The church office will be closed Monday, January 1st.

Wednesday night fellowship will resume on January 10th.

PRAYER list

Arthur Cummings
Mary Cummings
Libby Davenport
HJ Fleming
Mary Hall
Cathy Hanks
David Holder
Toni Holder
Jerry Reitzel
Maxine Reynolds
Jake Sawyer

Scan to visit our website

Church Office Hours
Monday – Thursday: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Friday: 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Brad Gray
Executive Pastor

Dale Fischer
Director of Music

Megan Gray
Pastor of Discipleship & Belonging

Jana Mathis
Director of Children's Ministries

Dr. Kristine Lee
Organist

Chad Deetz
Youth Minister

Jennifer Bartless
Children's Ministry Assistant

BETHEL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Invite. Grow. Send.

To all who are weary and need rest; To all who are burdened and need relief; To all who are lonely and need friends; To all who are looking for something that only God can provide; To all who sin and need a Savior; To whosoever will come, Bethel UMC, the House of God, opens her doors, and in the name of Jesus Christ says, "Welcome!"

December 31, 2023 **1st Sunday after Christmas**

11:00 AM Worship Service

Prelude *"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"* Mark Hayes

Trinity Chimes

Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship

We have welcomed the Christ child and declared the glory of God's salvation that comes to live among us. And yet, still, we wait.

We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

We prepare to welcome a new year, thankful for how God has brought us through the past year and anxious to discover what the new year might bring.

We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

We join generations of Simeons and Annas who learned and taught us how to listen, notice, and discern divine love at work in the world.

We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Come, let us worship God, whose love endures from generation to generation, guiding us from one year to the next.

Come, let us worship as we live in anticipation of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

*Hymn *"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"* UMH 224

*Psalter Reading *Psalm 148* UMH 861

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"* UMH 95

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Special Music *"We Three Kings"* J.H. Hopkins

Jax Spears, Trumpet — Cade Spears, Trombone

Bailey Overbay, French Horn — Jack Deetz, French Horn

Children's Time

Hymn of Preparation *"Away in a Manger"* UMH 217

During the hymn, you are invited to the altar to join the pastor in assuming a posture of prayer. All are welcome.

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Response: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Anthem *"Christmas Song"* David Williams

Sanctuary Choir

Scripture Reading Luke 2: 22-40

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Prayer for Covenant Renewal UMH 607

*Worship Song *"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"* Insert

*Benediction

*Postlude *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"* Gilbert M. Martin

**Please stand if able*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A nursery is available on the First Floor for infants and children under 3 years.

After Children's Time, preschool and kindergarten are invited to **Wee Church** and 1st through 5th grade are invited to **Children's Church**, both in the Children's Wing.

Ushers: Blair Mathis, Mike Woodrum, Chris Moore & Gene Foust

Altar Flowers: The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Jake Sawyer.