



+ *Those who are able are invited to stand.*  
 UMH - United Methodist Hymnal FWS – The Faith We Sing  
 You are invited to respond with the **Bold** responses.

**MOMENTS FOR CENTERING**  
*O God, we gather in your presence with expectation,  
 hungry for an encounter with you, eager to hear your  
 Word. Open our eyes and ears to the presence of your  
 Holy Spirit. May the seeds of your Word, scattered  
 among us this morning, fall on fertile soil. May they  
 take root in our hearts and lives and produce an  
 abundant harvest of good words and deeds.  
 We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*  
**Thanks be to God! Welcome to Worship!**

**THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP**

- PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Carolyn Brown*
- ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY
- PRELUDE *Dan Martin*
- SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*  
*Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."*
- +CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *UMH 131*  
*We Gather Together, v. 1*  
**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he  
 chastens and hastens his will to make known. The**

**wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
 Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.**

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*  
 From the journey of life, to a hope and a future, God  
 calls us to a life rooted in faith.

**We join together in worship and praise, to show  
 love and faith for a true and faithful God.**

So, let us rejoice dear friends, in the God of our hope  
 and our salvation!

**We rejoice in you, O God. For all that you have  
 done, all that you are, and all that you have  
 promised. Let us worship together now, in praise  
 and with thanksgiving!**

+INVOCATION *Elizabeth Spencer*  
 Good and gracious God, thank you for being the  
 faithful God that you are. Thank you for always  
 providing our needs. Thank you for always watching  
 over us. You are in the brightest of days and the  
 darkest of nights. Even through the trying days of this  
 year, we still have much to be thankful for. So may  
 our worship today echo our gratitude and our steadfast  
 love and faith in you.

**In Christ we pray, Amen.**

+HYMN OF PRAISE *UMH 66*  
*Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven*

**THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF THANKSGIVING**

- THE PSALTER *Psalms 65*
- CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER *UMH 694*  
*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come, v. 1*  
**Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of  
 harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere the  
 winter storms begin. God our Maker doth provide  
 for our wants to be supplied; come to God's own  
 temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.**

THANKSGIVING PRAYER *Responsively*  
 In thanksgiving and praise for the love of Christ and  
 the great things the Lord has done, let us pray to God  
 who is our eternal home. *(A brief silence.)*

We give you thanks, O God, for your church and for  
 the wondrous ways in which you have dealt with your  
 people. Continue to inspire the church to be a blessing  
 in our neighborhoods and in our world.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the diversity of the  
 world's people, for all nations and their leaders. Grant  
 to all your wisdom and grace, that all aggression and  
 war end and a quiet and peaceable life would be  
 possible for all people. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, O God, for your abundant  
 blessings to us and for the bounty of the world's  
 resources. Help us to share of our plenty with those in  
 need. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, O God, for this church family and  
 for the praises you have put in our voices and in our  
 hearts. Help us work to ensure that people in our  
 community have sufficient food, clothing, and shelter.  
 Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

From the depths of our hearts, we lift to you O God,  
 our prayers that are so personal that we can only pray  
 in silence.

**PERSONAL PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

We give you thanks, O God, for bringing the promise  
 of comfort to those who grieve. We remember with  
 praise and thanksgiving all who have died and who  
 now worship you with eternal thanksgiving on a  
 clearer day and a brighter shore. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Your reign, O God, endures forever, and in Christ we are free to be your saints and servants. Hear our prayers for the sake of him who died and rose again, who lives with you in the company of all the saints and who taught us to pray:

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.

RESPONSE

*UMH 694*

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come, v. 4*

Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring thy final harvest home; gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin, there, forever purified, in thy presence to abide; come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

THE CHURCH WORSHIPS WITH OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Even through difficult times and circumstances, our hope and salvation remain grounded in God. For this we can always be thankful! One way to show our gratitude to God is by giving to the church so God's mission can be carried out in our community. Giving – of your time, service, and money – is also a way to express your hope and trust in what God will do in your life and the lives of others.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of our salvation, we are grateful that we can bring our fears, uncertainty, and suffering to you in relationship, leaning on your strength to carry us through.

**In this season of Thanksgiving, we offer up our gifts to you in a spirit of gratitude and hope. We trust that you will use them and us to bring**

**healing and restoration to our world. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

+DOXOLOGY

*UMH 94*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

THE CHURCH LISTENS

CHORAL CALL TO CHILDRENS SERMON

*Tell Me the Stories of Jesus, v. 1* *UMH 277*

**Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear; things I would ask him to tell me if he were here: scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea, stories of Jesus, tell them to me.**

WIGGLETIME

*The Children are invited to CHILDREN'S CHURCH*

+HYMN

*It Is Well with My Soul* *UMH 377*

SERMON

*Rev. Rick Swearingin*

*Greenbrier/Wesleyan Conference Superintendent*

THE CHURCH SCATTERS AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

+HYMN OF COMMITMENT

*UMH 102*

*Now Thank We All Our God*

+SERVICE OF LIGHT

*The Acolytes*

*Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."*

+BENEDICTION

*Pastor*

Let us be truly grateful for all we have received. As we go out from here, the blessings of this place, this season, this day, go with us.

**Amen.**

+POSTLUDE

*Dan Martin*

*...and the worship continues.*



Thanksgiving  
Raise the Glorious Harvest Home

Thanksgiving Sunday  
19 November 2023  
Rev. M. Steven Meadows, pastor  
52 S. Florida Street,  
Buckhannon, WV 26201  
304.472.9494 fmc26201@gmail.com  
www.firstchurchum.com

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METHODIST CHURCH