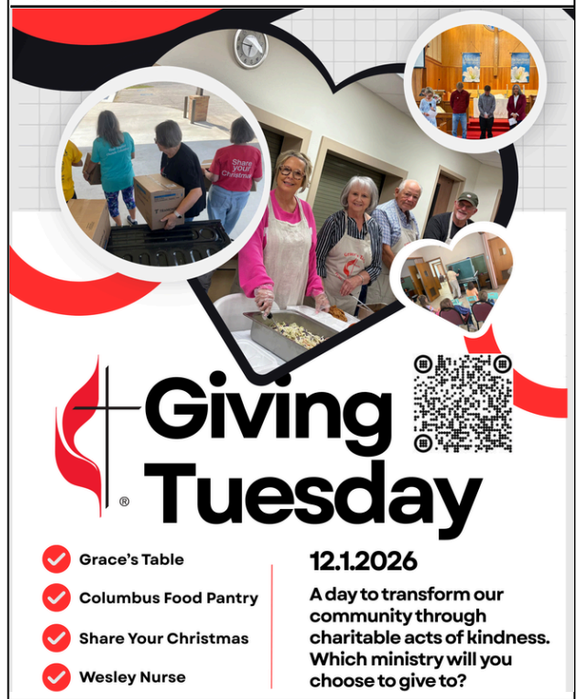
Accompanist - Patsy Sobel
Guitar - Bob Stiles

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

NEXT Sunday, December 6, 2026
Liturgist - Marsha Priesmeyer
Ushers - Robert Turk & Blake Schulte
Communion - Rick Walla, Frank & Evelyn Howell

Happy Birthday!

11-29 Allison Toepperwein
11-30 Jason Geisler
12-01 Eric LaCourse
12-01 George Ortolon



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**

The Week At a Glance

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

Monday, Nov. 30
Pastor out - surgery
9:00am-2:00pm - **SYC Receiving gifts**, FLC
6:00pm-8:30pm - Community Choir practice, FLC.

Tuesday, Dec. 1
Pastor out morning - post-surgery
9:00am-2:00pm - **SYC Receiving gifts**, FLC
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, Dec. 2
9:00am-2:00pm - **SYC Receiving gifts**, FLC
12:00pm-1:00pm - **Ministerial Alliance**, First Baptist Church of Columbus
2:00pm-3:00pm - Lectionary Class with Pastor, Ed. Bldg., Fellowship Hall

Thursday, Dec. 3
9:00am-2:00pm - **SYC Receiving gifts**, FLC
11:30am-12:30pm - **Columbus Christian Women meeting**, Glidden Baptist Church
4:00am-6:00pm - **SYC Receiving gifts**, FLC

Friday, Dec. 4
Office closed
12:00pm-2:00pm - **SYC Receiving gifts**, FLC

Saturday, Dec. 5

Sunday, Dec. 6
10:00am - Worship & Communion
11:05am-12:00pm - Adult Sunday School, Ed. Bldg., Fellowship Hall.
11:05am-12:05pm - Children's Sunday School, Ed. Bldg., Room 18.

Columbus Community Choir Christmas Cantata

December 13, 2026 at 4:00pm
Columbus High School Auditorium

GOING DEEPER 11.29.2026

ISAIAH 64:1-9

Reading this passage at the beginning of Advent reminds us that we are not in control and that our relationship with God needs healing. Our sin too often manifests in our attempts to keep God in a box we can manage, taming God's power. Yet the poem reminds us that God cannot be contained. And thank goodness for that, because it means God's grace cannot be contained or circumscribed. The poem ends in hope. The final verse reaffirms our identity as belonging to God, but the second-to-last verse is the one that catches the imagination. We are clay; God is the potter. We are an inanimate lump with no purpose without God. God not only has the power to mold us (after all, this is a little thing), but actually wants to mold us. In fact, God wants to mold us in the divine image and likeness, a reality made clear when God molds the divine self on Christmas Day as an impoverished, displaced infant. God becomes the clay. Perhaps the rush to Christmas is the rush past the painful reality that makes the Christmas metaphor spectacular. Luther and other Reformers understood this five hundred years ago. Recognizing how powerless we are frees us. It frees us for wonderment, gratitude, and the elation of a childhood Christmas morning when the world seemed magical. We should be able to wait patiently for God to come again. But the times we live in have made us impatient, irritable, and angry. So, this text is a much-needed reminder that God came in Christ and will come again. So, wait patiently, repent deeply, come to God honestly, recall his awesome deeds, and pray fervently.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

Why begin a letter with a theology lesson? No doubt some in the church were hoping that Paul would weigh in on the problems and take sides in contentious matters. Paul begins by reminding them of what they seem to have forgotten. Everything they have and are comes from God. There would be no church without God. Whatever problems they face, the God who called them is powerful enough not only to help them find a way forward but also to strengthen them as they await the revelation of Jesus. In many ways, the church today is similar to First Church Corinth. We are torn by many issues. Each side claims some knowledge from scripture to bolster its arguments, all the while chiseling deeper into the chasm that divides us. Like the early church, God is at work — even in the midst of the chaos we create. As we await the revelation of God's Son during this Advent, we would do well to look for God's work among us and to be reminded of the gifts God has given us to strengthen the body rather than tear it down. Like Corinth, we are called to be a church that remembers Christ's death until he comes. With this season of Advent, we proclaim with Paul, "Marana tha," Our Lord, come! Then, in this season of Advent, we can join John in pleading, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

GOING DEEPER (continued)

MARK 13:24-37

The gospel text, Mark 13:24-37, inaugurates us into the Advent season on this first Sunday. The Advent season is played out in our culture as a time of many conflicting expectations. One is not expecting to hear a text like this when one is busy getting ready for Christmas. Shopping and parties for this mainly secular event have no place for an apocalyptic text with this kind of imagery. People want to hear "Silver Bells" and anticipate that "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," not the opening verses of our text: "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken". What chance does our text have, and what relevance does it have to this Advent season? The incredible promise within this text is that "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away". Amidst the chaos of this time of year, we hear a promise that transcends the cultural focus of our time. The transitory frenzy of our preparation for this grand secular event and our politically correct "Happy Holidays" greeting offer nothing meaningful. This is where our word of the coming of the Messiah meets us. In what feels like a complete one-hundred-and-eighty-degree shift, verse 32 now says that no one knows the day or the hour. We are to keep awake. Stay awake and stay alert so that we can be on guard for Christ's return. In Jesus' final mini parable, he gives the example of servants working together to take care of someone's household. Everyone has their job, including the doorkeeper, whose job is to watch the door. The reason the household can be ready for the master's return is that everyone is working together, with their own jobs in community, and together they can stay alert. The answer is in community. We can remain alert when we are in community. As this Advent begins, may we stress the importance of preparing in community, of watching in community, and of discerning in community as well. Being watchful allows us to protect our souls from becoming prey to sin, to establish right relationships with earthly things, and to be ready to entertain angels. We are to watch over our souls the way that God watches over us. In other words, we image God by tending and caring for our souls, just as the Holy Spirit does for us. We anticipate the future and live as much of its reality as we can in the here and now. This is what it means to be awake in peace, hope, love, and joy. This is what it means to live with Advent faith.

Readings for Next Sunday, December 6, 2026

Isaiah 40:1-11	**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**	**2 Peter 3:8-15a**	**Mark 1:1-8**