



MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1st Sunday After Christmas

December 28, 2025

(* Indicates when people are invited to stand)

PRELUDE:

"The Friendly Beasts"

Arr Tom Fetke

WORDS OF WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

It is still Christmas.

Joy is still at play in the world.

Love is still lodged in our hearts.

And peace on earth is still our fervent hope.

It is still Christmas.

Though the presents have all been unwrapped.

And the batteries have already run down.

And family members have returned home.

It is still Christmas.

For God begins anew.

Giving us a baby to care for,

And calling us to live with tender compassion, gentle care and overflowing love.

May it always be so. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Yes, Christmas day is past, and yet God's blessings and God's great gift remain! And so we gather this morning to sing and to pray and to rejoice in all that is good and true. We come also with the knowledge that another year has come and gone and that very soon we will begin the year 2026...can you believe it? Today we remember the one who has been "our help in ages past" and is still "our hope for years to come and our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home." Let us now prepare to say goodbye to the old year and welcome in a new one and all that it may hold for us, knowing God will be present in each and every moment.

Amen.

***HYMN: *HYMN: 219**

"What Child Is This"

PRAYER OF YEARNING

Merciful God, we yearn to be merciful and gracious, as you have been merciful and gracious to us. Grant us the mercy to redeem our lives, and give us the strength to live as those who are redeemed. Help us resist the forces of evil and cruelty that kill our hope and destroy our souls. Fill us with your light and love, that we may overflow with mercy, compassion, help, and hope for our world. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In love and mercy, God redeems us. In grace and joy, God lifts us. In strength and security, God carries us all the days of our lives.

Amen

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 63:7-9 (NIV)

I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord,
the deeds for which he is to be praised,
according to all the Lord has done for us—
yes, the many good things
he has done for Israel,
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.
He said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will be true to me”;
and so he became their Savior.
In all their distress he too was distressed,
and the angel of his presence saved them.
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 148 (NIV)

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.
Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.
Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for at his command they were created,
and he established them for ever and ever—
he issued a decree that will never pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,
kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,
young men and women,
old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.
And he has raised up for his people a horn,
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.
Praise the Lord.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 2:10-18 (NIV)

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. He says,
“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says,
“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23 (NIV)**

The gospel according to Matthew.

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

“A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.”

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIONS ON GOD’S WORD

Pastor Rob Odum

HYMN: 228

“He is Born”

vs 1-3

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, thank you for the gift of Christ Jesus in our lives and in our world. Thank you for the gifts we return to you now. Bless these gifts, that they may support Christ’s loving presence in our ministry, in our community, and in our world.

Amen.

OFFERING MUSIC:

“The Seven Joys of Mary”

Arr Sir John Stainer

***DOXOLOGY: 94**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ~ The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin
Mary and became human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy
will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead
us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

***CLOSING HYMN: 246**

"Joy to the World"

vs 1-4

***BENEDICTION**

In love and mercy, God sends us forth.

In love and mercy, we go to serve.

Let Christ lead the way.

***POSTLUDE:**

"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

Arr Tom Fetke

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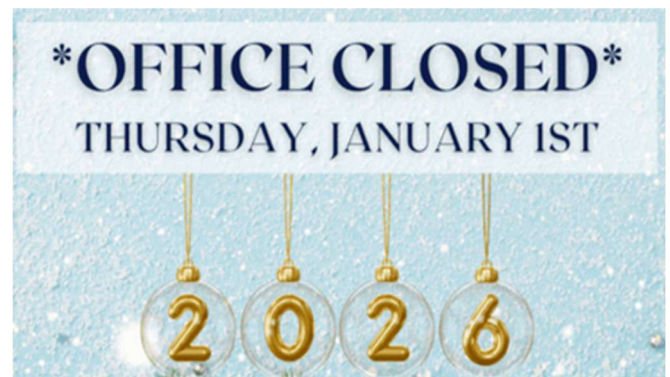




December	Liturgists	Ushers
28th	Connie Ziegler	Peter Fetzter & Jackson Lang
January	Liturgists	Ushers
4th	Carolyn Ettlie	To be determined
11th	Lynn Sirna	To be determined
18th	John Hurley	To be determined
25th	Connie Ziegler	To be determined

2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

All contributions that you would like to be shown on your 2025 Contribution Statement should be in the church office or offering plate **By TODAY!** Year-end statements will be available mid-January.



*****Pastor Andy Oren will be our pastor for today, December 28th*****

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Sunday, 9:15am
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday, 10:30am
CERAMICS: Mondays, 1-9pm
CHANCEL CHOIR: Thursday, 6:30-7:25pm
JOYFUL BELLS: Thursday, 7:30-8:30pm
DINING OUT GROUP: Jan. 10th at 5pm at:
 Area 51 Sports Bar & Grill, 5121 W. Howard Ave
SASSY SOWERS: 1st Tuesday & 3rd, Thursday, 10am-1pm
WOMEN'S BREAKFAST: 3rd Tuesday, 9am at Meyers
MEN'S BREAKFAST: 3rd Thursday, 8:30am at Meyers
POINSETTIA PICK-UP: Sunday, 12/28 after service.

Memorial UMC

General Information & Staff

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Summer Ketchell, Emily Bergeron

Pianist & Organist: Karen Fetzter

Live Stream Production Team:

Brad Weller, Xylia-Sophia Conn,

John Stoekl, Tom Rowe, Greg Ettlie

Office Administrator: Peggy Leonhardt

Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9am-1pm