

Welcome to Worship

Worship at First United Methodist Church In Wharton, TX is meant to be a moving and inclusive experience for all people. We are glad you are here to worship with us today as we kick off a year-long celebration of 165 years of ministry. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. We specifically want to make sure you are aware of the following:

- Restrooms and the hospitality area can be found In the education wing, immediately adjacent to the sanctuary. This area is easily accessed from the narthex behind the dividing wall to your far right as you face the sanctuary. In the hospitality area, you can find church information as well as complimentary coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and water.
- You may sit anywhere you like for worship. Unless a pew is marked as reserved for worship leaders, all pews are open to anyone. If you are concerned our pews do not offer sufficient room or strength for your comfort, we have a chair available to offer more room that is rated up to 500 pounds.
- Worship at FUMC is open to worshipers of all ages. We specifically believe the sounds of children are a beautiful thing in the worship service. Worship bags are available in the narthex by age group, containing different activities to help children during the service. Although all children are welcome to remain in our worship service, there are two other options available. Pastor Melissa will offer a Children's Message during the service at which time she will invite children to come to the front. Following the Children's Message, children from 5 years of age through 5th grade may go with Miss Abigail for Children's Church. They will return to the sanctuary in time to take Holy Communion with their families. A professionally staffed nursery is available for children under 5 years of age, located through the hospitality area. The nursery is available for these children for the entire service, or they may be taken there after the Children's Message.
- We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion each Sunday morning. In the United Methodist Church, we recognize that it is not our place to limit who is invited to the Table of Jesus Christ, so all are welcome. To allow all to participate safely, we have individually sealed communion packets for anyone needing to socially distance or who has a sensitivity to gluten. We will also deliver elements from the table to anyone who has difficulty coming forward.

Church Staff

Rev. Steven C. Newcomb..... Senior Pastor
Rev. Melissa Garza Pastor of Family Ministries
Amanda Allee..... Office Manager
Alanna Huggins Director of Music Ministries
Barbara Goodell..... Pianist
Jakeb Silva..... Organist
Melissa Fedele Nursery Director
Abigail Higginbotham..... Children's Church Director
Amy Dutcher..... Small Blessings Childcare
Center Executive Director
Miriam Rufino..... Custodial Services



First United Methodist Church
1717 Pioneer Ave.
Wharton, TX 77488
979-532-1100
whartonfumc.org
whartonfumc@whartonfumc.org



First United Methodist Church
Wharton, Texas

**165TH ANNIVERSARY
WORSHIP SERVICE**

JANUARY 21, 2024

Order of Worship

Gathering

Greeting & Announcements

Prelude *Hymns of Heritage*, Jakeb Silva

Call to Worship

We gather as a people who have a heritage which we celebrate this day.

We gladly claim our heritage

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which clings so closely;

And let us run with perseverance the race which is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Let us answer God's call to live a life of holiness.

With God's grace we will do so.

Hymn* *Welcome*
Worship & Song #3152

Affirmation of Faith* *The Apostles Creed*
UMH #881

Gloria Patri* UMH #70

Litany of Remembrance & Anticipation

O God of Abraham and Sarah, you have led your people in the past; lead us now.

Grant us the courage of Ruth to leave behind the old and familiar, the courage of Noah to risk laughter and scorn, the hope of Jeremiah to invest in the future, and the unselfishness of Esther to take risks on behalf of others.

O God of Moses and Miriam, you delivered your people and led them through the wilderness, giving them food, protection, and guidance.

In the words of Miriam, we praise you: "I will sing to Yahweh, who has triumphed gloriously!"

From the words of your prophets we have learned justice and mercy.

Help us to say, with Isaiah, "Here I am, send me."

O God of James and John and Mary Magdalene, you have called us to follow Jesus.

Teach us how to work together in mutual responsibility, side-by-side, neither tagging behind nor showing to the front.

O God of Paul and Priscilla and Aquila, who risked their lives for the sake of spreading your church, fill us with enthusiasm for your church.

Use us in the spreading of the church, in the building of its parts, in the joining together of its various congregations, and in ministry to the whole world.

O God of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself in love for the whole world, teach us so to love.

Grant us the spirit of Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve.
Amen.

Children's Message

Rev. Melissa Garza
The Faith We Sing #2233

Children are invited to join Pastor Melissa at the chancel as we sing our welcome song. Parents or Caregivers are welcome to accompany children to the front.

Following the Children's Message, the children are invited to go with Miss Abigail to Children's Church or return to their families. Those who go to Children's Church will return in time for Holy Communion.

Time of Confession UMH #12

Hymn *This is a Day of New Beginnings*
UMH #383

Gifts, Tithes, & Offerings *The River*, arr. Gilpin

The Doxology* UMH #95

Scripture Isaiah 43:1-2, 18-21

Sermon Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey

The Great Thanksgiving UMH #15

The Lord's Prayer UMH #895

Holy Communion

Hymn* *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*
UMH #344

Benediction

Postlude



Cynthia Fierro Harvey serves as bishop of the Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, having been assigned there in November of 2022. The Texas Annual Conference is composed of 304 congregations and represents a region encompassing Galveston, Houston, College Station, Beaumont, Texarkana, Longview, Tyler and towns in between.

Under Bishop Harvey's leadership, the Texas Annual Conference follows a mission to equip congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world to the glory of God and holds a vision of vibrant, growing congregations changing lives and reshaping futures for Jesus Christ. The Conference is

driven by the core values of radical hospitality, passionate worship, faith-forming relationships, risk-taking mission, extravagant generosity, connectional ministry, fervent prayer and diligent study of scripture.

Bishop Harvey challenges faith communities to look beyond themselves and to keep an eye focused on the edge where God is at work. She also has a passion for young people as they lead the church into a future filled with possibilities.



PIE
praying in earnest

An intergenerational ladies' retreat in preparation for Lent

Saturday, January 27
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall

