

**Welcome/Brief Announcements**

**Call to Worship (responsive):**

Leader: Friends of God, today Jesus calls to each of us: "Come!  
Follow me!"

**All: The kingdom of heaven has come near.**

L: Some say, "But we are walking in darkness."

**A: In Christ, we have seen God's light. The kingdom of heaven has come near.**

L: Some say, "But divisions tear us apart."

**A: In Christ we are united in mind and purpose. The kingdom of heaven has come near.**

L: Friends of God, today we gather to worship God and to follow Jesus.

**A: The kingdom of heaven has come near.**

**Opening Prayer (in unison):**

**All: We believe, O Lord, that you have not abandoned us to the dim light of our own reason to conduct us to happiness, but that you have revealed in Holy Scriptures whatever is necessary for us to believe and practice. How noble and excellent are the precepts, how sublime and enlightening the truth, how persuasive and strong the motives, how powerful the assistance of your holy religion. Our delight shall be in your statutes, and we will not forget your Word. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn UMH 545**

*The Church's One Foundation*

**Joys & Concerns with Pastoral Prayer**

**Tithes & Offerings with Offertory**

*Communion Meditation on "Adoro te devote"*

arr. Gregory Hamilton

*Make me believe much more in You, Hope in you, and love You.  
(Excerpt from a prayer of Thomas Aquinas)*

**\*The Doxology (on screen)**

*Lord of all Good*

**Children's Time**

**Choir Anthem**

**Scripture**

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

**Hymn TFWS 2167**

*More Like You*

**Scripture**

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

**Message**

*Fools at the Table*

**Prayer of Confession (in unison):**

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Holy Communion**

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**\*Hymn TFWS 2229**

*We Are One in Christ Jesus*

**\*Benediction/\*Postlude** *Psalm XX*

Gordon Young

*Some trust in chariots and some in horses,  
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*

*Psalm 20:7*

*Has God laid something on your heart?*

*Write it down so you don't forget to take it into your week!*

*Tell someone you didn't come in with that you love them  
and that you're glad they're here!*

**Meet Jesus ~ Follow Jesus ~ Serve Jesus  
Love Boldly ~ Serve Joyfully ~ Lead Courageously**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/IMPORTANT NOTES

**Welcome!** We're so glad you are here worshiping with us today! Children are *always* welcome to stay and participate in worship. The nursery is open and located in the corner of the fellowship hall. If this is your first time with us, please fill out a Welcome Card and place in the offering plate. We Livestream our services each Sunday. You can find these services on our church Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/1stUMCGouv/](http://www.facebook.com/1stUMCGouv/)

- RIP IT**- Free exercise group. Check FB group for updates.
- Bible Studies**- Wednesdays **10am** in Rm 103 (Acts), Thursdays at **7pm**. (No PM study on 1/29)
- "Promises in the Dark"**- book study **Mondays** at One More Chapter Book Store, **7-8:30 pm**. Please see Don for more information.
- Pastor Ben is away 1/29-2/02.**
- Ash Wednesday; Lent Begins- Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>**
  - "Ashes for Early Birds" **6:30-9am**, stop by Brown Chapel if you would like to receive Ashes to start your day!
  - Service at **7pm** in Brown Chapel.

Read ahead for next Sunday:  
*Guest Speaker: Dr. Don Schuessler*

Bishop: Rev. Héctor A. Burgos  
District Superintendent: Rev. Yohang Chun  
Pastor: Benjamin Lalka [pastorbenlalka@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbenlalka@gmail.com)  
Pastor Office hours: Tues.-Fri. 9am-1pm Day of Rest: Mondays  
Admin Asst.: Amy Franco [FirstUMCGouverneur@gmail.com](mailto:FirstUMCGouverneur@gmail.com)  
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**First United Methodist Church  
of Gouverneur**  
**Pastor Benjamin Lalka**  
**Choir Director: Don Schuessler**  
**Organist: Glenda Schuessler**  
**January 25, 2026**

