The altar flowers are for the glory of God and are donated by Robert & Brooke Turk in honor of their anniversary.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Bonnie Lout, Rex Templeton, Sandy B. Coffman, & Brenda Buehler and family.

PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

Kay Halcom

THOSE IN NURSING HOME/CARE FACILITIES

Lynne Bigelow, Stuart Hill, Gladys Leyendecker, Jean Redus, Delores Stancik, Dolores Odstrcil, Doug Lilie, Jesse Armstrong, Dolly Ladokas, and Bob & Nancy Stiles.

OUR CHURCH LEADERS

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey
District Superintendent Rev. Tracey Beadle
Pastor Sunshine Reyes

PRAYERS:

Continued prayers for Karen Gardner's granddaughter, Elizabeth Young.
Janis Arnold - nephew's wife died; classmate just died. Prayers for them.
Belinda Hastedt- prayers for Taylor Hastedt, surgery Mon. 11/2 on his left kidney.
Prayers for Walter Hackworth; Reed Burton, weightloss; Pam Hinkle, blood loss.
Brenda Trevino is homebound and having seizures.

PRAISE:

Tammy & Rudy Rodriguez - grandson Parker, turns one year old on 11/10/2026.
October blood drive had 16 successful donors!

NOTE:

Names on the prayer list in the bulletin will be printed for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, the names will be removed from the bulletin unless the church office has been notified to keep them.

Columbus Food Pantry

"HEB Turkey Vouchers" will be presented to clients on a first-come-first-served basis at the November distribution.

If you would like to participate by mailing a donation, please mark "Turkey" or "holiday vouchers" on the memo line of your check. Please make check out to the Columbus Food Pantry.
Alternatively, you may donate on their website on the home page:
www.columbusfoodpantry.org

First United Methodist Church

1229 Milam, Columbus, TX 78934

Office: 979-732-2643

Email: fumctx@gmail.com

Website: fumccolumbustx.com

Scan here to learn more

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm
Friday: Closed

Pastoral Emergency
Pastor Sunshine Reyes 512-308-2616

Wesley Nurse 979-732-5275

Facebook: From your Facebook account, search *First United Methodist Church Columbus, TX*

Or scan here

"The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."



SUNDAY, November 8, 2026

10:00 a.m. ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 8, 2026 — 24th Sunday After Pentecost

Reminder: As we enter into a sacred time and space, a friendly reminder to please set your cell phone to silent.

Welcome/Announcements		
†Prelude	Let us be in an attitude of prayer as they bring in the Light of Christ.	
†Call to Worship		
†Song of Worship	Give Me Oil in My Lamp	Karen Gardner & Kathy Pustejovsky
Young Disciples	Jesus Loves Me	UMH 191
Offertory Prayer		
Offering	Living for Jesus	
†Doxology		
Joys & Concerns		
Pastoral Prayer		
Lord's Prayer		
Prayer of Illumination		
First Reading	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	Robert Turk
Music	Here I Am, Lord	UMH 593 vs 1, 3
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Robert Turk
Centering Song	Sanctuary	FWS 2164
†Gospel Reading	Matthew 25:1-13	Pastor Sunshine Reyes
Sermon		
†Apostles Creed		
†Hymn of Invitation	Blessed Assurance	UMH 369 vs 1, 2

(Those wishing to join our church family, please come forward during Hymn of Invitation)

†Benediction		
†Shalom	Shalom to You	UMH 666

Please turn and face the center aisle and sing.
Please wait until the Light of Christ passes before leaving your pew.

†(Please stand as you are able.)

Worship Servers

Accompanist - Patsy Sobel
Guitar - Bob Stiles

TODAY Sunday, November 8, 2026
Liturgist - Robert Turk
Ushers - Blake Schulte & Sara O'Connor

NEXT Sunday, November 15, 2026
Liturgist - Jane Walla
Ushers - Rudy Rodriguez & Robert Turk
Communion - Rick Mattix & TBD

Happy Birthday!

11-09 JANICE MACBRIDE
11-11 F.G. HUFFMAN
11-13 STEPHANIE MATTIX
11-13 DOUG SWYDEN

If you would like to volunteer for the Children's Choir. Please contact Karen Gardner for more information.
Phone: +1 713-437-2341
Email: the-gardners@att.net
To become certified, visit
safegatherings.com

Online Giving
Simply scan the QR code with your phone.

Thank you for your contribution!

Happy Anniversary

11-01 Gary & Tess Swindle
11-10 Robert & Brooke Turk

The Week At a Glance

Sunday, Nov. 8
10:00am - Worship
11:05am-12:00pm - Adult Sunday School, Ed. Bldg., Fellowship Hall.
11:05am-12:05pm - Children's Sunday School, Ed. Bldg., Room 18.

Monday, Nov. 9
6:00pm-8:30pm - Community Choir practice, FLC.

Tuesday, Nov. 10
11:00am-12:00pm - Women's Enrichment Study, Ed. Bldg., Room 6.
3:30pm-5:30pm - Children's Choir practice, Choir Room & Fellowship Hall in Ed. Bldg.
5:30pm-7:00pm - **Trustee meeting**, Ed. Bldg., Room 6

Wednesday, Nov. 11
2:00pm-3:00pm - Lectionary Class with Pastor, Ed. Bldg., Fellowship Hall

Thursday, Nov. 12
10:00am-12:00pm - **Food pantry order meeting**, FLC.

Friday, Nov. 13
Office closed

Saturday, Nov. 14

Sunday, Nov. 15
10:00am - Worship & Communion.
11:05am-12:00pm - **Admin Council meeting**, Sanctuary.

FRIENDSGIVING DRIVE-THRU MEAL

Volunteers are needed for this year's meal on November 18. If you would like to volunteer, a sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex or you may call the church office at 979-732-2643.

GOING DEEPER 11.08.2026

JOSHUA 24:1–3A, 14–25

This is the message that we are not compelled to choose God, but we can make a conscious choice to serve God, and God alone. Joshua urges the people to fear and serve the Lord. "Serve God" becomes the core refrain of Joshua's message. He repeats the word twice in verse 14, and it appears three times in the subsequent four verses. Serving God means worshipping God alone and no other gods. Indeed, Joshua's admonition to serve other gods includes instructions to "put away" the gods their ancient ancestors served and those their more recent ancestors served in Egypt. The Israelites have been freed from slavery in Egypt, but their freedom is not absolute. Rather, they move from being Pharaoh's servants to being God's servants. Unlike the slavery and service they provided in Egypt, however, this time they must choose to serve God. And Joshua presents this as a genuine choice, not something they are compelled to do. Joshua offers the people an opportunity to reaffirm their choice. They have already said once in verse 18 that they will serve God, but after Joshua's rejoinder, they affirm it two more times in verses 21 and 24. Their threefold affirmation to serve God is followed by the official covenant-making ceremony, in which the words are written down, and a stone is set up as a witness. Is God always first in our lives, or do we not, in fact, often serve other gods through sins of omission and commission? The pattern of covenant renewal isn't just for corporate worship. It's also for our daily lives. One good habit is practicing regular daily devotions. Whether as individuals, friends, or families, we hear God's promises by reading and contemplating some part of God's word. We often conclude by prayerfully asking God to help us keep our promises to God. We, quite simply, renew our covenant with God.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13–18

What is the good word we need to hear? In some respects, it may not be so different from the good word the Thessalonians needed to hear: two thousand years later, we continue to look for signs that God has not forgotten us, that we will not be 'left behind,' and that we will not be separated forever from those who have already died. As time marches on, we may find ourselves placing more and more hope and confidence in governmental powers that, by force of might, appear to offer us peace and security as we patiently wait for God. Short of Christ coming down from the sky, how do we know this is real, real enough to offer us the hope we need to get by each day? Ultimately, we must each speak to this out of our own experience: hope in the little things rather than in apocalyptic scenarios; the encouragement we receive from one another; the practice of praying without ceasing; finding a way to give thanks, regardless of the circumstances; not becoming complacent; and attempting to discern what it means to live by the grace and peace of Christ so that we may hold fast to what is good and abstain from evil.

GOING DEEPER (continued)

Through these small things, lived day by day, the power and presence of God become real, as real as Christ coming down from the sky, and offer us hope to face each new day with courage. No matter how strong Jesus' friends' faith is, the death of someone we love can be immensely difficult. Among other things, it sometimes forces survivors to make painful adjustments that may take many months, if not years. Death, however, also raises troubling questions about the fate of those who have died. Paul invites Jesus' followers to comfort one another on the basis of God's promise to raise the dead to life. Yet we always offer such comfort with care. Think of Job's "comforters." They began well by simply sitting with their friend in silent sympathy.

MATTHEW 25:1–13

The parable teaches all would-be followers of Jesus the importance of vigilance in uncertain times and illustrates how one is able to "endure to the end." The teaching of the wise and foolish maids builds on the previous teaching of the wise and foolish servants. Both parables illustrate the need to live in a manner that expects the return of the Lord, even when the return is delayed. The parable is summed up in verse 13. The imperative often translated as "keep awake" might best be rendered "be vigilant." In this parable, the bridegroom's arrival was certain. The uncertainty of the timing underscores the need for constant vigilance. The earliest readers of this Gospel have already entered the dark days after the crucifixion and resurrection and have begun waiting for Christ's return. This parable challenges them to be vigilant and to live in anticipation of the Lord's coming. Does the church really live as though the bridegroom's arrival is certain? Some have become caught up in trying to determine the day and the hour, while others have let their lamps run out. To live in vigilance means for the disciples to do the tasks they have been appointed to do in preparation for the Master's coming. In Matthew's Gospel, those tasks include bearing witness to God's kingdom by welcoming the stranger, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and making disciples in all the world. There is no worry about being late to the party or missing our chance if we are taking the opportunities to live it that are constantly being presented to us. And we can't help but wonder whether Jesus included that little detail about how all of the bridesmaids fell asleep to remind us that we can be diligent without being overwhelmed and overworked. Yes, the invitations are many, but what we have done is less about the tally of actual good things we've performed and more about how we have tried to be as we waited—sleeping on the clock is not necessarily a sin; it can also be an act of trust.

Readings for Next Sunday, November 8, 2026

Judges 4:1–7 **Psalm 123** **1 Thessalonians 5:1–11** **Matthew 25:14–30**