

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Gathering of God's People

Welcome

***Passing of the Peace**

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jill Daugherty
Amanda Reynolds

Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.

We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

Invocation

***Hymn of Praise**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234

***Affirmation of Faith**

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

Prayer of Yearning

We lay our burdens before you, O Lord, with our lives open and ready to receive your light and love..

Lead us toward your Son, Jesus, Emmanuel, as we continue to wander with you in faith.

Thank you for the many signs of your love, sent in your infinite wisdom.

May we have the faith of Mary and Joseph, and may we be your attendants,

anxious for the coming of your light

Once again. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

The king of love comes for all!

With tears wiped away and replaced with joy, delight in preparing for the imminent arrival of the Son of God.

We are all called by God, forgiven, cleansed, and made free.

Children's Sermon

Proclamation of the Word

Scripture Reading Isaiah 7:10-16

Anthem *Joyful Wonderful News* Mathews
Chancel Choir

Gospel Lesson Matthew 1:18-25

This is the Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon *Scandalous Courage* Rev. Waldrup

Response to God's Word

Choral Call to Prayer Chancel Choir

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
his name is called Emmanuel.*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Hymn of Invitation and Dedication**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH 230

***Benediction**

Go in faith and anticipation of the greatest gift of all. Christ, the Light of the World, will restore us to love, peace, and hope.

Emmanuel, God with us, will be with us again.

With faithful obedience encouraging us, let us happily await the days ahead.

Go in joy to spread signs of God's good news.

***Congregational Choral Response**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

***Postlude**

Liturgist: Anita Stafford

*The beautiful altar arrangement was given
in memory of
Byrd, Donice, & Bill Morrison
by
Denise Morrison and Elaine & Kendall Evans*

*Prayers for...
the people of Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza.
our men and women serving in harm's way.
neighbors served by our ministries*

our church family... Ed & Bonnie House, Judson Hout, Rhonda Shirey, Dot Everett, Wanda Shambley, Verna Riley, Sara Yarbrough, Fred Dietrich, Brenda Grimes, Ron Randolph, Joe Hirsch, Neelie Dobbins, Charles Cathey

extended family...James Louviere, Collins Whitley, Billy Atkins, Daniel Godwin, Bill Paysen, Bobby Clayborn, Joshua Sheehan, Charlie Atkins, Greg Nettles, Loel Tutt, Jay Williams, Elizabeth Rowlett, Kaye Haun, MeLissa Horseman, Diana & TJ Hill, Wesley Graves

homebound or assisted living ...Joyce Mann, Danny Barnes, Sarah Shirey, Ruth Dempsey, Billy Joe Black, Vickie Moore, Lou Slaughter, Pat Beasley, Dot Bearden, Ann Ellen

military...Buck Lucas

South District Prayer Partner...Sulpher Springs UMC

*Happy Birthday to Billy Joe Black who will turn 96
on Saturday, December 27th!*

Address: Billy Joe Black
% Julie Black Plyler
PO Box 4
Greenwood, AR 71943

*Best wishes to Paul and Anna Mosley who were
married December 13th.*

Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Services
will be held on December 24th at
10:30am and 5:30am

This Week at Church

Sunday, December 21, 2025

9:00am Worship Broadcast on FM 97.1
9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship
5:30pm Blue Christmas Service

Monday, December 22, 2025

9:00am Food Pantry
11:00am Strong Women

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

9:00am Food Pantry

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

10:30am Christmas Communion Service
5:30pm Christmas Communion Service

Thursday, December 25, 2024

Merry Christmas!

Friday, December 26, 2024

All Ministries closed for Boxing Day

Camden First United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor.....Rev. Beth A. Waldrup
Administrator.....Erin McAllister
Choir Director/Organist.....Cynthia Outlaw
Director of Missions.....Tate Wunnenburg
Director of Preschool.....Jill Daugherty

**The full worship service is broadcast on FM 97.1 on
Sunday mornings at 9:00am. The Worship Service
is available on our YouTube channel -
First United Methodist Church Camden, AR**

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Facebook: First United Methodist Church Camden AR
Instagram: fumccamden

First United Methodist Church Camden, Arkansas



Candle of Love

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 2025

*Following Jesus
Loving People
Sharing Grace*