

Please join us to celebrate the ministry of Nancy Fisher and wish her well in retirement!

Refreshments will be available in Wesley Hall at 10:30 and noon after the Gathering and Traditional services.

Sunday, December 17
10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Wesley Hall

NANCY FISHER

Retirement Celebration





Christmas Eve
in
Wesley Hall

Arrive early before our evening Christmas Eve services to get a good parking place, visit with your friends, and beat the rush.

Come to Wesley Hall and join us for refreshments and a time to visit with old friends and make new ones!

Saturday, December 24
Noon – 11:00 pm
Wesley Hall

WESLEYAN ADVENTURERS

MOVIE AND SOUP

..... featuring
BOOM TOWN

Starring Clark Gable

What better way to warm up on a cold Winter Day in January than to enjoy a bowl of hot soup and a movie? Wesleyan Adventurers is serving a variety of hot soups and showing a movie in Wesley Hall. Come and warm up with us.

Thursday, January 11
10:30 am – 1:30 pm
Wesley Hall




Jr. Worship Leaders Choir

Hogwarts Retreat




January 19 – 20 | Children's Wing 2nd floor | \$10



Are you interested in FUMC Day School for the 2024 – 2025 school year? Join us for a Q&A session with Ms. Nina, Director of the Preschool, and Ms. Paula, Director of the Parents Day Out Program.

Wednesday, January 24
1:00 pm
Tuesday, January 30
9:45 am



January 26 - 28
5:30 am - 2:30 pm

Glen Lake Camp and Retreat Center

\$200 for students
Adults are free!

Registration required by January 12





Traditional Worship Service
December 17, 2023 | 11:00 am

“I Can’t Wait”

Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13

Rev. Lance Marshall, Senior Pastor

Welcome
Rev. Phyllis Barren, Associate Pastor

Choral Prelude: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”
Dan Forrest, arranger
Alison Beck and Peggy Graff, piano
Choral Union
Thomas Williams, director

Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Rev. Zhenya Gurina Rodriguez, PhD

***Call to Worship**
One: We await Christ’s light in this world of darkness.
All: We can’t wait!
One: And yet, we await God’s unshakeable joy in a world of weariness and sorrow.
All: We can’t wait, and yet, we wait in the promise of Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

***Hymn 246: “Joy to the World”**

Anthem: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
Dan Forrest, arranger

Faith Like a Child
“Mister Mark” Burrows, Director of Children’s Ministries

***Hymn 229: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”**

Scripture: Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13
Joy Brandon, lay reader
God speaks to us through the reading of scripture.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon Series:
Rev. Lance Marshall, Senior Pastor

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. *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

Recognizing Nancy Fisher

Offertory: “What Sweeter Music”
John Rutter, composer

***Doxology 95**
Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Benediction**
One: Our gathering will soon be ended. Where will we go, and what will we do?
All: We will go out to be God’s people in the world.
One: May grace, peace, hope, love, and joy forever accompany you.
Amen.

***Choral Benediction: “The First Noel”**
Dan Forrest arranger

***Postlude: Toccata on “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”**
Gilbert M. Martin aranger
Peggy Graff, organ

Violin - Arthur Busby
Violin - Emily Burak
Viola - Haojian Wang
Cello - Tess Kent
Oboe -Martha Kleiner

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Noon Candlelight Service
Noon – 1:00 pm | Sanctuary
Offering a contemporary Gathering style Christmas Eve worship experience including communion, candlelight, and special music, this midday service provides an earlier alternative to our evening services.

Family Candlelight Services
3:30 & 5:00 pm | Sanctuary
Come join us for a family-friendly evening with Mister Mark Burrows, filled with all our cherished Christmas Eve experiences — candlelight, Christmas carols, Communion, and the wondrous story of Jesus’ birth.

Traditional Candlelight Services
7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 pm | Sanctuary
The cherished experiences of Christmas and the beauty of this night will be enhanced by uplifting music and proclamation of the Word, celebrating Holy Communion, singing carols, and lighting candles. Sanctuary doors will open 20 minutes prior to each service. At the 7:00 and 9:00 services, join us for a 20-minute pre-service concert featuring DFW Brass and organist Peggy Graff. Listen to familiar Christmas carols and holiday songs arranged with a flair for the season.

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth – we are glad you’re here to worship with us today!

Please let us know you are here by filling out the attendance pad as it comes by or registering on-line.

Asterisks (*) indicate times when you are invited to stand as you are able.

In addition to your regular contribution, every one dollar (\$1) bill placed in the offering plate for the month of December will support the First Street Mission food bank.

The Poinsettias in the Sanctuary are in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Broderick and Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Smith.

STAY CONNECTED

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Read First Church news online and sign up for emails at fumcfw.org/news.

EVENTS
Browse programs and events or search by ministry or keyword at fumcfw.org/events.

WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE ON SUNDAYS
fumcfw.org/live

DOWNLOAD THE MYFUMC APP
fumcfw.org/myfumc

MEDIA PLAYLISTS
Watch past services or sermons or listen to podcasts of sermons, services, and special music offerings at fumcfw.org/media.

For more information visit us online at fumcfw.org.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram! [@fumcfw](https://www.instagram.com/fumcfw).

ARE YOU NEW?

If you would like to find your Worship Plus One, we would love to visit with you and help you explore the First Church groups or ministries of special interest to you! Finding your Worship Plus One will help you meet others, build relationships, and grow stronger in your faith.

For details, please email Angie Parish (aparish@myfumc.org), Director of Welcoming Ministries or Dr. Mike Marshall (mmarshall@myfumc.org), Associate Pastor of Leadership Development — and be sure to include your phone number in your email!