

TRADITIONAL SERVICE • SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19



WELCOME!

We're glad you're here!

A Few Things About Today's Worship

This service is live-streamed to YouTube

If you want to ensure that you are not seen in the live-stream video, you can sit on the back left (as you look at the stage) side of the sanctuary.

Kids First is where kids worship and learn in their own age-appropriate setting. The locations are listed below. Children are always welcome to remain in the service as well.

Nursery- Room 217 | Preschool- Room 222 | K-3rd Grade - Community Room
4th & 5th Grade - Room 106

Wesley Cafe

After service, you'll find coffee and food down the hall directly out of the sanctuary doors in Wesley Hall. Stay a few minutes and connect with First Church friends and family.

Worship Today

WELCOME & MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

PRELUDE

“Raise The Songs of Harvests” - arranged by Lloyd Larson
performed by Acclamation Ringers

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

“Immortal Invisible” hymn #103

SCRIPTURE LESSON & PRAYER - 1 Chronicles 29:10-14

Steve Pruss

GIFT OF MUSIC

“Alleluia, Praise God!” - by Thomas Ken, David Hendrick
performed by the Celebration Singers

SCRIPTURE - Matthew 25:14-20

MESSAGE - Faith Promise

Pastor Lisa Kruse-Safford

OFFERTORY

“More Precious Than Silver” - arranged by Mark Hayes
performed by Darrell Dragoo, pianist

CLOSING HYMN

“Take My Life And Let It Be” hymn #399
Congregation is invited to bring forward Faith Promise cards at this time

BLESSING

Ways To Give

Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of First Church!

1. During service today, we'll pass plates down the aisle to collect any offerings you've brought.
2. If you prefer to manage your giving electronically, you can give online at FirstChurchCL.org/giving. There you can set up a one-time or recurring gift.
3. If you'd like to give right now as you're reading this, text "GIVE236" to 73256 and follow the prompts.

News & Events

NEW - Advent Family Supplies

Today, you can take home special family Advent supplies to help celebrate the season at home. Look for the following age-appropriate materials in the Narthex before and after services. You may take one each of the following resources: **1) Advent Experience Box** - recommended for PreK and K-3 families, **2) Advent Conversation Cards** - for preteen, middle, & high school families, **3) Action Bible Christmas** - for all families with school-age kids.

Thanksgiving Eve Service | Wednesday, November 22 | 7 p.m.

We hope you'll join us for our Thanksgiving Eve service. We'll be sharing prayers, music, a message, and our own thanks as we reflect on the last year and the things that have been a blessing to us. Service begins at 7 p.m., followed by a time of fellowship with pie and coffee. Childcare will be available.

Advent Small Groups

To stay focused on Jesus during this upcoming season, consider joining an Advent small group study, with multiple new groups forming and existing ones welcoming new members. Together, we're using the resource *The Journey* by Adam Hamilton, which delves into key aspects of the Christmas Story using historical, archaeological, and personal insights. New groups begin after Thanksgiving, running for the four weeks leading up to Christmas, while existing groups have their own schedules. There's a variety of groups to choose from, and you can sign up by finding the link in our weekly e-newsletter. **There are also physical sign-ups today out in the Narthex.** For more information, email Isaac Mahler at imahler@firstchurchcl.org.

Decorating For Christmas | Sunday, November 26 | 2-5 p.m.

Join us in preparing our church for the festive Christmas season! On November 26 from 2-5, we'll come together as a church community to "deck our halls" for Christmas and Jingle Jam. To add to the joy, we'll provide cookies and cocoa to put you in the holiday spirit. Sign up to participate via the weekly e-news or by contacting Melissa Wolf (mwolf@firstchurchcl.org or 815-459-0785, ext 122). Your help will make our church shine for Christmas!

Advent By Candlelight | Friday, December 1 | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Women of First Church, we are excited to invite you to our 2023 Advent by Candlelight, where we will be beginning our Advent season with a time of fellowship, music, snacks, and reflection. Please sign up via the e-news to join one of our fabulous hostesses, who are excited to welcome you to their table!

NEW - Coventry Elementary Christmas Toy Drive | Donations due by December 3

You probably know the feeling of receiving a gift on Christmas morning - the anticipation, the joy, the gratefulness. We want to make sure every kid at Coventry Elementary experiences that feeling. We've again partnered with Coventry to provide Christmas assistance to their families in need. First Church has a long history of brightening kids' Christmases with gifts from our generous church family. Follow this link to sponsor a kid or family. Thank you for helping in any way you can. Donations are due back to the church by Sunday, December 3.

Volunteers Still Needed for Jingle Jam | Jingle Jam is Saturday, December 9

Tickets to Jingle Jam are officially sold out, so we expect a fun, full (around 400 total guests) house on December 9th. If you'd like to serve with our amazing team of volunteers, you can find a sign up in our weekly newsletter. We're confident you'll find the right fit for your heart to serve. Not available on the 9th? No worries! We need people to help decorate, or bake cookies, or just help get things ready before the event.

Sounds of the Season: a First Church Christmas Concert | Sunday, Dec. 10 | 4 p.m.

Our annual Christmas Concert, Sounds of the Season, returns this year with another exciting lineup of music performed by our choirs and praise team. Bring friends and family and let the melodies of Christmas prepare your heart for a season of comfort and joy. The concert will be on Sunday, December 10th at 4 p.m. This event is free to everyone and childcare is available.

NEW - Christmas Eve Services | Sunday, December 24

This year, Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday. Instead of having "regular" church and *then* Christmas Eve services, we're offering 3 Christmas Eve services. The first is a family Christmas Eve experience at 10 a.m. - perfect for families with children K-5th - featuring songs, drama, kid-friendly lessons, and fun! Then at 7 and 9 p.m., we'll have traditional candlelight services - the kind you know and expect from First Church featuring choirs, hymns, a sermon and, of course, lighting candles as we sing Silent Night.

NEW - Kids + Worship For The Holidays

Parents, you'll want to make a note on your calendar concerning Kids in worship for the holiday season. It looks like this:

- **December 3 @ 9:15 & 10:45 a.m.** - Family Worship on Sunday morning. This is a family-friendly service with a little bit of something for everyone. K-5 and youth will stay in the service in the Sanctuary with PreK and childcare still available.
- **December 24 @ 10 a.m.** - Christmas Eve Family Experience. If you have young kids, this Christmas Eve service is specially designed to tell the story of Christmas in a fun and engaging way. See more details below. There will be no Kids First or Childcare during this service.
- **December 31 @ 10 a.m.** - We'll have just one service the Sunday after Christmas. This is one of our more intimate services, singing carols and hearing once again the message of Christmas. There will be no Kids First or childcare this Sunday.

First Church Quilters

You may have seen the beautiful quilts down the hall on your way to Wesley Café. These are quilts made by women at First Church and will be donated to Sherman Hospital's NICU. The Quilters are always looking for new people to join them in this wonderful ministry. Members can bring their own sewing machines and supplies, but the group is also willing to provide these items. The First Church Quilters meet on the first and third Fridays of every month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The group gratefully accepts donations of 100% cotton fabric, sewing notions, quilting patterns, and books. If you're eager to join this heartwarming initiative or contribute in any way, you can reach out to the group through the church office at 815-459-0785, ext. 110 or via email at jfrancis@firstchurchcl.org.

To sign up to receive e-news, contact Jeanna at jfrancis@firstchurchcl.org

For news, pictures and more, check out our Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/clumc>

OUR MISSION: Devoted to Christ. Connected to others. Sent to serve.