

# 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**      *“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”*      #223

**\*\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP**      Liturgist – Kim Funkhouser

Leader: In the very beginning, God separated the darkness and the light. God called the Light “Day” and the Darkness, God called “Night.”

**People: We were once people who dwelled in darkness, but God has given us the true Light, Jesus Christ.**

Leader: God has blessed us and adopted us as God’s own beloved children, through the sacrament of Baptism.

**People: The water of baptism brings to us healing and reconciliation; it is a symbol of nourishment and cleansing.**

Leader: This day is the day of the remembrance of Jesus’ Baptism.

**People: As we hear the words of his baptism, let us be reminded of our own adoption by God and celebrate the joyous connection to the Almighty God.**

**ALL: Amen**

### CARES AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please hold these people in your prayers:*

*Joyce Stanley      Elaine Lucas      Rosalie Cochran Thompson      Lorelee Brown  
Jim Eklund      John Spanton      Doug Marshall      Butch Bloomquist  
Joseph Lipichok      Carol Jones      Heather Brown      Yenifer Jimenez  
Taylor Deatsch      Colleen Kimble      Camille McDonnell      Jeff Hartman  
Lynn Godwin      Darla Moylan      Kayla Weirup      Pat Centner  
Jim Gillespie      Nathan Thompson      Cheryl Clement  
Larry & Connie McCurdy*

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

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

**Isaiah 42:1-9**

### PRAISE SONGS

*“Come As You Are”  
“The Lion and the Lamb”*

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

### OFFERING

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

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

**UMH #95**

**\*\*Doxology**

**\*\*Offertory Prayer**

### \*\*GOSPEL LESSON

**Matthew 3:13-17**

### MESSAGE

**-Elly Stremsterfer**

### \*\*CLOSING SONG

*“Fires”*

### \*\*BLESSING AND SENDING

### \*\*SUNG BENEDICTION

### **Serving You in Worship**

**Minister:** Pastor Al Coffin

**Youth Director:** Elly Stremsterfer

**Lay Leader:** Jim Flinspach

**Liturgist:** Kim 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](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 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17*

- Take a look at the other three New Testament passages where the phrase “to fulfill all righteousness” is found – Romans 8:4, Romans 13:8, and Galatians 5:14.
- Could John have “restrained” Jesus’ Baptism? Look at the other gospel accounts and note the differences. What is consistent in all the accounts?
- How do we talk about notions of repentance and sin in a cultural context that doesn’t use or value these concepts? Do even we, as Christians, think of ourselves as sinners? If so, what does that mean? If not, why not?
- Take notice of the phrase in Isaiah 42:6, “I have given you as a covenant to the people.” The meaning of the Hebrew is unclear. What do you make of this idea?
- As you encounter water this week, remember your own baptism and think about what difference it makes in your life.

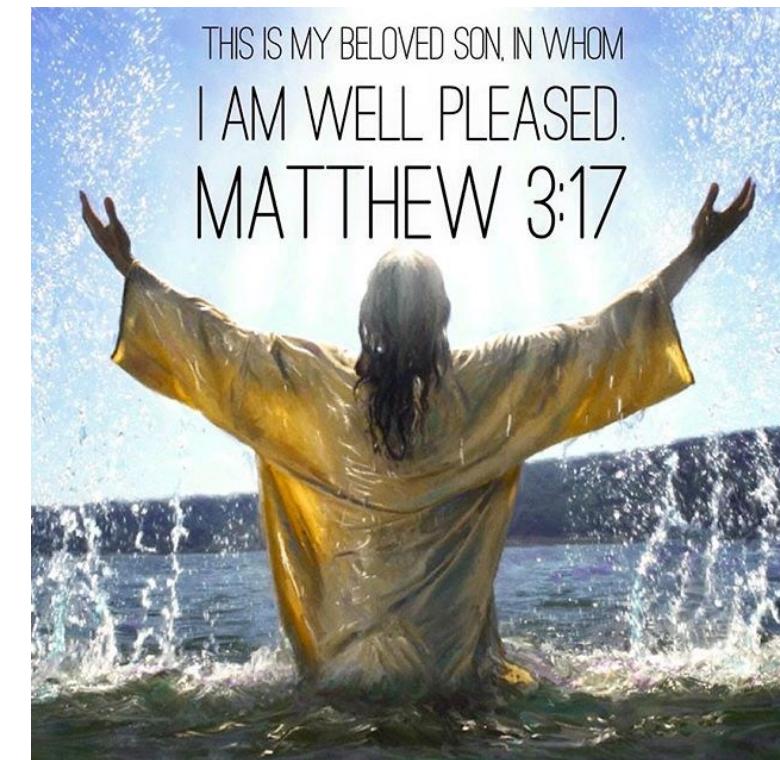
First  
United  
Methodist  
Church



Fairfield, Iowa

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

*Sunday, January 11, 2026  
10:35 a.m. In-Person,  
YouTube LIVE!  
& Radio Broadcast*



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