



January 4, 2026 10 a.m.
First Sunday after Christmas

Welcome to First United Church of Christ

600 Mulberry St., Tipton, IA (563) 886-6361
www.firstucctipton.org ♦ office@firstucctipton.org

We are pleased that you have decided to worship with us today!
Hearing assistance is available; ask an usher for a receiver.

The offering plate is located on the small table outside of the sanctuary.
You are welcome to give using this QR code or Venmo.



venmo

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****THOSE WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND***

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

OPENING PRAYER

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: The Magi waited and watched, knowing something wondrous would be happening.

P: **We waited for the birth of Jesus; now something wondrous is about to take root.**

L: The darkness that invaded all lives was banished by the light of that star.

P: **The darkness what surrounds us is gone!**

L: Let us celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

P: **Let us become those who will bring the light of God's love to others.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of Christ be with you, **P:** **And also with you!**

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World
without end, Amen, Amen.

***HYMN "We Three Kings"**

We three kings of Orient are;
 bearing gifts we traverse afar,
 field and fountain, moor and mountain,
 following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
 star with royal beauty bright,
 westward leading, still proceeding,
 guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
 gold I bring to crown him again,
 King forever, ceasing never,
 over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I;
 incense owns a Deity nigh;
 prayer and praising, voices raising,
 worshipping God on high. [Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
 breathes a life of gathering gloom;
 sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
 sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

CHILDREN'S LESSON

***HYMN** "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" Casting Crowns

Sweet little Jesus boy, born in a manger
Sweet little Holy Child, we didn't know who You were
Long time ago it seems
You were born
Born in a manager, Lord, sweet little Jesus boy

Didn't know You'd come to save us all:
To take our sins away
Our eyes were blind, we did not see,
We didn't know who You were

You have shown us how
And we are trying
Master You have shown us how
Even as You were dying

This world treats You mean, Lord
Treats me mean too
But that's how things are done down here
We didn't know it was You

Didn't know You'd come to save us all
To take our sins away
Our eyes were blind, we did not see
We didn't know who You were

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2: 1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

L: The Word of our Lord

P: Thanks be to God

SERMON "Wisdom to Know the Difference"

RIBBONS OF PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Special Music by Averi Jeffries

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***HYMN #129** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

***BENEDICTION** "The Blessing" Carnes, Jobe

The Lord bless you, and keep you; make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen, Amen, Amen. Amen, Amen, Amen. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Organist - Nancy Hipple

Greeters - Blair and Pam Freet, Gary Lausen

Liturgist—Darren Miller

Ushers—Riley Resor and Bill Schwitzer

Ministers of First UCC are its members

Assisting them is Rev. Kerri Sandusky

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Mon.	Jan. 5	6:30 p.m.	Scouts—All Dens Meeting
Tues.	Jan 6	2 p.m.	Prairie Hills Worship
Wed.	Jan 7	4:45 p.m.	Radiate Youth Choir
		5:30 p.m.	Dinner for RYG and families
		6 p.m.	Food Packing Event for RYG
Thurs.	Jan 8	8:30 a.m.	Table Talk at Family Restaurant
		10 a.m.	Caregivers Support Group
		10:30 a.m.	Caring Conversations Grief Support Group
		5 p.m.	AA Meeting
		6 p.m.	Elders Meeting
		6:30 p.m.	Deacons Meeting
		7 p.m.	Council Meeting
Fri.	Jan 9	7:50 p.m.	First Friday Donuts, parking lot
Sun.	Jan. 11	9 a.m.	Sunday School: Pre K—5th
		9 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
		9 a.m.	Confirmation Class
		10 a.m.	Worship

SERMON NOTES/TAKEAWAYS

- ♦ Ready to start 2026 with a great book that is easy to apply to your life? Each 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, we will meet from 8:00-9:00 a.m. to discuss ***The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry: How to Stay Emotionally Healthy and Spiritually Alive in the Chaos of the Modern World*** by John Mark Comer. Grab your copy of the book from the Fireside Room or order your own.
- ♦ **Radiate Youth Group and Families:** Wednesday, January 7 is FAMILY NIGHT for parents and youth of all grades 6th-12th! We will be boxing 5,400 meals to be delivered throughout the county food pantries. Dinner for everyone at 5:30 p.m. followed by 6 p.m. food packing.
- ♦ **Table Talk** is a “Dutch treat” conversational time for everyone which meets Thursday, Jan. 8 at 8:30 a.m. at Tipton Family Restaurant.
- ♦ **Caregivers Support Group** will meet on January 8 (note change of date because of New Years Day) at 10 a.m. in the Fireside Room.
- ♦ **Caring Conversations Grief Support Group** will meet on January 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the Youth Room.
- ♦ **First Friday Donuts** is Friday, Jan. 9, at 7:50 a.m. in the parking lot. You are invited to come and welcome the students into the new year!
- ♦ **Bible Study** resumes Tuesday, Jan. 13 when we will continue watching and discussing *The Chosen* season three at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.