

# Worship Service

*\*\* indicates that the people should stand, if able.*

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING THE PEACE IN NEW WAYS

*“Rule of Life”*

PRELUDE, BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*Bells Prelude* *“Love Divine”* *-FUMC Bell Choir*  
*-arr. Brian Behnke*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**\*\*OPENING HYMN** *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”* #196

**\*\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP** Liturgist – Gloria Countryman

Leader: Be patient! Wait and Watch for the Lord is drawing near to us.

**People: We have gathered here today to hear the good news and to gather strength for the times to come.**

Leader: Be at peace with one another.

**People: Let love and wisdom prevail.**

Leader: Open your hearts and souls to God’s healing word.

**People: Lord, touch our hearts. Teach us to patiently listen for your words of love.**

**ALL: Amen**

CARES AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please hold these people in your prayers:*

<i>Joyce Stanley</i>	<i>Elaine Lucas</i>	<i>Rosalie Cochran Thompson</i>	
<i>Jim Eklund</i>	<i>John Spanton</i>	<i>Doug Marshall</i>	<i>Butch Bloomquist</i>
<i>Joseph Lipichok</i>	<i>Carol Jones</i>	<i>Heather Brown</i>	<i>Yenifer Jimenez</i>
<i>Taylor Deatsch</i>	<i>Colleen Kimble</i>	<i>Camille McDonnell</i>	<i>Jeff Hartman</i>
<i>Lynn Godwin</i>	<i>Darla Moylan</i>	<i>Chuck Espy</i>	<i>Kayla Weirup</i>
<i>Jeff Hudson</i>	<i>Larry &amp; Connie McCurdy</i>	<i>Jim Gillespie</i>	<i>Cheryl Clement</i>
<i>Nathan Thompson</i>	<i>The Friends &amp; Family of Ruth Leazer</i>		

Lord,  
We lift in prayer all these we have named. We also ask for your mercy for all those who are suffering. For those of us in war torn areas, Lord, bring us hope and reasons for joy. We lift up those who find themselves without housing, and those who are trying to help. Guide us toward policies that help all of us to thrive. Open our hearts to find understanding and cooperation instead of discord and polarization. Help us all as we make our way into the future as our country and our world deal with these and many other changes. Guide our leaders to careful LISTENING, accuracy in discernment of your will for our country, WISDOM in making their decisions, and to promote LOVE of one another in these days. Help us all to know the joy of doing good work together. For all of us suffering from grief, anxiety, depression, or suffering from abuse, and living in fear, sow among us faith in your purpose, to bring us to a future defined by HOPE. Give us a season of PEACE and the joys that come with it, our rock and our redeemer.

EPISTLE READING

**James 5:7-10**

OFFERING

*You can send your tithes, offerings and pledge cards to:*

*First United Methodist Church*  
*201 North Court Street*  
*Fairfield, IA 52556*

**\*\*Doxology** UMH #95

**\*\*Offertory Prayer**

**\*\*GOSPEL LESSON** **Matthew 11:2-11**

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

*Introduction – “Carol Of The Bells” – FUMC Bell Choir*

*“Little Lambs” – Children’s Choir*

*“O Tannenbaum” – Men’s Choir*

*“Mary Pulled The Shawl Upon Her Shoulders” -Dee Ann Lantz*

*“O Come O Come Emmanuel” – Choir*

*“Shepherd Boy” – Praise Band*

*“Simple Gifts” Women’s Choir*

*That First Night – “Mary’s Lullaby” – Tena Edlin*

*Luke 2:10-14 – “O Holy Night” – Choir*

**\*\*CLOSING SONGS** *Hark The Herald Angels Sing, Angels We Have Heard On High*  
*“Angels From The Realms Of Glory, The First Noel” -Choir & Congregation*

Serving You in Worship

**Minister:** Pastor Al Coffin  
**Youth Director:** Elly Stremsterfer  
**Lay Leader:** Jim Flinspach  
**Liturgist:** Gloria Countryman  
**Choir Director:** Jim Edgeton  
**Organist/Pianists:** LeAnne Edgeton, Emily McIntyre  
**Sound & Tech Team:** Cole Boatright, Carrie Brownlee, Greg Dorrell, Sharon Flinspach, Ben Gardner, Frazer Jones, Gary Roth and Elly Stremsterfer

### CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

**Pastor:** Al Coffin, [coffinal2010@gmail.com](mailto:coffinal2010@gmail.com), 319-899-4945

**Youth Director:** Elly Stremsterfer, [ellystrem@gmail.com](mailto:ellystrem@gmail.com), 641-919-7840

**Church Office:** 201 North Court Street, Fairfield, IA 52556, 641-472-4303

**Church Email:** [fumcfairfieldfirst@gmail.com](mailto:fumcfairfieldfirst@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/fumcfairfieldfirst>

Fairfield First United Methodist Church

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/fairfield1stumc/>

**Website:** [fairfieldmethodistchurch.org](http://fairfieldmethodistchurch.org)

**Weekly Radio Broadcast:** 10:35 a.m. on 1570AM-KMCD

**Prayer Link:** Email or call the church office



*Giving made easy!  
Just scan our QR Code.*

### Reflection Questions

*Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11*

- How many people can you think of who are working on behalf of others? Teachers, therapists, first responders? Make a list. Are these people visible signs of the kingdom?
- Think about the lists in Isaiah and Matthew. Notice how every sense is involved. How does restoration of these abilities also restore people to the community?
- How do we communicate our own experience of Jesus to others? Does the thought of doing so make us uncomfortable? Why or why not?
- John the Baptist spent his whole life devoted to Jesus and God's salvation plan. How can we respond to our own call and the call of our community in God's salvation plan?
- Have you ever had an experience of desperate waiting? How did it end? How did you make sense of it in terms of your faith? (Or did you? Perhaps you are still struggling with it.)

# First United Methodist Church



## Fairfield, Iowa

*Our Mission:  
Knowing Christ  
Sharing His Love  
Helping Others  
to Know Him*

*Sunday, December 14, 2025  
10:35 a.m. In-Person,  
YouTube LIVE!  
& Radio Broadcast*



*Hearing assist devices are available in the sound room.*