

***Welcome!** We are so glad you’ve chosen to worship with us today. This is the Lord’s house, and here everyone is truly welcome. Our doors, our hearts, and our minds are open to you. We invite you to make yourself at home in this sacred space, and to join fully in worship as we sing, pray, and praise God together. When you see an asterisk (\*) in the bulletin, please stand as you are able—your presence and participation bring life and joy to our worship.*

Gathering “Toda la Tierra/All Earth Is Waiting” UMH 210

**Thus says the prophet to those of Israel, “A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,” for his name is “God with us,” our brother shall be, with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.**

**Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel: “De madre virgen ya vie ne “Emmanuel”, se ra “Dios con no so tros”, her ma no se ra, con el la es pe ran za al mun do vol v era.**

Welcome and Announcements Jennifer Aguirre

Prelude and Receiving the Light of Christ Jill Jones-Lazuka & Acolyte

Choir & Congregation “Lift Up Your Eyes” Choir & Congregation

**Lift up your eyes and see the light surround you; with radiant hope, illuminate the night. Lift up your voice and sing, let earth and heaven ring, lift up your eyes and see the everlasting light.**

\*Advent Call to Worship “The Light of Peace” Keelan & Marcy Milligan

Leader: During Advent, God’s light illuminates a weary world.  
For any who have grown weary of waiting:

**People: God speaks, “Peace, be still.”**

Leader: For any who are anxious about the worries of tomorrow:

**People: God speaks, “Peace, be still.”**

Leader: For any whose lips have been silenced:

**People: God speaks, “Peace, be still.”**

Lighting of the Advent Candle “The Light of Peace” Keelan & Marcy Milligan

Choir & Congregation Response “Lift Up Your Eyes” Choir & Congregation

**Lift up your eyes and see the light surround you; with radiant hope, illuminate the night. Lift up your voice and sing, let earth and heaven ring, lift up your eyes and see the everlasting light.**

Closing Prayer Keelan & Marcy Milligan

\* Hymn of Praise “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” UMH 203

**You may be seated after last verse**

Prayer of Confession Jennifer Aguirre

**When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, our lives reflect your kingdom values of**

**justice and righteousness, but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place. Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, source of power and life. Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.**

Hymn of Preparation “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” UMH 196

\* Scripture Reading Matthew 3:1-12 Pastor Fabian

1. In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
2. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."
3. This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"
4. Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.
5. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him,
6. and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.
7. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?
8. Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance,
9. and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.
10. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
11. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
12. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Message "Signs and Stories" Pastor Fabian

\* Hymn of Response “We Gather at Your Table, Lord”

**We gather at your table, Lord: We humbly lift our hearts to you!  
Here all are welcomed, And all are given work to do.**

**We share this meal and we are fed: Such basic gifts become your sign:  
We see you broken bread; We know your love in common wine.**

**God, pour your Spirit on us all, And on these gifts that we receive;  
For in Christ’s presence we recall His life and death, and so believe.**

**From north and south, from west and east, Now reconciled, we gather near;  
We taste your kingdom’s banquet feast, So finding strength to serve you here.**

Thanksgiving & Communion

UMH 15-16

\*Offertory Prayer

Jennifer Aguirre

**Persistent God of new paths, you call us to prepare the way with changed hearts and lives. In this season of anticipation, we offer these gifts as signs that we desire to follow your story. Use them and use us to bear fruit of justice, compassion, hospitality, and peace. May our generosity reflect the nearness of your kingdom and make a way for hope to be seen and shared. In the name of Christ, who is coming and already among us, Amen.**

Offertory Music

Jill Jones-Lazuka

\* Congregational Response

“Advent Doxology”

**Praise God, the one who made us. Praise to Christ, the soon born Son.  
Praise the Spirit, ever with us. Praise the God head, Three in One.  
Clear a path! Prepare the way! Advent leads to Christmas Day!**

\* Sending Forth

“Go, All Ye Faithful”

Jill Jones-Lazuka & Acolytes

**Go, all ye faithful! All who know the Savior. Carry the message far beyond these walls.  
Hold forth the Christ light. Conquer ev-ry darkness. Go forth, O church of Jesus! Proclaim the One who frees us! Speak peace! Reach out in mercy, in kindness and love.**

\* Blessing and Benediction

Pastor Fabian

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**Prayer Updates 11/23/2025**

Saundra Gilmore  
Kay Grider  
Jim—Ed & Louise Vail’s son  
Jim Wolosencuk


**This Weeks Birthday**

Dec. 12 Judy Powell

**Messages & Other Notes**

**Burks Christmas shopping** is this Thursday Dec.11 beginning at 8:30 am-10:30 am. If you can stay after church today and help move some tables and chairs, please meet in the overflow room. If you can come Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 pm we will be setting up the chairs downstairs and putting out the items on the tables for the children. Thank you for all the donations!! You have really made this a great opportunity for the first graders. Suzy

**Choir Christmas Program** Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.



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If you would like to make a donation, simply scan the QR code with your smartphone. Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of our church.

# MONTEREY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

124 North Holly Street ✕ Monterey, TN 38574  
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December 7, 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

*The Mission of Monterey United Methodist Church is to be servants of God,  
by responding to the needs of the Monterey community in such a way that everyone  
in Monterey knows the transforming love of Jesus.*



## Fabian Valtierra, Pastor

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**Fabian Valtierra, Pastor**  
**Debbie Roberts, Admin. Assistant**  
**Catherine Harris, Greeter**

**Frances Eldridge-CLM, Music Director**  
**Jill Jones-Lazuka, Pianist**  
**Jennifer Aguirre, Liturgist**

Sundays	Small Group	9:45 a.m.	-	10:45 a.m.
	Worship	11:00 a.m.	-	12:00 p.m.
	Choir Rehearsal	12:00 p.m.	-	1:00 p.m.
	AA Group	6:00 p.m.	-	7:00 p.m.
Mondays	Agape Thrift	9:00 a.m.		1:00 p.m.
	Lunch Bunch	11:30 a.m.	-	12:30 p.m.
Fridays	Agape Thrift	9:00 a.m.		1:00 p.m.
	Lunch Bunch	11:30 a.m.		12:30 p.m.