INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Mark Hayes

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

+ SENDING FORTH HYMN UMH 230 *Red Hymnal*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

+ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella* arr. Marianne Kim

CHURCH CALENDAR

Today	Celebration of Baptism [Mary Ullmer]
	9:00-Coffee Café
	11:00-Snack and Chat
Dec 2	10:00-Retired Clergy gathering (pastor's office)
Dec 12	2:00-5:00-Supper House Christmas Party
Dec 24	7:00-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

GIVING- There are multiple ways to give- in person, mail, online- www.templeumcmuskegon.com or scan the code with your phone's camera and click the link VANCO ©

Thank you to today's worship leaders!

Liturgist- Melissa Miller
Song Leader- Gunnar Carlson
AV Booth- Steve Neubauer/Carol Taylor/Bruce McLeod/Mary Ullmer
Altar Design- Worship Team
One License #729534-A CCLI License #11366978 (CCLI Livestream)

TEMPLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, November 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent

Each person is a beloved child of God. Temple United Methodist Church welcomes, affirms and invites everyone into the full life and ministry of our congregation regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, family or socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability, or faith history. Join us as we gather as one community, grow our faith, give our diverse gifts, and go into the world to advance the Reign of God.

"+" is an invitation to stand in body or in spirit, as each is able.

PRELUDE *Angels* arr. Jim Brickman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Advent begins in darkness, with a plea: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down.

All: We light this candle as a sign of hope.

The first candle is lit.

One: Hope is not optimism. Optimism expects things to get better; hope stays alert when there is no sign of change and refuses to sleep.

All: We are the clay; you are the Potter; we are the work of your hand.

One: Stay awake, Jesus said, for you do not know when the master of the house will return.

All: Come, O God. We are waiting. We are awake.

+ OPENING HYMN UMH 196 *Red Hymnal*

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

+UNISON PRAYER

God of the torn-open heavens: we are tired of waiting for a world that has not yet arrived. Do not let our tiredness become resignation. As this candle burns through the longest weeks of the year, keep us watchful, keep us restless, and keep us hopeful- not because things are fine, but because you are not finished. Amen.

+ PASSING THE PEACE UMH 211 [REFRAIN ONLY] *RED HYMNAL*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Please return to your pew when the music begins.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, you call us to be a family bound together in love, yet we confess that we often fall short of the community you envision. We get caught up in our own routines, withholding the gifts and graces you have entrusted to us. We sometimes fail to recognize the sacred work you are doing in the lives of those around us, or we hesitate to welcome others with the full measure of your unconditional love. Forgive us for the ways we hold back from you and from one another. Wash us anew in your mercy, renew our baptismal promises, and open our hearts to celebrate your grace in every new beginning. Amen.

Moment of silence

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news: God's love is deeper than our failures, and God's grace is wider than our shortcomings. Through the waters of baptism and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are claimed, forgiven, and made new. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 64: 1-9
GOSPEL READING Mark 13: 24-37

One: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE *Stay Awake for the Beginning* Pastor Jeff

+ HYMN OF RESPONSE TFWS 2152 *BLACK HYMNAL*

Change My Heart, O God

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM UMH 33 *RED HYMNAL*
Mary Ullmer

+ RESPONSE ***Baptized in Water*** TFWS 2248 *BLACK HYMNAL*

You are invited to replace the word "blood" with the word "love."

TIME OF PRAYER, REFLECTION, AND GIVING
Prayers for the Community

Prayers for the World

City of Muskegon Heights, gun violence, violent tactics of ICE agents, ICE agents and their families. Immigrants and refugees, persecuted communities, peaceful protest, those experiencing food and water scarcity, crop failures and famine. Natural Disasters and Climate Crises. Active conflicts and war: Gaza, Israel, Russia, Iran, Palestine, Ukraine, ceasefires and diplomatic solutions.

You are invited to speak the first names of those in your heart.

Silent Prayer and Meditation Psalm 65: 5 NIV

"For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from the Lord."

After a time of silence, music will begin, at this time you are invited to bring your prayers to the altar and to light a candle as an outward expression of your prayer intention. If you are unable to stand or kneel, we invite you to ask another sitting near you to light a candle for you.

Giving- *During this time of prayer you are also welcome to bring your gifts to the boxes at the ends of the prayer rails*

Prayer Response ***Wait for the Lord*** W&S 3049 *GREEN HYMNAL*

Coffee Café! Join us for coffee, conversation, and community before worship—everyone is welcome! Table seating is located both in the café area and in the sanctuary. Feel free to bring your drink into the service. Whether you're a longtime member or a

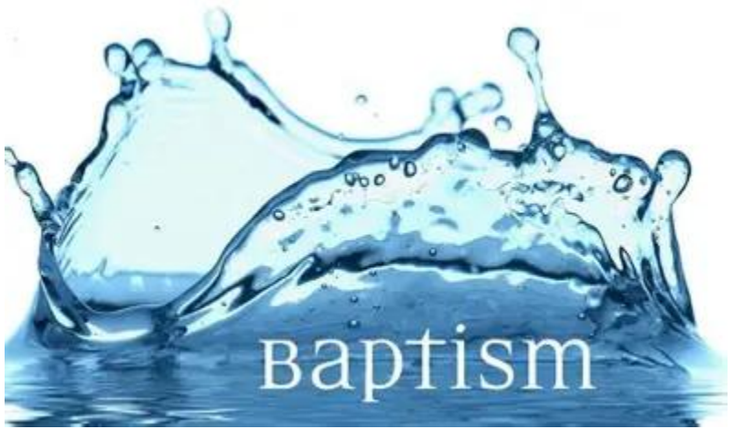
newcomer, it's a relaxing place to meet others, enjoy a beverage, and connect.
"A cup of coffee shared with friends is happiness tasted."

Celebrating the Baptism of Mary Ullmer

Today, we joyously celebrate with our sister in Christ, Mary Ullmer, as she enters the waters of baptism! Mary is taking this sacred step of faith for the very first time, and we couldn't be happier to witness this milestone.

Over the years, Temple United Methodist has become Mary's church family, and she has blessed us immeasurably in return. Through her active participation, generous spirit, and the many gifts and graces she shares so freely, Mary has enriched the life of our congregation. We are truly a better church because of her.

Mary, we love you, we are so proud of you, and we welcome you with open arms and overflowing hearts!



Embracing Our Future:
It's Not Too Late to Submit Your 2027 Giving Intention Card!

Thank you to everyone who took part in Commitment Sunday! As we continue our "Embracing Our Future" stewardship journey, we invite you to turn good intentions into lasting kingdom impact. If you missed Sunday, you can still submit your 2027 Giving Intention Card by returning it to the church office or placing it in any offering box at the church. Extra cards are available in the pews and at the office. Thank you for sustaining Temple through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness as we step boldly into God's bright future together!

Need to find a unique holiday gift for someone who has everything?

We have just what you're looking for - a monetary gift to Hand2Hand, Supper House or TCB Boxing. For every $20 donation, you will receive a holiday card that can be provided to the recipient stating a gift was given in their honor. See Bruce or Jackie McLeod in the Parlor after church to purchase these. Checks should be made out to Temple UMC with Hand2Hand, Supper House or TCB Boxing in the memo.

Hand2Hand

Your Hand2Hand team will continue to **collect cans of chicken noodle soup (pop tops only, please)** and **individual cups of mandarin oranges** through November. In December, we are asking for **individual cans of ravioli (pop tops only, please)** to help our children get through the cold winter months. We know the need is only going to increase as SNAP benefits are scheduled for another cut — and the cost of utilities, gas and food keeps going up.

Also we discovered our teachers and staff at the Muskegon Heights Early Education Center could use a supply of socks to keep on hand for our kids. If you are able, would you please pick up some socks that fit children who are 3, 4 and 5 years old? Thank you.

Our next packing date will be **Wednesday, December 16 at 9 a.m.** We will have a Christmas brunch immediately following.

TEMPLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor- Rev. Jeff Bowman Office Manager- Melissa Miller
Treasurer- Don DeYoung Worship Leader- Jason Hill
OFFICE HOURS Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
2500 Jefferson St, Muskegon Heights, Michigan 49444
231-733-1065 office@templeumc.com
www.templeumcmuskegon.com
Facebook.com/mysticmeth youtube.com/@templeumc9587