

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 12, 2025



Baptism of the Lord

The Baptism of the Lord is closely related to Epiphany and should be considered in relation to that feast. Jesus' ministry to bring in God's rule was inaugurated in his baptism. As he came out of the water, the Spirit rested on Jesus and a sign of God's approval was heard. On this day, we celebrate not only Jesus' baptism but our own as well, for our baptism is rooted in Christ. Baptism joins us to Christ and his church, and with all of the baptized we are called to share in Jesus' ministry. In the waters of baptism we are buried with Christ, cleansed of our sins, and raised to share in his resurrection. The Spirit is given to us and we are declared the children of God.

Reverend Delton H. Farmer, Pastor

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"Helping Others See Jesus' Grace In Me"

Order of Worship

Baptism Of The Lord

**Congregation Stands/Rise in spirit*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***INTROIT #106(AA) "Alleluia"**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God is with us always and calls us each by name.

People: When we pass through difficulties and stress,

Leader: God is with us and calls us by name.

People: When we are discouraged and feel lost and alone,

Leader: God is with us and calls us by name, and heals us.

All: Blessed be God who knows us and calls us by name. AMEN.

***OPENING HYMN #120 (AA)**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

*** PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION** *(Unison)*

Lord of Hope and Light, in the midst of Darkness you offered light to people who lived in fear. This is the Lord's Day, and that light comes to us as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Open our hearts and remind us that we are marked as people of hope and light. Prepare us to serve you as we lift our voices in praise. AMEN.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We belong to God. Nothing can break this covenant. Let us, then, with confidence approach God to honestly confess our sins in prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God, you call us to beloved community with you and with each other. But we exclude and reject those we deem different. You claim us as beloved, but we turn against each other in anger and hate. You liberate us and lead us in Christ’s path of peace, but we build walls and invest in guns and dismiss peace as impractical and unrealistic. Redeeming God, forgive our worldly ways. Call us and claim us once again for the work of building your beloved community. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our God is loving, just and merciful. God delivers us from sin and re-stores us by grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

SPECIAL SELECTION **FUPCC Choir**
"Encourage Yourself" by *Donald Lawrence and The Tri City Singers*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Rev. Delton H. Farmer**

Help us, Holy God, to connect to your word anew. Open the Scriptures to us in a way that is life-giving. Encourage us to listen to the message your Spirit makes known in word and worship. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Rev. Delton H. Farmer**
OLD TESTAMENT: Nehemiah 2:1-8
NEW TESTAMENT: Philippians 3:13-14

SERMON **Rev. Delton H. Farmer**
"It’s Going To Be Different This Time"

INVITATIONAL HYMN #345 (AA) "Just As I Am"

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD’S PRAYER

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Apostles' Creed*)

(Page 35 in the Purple Glory to God hymnal)

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

A generous God calls us to live generous lives. Let us present our tithes and offerings to further Christ's mission and ministry. "(You may give online @fupcc.org; mail your gifts to the church office, 406 N. College Street, 28202; or leave with the Officers as you exit.)". Remember, the Lord Loves a cheerful giver. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SELECTION FUPCC Choir

"He Reigns" by Kirk Franklin

***DOXOLOGY**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bless and multiply these gifts, God, that they may be a blessing to others. May whoever benefits from these offerings know of your love for them and our desire to serve. Amen.

***CLOSING HMN #391(AA) "I Will Trust In The Lord"**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Remember, you are God's beloved, called and claimed to love as you have been loved. May God bless you and keep you, this day and in the days to come. Amen.

RESPONSE "Seven Fold Amen"

POSTUDE

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

today January 12, 2025

Immediately following service

Fellowship Hall

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY

Invitation:

As we step into this New Year, I invite you to join us for an inspiring and uplifting Bible study series on the Book of Nehemiah. This powerful story of renewal, vision, and perseverance is the perfect guide for anyone seeking a fresh start or a deeper connection with God's purpose. Together, we'll learn how to trust God, take steps of faith, and celebrate His faithfulness as we rebuild and renew the foundations of our lives. This is our opportunity to grow spiritually and walk confidently into all that God has in store for us this year! We will meet each week beginning Wednesday, January 8th 6:30 pm via zoom. ek beginning Wednesday, January 8th @ 6:30 pm via zoom.

1/15/2025 Week 2 Bible Study Outline:

Nehemiah's Vision and Permission (Nehemiah 2:1-10)

Theme: Understanding how faith, preparation, and courage enable us to pursue God's vision.

1/22/2025 Week 3 Bible Study Outline:

Overcoming Opposition (Nehemiah 4)

Theme: Trusting God and staying focused in the face of challenges and opposition.

1/29/2025 Week 4 Bible Study Outline:

Completion and Celebration (Nehemiah 6:15-16)

Theme: Celebrating God's faithfulness and dedicating ourselves anew to His work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEN CENTS A MEAL - We Can Make a Huge Difference when ALL participate. Using the same passage Two and Five Cents-a-Meal has been used since 1982. Please consider a gift to Ten Cents-a-Meal every 1st Sunday.

PW BIBLE STUDY— Saturday, January 18, 2024 @ 11:00 am

Lesson 5 –Air Quality/ Let Justice Roll Down

Lydia Johnikin, Discussion Leader

God's Call to Care for Neighbors & All Creation:

Meeting ID: 819 3012 7450 **Passcode:** 129126

Call in: 1 309 205 3325 US

BIBLE STUDY – Via Zoom (Online Only until March 2025)

Bible Study every Wednesday night at 6:30 pm Join Zoom Meeting One tap mobile, + 1-301- 715-8592, follow the prompts:

Meeting ID: 874 8560 5940 **Passcode:** 413228

FUPCC INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The last Saturday of each month @ 8:30 am in The Library

FIRST UNITED'S TRIUMPHANT TEENS

Bible Study 2nd & 4th Sunday's of each Month

Sunday Mornings @ 9:45 am Classroom #201 Ages: 13-18 (snacks provided)

NOURISH UP 5TH Fridays @ First Presbyterian, the next date will be January 31, 2025

CLEANSING WATERS SHOWER MINISTRY

1st & 3rd Sundays from 9:00 am - 10:30 am

BT EXPRESS (Alcohol/Narcotics Program)

Mondays & Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

ROOF ABOVE—Working together to end homelessness!!!!

Next Room in the Inn Friday, February 7, 2025

BEREAVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Our care and concern is extended to the following:

Mrs. Estelle (William) Harris upon the death of Estelle's niece,
Terry Ann Gayles.

Mrs. Ellen (Arthur) Smith upon the death of Ellen's father, Marvin Nicholson.

Final arrangements are incomplete at this time for both families.

