

+ *Those who are able are invited to stand.*

You are invited to respond with the **Bold** responses.

MOMENTS OF CENTERING

I do not always feel like a child of God. I do not always look like a child of God. God knows I do not always act like a child of God! But I am. I am one of God's children...not because of what I did or because of who I am but because God chose me, out of all the universe, to be God's own child. When I am anxious or alone or defeated, baptism ought to speak a firm word of comfort to me: "Take heart, be calm. You did not choose me; I chose you."

Remember who you are.

Good Morning! Welcome to Worship!

The Church Gathers to Worship

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Renee Warner*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Dan Martin*

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*

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

When we pass through difficulties and stress,
God is with us and calls us by name.

When we are discouraged and feel lost and alone,

God is with us and calls us by name and heals us.

Thanks be to God who is ever faithful to us,

We are marked as God's beloved ones.

What have we done to deserve God's love?

God's love is God's free gift to us, always and forever.

Even when we are difficult and turn away from God,

God's love never vanishes from us.

Blessed be God who knows us, loves us, and calls us by name.

+INVOCATION

Pastor

O God of glory and majesty, you have called us by name.

We pray in this moment for the courage and the strength to answer your call. As we open our ears to hear you speak to us on this Lord's Day, open our hearts also, that we may experience again the renewing power of rebirth in the Holy Spirit. Inspire us in this time of worship, that we may claim our own identity as your beloved children. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

+HYMN *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty UMH 64*

- Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**
- Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love and purity.**

The Church in Moments of Confession

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Isaiah 43:1-5a*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Responsively*

Sky-shattering God, we confess that we have not always paid much attention to the baptism of Jesus but viewed it as a nice story which begins Jesus' ministry. We don't always see ourselves as standing in that long line of those

marked for service; and it's easy for us to dismiss this as a nice story and nothing more. Yet you have called us by name, knowing each of us, and loving us. We know that we have behaved in very unloving ways and in some behaviors which do not promote your love and peace.

Forgive us for our blindness. Turn us around. Help us to be people who not only recognize the Light, but who are willing to live in the Light, bringing the Light to others in your name. For we pray this in the name of Jesus Christ.

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

People of God, you are known and loved by the Creator. You are marked as God's beloved ones to bring hope and peace to others. Be at peace and live in hope.

Amen.

The Church Listens

CHORAL CALL TO WIGGLETIME *UMH 122*

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale, v. 3

- God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave. How does the creature say Grace? How does the creature say Thanks?**

WIGGLETIME

THE WORD

SERMON *Rev. M. Steven Meadows*

ANTHEM *Come and Dine Chancel Choir*

The Church Celebrates Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and our joy, Creator God, to give you thanks and praise. For in the beginning, you created the heavens and the earth. Out of darkness and

chaos, you brought light and order. You have given life to every living thing and made us in your image. Even when we turn away from you, loving darkness rather than light, you did not turn away from us.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Son to be Emmanuel, God with us. At his birth, the night sky lit up with heavenly host and a guiding star. Shepherds and magi found their way to you. Women and children, tax collectors and lepers continued to find their way to you. The darkness of Gethsemane, the cross, and the grave could not overcome you; for you are the light of the world, shining still.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of grain and fruit, that the broken bread and the cup outpoured may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. In this feast, make us one with you and with each other. Enflame us with your Spirit, that we may be united in ministry in every place. Send us, led by your marvelous light into the world, ready to serve others and work for peace. We pray in the triune name of God.

And as Jesus taught us, let us pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Unison*

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.

GIVING AND RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

The Bread of Life, shared with you.

The eating of the wafer.

The cup of the New Covenant, shared with you.

The drinking of the cup.

PERSONAL COMMUNION REFLECTION *Dan Martin*

The Church Scatters as the Body of Christ

+HYMN OF DEDICATION

FWS 2008

Let All Things Now Living

1. **Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the Creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, who guides us and leads to the end of our days. God's banners fly o'er us; God's light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night, till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light.**
2. **The law God enforces, the stars in their courses and sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the deeps of the ocean proclaim the Divine. We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise, till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: To God in the highest hosanna and praise!**

+ BENEDICTION

Pastor

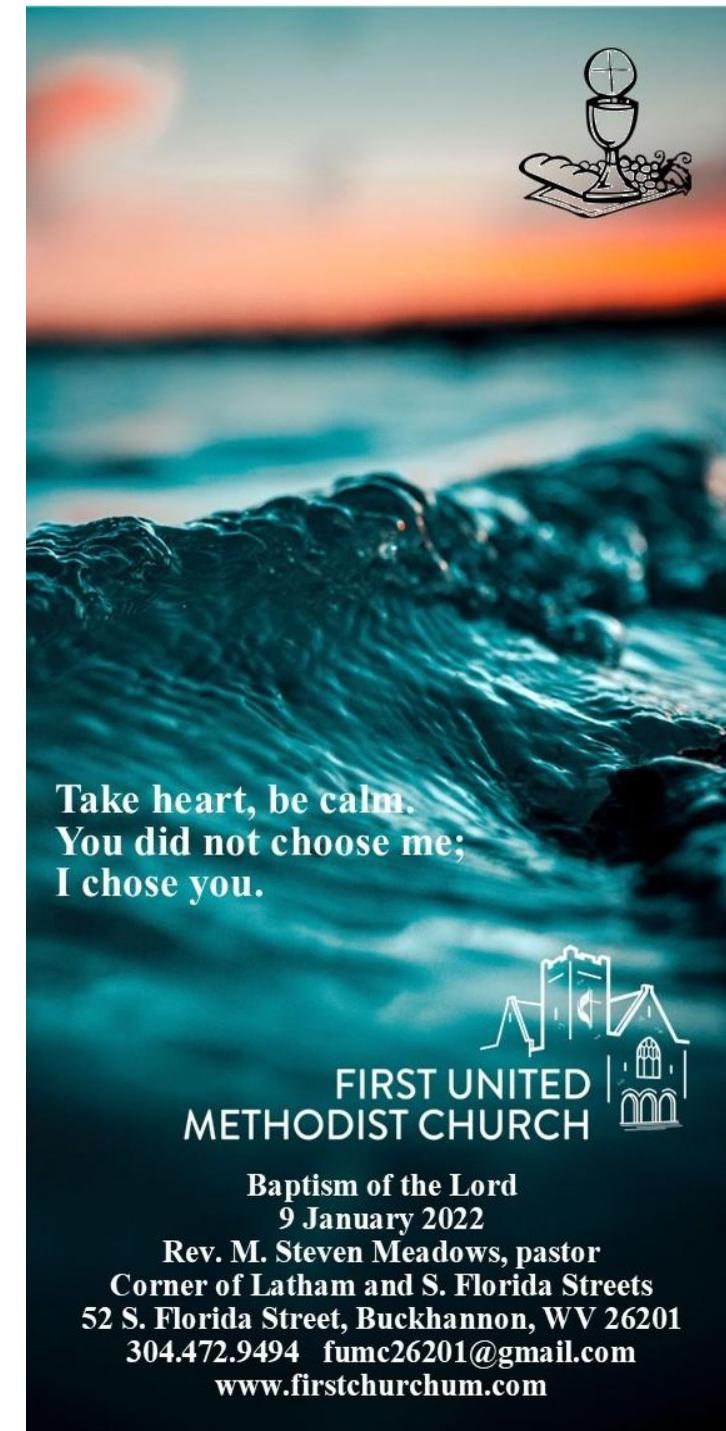
+ POSTLUDE

...and the worship continues.



Help
"UN-decorate"
Christmas.
Sunday
Jan. 9
4 PM

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



Take heart, be calm.
You did not choose me;
I chose you.

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

Baptism of the Lord
9 January 2022
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