

First United Methodist Church

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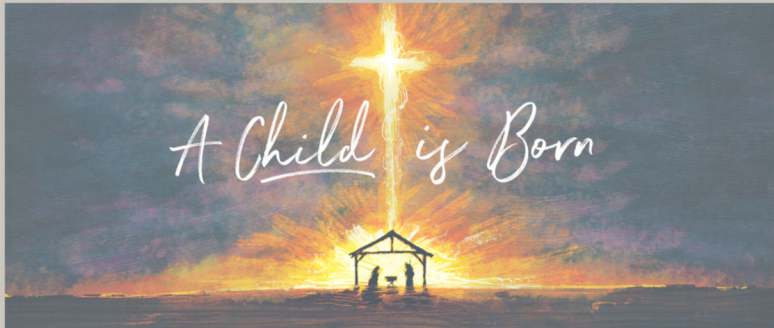
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Ministers: All Members /

Pastor: Randy Thomas

1st Sunday of Advent – Purple

November 29, 2020



HERE TO SERVE

District Superintendent.....Eduardo Rivera

Today's pianist.....Melba Ward

Technical Support.....Vic Ivy & Ray Griffith

Secretary / Bookkeeper.....Christina Duarte

Children's Service Leader.....

Nursery Attendant.....Antonia Terrazas

Custodian.....Alexis Duarte & Delia Dutchover

BLENDED WORSHIP SERVICE

November 29, 2020

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Fairest Lord Jesus #189

PRAYER

HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel #211

PRAYER & PRAISE CARD/MORNING PRAYER/LORDS PRAYER

HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice #224

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 14:5-6

MESSAGE

WE LOVE CHRISTMAS

By Pastor Randy Thomas

INVITATION TO RECEIVE CHRIST AND ALTAR TIME / JOIN

THE CHURCH

Please let us pray for you and help you any way we can.
Please fill out your prayer/praise card in you bulletin, and
place it in the offering.

WE LOVE CHRISTMAS

Romans 14:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ One person esteems *one* day above another; another esteems every day *alike*. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day, observes *it* to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it*. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. "

.Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT2)

⁶ For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

*Some have rejected the celebration of Christmas for a number of reasons.

I. BUT WE DON'T KNOW THE DAY JESUS WAS BORN

Romans 14:5-6 (NLT2)

⁵ In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable. ⁶ Those who worship the Lord on a special day do it to honor him.

*Jesus was not born on December 25.

*The important thing is that He was born.

Psalms 113:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, Praise the name of the LORD!

² Blessed be the name of the LORD From this time forth and forevermore! ³ From the rising of the sun to its going down The LORD'S name *is* to be praised.

John 3:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

II. WAS IT A PAGAN HOLIDAY?

Luke 2:7 (NLT2)

⁷ She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

*Worshipping of Roman god Saturnalia at time of winter solstice

Dr. John R. Rice: "The fact that here people had seen lewd movies or burlesque shows, or legitimate theater productions, did not change the fact that now the building was used for the glory of God and souls were saved. I myself am under new management, too. Once the Devil lived within; now Jesus lives within. So if heathen people used the twenty-fifth of December for idolatry, why should Christians not use it now to honor Jesus Christ and His birth? If we have any day

to represent Christ, it will be a day somebody else has used for bad purposes; but thank God, all the days belong to Christ now, and none of them belong to heathen gods.”

Jeremiah 10:3-4 (NLT2)

³ Their ways are futile and foolish. They cut down a tree, and a craftsman carves an idol. ⁴ They decorate it with gold and silver and then fasten it securely with hammer and nails so it won’t fall over. ⁵ Their gods are like helpless scarecrows in a cucumber field! They cannot speak, and they need to be carried because they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of such gods, for they can neither harm you nor do you any good.”

*The Bible doesn’t forbid Christmas tree but does idols.

*The true story of Santa Claus

III. SECULARISM AND CHRISTMAS TODAY

The culture today has tried to remove everything about Jesus and spiritual things from Christmas.

At Christmas the unchurched are more open to the Gospel.

Charles Dickens wrote the words for Scrooge’s nephew Fred: “But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time . . . as a good time . . . the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave . . . ”

NOTES:

***Please notice the next steps for your card.**

NEXT STEPS

___ I just accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.

___ I just recommitted my life to Jesus Christ.

___ I will attend this sermon series.

___ I will memorize the memory verse this week.

Please mark your next step on your Prayer Card and place it in the offering. Then, keep the next step above as a reminder for the upcoming week.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Isaiah 9:6 (NLT2)

⁶ For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



⇒ Happy Birthday:

Christene Norman December 2nd

Staci Schoenfeldt December 4th

Melody Berry December 5th

Stephen Thomas December 6th

Glenn Honaker December 9th

- ⇒ Angel Tree process: 1. Please choose a gift tag 2. Sign and fill out the tracking form 3. Purchase the gift based upon suggested gifts on the tag (valued at \$20-\$25) 4. Wrap the gift and attach the tag securely 5. Return the gift by Wednesday December 16th 6. Pray for the child and incarcerated parent.
- ⇒ Join us Monday for a Prayer Meeting at 7pm in the parlor.
- ⇒ Needed: A temporary volunteer to prepare children's story/lesson (on paper) for use during services.
- ⇒ All sermons and bulletins can be found on our website: **fsfumc.com**, as well as other updates and important information.
- ⇒ El Buen Vecino at 401 S. Valentine is now open for those who need their services. Tuesday and Thursday 2-5, Wednesday 1-5
- ⇒ We have a Food Bank. If you or someone you know can use that service, the office is ready to help Mondays *and* Thursdays: 9-12 noon and 1-3 pm

WITH OUR GIFTS

Received last Sunday:.....Tithes & Offerings.....\$11,450.00

WITH OUR PRESENCE

Last Sunday's Morning Service.....16
Online Views (as of Thursday).....

FUMC MISSION STATEMENT

New. Life. Now.

WITH OUR PRAYERS

Ruth & Emily Neyland who
have continuing health
issues,
Johnnie & Olga Rivera.
Kay Magee.
Denna Sadler.
Sara Borden.
Melba Ward.
Sylvia Thomas.

Eva Gail Abington.
Shawn Beeles who has
melanoma behind an eye.
Ray Ortiz who has cancer.
Sondra Bynum who has a
tumor in her thyroid.
Kendra Armstrong who has
cancer in the uterus.
Brett Magee has upcoming

