

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

**OPENING HYMN

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

#141

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Shout to the Lord your praises!

People: Sing to the Lord the joy of this day!

Leader: For God's might and power are established in the universe!

People: God's transforming love beckons us.

Leader: Come, let us worship God whose Light bursts forth into our darkness!

People: Let us praise the God of salvation who brings us home.

ALL: Amen

CARES AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please hold these people in your prayers:

Joyce Stanley Elaine Lucas
Jim Eklund John Spanton
Joseph Lipichok Carol Jones
Taylor Deatsch Colleen Kimble
Lynn Godwin Darla Moylan
Jim Gillespie Nathan Thompson
Larry & Connie McCurdy

Rosalie Cochran Thompson Lorelee Brown
Doug Marshall Butch Bloomquist
Heather Brown Yenifer Jimenez
Camille McDonnell Jeff Hartman
Chuck Espy Kayla Weirup
Cheryl Clement Pat Centner
The Friends & Family of Tommy Thompson

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

-Children will be collecting Quarters & More during this time.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

**PRAISE SONGS

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

#224

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

#89

OFFERING

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

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

**Doxology

**Offertory Prayer

UMH #95

**GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:13-23

**CLOSING SONG

"He Is Born"

#228

**BLESSING AND SENDING

**SUNG BENEDICTION

Serving You in Worship

Minister: Pastor Al Coffin

Youth Director: Elly Stremsterfer

Lay Leader: Jim Flinspach

Liturgist: Jon Funkhouser

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, 319-899-4945

Youth Director: Elly Stremsterfer, ellystrem@gmail.com, 641-919-7840

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

Church Email: fumcfairfieldfirst@gmail.com

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

Fairfield First United Methodist Church

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

Website: 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 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

- "In all their distress he too was distressed" (v. 9): How does the understanding of God's suffering love and shared distress, as highlighted in this verse, challenge or deepen your commitment to the Wesleyan call for social holiness – actively serving and seeking justice for those in affliction within your community and the world?
- "It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them" (v. 9, NRSV): What does the direct, personal nature of God's redemptive presence in this text reveal about the relationship you are called to have with the Holy Spirit in your daily life, and how does this presence equip you for Christian discipleship and mission?
- Considering the immediate danger and God's protective guidance through dreams, where have you experienced preventient grace (God's active grace before we seek it) guiding and protecting you, and what action does justifying grace (forgiveness) call you to take for those currently facing injustice like the children of Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16-18)?

First United Methodist Church



Fairfield, Iowa

*Sunday, December 28, 2025
10:35 a.m. In-Person,
YouTube LIVE!
& Radio Broadcast*



Hearing assist devices are available in the sound room.

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