

# CHRISTMAS

## A SERVICE of LESSONS & CAROLS

2016

### PRELUDE & GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 98 (UMH 818, Response 2)*

HYMN : *Who Is He in Yonder Stall? (UMH 190)*

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*Today is Christmas Day. God promised Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. But now, the Christ Child has been born and the anticipation of His kingdom fills our hearts.*

*We light the Christ Candle because our God has come near us, abides among us and in us.*

***This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! Amen!***

### FIRST LESSON *Genesis 3*

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. And after all things were created, He created Man and Woman in His image, beloved creatures made of the dust of the earth. Soon, though, Adam and Eve fell into sinful disobedience by way of the Serpent's deception. The LORD said to the Serpent, "You shall be cursed above all the living things on earth and I will put hostility between you and the woman, between your seed and her Seed; but He will crush your head and you will bite His heel."*

*And Adam named his wife, Eve, Life. And the LORD shed blood and took the skins of animals and covered Adam and Eve.*

CAROL: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (UMH 196)*

### SECOND LESSON *Genesis 12 & 18*

*And the LORD called Abraham and told him that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed. "Truly, I will bless you and I will multiply your descendants like the stars in the night sky and as many as there is sand on a shore; and your descendants will possess the gates of their enemies. In your Seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed."*

*But Abraham wondered, "How can this be as Sarah and I are both too old?" And the LORD answered, "Is there anything too hard for Me?"*

CAROL: *How Long, O Lord (FWS 2209)*

### THIRD LESSON *Isaiah 9*

*In time, the prophet Isaiah came to the people saying that Messiah was coming to save His people. The salvation of God would reach all nations and all the people that walked in darkness would see a great light; those that were living in a land much like the shadow of death would be surprised when the Light would burst forth. He said, "Arise and shine; for thy Light is come and the glory of the LORD is risen upon you!"*

*The Light would come as a Child, born of a virgin. The prophet never saw this day come, but today, we are living it!*

CAROL: *Welcome, Holy Child performed by Julie Joesel*

#### FOURTH LESSON *Isaiah 11 & Micah 5*

*The Messiah, the Servant of the LORD, was to be born from the royal family of David, son of Jesse. He would come at a time when the family tree of Jesse would be but a stump. Then shall He appear with the fullness of the Spirit of the LORD to establish the righteousness of God. And even though Bethlehem of Judah is the most insignificant village, there the everlasting Ruler shall be born.*

CAROL : *O Little Town of Bethlehem (UMH 230, Stanzas 1 & 3)*

#### FIFTH LESSON *Luke 1*

*Messiah, the Son of God, was born like this: the angel Gabriel came to Mary as she awaited her wedding day with Joseph. Both were from the family of King David. The angel told her that the Holy Spirit would cover her and she would conceive and bring forth a son whose name would be JESUS, the great Son of the Highest who will sit on the throne of His ancestor, David. Mary replied, "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."*

CAROL : *Angels We Have Heard on High, Trio: Julie Joesel, Ishshah Blanco & Pastor Blanco*

#### SIXTH LESSON *Luke 2*

*Now, on the ninth month of Mary being with child, she and Joseph travelled 70 miles, from Nazareth to the town of Bethlehem to be counted in a census. There she gave birth to her firstborn son and named Him-according to the angel's command- JESUS. Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid the baby in a manger. With so many people in town, there was no place for them in the inn so they stayed among the animals.*

CAROL: *Sing We Now of Christmas (UMH 237, Stanzas 1-3)*

#### SEVENTH LESSON *Luke 2*

*In a nearby field, shepherds were watching their sheep when all of a sudden a powerful and gloriously bright angel appeared out of nowhere and stood next to the angels and said, "Don't be afraid because I have good news that will bring you great joy: Messiah, the Lord, the Savior of Israel, has been born in Bethlehem; Go and find the baby and worship Him." When Mary saw them, she was amazed but kept silent.*

CAROL : *O How Joyfully*

#### EIGHTH LESSON *Matthew 2*

*Two years later, an unknown number of wise men came from the area of Babylon following a mysterious star they had seen in the east. The star took them directly over the house where Mary, Joseph and the Child were. They entered, fell down, worshipped Him and gave Him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

CAROL : *O Come All Ye Faithful, Rev. Blanco & John Gibson*

NINTH LESSON *John 1*                      *Rev. Samuel Blanco*

#### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

CAROL : *Go Tell It on the Mountain ( UMH 251 )*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

# Upcoming Events

## December

Sunday, 25th     **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**11:00 am**     **Christmas Worship**  
6:30             AA

Monday, 26th     **Church Office Closed**  
1:00 pm           Chair Exercise

Tuesday, 27th

12:00 pm          Senior Adult Luncheon  
2:00                Line Dancing Exercise  
3:00                Prayer Ministry  
6:30                Men's Bible Study  
6:30                Al-anon

Wednesday, 28th

11:00 pm          Luncheon for Bunny  
7:30                Choir Practice

### **CHURCH STAFF:**

Rev. Samuel Blanco,  
Senior Pastor

Rudo Dozva,  
Director of Youth Ministry

Bunny Watts,  
Office Administrator

Cheryl Courtney,  
Finance Manager

John Gibson, Accompanist

Chuck Wilkinson,  
Facility Manager

Alma Blanco, Nursery Director

## Next Week

**1/1**                **NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
8:30 am Continental Breakfast  
10:00    Sunday School  
**11:00**    **ONE Worship Service**  
6:30      AA

**1/2**                **Church Office Closed**  
1:00 pm Chair Exercise  
1:00      Eva Jacobsen Circle

**1/3**

2:00 pm Line Dancing Exercise  
3:00      Prayer Ministry  
6:30      Men's Bible Study  
6:30      Al-anon

**1/4**

1:00 pm Chair Exercise  
3:15      Connect-4-Christ  
            After School Program  
6:30      WBS—Advent Series  
7:30      Choir Practice

**1/5**

2:00 pm Line Dancing Exercise

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

## JOYS & CONCERNS

### Our Recent Joys & Concerns

**Susan Bledsoe's friend Cheryl**, home from Mayo Clinic

**Mimi Broyles**, friend of Fritzi Simon, cancer

**Jeanne Cole**, is home from broken hip

**Brad Cooper**, Jim McCutcheon's son-in-law, cancer

**Susan Cranwell**, friend of Jim McCutcheon, cancer

**Linda Gadberry**, Melissa Ramsay's mom, is home, still recovering from back surgery

**Sydney Gorton**, serious health concerns

**Sarah Hayes**, John Hayes mom, chemo

**Suzanne Hayes Aunt Gay**, (92) fluid on the brain

**Sheldon Johnson**, serious health issues

**Wilma Kenwright**, Susan Bledsoe's mom, in rehab

**Teri LeBlanc**, Suzanne Hayes' mom, hospitalized w/congestive heart failure

**Betty Mathers**, Leslie Graves' sister-in-law, cancer

**Jeremy Miller**, Anita Wicke's son, health concerns

**Jim McCutcheon**, undergoing chemo

**Charles Minyard**, Susan Bledsoe's uncle, in hospice

**Twyla Nash**, undergoing chemo

**John Rose**, health concerns

**Elizabeth Sandifer**, Rex's mom, double-pneumonia

**Noelle Swartz**, friend of Gloria Hamilton, cancer

**Christina Thomas**, Pattie Moke's niece, cancer

**Jon Watson**, Hayes kids' teacher, car accident, ICU

**Donna Young**, friend of Susan Bledsoe, cancer

### Our Ongoing Concerns

Periodically, we move "Recent Concerns" to the "Ongoing Concerns" in the newsletter, pg. 2

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

If you would like to give electronically or by credit card, please visit the church website, [www.fumcelgin.com](http://www.fumcelgin.com) and click on the **GIVING** tab.



*Give with your smart phone*

***BEGIN ... GROW ... SERVE ...***

*The vision of the First United Methodist Church, Elgin is to help people*

*begin the journey with Jesus, grow in relationship with Him, connect with each other and serve the world.*