Advent at Main Street UMC

- **Thursday, December 1** — NOW: Night of Worship in the Chapel at 7:00pm
- **Friday, December 2** — Kernersville Stocking Fund Concert at 7:00pm
- **Saturday, December 3** — Hanging of the Greens at 9:30am
- **Sunday, December 4** — Crane’s Nest Toy Donations & Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due by NOON
- **Sunday, December 4** — Kernersville Christmas Parade meet at 1:15pm - parade starts at 2:00pm
- **Monday, December 5** — Home Friends Christmas Cards due by 4pm
- **Wednesday, December 7** — Children’s Craft during Wednesday Connect Dinner
- **Saturday, December 10** — Breakfast with Santa
- **Sunday, December 11** — Cantata Sunday at 8:30am & 10:55am.
- **Sunday, December 11** — a Contemporary Christmas at 8:45am in the Chapel
- **Sunday, December 11** — Christmas Cookie Decorating with the Children and Youth at 9:45am
- **Tuesday, December 13** — Service of Hope and Healing at 7:00pm
- **Thursday, December 15** — a special NOW: Night of Worship Christmas Service in the Chapel at 7:00pm
- **Friday, December 16** — Children’s Christmas Program at 6:30pm
- **Sunday, December 18** — Youth Progressive Dinner begins at 3:30pm
- **Saturday, December 24** — Christmas Eve Worship 4:00pm—Family Christmas Eve 7:00pm—Traditional Candlelight Service 11:00pm — Traditional Candlelight Service
- **Sunday, December 25** — Christmas Day one combined worship service at 10:30am, come-as-you-are
- **Sunday, January 1** — one combined worship service at 10:30am, come-as-you-are

Please see page 2-6 for additional Advent details.
Better Together: IN WORSHIP

Our Better Together theme continues this month with a focus on worship. Acts 2:42 explains how the first Christian converts gathered together in worship; likewise, it is vitally important for our Main Street family to worship together. Gathering in the same space, with fellow believers, allows us to participate in the sacred moments of corporate worship----feeling the emotions conveyed through hymns and anthems, experiencing the Spirit-inspired message from our pastor, and joining our hearts with our neighbors in prayer. Through these sacred moments in a shared space, we commune with our risen Lord and also with each other. There is something very special about worshiping together! Of course, we continue to provide livestream options for those who cannot safely join us, but all who are able should seek to gather together as a church family. As we celebrate the season of Advent with multiple opportunities to offer praise and experience grace, we encourage you to attend in-person and invite a friend to experience being Better Together!

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.
Acts 2: 42 New Living Bible

Advent at Main Street — All of the details you’ll need to know

Kernersville Stocking Fund Concert
For over 28 years, many of Kernersville’s children and families have been able to wake up on Christmas Morning with gifts under the tree and a special Christmas Feast on the table. This is made possible by the generosity of community members and the donations from the Annual Kernersville Stocking Fund Concert. Don’t miss this annual Kernersville Tradition and join us for this special night on Friday, December 2 at 7pm at Main Street UMC. Start the Holiday Season off on a “jolly” foot and join us for this special night of fundraising, music, and merriment.

Hanging of the Greens
Everyone is invited to join the Altar Guild on Saturday, December 3 starting at 9:30am as we come together and decorate our church sanctuaries and campus for the holiday season. What a fun and exciting way to meet new people and catch the holiday spirit!

Toys for the children of Crane’s Nest, VA
While out shopping, please consider picking up a new unwrapped toy for the children of Crane’s Nest VA. Donation boxes are located in the Commons and in the Narthex. All donations need to be at the church by NOON on Sunday, December 4.

Operation Christmas Child
It’s Shoebox Season! Pack a shoebox and turn it into the church office by NOON on Sunday, December 4 and help bring joy to children across the globe!
Advent at Main Street — All of the details you’ll need to know

Join us and Participate at the Kernersville Christmas Parade
Jump into the Christmas Spirit and join us as we walk and pass out candy at the Kernersville Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 4 at 2pm. More details coming soon! CLICK HERE to let us know you are going to be joining us at the Christmas Parade!

FUN and Free Children’s Craft Night
On Wednesday, December 7, Victoria Smathers will be hosting a Kids Connect Christmas Craft Night for all kiddos who join us for dinner! Don’t cook, make your reservation for dinner and stay for the craft! Is there a better way to celebrate Christmas, we don’t think so!

Breakfast with Santa
On Saturday, December 10 you are invited to join us and have Breakfast with Santa. Santa will be taking reservations for breakfast at 8:30am & 9:30am in the fellowship hall. Mrs. Claus will be preparing a smorgasbord of delightful finger-foods including muffins, doughnuts, bagels, croissants, and fruit for you and your family to enjoy. Don’t forget to bring your camera because Santa is looking forward to having his photograph taken with everyone who joins him for breakfast! CLICK HERE and make your reservation today. The suggested donation for this morning of holiday cheer is only $5.00 per person.

Christmas Cookie Decorating
On Sunday, December 11 starting at 9:45am all of our Kids Connect class will meet in the fellowship hall and decorate cookies for Christmas. No reservations needed!

*NOW: Night of Worship Christmas Service
Join us on Thursday, December 15 at 7:00pm for a special NOW Christmas Service featuring Christmas Carols with a guest performance by our Angel Children’s Choir and some of our Preschool Students!

Youth Progressive Dinner
On Sunday, December 18 all youth from 6th-12th grade are invited to join us for dinner as we travel around Kernersville looking for fun and great food! For more information please contact Wayne Purdy at wayne.purdy@mainstreetumc.org!

*Christmas Eve, December 24 at Main Street UMC
Christmas Eve at Main Street starts at 4:00pm with our Family Christmas Eve Service. This service is led by our youth and confirmation class and is a perfect opportunity for all the children in attendance to become a part of the story! You won’t want to miss it! Nursery will be available at the 4pm Christmas Eve Service.

Our Christmas Eve Services will continue at *7:00pm and 11:00pm with our Traditional Candlelight Services. These touching and poignant services with Holy Communion are the perfect way to remember and reflect on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Nursery will be available at the 7pm Christmas Eve Service.

*Christmas Day
On Sunday, December 25 we have a special opportunity to come together as One Body of Christ on the day of his birth. Join us at 10:30am for this come-as-you-are, causal, and comfortable Christmas Day Worship Service.

*New Years Day
On Sunday, January 1 at 10:30am we will once again be gathering as one church at a combined worship service.

*Nursery will be available at these services.
Christmas Cards for Our Home Friends

Let’s continue the wonderful Main Street tradition of showing love and care for each other. As you begin to write your Christmas cards, please remember our Home Friends. The Member Care committee and Stephen Ministers will be collecting Christmas cards in the Narthex and will deliver them.

While we encourage you to send cards to all those who are close to you, please bring cards addressed only to those on the list below for the committee to deliver. Thank you for honoring this request and for making the Christmas season a little brighter for our Home Friends.

A card collection box will be in the Narthex from November 11 through December 5.

Jack & Barbara Barrier
Joan Bingham
Ann Brown
Ralph Bryant
Heather Camp
Arthur & Judy Craddock
Martha Crawford
Robert & Katie Dalton
Betty Edwards
Ed & Pauline Finn
Faye Friddle
Bill Gentry
Louise Griffin
Roger & Margaret Grubbs
Ruth Ann & Charlie Hall
Evelyn Houseward
Ruby Jones
Ann Kirkman
Ken & Jean Ladd
Ken & Mary Helen
Lamberson
Jan Manske
Howard Martin
Sam & Caroline Martin
Joan Pegg
Hank & Barbara Pfuhl
Dean Piatt
Van & Linda Sherrill
Elva Sieg
Millie Silfies
Laura Smith
Regie & Ruby Teague
Mabeth Thomas
Janet Turner
Pat Turner
Reggie Turner
Bennie & Kitty Weaver
Glenn Womack

Service of Hope and Healing

The holidays are approaching and for some of us they may look different this year. The loss of a loved one, a diagnosis, divorce, loss of a job, or other major life event may have changed our lives. Grief, sadness, tiredness, and anxiety are a few words that may describe the feelings you are experiencing. You may feel the need for gentle instead of jolly. Your Pastors and Stephen Ministers invite you to approach the holidays with HOPE. Please join us for a Service of Hope and Healing on Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Come hear the music, a message of hope, receive Communion, and have the opportunity for prayer and lighting a candle for loved ones, for a gentle entry into the holidays.
Special Advent Musical Worship Opportunities

**First Week of Advent:**
Sunday, November 27: Anthems presented by the Adult Choirs with a solo from Jim Chesson at 8:30am & 10:55am Worship in the Sanctuary

**Second Week of Advent:**
Sunday, December 4: Brass Music with the Alpha & Omega Youth Choir and Adult Choirs at 8:30am & 10:55am in the Sanctuary
  
  Alpha & Omega Youth Choir at 8:45am Worship in the Chapel

**Third Week of Advent:**
Sunday, December 11: Cantata—Peace: A Christmas Celebration at 8:30am & 10:55am Worship in the Sanctuary

**Fourth Week of Advent:**
Sunday, December 20: Music from the Handbell Choir, Angel Choir, and Adult Choirs at 8:30am & 10:55am in the Sanctuary

Thursday, December 15:
A NOW Christmas on Thursday, December 15 at 7:00pm in the Chapel with songs from the Angel Choir and our Preschool children.

Christmas Eve, Sat., Dec. 25
4:00pm Family Christmas Eve Service with guest pianist Beth Kasai in the Sanctuary

7:00pm & 11:00pm Christmas Eve Worship with our Adult Choir, Harp, Strings, Organ, and Piano

Christmas Morning
One Service at 10:30am with a Carol sing-along and Christmas Homily

Advent is a time of remembrance, celebration, and togetherness. Gather your family and friends and join us for Advent at Main Street.

Christmas Greetings From Your Stephen Ministers

Your Stephen Ministers send warmest greetings for Hope, Joy, Peace and Love this Christmas. We celebrate the birth of Christ and want to honor him by doing his will. Paul told us, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2. During this season of great joy and celebration, we recognize that some will be grieving ~ the loss of a loved one, strained family relationships, loneliness, divorce, job loss and many other life changing experiences. You are not alone. Please call the Main Street office (336-993-3411) and ask for Pastor Phil to receive the care of a Stephen Minister; someone who will listen non-judgmentally with complete confidentiality. We invite you to consider giving the gift of being a Stephen Minister. Please contact Pastor Phil for more information.
“Peace” on Cantata Sunday December 11

The Music Ministry of Main Street UMC will present Joel Raney’s “Peace: A Christmas Celebration” on Cantata Sunday, December 11, at the 8:30am and 10:55am worship services. There is much excitement among the singers about this cantata: we are stepping outside our “box” with this musical set in a jazz-gospel style. You will hear many familiar Christmas tunes and carols all interpreted in fresh, new ways, exuding the very Spirit of Christmas. 30+ Singers have committed to sing for “Peace” this Christmas in the most significant choral project mounted since the pandemic began in 2020. The cantata draws inspiration from the song “Let there be Peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.” Narrator Phil Baugess reminds us there is no “Peace on Earth” without Christ, the Prince of Peace. And we are all called to do our part to follow Him by living and working for peace and justice in the world. No message could be more timely.

We have an awesome orchestra lined up to support us that features Helen Rifas, harpist with the Greensboro Symphony; our own Alison Lawson’s string quartet from Corda Entertainment; one of the Triad’s finest saxophonists, Greg Murphy on Alto Sax and his buddy, Howie Ledford on Tenor Sax; Flautist par excellence, Sharon Fogarty who has blessed us many times here at Main Street; UNCG colleagues Roddy Terrell, clarinet and Lauren Derflinger, oboe; our own Rich Blakemore has several jazz licks on the trumpet; Erin Lopp and Ryan Friddle will interpret the brilliant percussion score; and of course our own Jenny Lail and Keith Maxey bring it all together with their incomparable expertise on piano and organ.

It is a morning not to be missed, so make plans now to attend. Give someone the gift of music this Christmas by inviting them to come experience “Peace” at Main Street UMC on December 11!

Kids Connect Children’s Choirs present “The First Christmas” on Friday, December 16

This year the Kid’s Connect Choirs will present their Christmas play, “The First Christmas,” in the main Sanctuary, and the whole church is invited to come! The evening begins at 6:30pm with the voices of children singing—we will hear from the Carol Choir and the Angel Choir; then follows the Christmas play, a fully costumed, retelling of the Christmas story with audience participation—including a carol sing-a-long of beloved, familiar carols. We will hear from Director of Children’s Ministries, Victoria Smathers, who will share about Children’s Ministry at Main Street; and, afterwards we will move to the Commons for a Cookies and Cocoa Reception (coffee too, for the grownups)! The children will don little red aprons and Santa hats while serving YOU cookies that they have baked just for this occasion! To say we are excited is an understatement! This evening promises to be “merry and bright” while touching the very heart of Christmas. We hope to see you there and singing along with us on Friday evening, December 16 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary!
November 23: NO MEAL or OASIS Service
November 30: Sloppy Joe Casserole with Great Expectations Serving
December 7: Chicken & Wild Rice Casserole with JC Grose Class Serving
December 14: Ham & Bean Soup—New Horizons/Journey Serving
December 21 & 28: NO MEAL or OASIS Service
January 4: NO MEAL or OASIS SERVICE

Here’s everything you need to know!
Don’t cook on Wednesdays, come have dinner with us!

The cost is $6.00 per adult and $3.00 per child 10 and under.
Please visit our website and sign up using the Wednesday Night Dinner Reservation Form or you can call or email betsy.tang@mainstreetumc.org / 336-993-3411 at the church office to make your dinner reservation.

We extend our sympathies to:
• Georg Domenig upon the death of his mother
• Jennifer Eminger and Meredith Harrell upon the death of their father, John Owensby

Books-A-Palooza is a new ministry established by MSUMC Outreach Committee to help spread literacy to children at Kernersville Elementary School (a Title I/high risk school). The goal is to give every child at KES an age-appropriate book (new or used) to take home at Christmas break and over the summer since many of these students don’t have any books at home. KES has about 750 students, so we will need about 850 books each semester (1,700 a year).

How can you help?
• You can donate new or used children’s books into the container in the commons area
• You can donate used books for teens and adults in the commons area to be taken to a used bookstore to be exchanged for store credit to be used to purchase children’s books
• You can make a donation with the note Book-A-Palooza and the money will go into a designated account that will be used to purchase new or used children’s books
• The books will be sorted by grade and books will be purchased to fill in where needed; we are going to try to keep books between $1-3, so if an individual or group would like to sponsor a class a $30 donation would be a good estimate

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jennifer Raiford Graves or Amy Pitts.
Better Together, Budget, and Moving Forward Updates

2023 Pledge Campaign Update—
The “Better Together” annual pledge campaign is in full swing. When we became members, we each pledged to faithfully support Main Street with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. It’s now time to renew our commitment for another year. I encourage you to take a step of faith forward by increasing your giving by 1% to move toward a 10% tithe. For those that have not yet reached a 3% foundation level consider taking a step of faith with a commitment to give 3% of your income. If you do not have the pledge card that was mailed, they are available in the narthex and the office. The pledge card includes a table to help determine your new step of faith contribution for 2023. Please turn in your pledge cards by November 20. Please put your pledge card in the offering plate, drop it by the church office, mail it to 306 South Main Street, Kernersville, NC 27284 or you can email your pledge information to Tina.Crew@MainStreetUMC.org.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of your 2023 pledge.

2022 Budget Update—
Thanks to everyone for your faithful giving in 2022. As of October 31, Main Street members and other supporters have generously contributed $863,000 toward our regular budget. To fully fund the 2022 budget total regular contributions needed are $1,139,000. There will be some reductions in expenditures versus budget partly due to temporary vacancies in staff positions. Even with the reduction in budgeted expenditures we still have a long way to go in November and December to meet our 2022 financial needs! Let’s all step up and finish 2022 strong.

Moving Forward Capital Campaign Update—
“Moving Forward” giving through month end October is $94,000. We need to receive $12,000 per month to pay monthly mortgage payments. I’m happy to report that the loan balance has been reduced to $1,543,000. Thank you for your ongoing support. Consider designating a memorial gift or making a special year end gift to the Moving Forward Campaign.

Wes O’Brien, Finance Chair

Upcoming Heritage Club Gatherings

December 2 —
Dinner at Cody Creek. Seating is at 6pm, leave the church at 4:30pm. Reservations are required by November 28

December 15—
Wohlfahrt Dinner Theater show “Christmas Spectacular.” Reservations and money are due by November 15. We will leave the church at 10:00am

2023 Heritage Club Event Planning is underway. Be on the lookout for new and exciting Heritage Club adventures that you can attend!
Order your Poinsettia TODAY!

As in years past, we will decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas with poinsettias. A poinsettia may be placed in the church in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. These nursery-quality poinsettias can be ordered through the church office for $14.00 each. Orders are due no later than November 27. You can write a note on an offering envelope and place your payment in the offering plate today or you can place your order using the “sign ups” tab on our church website (www.mainstreetumc.org). If you would rather make a memorial donation instead of purchasing a poinsettia, there is also an option on the “sign up” to make an Honorarium/Memorial contribution to the Kernersville Christmas Stocking Fund. Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary and Chapel for worship on December 18 and 25 and **we will list the gifts (both poinsettias and stocking fund memorials) in the December 20 newsletter.**

**THANK YOU!**

October has come and gone, and we now move into a season of Thanksgiving. In that spirit of thanksgiving, Victoria and I would like to express our sincere thank you to everyone who help with the pumpkin patch, from setting up the patch, then unloading the pumpkins, working a shift during the month, and then taking down the patch. Because of everyone’s help we were able to raise $9,000.00 that will be used in various missions and outreach projects in our community. We would like to extend a special thanks to Beth Vaught and the Main Street Preschool. Once again, Beth used her gift of creativity to decorate the patch that allowed many community members to make special memories with their families. This year the Main Street Preschool stepped up to help with the day-to-day operations of the Pumpkin Patch. Moving forward we are excited to work hand in hand with the Preschool as they take on a bigger role in the operations of this incredible mission opportunity next year.

—Wayne Purdy & Victoria Smathers

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**Ministries Opportunities Survey**

It’s not too late to find new and exciting ways to learn, grow, and share the Love of Christ by filling out our 2023 Ministry Opportunities Survey.

We have over 70 Ministry Opportunities for you to explore! Find out more [here](#) or visit our website under the “Sign-Up” tab to read the Ministries Opportunities Description Guide. Ministry Opportunities include:

- Children’s Ministries
- Church Fellowship & Community Meals
- Discipleship & Fellowship
- Member Care
- Music Ministries
- Radical Hospitality Worship Groups
- Technology & Creative Arts
- Worship Ministries
- Youth Ministries

There is something for EVERYONE!

Explore and Sign-Up for something NEW today by following the link below!

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Better Together Ministry Opportunities Survey
GIVE Kids Connect a chance and join us in December to get wrapped up in Christmas!

Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God’s greatest gift.

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.”
Luke 2:11 NIrV

Let’s Engage in Everyday Moments Together

In the Morning: As you kid starts their day, share something about their personality that feels like a gift to you and to others.

At Bedtime: Prayer for each other: “God, thank You for the way You have worked in our lives in the past. We trust in Your plan for the things we will face tomorrow and in the future.”

In the Car: While on the go, ask your kid: “What is your favorite Christmas song?”

At the Table: At a meal, ask everyone at the table this question: “What are our plans for Christmas — what do we need to do and what else do we want to do?”

Weekly Kids Connect Lessons

Week One
Jesus Is Promised
Isaiah 9:6-7
God always has a plan.

Week Two
Zechariah/Elizabeth and Gabriel/Mary
Luke 1:5-66
Anything is possible with God.

Week Three
Jesus is Born
Luke 2:1-7
Jesus is the greatest gift.

Week Four
Shepherds and Angels
Luke 2:8-20
The good news is for everyone.
## a Record of our Faithfulness

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**Volunteers Needed**

To be a part of our Sunday Counting Teams. We are in need of two or three unrelated individuals to count the contributions after the 10:55am worship service on the first Sunday of each month. If you can help, please email tina.crew@mainstreetumc.org.

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**You are Invited**

Join Alan & Marsha Martin on Saturday, December 3 from 2-4pm in the Commons to celebrate the 90th birthday of Alan’s father, Hugh Martin. Come by with warm wishes and enjoy a slice of cake and punch.
Our
2022 Charge Conference
will take place on
Sunday, November 20 at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall.