

# Unexpected

Advent 2025



Learn more about our Advent events at [fumcfw.org/advent25](https://fumcfw.org/advent25).

## UMW JANUARY LUNCHEON

### THE UNITED METHODIST CHAUTAUQUA MOVEMENT

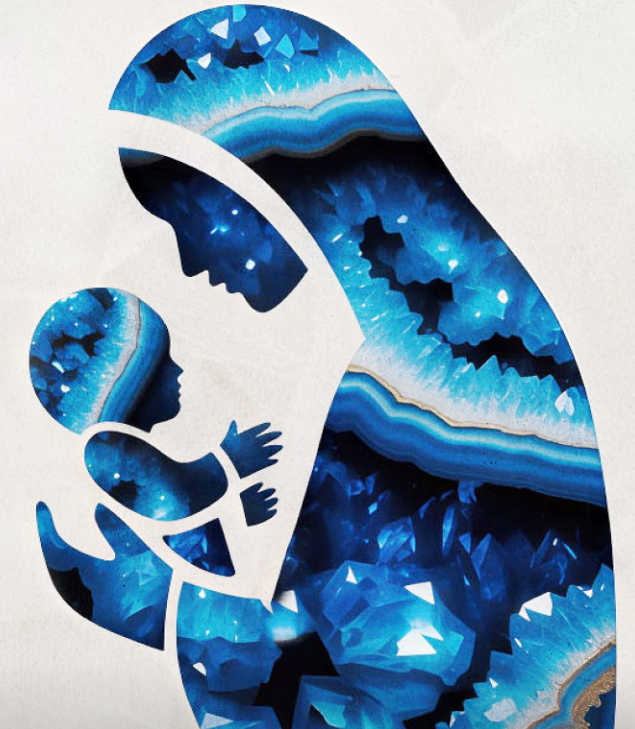


Tuesday, January 6 | 11:30 am | Wesley Hall | \$20 | Register by noon on December 30



# Unexpected

Advent 2025



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD OUR ADVENT CALENDAR & FAMILY GUIDE**

WEEK 1  
The Hope of the Humble

Nov 30 - Humble Beginnings  
Scripture: Matthew 11:29

Dec 3 - Gentle Words  
Scripture: Proverbs 15:1

Dec 4 - Hidden Light  
Scripture: Isaiah 42:3

# A DISCIPLE'S PATH

A GUIDE FOR UNITED METHODISTS



Sundays | January 11 – 25 | Joining Day | February 8 | 9:30 am | Room 350

Sign up to serve our family and friends on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Christmas Eve Volunteers  
Wednesday, December 24  
11:30 am – 11:30 pm



January 23 – 25 | Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center | \$200

Traditional Worship Service  
December 14, 2025 | 11:00 am

# Unexpected

Isaiah 53:3 and John 1:11

Rev. Lance Marshall, Senior Pastor



- fumcfw.org
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## Organ Voluntary: Variations on “I Saw Three Ships”

Variation I  
Jason D. Payne, arranger  
Peggy Graff, organist

## Welcome

Rev. Jenn Pick, Associate Pastor

## Opening Prayer

### \*Call to Worship

One: In joyless places, God's light still glimmers.  
**All: In our sorrow, Christ meets us tenderly.**  
One: The world turned away and missed the beauty within.  
**All: Yet God's love rose from rejection with radiant joy.**  
One: We open our hearts to the One who was unseen.  
**All: Christ, our Joy in sorrow, be born in us again. Amen.**

### Children's Pageant

**Part 1 - Jesus is Born**  
**#230 O Little Town of Bethlehem, verse 1**

**Part 2 - The Angels Announce the Good News**  
**#240 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, verse 1**

**Part 3 - The Shepherds and Sheep Run to the Manger**  
**#234 O Come All Ye Faithful, verse 1**

**Part 4 - A Visit from the Wise Men**  
**#254 We Three Kings, verse 1**

**Part 5 - Savior of the World**  
**#217 Away in a Manger, verse 1**

### \*Hymn 203: “Hail to the Lord's Anointed”

### \*Affirmation of Faith 881

Rev. Brenda Brooks Alexander, Associate Pastor  
**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic<sup>o</sup> church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.  
<sup>o</sup>universal

### \*Gloria Patri 70

## Advent Wreath Lighting

### Congregational Response

**We are called to ponder mystery  
and await the coming of Christ,  
to embody God's compassion for each fragile human life.  
God is with us in our longing, to bring healing to the earth,  
while we watch with joy and wonder  
for the promised Savior's birth.**

### Scripture: Isaiah 53:3 and John 1:11

Joy Brandon, lay reader  
God speaks to us through the reading of scripture.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### \*Hymn: 206: “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

### Sermon Series: Unexpected

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)**

### Offertory: Toccata on “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

Jason D. Payne, arranger

### \*Doxology 95

### \*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.

### \*Congregational Benediction: “Love has Come”

**Love is born! Come share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of His mother.  
What is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**

### \*Postlude: Variations on “I Saw Three Ships”

Variation V  
Jason D. Payne, arranger

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 online.

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 food  
bank at First Street Methodist Mission.

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

## ARE YOU NEW?

If you would like to find your place, your community, we would love to  
visit with you and help you explore the First Church groups or ministries  
of special interest to you! Finding your community 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!

## STAY CONNECTED

### NEWS

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.**

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