



First United Methodist Church

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COMMITMENT SUNDAY

November 28, 2025

Greetings in the name of our Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ!

For the Bowen Family, this Thanksgiving weekend has included beloved traditional dishes, family we don't get to see very often (some cousins met Joan for the first time!), and young boys jumping headlong into a pile of leaves. Family holiday traditions are really like nothing else. There's excitement in welcoming new faces to the feast; there's grief in remembering those we are missing. There's football, hunting, shopping, movies, travel, exhaustion, and maybe a little rest.

As we turn from Thanksgiving to Advent and begin a new liturgical year, we have a chance to reflect on what could have motivated Jesus to leave the comforts and glory of heaven to be born in a stable, rejected by most of the people that he came to minister to, and ultimately mocked and crucified. We know the answer: the source of his motivation was profound love. God simply loved his creation too much to let our sin sully it forever. And the goal of his coming was nothing less than the fullness of our salvation—to restore his people and his world into right relationship with God.

I believe that the day-to-day work of First UMC advances the mission that Jesus has initiated. And I believe that as we become more like Jesus, we are compelled by love as we experience God's mercy and grace and we are seeking to share the good news of Jesus with others in word and deed.

On Sunday morning, we'll have time in our worship service for you to make a pledge for how you will support our ministries in the year to come. With God's guidance, I hope that you'll discern how God is calling you to be like Jesus as you love, give, pray, and serve in 2026. If you're out of town this week, I hope you'll still take the opportunity to prayerfully reflect and submit your pledge as soon as you can.

I give thanks to God for this congregation's faithfulness and generosity, for the ways that each of you is living in to the promises you made when you joined the church. Last year, we asked you to invest, and you have! I can't wait to see where God takes us and what God equips us to do in 2026.

Grace and peace,

Br. Chad