

THE SANCTUARY

Second Sunday of Advent • December 7, 2025 • 8:45 AM & 11 AM
Please note: the 8:45 AM service is livestreamed.

GATHERING Sellers

CENTERING “The Awaited One”
and “Rejoice and Be Merry”

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* HYMN “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”
Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!
Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heav’n’s employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to Thee we open wide;
let us Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to Thy name!

Words by Georg Welsell, trans. Catherine Winkworth, music from Psalmodia Evangelica
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* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Sayre
“The Apostles’ Creed” No. 881

* ADVENT GLORIA “Gloria, in Excelsis Deo”
“Praise to God the Father sing, praise to God the Son, the King;
praise to God the Spirit be ever and eternally.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Words anonymous, music French carol melody, tune GLORIA
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* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

CAROL “O Holy Night”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the love
that transforms us. May love grow within us,
transforming us into bold witnesses of God’s
salvation with our voices and our lives.

All: Our love is from the Lord. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

“I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

Words and music by Kathleen Thomerson, tune HOUSTON
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CAROL “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

CAROL “A Midnight Clear”

EPISTLE LESSON 1 John 4:7-12, 16b-21
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL “Rocking Carol
with “Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine”

OFFERTORY “A Spanish Carol Suite”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Heavenly Father, in this season of waiting, teach us patience. In a season
that can include despair, fill us with hope. In this season of preparation,
show us how to love. In a season when we’re tempted by momentary
pleasures, fill us with true joy. In a season that can include anxiety, grant
us peace. In all times, for all of your gifts, including the gifts of music and
word, receive our thanks and praise. Amen.

CAROL “Wexford Carol”

* BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE AND RECESSIONAL CAROLS
Please remain in place and join in singing when directed.
“Sing We Now of Christmas”

“The First Noel”
The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born in the King of Israel.

Words from traditional English carol, music from W. Sandy’s Christmas Carols
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“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him! O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord.

O come, let us adore Him! O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord.

Words from traditional Latin hymn, attributed to John F. Wade, music from John F. Wade’s Cantus Diversi
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* Rise in body or spirit.

THE HARBOR

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WELCOME Stevens Poirer

OPENING PRAYER

* SONG “Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)”

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* SONG “O Little Town Of Bethlehem (Emmanuel)”

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
“The Apostles’ Creed”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the love
that transforms us. May love grow within us,
transforming us into bold witnesses of God’s
salvation with our voices and our lives.

All: Our love is from the Lord. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF GIFTS

SONG “Hope Was Born This Night”

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 11:1-5, 6b

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 3:1-6, 11

MESSAGE “The Promise” Stevens Poirer

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

* SONG “Jesus Messiah”

* BENEDICTION

- Sermon Notes -

BELIN MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Stephen Ministry Church

Clergy: Will Malambri, Sandra Stevens Poirer
Ministers: Belin Congregation Minister Emeritus: Harold Lewis

Pastoral Cabinet: Mark Ale, Mike Alexander, Bill Barber,
Keith Clarke, Becky Forrest, Sam Hale, George Howle,
Jonathan Nettles, Wayne Sayre, Connie Stinson

Announcements

■ **The Rollie Hanna Breakfast Group** will gather this Wednesday, December 10 at 8:30 AM in the Family Life Center (FLC). Bill Barber will be explaining, “Why Christmas Needs Easter: The Whole Story of Jesus.” “We don’t stop with the baby in the manger; Advent points us toward the cross and the empty tomb. The cradle makes sense in light of the Resurrection.” Bring a friend and enjoy the “Best \$3 Breakfast in Town.”

■ **A Celebration of Light and Hope** is Monday, December 15 from 5:30 PM–8 PM. Stroll among twinkling lights and flickering flames as you enjoy hot chocolate and special photo opportunities. Get up close to the manger animals at the petting zoo and then have your hearts warmed as our Belin children present a living nativity at 6:15 PM. Inside the sanctuary awaits a Christmas feast for the eyes and ears. Get in the spirit with beloved sounds of the season featuring the Belin Chancel Choir, the Sanctuary Handbell Choir, organ and the twin grand pianos. Doors open at 6:30 PM for the “Sounds Like Christmas” concert at 7 PM. All ages are invited to enjoy this complimentary evening.

■ Belin Memorial invites you to a special **Birthday Party for Jesus** Sunday, December 21 at 10 AM in the FLC. Come together for a joyful gathering filled with delicious cupcakes and uplifting singing as we honor this special occasion. Bring your friends and family for a time of fellowship and celebration.

■ Belin Memorial offers a special **Blue Christmas service** on Sunday, December 21 at 6 PM in The Sanctuary. There are many reasons that the joy of Christmas may be hard to find. Whatever your circumstances, this special service provides comfort and release. Stephen Ministers, equipped to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to those experiencing life difficulties, will be available following the service.

■ **The Community Christmas Dinner** is Thursday, December 25. Belin Memorial UMC is a host site. Take-out and dine-in are available from 12 Noon to 2 PM on Christmas Day in the FLC.

In Worship Together

Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ.
Our Vision: To be a place for you to discover love, find purpose, and make a difference.
Our Journey: To connect, grow, and serve.

You’re invited to *GIVE* your weekly offerings by scanning this QR Code.



Belin Memorial UMC Give Now

Worship Attendance 11.30.25

The Sanctuary: 821
The Harbor: 331

Giving Week of 11.30.25

Envelopes/Checks	\$ 73,099
Online Giving	\$ 9,696
Cash	\$ 1,144
Total	\$ 83,939

Candle Lighting Services

- Tuesday, December 23, 6 PM: The Sanctuary
- Wednesday, December 24, 4 PM and 6 PM: The Harbor
- Wednesday, December 24: 6 PM and 11 PM*: The Sanctuary
(*11 PM service includes Holy Communion)

Child care is available at 4 PM and 6 PM on Christmas Eve.

Dates to Remember

- December 7 MS 5 PM, HS 5:45 PM: Belin Youth Group (FLC)
- December 9 7 AM & 8:15 AM: Youth Prayer Breakfast (Chick-fil-A)
- December 9 6 PM: Bible Study: “The Journey” (Zoom)
- December 10 7:45 AM: Man 2 Man (FLC)
- December 10 8:30 AM: Rollie Hanna Breakfast (FLC)
- December 10 5:45 PM - 7 PM: Dinner & Advent Studies (FLC)
- December 11 12 Noon– 4 PM: Open Play Pickleball (FLC)



**BELIN MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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