



— THIRD SUNDAY OF —  
**ADVENT**

December 15, 2024  
8:30am Worship Service  
Main Street United Methodist Church

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**WELCOME**

Victoria Smathers

**PRELUDE**

*Prelude on the Ukrainian Carol - Carol of the Bells*  
Jill Gardner, organist

Alfred V. Fedak

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rejoice, for God is here! **God is our strength and our light.**  
Let us give thanks to God. **We will sing praises for all the earth to hear!**

Victoria Smathers

**\* HYMN No. 220**

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

REGENT SQUARE

**ANTHEM**

*Once in Royal David's City*  
Chorale; Jill Gardner, pianist; Nancy Blakemore, director

arr. Howard Helvey

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 1: 57-80  
Pew Bible, NT page 57

Lanny Lancaster

**SERMON**

"Christmas Spirit: Go Before the Lord"

Lanny Lancaster

**\* HYMN No. 209**

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

MERLE'S TUNE

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

Wes O'Brien

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 880** The Nicene Creed

Phil Kuntz

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in the one holy catholic\* and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*\*universal*

**\* SHARING THE PEACE**

Phil Kuntz

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Whitaker Family

No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kin-dom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

**Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.**

We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Phil Kuntz

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Phil Kuntz

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## OFFERING INVITATION

Phil Kuntz

Offertory

*Ave, Ave, the Angel Sang*

Robert Lau

\*Offertory Response *Father, We Have Heard You Calling*

HYFRYDOL

**Praise we bring to God the Father, praise we bring to God the Son,  
Praise to God the Holy Spirit, praise to you, the three in one.**

**Trinity of love inspire us, may we always strive to be one in love and  
one in worship—children of eternity.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Phil Kuntz

\* HYMN No. 213

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

TRURO

\* BENEDICTION

Phil Kuntz

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*People, Look East, vs 3*

*French/BESANÇON*

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.**

**People, look east: Love the Star, is on the way.**

## POSTLUDE

*People, Look East*

Kristina Langlois

\* please stand as you are able

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## Welcome to worship at Main Street United Methodist Church!

When Christians worship, we step into an alternative world. Liturgy and ritual, hymns and prayers invite us into another landscape. Jesus' words and the experience of his presence peel back the rhetoric that pummels our eardrums so that we are able to hear him say to us, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."  
(John 14:27, NRSV)

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### Thank you for worshipping with us today at Main Street UMC!

If you are a visitor, please sign the attendance pad in the pew so that we can contact you at a later date in order to discuss the ministries of Main Street UMC.

**Restrooms** are located in the back left corner of the Narthex.

**Should you need to step out during worship**, you can go to the Parlor and still view and hear the worship service. Please see an usher if you need assistance.

**Main Street UMC's Sanctuary** is an area where photography, video and audio recording may occur. Camera angles may capture your image as you worship. Our weekly services are routinely shared with others via livestream and DVD. If you would like a DVD of today's 10:55 service, please contact Kathryn at 993-3411 in the church office.

**Confidential prayer requests** can be made by calling the church office at 336-993-3411 or by clicking the "contact" tab on [mainstreetumc.org](http://mainstreetumc.org).

**Children's Ministry:** We are so happy to share God's love with our children! Main Street is a Safe Sanctuary Congregation.

- *Nursery* (8:30-noon) is available for infants-3 year olds in the Education Building. The nursery is staffed with experienced caregivers and lay volunteers.
- *Kids Connect* is our Sunday School (9:45-10:45am) program for children ages 3 years old to 5th grade in the Education building. Kids Connect offers a large group Bible lesson, worship, and small group activities.
- *Kids Connect-Worship* is offered during the 10:55am service for wiggly kids ages 3 years to 1st grade who can't quite remain in worship the entire time. Kids of all ages are invited to the front for *Moments with Children* before the younger children are dismissed to the Education Building for *Kids Connect-Worship* activities.

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## Let's Worship Together!

### Sundays

8:30am less-formal Traditional service in the Sanctuary  
8:45am Jubilee Contemporary service in the Chapel  
10:55am Traditional Worship service in the Sanctuary

### Wednesdays (September-May)

5:30pm Oasis Mid-week Service in the Sanctuary

### Thursdays

6:30pm NOW: Night of Worship contemporary service in the Chapel (1st & 3rd Thursdays)

## Main Street UMC Staff

Lanny Lancaster, Senior Pastor  
Phil Kuntz, Associate Pastor  
Al Ward, Minister of Visitation  
Wayne Purdy, Pastor of Youth Ministries  
Victoria Smathers, Director of Children's Min.  
Nancy Blakemore, Director of Music Ministries  
Clay Howard, Jubilee Music Director  
Jill Gardner, Organist/Pianist  
Jenny Lail, Alpha & Omega Youth Choir Director

Tina Crew, Business Manager  
Betsy Tang, Administrative Assistant  
Kathryn Jenkins, Administrative Assistant  
Anthony Simmonds, Custodian  
Willie Craven, Custodian  
La'Niah Johnson-Flemming, Custodian  
Kellie Vinay, Preschool Director  
Cynthia Barron, Kitchen Hostess

Main Street United Methodist Church

306 S. Main Street, Kernersville, NC 27284 336-993-3411 [www.mainstreetumc.org](http://www.mainstreetumc.org)

**THE WHITE ROSEBUD** on the altar in the Sanctuary is given to the Glory of God and in memory of Sandy Tufo.

**THE RED ROSEBUD** on the altar in the Sanctuary is given to the Glory of God and in honor of the birth of Michael Thomas Wayne Byers, son of Ashley Greenfield and Jesse Byers, grandson of Wayne & Diane Byers.

**THE WEDNESDAY CONNECT DINNER** on **December 18** is Pork Loin (*gluten-free entrée is available upon request*). Dinner is served at **5:30pm**. Dining together is a great fellowship opportunity, but if you need to get your meal “to-go”, then we can do that, too! We have disposable takeout containers but we encourage you to bring your own re-usable containers for “to-go” meals. Reservations can be made by: signing a reservation card and placing it in the offering plate; calling the church office at 336-993-3411; emailing Kathryn (kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org); visiting our website or clicking the link in the Thursday Connections email each week. Reservations for dining in-person or “to-go” must be made by **Monday at noon**. The suggested donation is \$6/adult, \$3/child (10 & under). *Genesis/Becoming/Crossroads SS classes serving.*

**COOKIES NEEDED:** We would like to gift our Bethany Café guests some Christmas cookies during Bethany Café on December 21. Bring your homemade cookies to the church office on **December 16-20** during office hours. Please package 6 cookies in a Ziploc bag and label the bag with the type of cookie. We need 250 bags to have enough to include one bag with each meal served.

**NIGHT OF WORSHIP (NOW)** is starting a new Christmas tradition—Main Street UMC Preschool is combining with the A&O Choir and the NOW band on **December 19** at 6:30pm. Please join us as our preschool children tell the story of the night our Savior was born! We will enjoy music from kids, adults, and youth.

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** As you celebrate the birth of Christ with family and friends, include one of our Christmas Eve worship services in your plans:

- We have a 4:00pm Family Service that is led by our youth and includes a duet by Alicia Lail and Sarah Foster along with an opportunity for all the children to become a part of the Christmas Story!
- We offer Traditional Candlelight Services at 7pm and 11pm with Holy Communion, special music, and a Christmas message from our Senior Pastor, Rev. Lanny Lancaster.

**COUNTING TEAM:** We are in need of an additional person to be a part of the Sunday Counting Team on the 2nd Sunday of each month. If you can volunteer, please contact Tina Crew in the Church Office.

**UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL BOOKS** for January/February have arrived! Pick up your copy in the Sanctuary Narthex, at the “Member Pick-up Station” inside the Main Entrance, or in the Chapel Narthex.

**YARD SIGNS** to support our neighbors in Western North Carolina are available from members of the New Horizons SS class and from the Church Office during the week for a suggested donation of \$20 (cash or checks written to New Horizons class). Money raised will go to UMCOR.

**CHICKEN PIES:** It’s almost time to think about Chicken Pies! Our United Methodist Men will begin taking orders for Mrs. Pumpkins frozen chicken pies on **January 1**. More details coming soon!

**THIS IS THE WAY...** How is God calling you forward in 2025? How is God calling us forward as Main Street United Methodist Church? Come join us on Wednesdays at 11am or 6:30pm as we look at Jesus’ life, teachings, and ministry and reflect on how that can teach us the way forward into this new year. Pastor Lanny will lead this class in the Chapel starting on **January 8** and ending on May 21. Please let us know that you’d like to attend by registering at mainstreetumc.org and click “signups” on the red stripe.

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY** on **January 12**—contact Pastor Phil Kuntz if you are interested in becoming a member of Main Street UMC on this date or another date.

**HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP BIBLE STUDY:** A 6-week video-based study called "A History of Christian Worship" will be offered on Wednesday nights starting on **February 12**. Segments include Music, Art & Drama, Baptism and Communion. How have these elements of worship evolved over the 2000 years of Christianity and in various faith communities? The class will meet from 6:30 to 8:15 in room 320 (upstairs Commons classroom) and be led by Wade and Jan Hampton. No preparation is required between classes,