

Lawrence Chapel United Methodist Church

January 4, 2026



Lawrence Chapel *United Methodist Church*

Lawrence Chapel UMC practices the love and teachings of Jesus

Prelude	<i>What Child is This?</i>	arr. by Mark Hayes
Bringing Forth the Light		
Making a Difference (Welcome and Announcements)		Rev. Justin Ritter
*Call to Worship		
We come, led by the light God has set before us.		
We come seeking hope, truth and new life.		
The Magi followed the star, trusting God to guide their way.		
We open our hearts to be led where Christ calls us.		
This day, God invited us to walk a different road.		
We are no longer our own, but God's.		
Come, let us worship Christ who meets us on the journey.		
With joy, we worship God.		
*Hymn	<i>We Three Kings</i>	254
Prayer over New Leadership		See Insert
Time and Prayer for Young Disciples		Deanna Phifer
*Apostle's Creed		881
*Gloria Patri		70
Scripture Reading	Matthew 2:1-12	2
Sermon	Another Way Home	Rev. Justin Ritter
THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION		12
Prayer of Confession		12
The Great Thanksgiving		13
The Lord's Prayer		
Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they 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.		

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

There's a Song in the Air

arr. by Justin K. Reeve

*Doxology

95

*Offertory Prayer

*Hymn

I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light

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*Benediction

*Response

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

607

I am no longer my own, but thine.
 Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
 Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
 exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
 Let me be full, let me be empty.
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
 I freely and heartily yield all things
 to thy pleasure and disposal.
 And now, O glorious and blessed God,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
 And the covenant which I have made on earth,
 let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

*Postlude

Angels We Have Heard On High

arr. by Frank Mantooth

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If you are worshipping at LCUMC for the first time, we welcome you in the name of Christ! Please fill out a visitor card in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate so that Pastor Justin can send you a note.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey in Christ, you are welcome at LCUMC. You do not have to join in order to participate in worship, many areas of serving, and small groups. However, becoming a member of this body of Christ is an excellent way for you to fully live out your Christian commitment and deepen your faith. If you would like to become an official member of this community, Pastor Justin would love to have a conversation with you!

To reach a larger ministry audience, our service is live streamed on Facebook and YouTube and recorded for posting on our website. Typically, the last 5 pews in the church are never "on camera" (near the street entrance).

Prayer Concerns

Marie Karns(Geehreng), Kelly(Sandra and Lou), Sam(Glenns), Rylan and Family(Heather Beam),
Brenda Hammond(Connie Curtis), Drew Meyers, Gunther Nocht(Kris Ellenburg),
Jim Brackett(Donna Glenn), Betty Ambrose, Rev. Bruce and Ann Sayre, Barbara Ochoa, Braelyn Hollensbe,
Joann Holmes(Walter Hadden), Jean Thomas, Pat and Skip Fenton, Bob and Josie Geehreng,
Rick Brezeale(Stanley Morgan), David and Betsy McJunkin, Cherie Pressley(Sandra and Lou),
Zack, Morgan and Cameron Martin, Jimmy Goodnight, Tommy McCall(Wesley Ramey), Brooke Foster,
Nancy and Ralph Porter, Chris Hooper (Stanley)

Those interested in joining others for lunch today, please meet at the bottom of the front steps after the service.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Counter: Linda Middleton

Greeters: Skip and Evelyn Davison

Children's Church: Suzi Harmon and Deanna Phifer

Offertory Reader: Justin Ritter

Acolytes: Lynn Kelley

Meeting Reminders:

1/5 **No Coffee with Justin.**

1/6 10:00am Two or More meeting at the Glenn's house to plan for 2026.

1/7 12:00pm Hooks and Needles meets in the library.

1/8 10:00am Unveiling Mary Magdalene meets in the library.

1/14 12:00pm Senior Lunch - bring several of your favorite dishes to share.

1:00pm Cemetery meeting in the fellowship hall.

1:00pm Hooks and Needles meeting in the library.

1/15 10:00am The Chosen Study meets in the library.

YTD Income/Expense Summary, November 2025			
Budget YTD	Expenses Paid YTD	Giving YTD	Variance Expenses to Giving
\$227,213.00	\$218,472.20	\$215,551.49	(\$2,920.71)

Year to Date 2025 General Fund gifts, tithes and offerings (YTD January-November 2025) lagged YTD General Fund expenses by **(\$2,920.71)**. Your financial contributions to Lawrence Chapel are tremendous, exceeded only by the commitment of your time, talents, and other resources as you engage in and support the ministries, outreach, and services of Lawrence Chapel UMC. You make so many things possible in service to Jesus Christ. God bless you.

Website: lawrencechapel.church Email: lawrence.chapel90@gmail.com

Nursery and Restroom facilities are in the Education Building across from the sanctuary.
Church WiFi ID – LCMGuest Password – PeaceBeWithYou!

Recognition of Leaders in the Church

Dear friends, you have been called by God and chosen by the people of God for leadership in the church. This is a blessing and a serious responsibility. It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work among us and for us. In love we thank you for accepting your obligation and challenge you to offer your best to the Lord, to God's people, and to our ministry in the world. Live a life in Christ and make him known in your witness and your work.

Today we will install the following 2026 officers of the church: *(Names listed)*

Do you on this day acknowledge that you are a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ?

Response: *I do.*

Pastor: Will you devote yourself to the service of God in the world and to Lawrence Chapel UMC?

Response: *I will.*

Pastor: Will you live to enable the church to be a people of love and peace?

Response: *I will.*

Pastor: Will you do all in your power to be responsible to the task for which you have been chosen?

Response: *I will.*

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, pour out your blessings upon these your servants who have been given particular ministries in your church. Grant them grace to give themselves wholeheartedly in your service. Help them to lead by example, following Christ who did not think first of himself, but gave himself for us all. Guide them in their work. We ask this in your name. Amen.

(To the Congregation:)

Let us rejoice that God provided laborers for the vineyard. Will you do all you can to assist and encourage them in the responsibilities to which they have been called, giving them your cooperation, your counsel, and your prayers?

Response: *We will.*

Pastor: Let us all pray for this upcoming year:

Lord God, as we move forward into a new year, we are thankful for this past year. We ask this morning that you will guide us in the upcoming year. We know that this new year may not be wanted by some. We know of people who are ill and fearful of what the year will bring. Even though the future is uncertain, help us to have the faith to trust you, the wisdom to do the right thing, and to be guided by you constantly. As we bring our loved ones and friends before you, we pray that you will be with them. May this year be good and prosperous for all whom we love. Guide our lives and may others see your love shine through out. May our words and actions constantly point to you; may we put you first in everything and serve you always. In Jesus' name we pray.

2026 Leadership

Leadership Council

Stephen Singleton (26) (LL)
Linda Middleton (26)
Stanley Morgan (26) (Ch)
Elaine Masceri (26)
Ronny Thompkins (27)
Pat Fenton (27)
Bruce Sayre (27)
Alexander Foster (27)
Gweneth Edwards (28)
Todd Beam (28)
Ken Glenn (28)
Cindy Arnold (28)

Nominations and Leadership Development

Karon Donald (26)
Lyn Mixson (26)
Sandra Morgan (26)
Jean Thomas (27)
Aaron Phifer (27)
Skip Davison (27)
Helen Hedden (28)
Jeff Hall (28)
Donna Glenn (28)

Ministry Team Leaders

Witness and Outreach – ~~Viky~~ Thompkins
Food Pantry Ministry- Julie Drake
Children's Ministry- Deanna Phifer
Youth Ministry- Deanna Phifer
Adult Education- Skip and Pat Fenton
Ken and Donna Glenn
Julie Drake
Nurture- Linda Regnier
Birthday Cards- Evelyn Davison
Care Team- Donna Glenn
Two or More- Donna Glenn
Hospitality- Helen Hedden
Safe Sanctuary- Heather Beam
Worship- Erin Beam

Lay Staff

Treasurer – Ken Glenn
Lay Member to Annual Conference- Stephen Singleton
Co-Lay Leader- Penny Hall
Co-Lay Leader-Donna Glenn
Co-Lay Leader- Stephen Singleton
Maintenance and Grounds- Todd Beam/Jeff Hall
Communications/Media Coord.- Stephen Singleton
Church Historian- Helen Hedden
Audit Team- Elaine Masceri, Pat Fenton, Alexander Foster

We Three Kings

1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

5 Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

The First Noel

1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
(Refrain)

3 And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

5 Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]

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I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

[Refrain:]

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)