

The Light with the Best Glimpse of God



Second Sunday after Christmas
January 4, 2026

Prelude

Joy to the World

Handal

Greetings

*The assembly responds or joins in unison when our text is **bold**.*

Centering Words:

Accept the limitations of your own knowledge. Have reverence for the wisdom of the Creator. Be thankful for his love in Christ and for a humble place in his house.

Call to worship:

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Like sages from afar, come and behold your Christ!

Let us fall on our knees in his honor! Let us lift our voices in praise of his name!

*Opening Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain

♫ UMH # 251

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

1.

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,

Behold thru-out the heavens There shone a holy light.

Refrain

2.

The shepherds feared and trembled When lo! above the earth

Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

3.

Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born,

And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 251

Words: John W. Work, Jr., 1907

Music: Afro-American spiritual;

adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986

Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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Call to Confession

Silent Prayers of Confession

Words of assurance

Old Testament Reading: **Jeremiah 31:7-14**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Epistle Reading: **Ephesians 1:3-14**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

In You, We Are One

Althouse

*Gospel Reading: **John1:1-18**

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn of Preparation

Seek Ye First

♫ UMH # 405

1.

Seek ye first the kingdom of God And His righteousness;

And all these things shall be added unto you.

Hallelu, Hallelujah!

2.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; Seek, and you shall find.

Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Hallelu, Hallelujah!

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 405

Words: Karen Lafferty , 1972

Music: Karen Lafferty, 1972

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Message

The Light with the Best Glimpse of God

Hymn of Response

All Things Bright and Beautiful

♫ UMH # 147

Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.**

1.

**Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.**

Refrain

2.

**The purple-headed mountains, the river running by,
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky.**

Refrain

3.

**The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden: God made them every one.**

Refrain

4.

**God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.**

Refrain

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 147

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848; Music: ROYAL OAK; 17th cent. English melody; arr. by Martin Shaw, 1915

Invitation to the Offering

Please submit your offering as you feel led by placing it in the plates on the altar railing, or text your gift to 833-756-0325, or on our website: www.elyriafirstumc.org.

Offertory

Jesus Loves Me

Bradbury

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

♫ UMH # 95

**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.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 95

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674

Music: OLD 100TH; Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

*Offertory Prayer:

We give thanks, God of Job and Jeremiah, David's Lord, Anna's Christ, Luke's Savior, that we have found your house in many places. We have found places of prayer with the swallows and the sparrows. We have sung your praise in a quiet circle under the stars. We have enjoyed the choir of many voices and the joyous sounds of musical instruments and found inspiration and refreshment. Along our pilgrim way you provide the cup that sustains both soul and body. We are happy when we trust in you. Amen.

Sharing in Holy Communion

Announcements

*Closing Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

♫ UMH # 577

1.

**God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy power;
crown Thine ancient church's story, bring her bud to glorious flower.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.**

2.

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.**

3.

**Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

4.

**Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 577
Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930
Music: John Hughes, 1907
Words by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs
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Benediction

Postlude

Let There be Peace on Earth

Miller/Jackson

**Please stand as you are comfortable*

♫ UMH ~ *United Methodist Hymnal* (hard cover hymnal)

♫ FWS ~ *The Faith We Sing* (soft cover hymnal)

Worship Participants

Preaching: Pastor Marcus Atha

Liturgist: Bailey Borer

Media: David Wilm

Musicians: Jack Roberts and the Chancel Choir

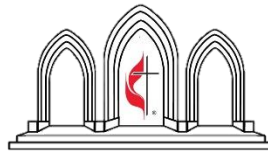
Sound room: Neal Hubbard

Ushers and Greeters: Mike Gebhardt, Garry Gibbs, Bruce Schneider, and Mike Zahnke

This service is broadcast live on the radio station WOBL 1320 AM and 107.7 FM. Today's radio broadcast is sponsored with money given for our radio ministry. Thank you to those who donate which allows us to continue our radio ministry as we share God's love with the radio audience and the community.

The altar flowers are sponsored by Jim Slaughenhaupt and family in loving memory of wife Dixie's January 8th earthly birthday.

If you are interested in joining our church family, or if you have any pastoral needs or prayer concerns, please call the church office at 440.322.6622.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

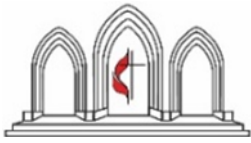
312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035 440.322.6622

www.elyriafirstumc.org

An equal opportunity provider

Joy to the World by Handal. ***In You, We Are One*** by Jay Althouse, 2024 ***Jesus Loves Me*** by William Bradbury. ***Let There be Peace on Earth*** by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson. All songs are performed under license # 673591.

Third Street Review



January Mission focus:

January 4, 2026

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

Human Relations Day

Human Relations Day, **Sunday, January 18th**, is a denominational wide Special Sunday designed to celebrate and raise awareness to further the development of better human relations outreach. Gifts received for the offering builds programs such as Community Developers and United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. You may give on-line via our website: elyriafirstumc.org or submit a check to: **Elyria First United Methodist Church**, indicate *Human Relations* on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

New Church Plan

Today we begin worshipping in the **chapel**. We need to stay together and be strong throughout this change. Our church family will continue to be nurtured and supported throughout this period.

***Pray for our community and ask God
to lead us to people who are thirsting
for Christ's love and grace.***

Share Your Gifts/Talents

YOU have gifts and talents to share. The Community Breakfast and our Free stores need you!

***Volunteering once a month can make a
big difference in the life of our ministries,
the community, and YOU!***

Please contact the church office to cheerfully offer your gifts and talents to serve in these vital ministries in 2026!

Community Breakfast

Thank you to those who have joined a breakfast team! There are a few spots still available. ***Prayerfully consider joining a breakfast team in the new year***, then call Julie Joy in the church office (440.322.6622) to volunteer!

Free Clothing Store

Thank you Volunteers!

The clothing store is well organized and tidy thanks to some dedicated volunteers. The store will be open to the community on **Saturday, January 24th 10 am-12 pm**. Please contact the church office at 440.322.6622 with questions or to volunteer for this wonderful ministry.

312 Happy Hour

Happy Hour is a twice per month event held on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays** at **noon** in **Fellowship Hall!**

Join us for a great meal, fun, and fellowship on
January 13th and 27th

Free Hygiene Store

We are grateful for your continued support of this much needed ministry. Being open to the community and filling in the gap for many families is a blessing!

Our needs for November include:

- **Baby wash and lotion**
- **Cleaning Supplies** (glass, bathroom, and toilet bowl cleaners)
- **Laundry & Dish Soap**
- **Shampoo & Conditioner** (dry shampoo too)
- **Women's and men's Body wash,**
Deodorant, and Razors

Please place these items in the box located on the main level. The store will be open on **Saturday, January 24th** from **10 am-12 pm!**

Giving Envelopes

The 2026 giving envelopes are on back order. We have a supply available for you to use until they arrive. They are on the table by the Chapel.

***To live in the light of a new day
and an unimaginable
and unpredictable future,
you must become fully present
to a deeper truth -
not a truth from your head,
but a truth from your heart;
not a truth from your ego,
but a truth from the highest source.***

~ Debbie Ford

Open Sponsorship Dates

Altar Flower dates:

January 25; February 1, 8, and 15

Cost \$22

Radio dates:

January 11, 18, and 25

Cost \$300 (includes advertising!)

Please call the church office at 440.322.6622 to reserve your special date!

2025 Year-End Statements

If you would like to receive your year-end statement electronically instead of in the mail, please contact Heather in the church office. Or you can indicate your desire on today's Connection Card! Please be sure to include your email address.

Scripture readings for the week:

Sunday, January 4: **Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18**

Monday, January 5: **Psalm 72; Joshua 1:1-9; Hebrews 11:32-12:2**

Tuesday, January 6: **Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12**

Wednesday, January 7: **Psalm 72; 1 Kings 10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21**

Thursday, January 8: **Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:1-9; Acts 9:1-9**

Friday, January 9: **Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:10-4:1a; Acts 9:10-19a**

Saturday, January 10: **Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 7:3-17; Acts 9:19b-31**

Sunday, January 11: **Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17**