

Weekly Calendar

Sun, Jan 5	11:00am	Sunday Worship Service - Rev. Alisa Wailoo preaching
	12:15pm	Linger Lunch
Mon, Jan 6	7:00pm	Ad Council - via Zoom
Tue, Jan 7	10:00am	Holy Trouble
Wed, Jan 8	1:30pm	Bible Study - via Zoom
Thu, Jan 9	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat, Jan 11	10:00am	Abolition Teach-In Series
	3:00pm	HealYourLove. Meditation
Sun, Jan 12	9:30am	Adult Academy - Aging in Place with Susan Tomlinson
	11:00am	Sunday Worship Service
	12:15pm	Potluck Linger Lunch

FUMCOG Social Racial Justice Award 2025

For 27 years, on Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, FUMCOG has awarded a FUMCOG or community member with the Social Racial Justice Award. This award is given in recognition of the work of an individual making a significant contribution toward the resolution of issues of injustice and the motivation of others to engage in this work. It has been the practice of the award committee, composed of former recipients of the award, to keep the name/s of the current year's award recipient/s a secret until Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday. The committee has decided to revise that practice.

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Page Morahan and Mark Smith will be the recipients of this year's Social Racial Justice Award. We warmly invite you to attend morning worship on **January 19, 2025**, to hear about the noteworthy contributions Page and Mark have made to resolving issues of injustice. A reception will be held following morning worship where we can personally thank Page and Mark for their contributions. Please join us!

Permission to podcast or stream the music in this service was obtained from CCLI via License #2983492.

The First United Methodist Church of Germantown (FUMCOG) is a diverse, urban community of faith that seeks to experience and worship God through Jesus' message of love and inclusion and the mystery of grace expressed through his life. We affirm our commitment by working together, taking risks for social justice and peace in our community, our city, our nation, and our world.

Lead Pastor Rev. Alisa Lasater Wailoo • **Assistant Pastor** Rev. Jacqueline Newsome
Director of Music Adrianna Barnett • **Office Administrator** Michael Yancey
Organist/Pianist Jodi Acker Bohr • **Media Specialists** Mandonnah Mahallati & Joey Ward



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*Where children wish upon a star
or wise men scan the universe in hope
let your beams
surround their dreams
to guide hesitating feet
to where a miracle is born.*

-- David Jenkins



Epiphany 2025

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF GERMANTOWN**

JANUARY 5, 2025 • 11 AM



First United Methodist Church of Germantown

Sunday, January 5, 2025 11:00AM

Welcome To All Coming To Worship!

All people of all ages are invited to full participation in the engaging worship and outreaching mission and ministry of the church. We strongly encourage all persons to sing the gender nouns and pronouns they prefer in referring to God.

Congregational responses are in bold type.

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal

Carillon Prelude

Love Came Down at Christmas *Gartan (Irish),*
arr. Sally Slade Warner

Impression of a First Noel *English Carol,*
arr. Ludo Geloën

Greeting, Acknowledgements, & Announcements

As a faith congregation, we acknowledge that this is a pivotal moment in American history and that our mission is clearly laid out in the Gospel of Jesus.

We acknowledge our mission to:

- seek justice for black and brown people of all genders and orientations
- dismantle systems of bias and racism
- call out those who protect the power of state-sponsored violence against black and brown bodies,
- and re-center the voices of the marginalized of our community and society.

We acknowledge our part in perpetuating white norms of language, style, worship, behavior, and culture, and, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we acknowledge the truth that Black Lives Matter.

We acknowledge that this service of worship is being held on the traditional lands of the Lenape people, and we pay respect to elders past and present.

We affirm the sacredness of Native people, their languages, their cultures and their gifts to the church and the world.

Prelude

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
arr. by Dan Forrest

Call to Worship *Standing with body and spirit*

One: We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

All: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.

One: We gather asking, 'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

All: We will find the Child where the hurting are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

One: We gather wanting to know, 'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

All: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

Opening Hymn *Standing with body and spirit*

UMH 245 - The First Noel

Invitation to Passing the Peace

On Communion Sundays, we do not have a children's message. In lieu of a children's message, the children are invited to join us during holy communion later in the service.

Sung Response

UMH 249 - There's a Song in the Air (v.1)

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12

(see insert for full text)

Contemporary Reading

“The Next Generation: A Shepherd's and a Wiseman's grandchildren seek the truth for themselves”

Sermon

Pastor Alisa Lasater Wailoo

Fearing the New Year? Find a Star to Follow!

Hymn

Standing with body and spirit

UMH 254 - We Three Kings v. 1 & 5

Connections and Offering

Offertory Anthem

FUMCOG Choir

“You Shine” by Patricia Mock, arr. Brian Buda

The Great Thanksgiving

(see insert)

The Lord's Prayer

Our Mother-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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Receiving the Bread and the Cup

All are invited to come forward to join in Holy Communion. Simply follow the direction of the ushers and the pastors. The bread is NOT gluten-free and the cup is grape juice. If you prefer gluten-free, simply ask the server to provide a gluten-free cracker. If you prefer not to receive the elements but would simply like to come forward for a blessing, please share that with the Pastor as you approach. We are honored to join in this sacred meal with you.

Closing Hymn

UMH 374 - “Standing on the Promises”

Benediction

Postlude

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”
arr. by Eugene W. Hancock

Cover design by Bruce McNeel

Faye Ross, liturgist

Taneal Walker, actor

Anthony Wailoo, actor

Mandonnah Mahallati, tech

John Bustard, tech

Ann Perrone, tech

Janet Tebbel, carillon

Thank you for joining in worship today. You are invited to remain in your pew during the postlude to quietly reflect during this final movement of worship or to move peacefully into your day. You are also invited to Pilling Hall immediately following the postlude for Linger Lunch!



Insert for Sunday, January 5, 2025

Potluck Linger Lunch

The January Pot Luck Linger Lunch will be on Sunday January 12, please bring a dish to share. If any one would like to prepare linger lunch on ANY Sunday, you are more than welcomed to! Please tell Cara Herold or Celeste Zappala, we can help with set up.

Adult Academy

Sunday, January 12 @ 9:30am

In the fall of last year we spent time on senior living communities. In the coming months we will look at staying in one's own home and the preparations to be aware of. To start the conversations, Sue Tomlinson will join us. Below is her extensive experience. We hope you will join us in person or online via Zoom.

Susan Tomlinson, DPT, got her Masters degree in Physical Therapy at Duke University and a Doctor of Physical Therapy at Arcadia University. Her clinical practice was at inpatient rehab hospitals and home care, mostly working with people with neurological injuries and then in geriatrics. She served on faculty in the DPT program at Arcadia University from 2003 to 2023.

Knowledge about making a home environment as safe as possible is important as people age in place. As is thinking ahead about resources available to individuals and families in the home that can make things go more smoothly should the need arise. Let's explore these topics and share tips/tricks.

Holiday Office Hours

The FUMCOG office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, January 20

Feeling Crafty?

Do you like to knit or crochet??? If so, this is the group for you! We make prayer shawls and/or baby blankets for church members and outreach. We started gathering at a home in Mt. Airy just off Lincoln Drive. The next opportunity is Sunday evening, January 12. If you are interested, please contact Lucy Hill at phillyhills512@yahoo.com or Susan Tomlinson at susanStomlinson@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!



Staff and Office Information

Office Hours

Mondays from 11am-5pm

Tuesday-Friday from 9:30am-5pm

*Pastor Alisa takes Sabbath on Mondays
Rev. Jackie takes Sabbath on Mondays*

Pastor Alisawailoo@fumcog.org
Rev. Jackie.....newsome@fumcog.org
Dwight Woolford.....info@dwcleaningco.com
Joey & Mandonnah....fumcogtech@gmail.com
Adrianna Barnett.....music@fumcog.org
Michael Yancey.....office@fumcog.org



Insert for Sunday, January 5, 2025

Prayers for FUMCOG Friends and Family

Please know that we are thinking about and praying with you.

For **Severin Witte**, grandson of Charlene Segal, who is home in Texas recovering from a Dec. 23rd gunshot wound to his head in a shopping center parking lot.

For **Rebecca Witte**, daughter of Charlene Segal, who has been recently diagnosed with a brain tumor.

For **Alex Cox**, who is back in rehab and recovering his strength.

For **Willie Little**, who is home and recovering.

For the family of **Marva Walker**, sister of Taneal Walker, who passed away in early December.

For **Andy Singer**, brother-in-law of Anne Toensmeier. Andy is struggling after a serious fall and some reactions to medications.

For healing for **Priscilla Hollerbach**, the daughter of Priscilla Schafer, who is recovering at home from major surgery.

For the family of **Patricia McIntire**, who passed away. Patricia is the sister of former FUMCOG pastor, Rev. Jim McIntire.

For the healing of **Renee Conners** and quick resolution of her medical issues. Renee is a former volunteer of the After School Program.

For **Skyy** and all students as they pursue their educational goals.

For **Corey Walker**, Jean Walker's great nephew, who is recovering from a serious health issue.

For **Wendy Sharin**, Jean Walker's niece who is in the ending stage of her 14-year battle with cancer.

For **Vicente Castenada** and his family. Vincente has been diagnosed with end stage prostate cancer.

For healing for **Patrica Hayward**, Nicole Bull's mother.

New-ish to FUMCOG?

Join our 4-session Intro Class to explore our faith community's beliefs, history, and commitments to social justice. Discover how we follow the Spirit of Christ, working together for justice and peace locally and globally. Sessions will be held after worship on **January 5, 19, February 2, and 9**. Contact Pastor Alisa at wailoo@fumcog.org or 267-405-1383 with questions or to RSVP. (Please Not

FOR OUR KIDS

Children are welcomed and beloved in our worship space! There are Kid Activity Bags by the door. There is also a children's space in the sanctuary's back corner. Ask the ushers for more information.

Want to Connect?

Use this QR code to access our link tree. From there, you can follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or Youtube, fill out an online connect card, or easily reach our website: www.fumcog.org



Scripture Readings

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



REMINDER

There are hearing assistance devices located in the back of the church near our tech crew. If you need one, please ask an usher and they will be more than happy to help you receive one.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks and praise, O God because we know your story of love. We cling to these tales of our ancestors, of how you showed up in the hard times and how you rejoiced in the good ones. How you moved the waters, quieted the storms, turned the hearts, mended the broken, toppled the unjust, loved the angry, fed the hungry and forgave the wrongs. We give thanks for that moment when you sent yourself here to be with us in the life of Jesus. We give thanks that even all these years later, you keep showing up, born into our hearts and into our world in bold new ways every day. Still. We know that through the Spirit you are at work in us still—still hoping, still healing, still leading the way, and loving us always. We give thanks for the mystery of this thing we call faith and join our voices with believers from every time and place in singing to your glory...

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in
the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the
Lord’s name. Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, we praise you and we offer you our prayers.

Knowing that you hear us,

Lord, we share that we are afraid and need your comfort,

we are unsure and seek your confidence,

we are struggling and ask you for strength,

we are hurting, Lord, please heal us.

We are angry, please help us let go.

We are guilty, and beg your forgiveness.

We are empty, Lord. Fill us, now.

Holy God, as we come to this table, to this place where you reveal yourself to us again and again, to this place where we are made one with you and one another, we are reminded of all the divisions in your world. Lord, for those things that separate us from you and from each other, we pray.

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Mother-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. Lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glory forever. Amen.**

With Jesus’ words in our ears, we remember that on a different night, under a different set of stars, that same child, now grown and at the other end of his life, gathered his friends and they shared a meal. On THAT night, Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and gave it to the disciples saying, “Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me.”

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we remember the birth, the life, the ministry, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We join in his story, and boldly follow that star, as a people who await his coming again in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever. **AMEN.**