

Welcome/Brief Announcements

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

**Hymn** TFWS 2090 (v 4)

*Advent Song*

**Call to Worship (responsive):**

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates!

**All: And be lifted up, O ancient doors! That the King of Glory may come in!**

L: Praise be to God!

**A: Blessed be the Lord God of Isreal, who has visited and redeemed the people.**

L: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**A: Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

**Opening Prayer (in unison):**

**All: In this season of love, hope and family, grant us joy and peace this day. You offered signs to Joseph and Mary long ago – signs that their son would be the Messiah, Emmanuel. May your light shine on us here, that we might understand the signs in our lives. We come with open hearts and minds to hear of your love coming into the world. We come to hear of a young woman with child, a foster father with trust in God, a match you made in heaven to shepherd a tiny boy to his destiny. Holy God, show us your peace as we make ready for your light in the world!**

**\*Opening Hymn** UMH 240

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

**Joys & Concerns with Pastoral/Lord's Prayer**

**Tithes & Offerings with Offertory**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. Jason W. Krug

*O come, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid all our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of peace.*

**\*Please stand if you are able**  
UMH is United Methodist Hymnal (red book)  
TFWS is The Faith We Sing (black book)

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

**Children's Time**

**Choir Anthem**

**Scripture**

Matthew 1:18-25

**Hymn (on screen)**

Savior of the Nations, Come

**Scripture**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

**Message**

*Preparing Our Hearts: Peace*

**\*Hymn** TFWS 2096

*Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude** Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine arr. Robert J. Hughes  
*He came among us at Christmastime,  
at Christmastime, in Bethlehem;  
let us bring him from far and wide  
Love's diadem: Jesus, Jesus,  
lo, he comes, and loves, and saves, and frees us!*

*Has God laid something on your heart from today's worship?  
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 Boldy ~ 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**.
- Blue Christmas Service-** Mon. Dec. **22<sup>nd</sup>** at **7pm** in Brown Chapel.
- Handbell Rehearsal** -Dec. **23<sup>rd</sup>** at **7pm**
- Choir Rehearsal-** Christmas Eve, Dec. **24<sup>th</sup>** **7:30pm**
- Christmas Dinner-** Wed. Dec. **24<sup>th</sup>** Take-out only, pickup between **11am & Noon**. (Desserts needed)
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service-** Wed. Dec. **24<sup>th</sup>** at **9pm**. Our Christmas Eve Offering has been chosen to bless 2 missions this year: local mission- Ryan's Wish; global mission- support the people of Ukraine.
- WGYB Winter Edition-** Sun. Jan. **11<sup>th</sup>** from **1-3pm**. See *insert!*

*Read Ahead: Isaiah 63:7-9 & Hebrews 2:10-18*

**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**

**December 21, 2025**

