

Celebration of Worship

*Gathering as God's people to be inspired
to live as a community of Christ*

+ 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 OF CENTERING

O gentle God, take this new day that you have given us into your own keeping. Direct our thoughts and feelings. Guide our energies, instruct our minds, strengthen our wills. Take our hands and make them skillful to serve you. Take our feet and make them swift to do your bidding. Take our eyes and keep them fixed upon your everlasting beauty. Take our lips and make them strong in testimony of your love. Take our deeds and make them fit for your kingdom. Be with all who suffer pain this day and with all who rejoice with gladness. Keep us all in the sure knowledge that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus, in whose name we offer all our prayers. Amen.

–Ronald M. McCauley

THANKS BE TO GOD! WELCOME 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 *FWS 2128*

Come and Find the Quiet Center, v. 1

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:

Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*

We come together—a community of faith.

We have gathered to talk and listen to God.

May our faces shine in hope.

God has invited us to this moment of worship.

We share in a new covenant of promise and trust.

Our spirits have been set free for worship and praise.

We come with boldness to encounter our Creator.

We assemble here, eager to be changed by God.

Our fears melt into awe and wonder before God.

Our failures become opportunities for learning.

Let us praise God's holy name in chorus.

Let us share in the glory of life. What a gift!

+THE INVOCATION *Responsively*

Remind us of your presence, God. We lay down the knowledge gathered in this world, and long for the wisdom of heaven, hidden by our own agenda. Remind us of your presence, God, Riot of Light. We lay down the answers found in this world, and voice the questions of eternity, hidden by our false securities.

Remind us of your presence, O Christ, glory transfigured. We lay down the certainties of this world, and revel in the mysteries of the sacred, hidden by our all-knowing minds. Remove the veil that we may see. Amen.

+HYMN OF PRAISE *FWS 2336*

Gather Us In

THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF CONFESSION

THE PSALTER *Psalm 138*

LITANY OF CONFESSION *Responsively*

O Lord, forgive us when we fail to respond to your call with faith.

Through your Spirit, we rest in the assurance of your acceptance.

Forgive us when we are shackled by our narrow understandings of discipleship and our clouded sense of purpose.

Through your Spirit, we are drawn into the illumination of your empowering love.

Forgive us when we are frightened of the future or pull back from the demand of your calling.

Forgive us when we fail to sense your presence in our past, to acknowledge your grace in the present moment, and to trust you for our future.

Through your Spirit, we offer ourselves in discipleship.

We come together as your disciples.

We seek renewed and renewing faith.

Touch us now with your Spirit, Lord.

Touch us now with your Spirit.

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

RESPONSE *FWS 2128*

Come and Find the Quiet Center, v. 2

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base, making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

THE CHURCH SHARES ITS BLESSINGS

OFFERTORY INVITATION and PRAYER

OFFERTORY *Dan Martin*

+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! Alleluia!

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD

SONG OF PREPARATION *TFWS 2164*
Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried, and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

WIGGLETIME ...*Then, time for Children's Church!*

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER *FWS 2128*
Come and Find the Quiet Center, v. 3

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God; a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God. O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God, hold us who wait before thee near to the heart of God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Responsively*
Almighty, all-merciful God, lover of justice and giver of peace, Hear our prayer.

To you, O Lord, we pray.

Answer us with mercy.

For the people of the world, for the church of Jesus Christ, and for all who seek your face.

To you, O Lord, we pray.

Answer us with mercy.

For leaders and elders that they will abide by your commandments.

To you, O Lord, we pray.

Answer us with mercy.

For the earth that you have created, trembling for redemption and re-creation.

To you, O Lord, we pray.

Answer us with mercy.

For those who are tormented by illness, addiction, and grief.

To you, O Lord, we pray.

Answer us with mercy.

Let our lives and our world be transfigured by your glory and transformed by your love.

To you, O Lord, we pray.

Answer us with mercy.

In the strength and confidence of the children of God, we pray the prayer the Lord taught us:

THE 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.

THE WORD IN MUSIC *Chancel Choir*

SERMON *Rev. M. Steven Meadows*

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS

+HYMN OF DEDICATION *FWS 2130*
The Summons

+BENEDICTION *Pastor*

As you go into the coming days, remember:

You do not go alone. God's faithful love goes with you.

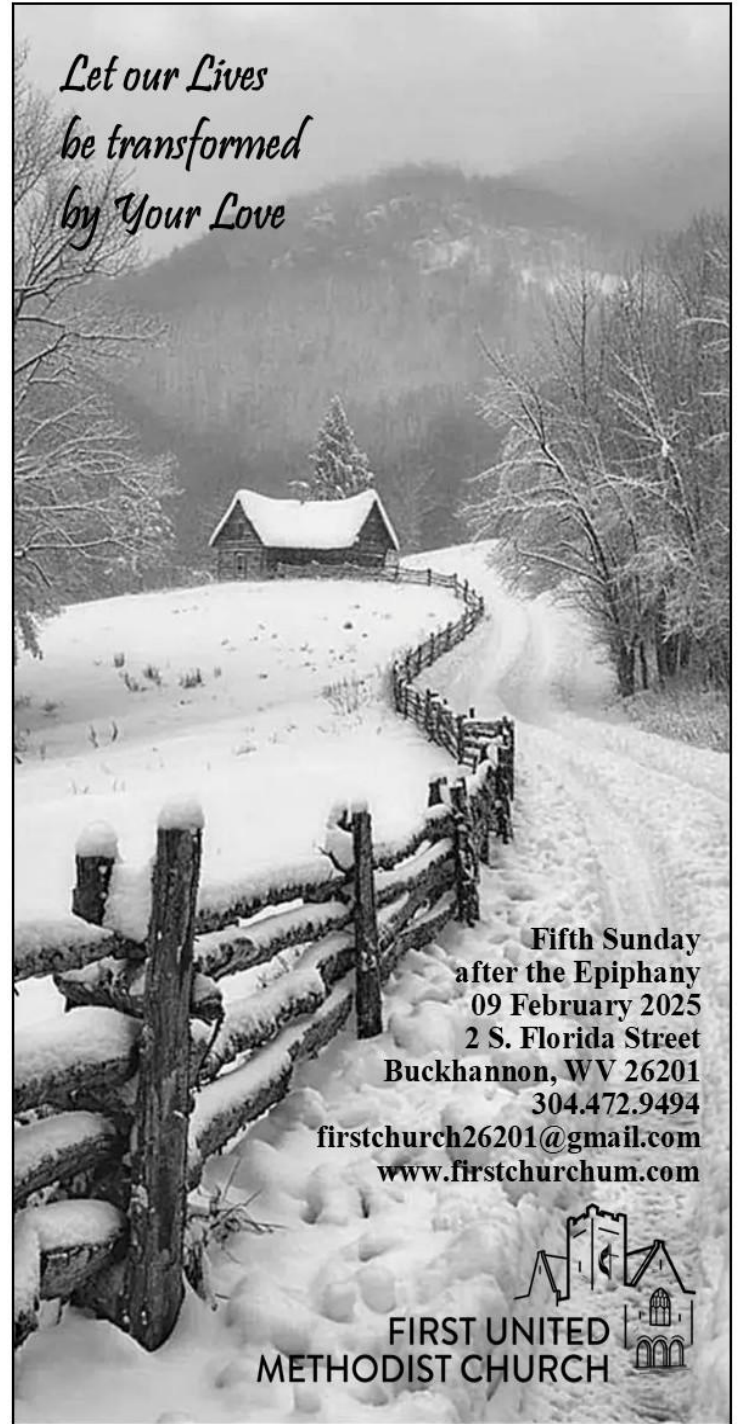
No matter what you are facing, God will not abandon you.

For You belong to Him, and He will fulfill His plans for your life. So go from here, strong in the knowledge that God's loving presence goes with you. **Amen.**

+POSTLUDE *Dan Martin*

...and the worship continues.

*Let our Lives
be transformed
by Your Love*



**Fifth Sunday
after the Epiphany
09 February 2025**

**2 S. Florida Street
Buckhannon, WV 26201
304.472.9494**

**firstchurch26201@gmail.com
www.firstchurchum.com**

**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH** 