



MAIN STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 5, 2025

Epiphany Sunday

10:55 am

Traditional Worship Service

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Wayne Purdy

PRELUDE

We Three Kings
Jill Gardner, pianist

Lloyd Larson

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
The risen Christ is with us. **Praise the Lord!**

Victoria Smathers

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN** No. 254

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

*** SHARING THE PEACE**

Victoria Smathers

PASTORAL PRAYER

Phil Kuntz

KIDS' TIME

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Victoria Smathers

**Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world; every color, shape, and size,
They are precious in his eyes. Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

Children ages 3 years to 1st grade are dismissed to *Kids Connect-Worship*.
Parents may pick up their children in the Children's Education Building after the worship service.

PSALTER READING UMH page 795

Psalm 72

Ann Ballard

ANTHEM

Jesus, the Light of the World
Chancel Choir; Jill Gardner, pianist; Nancy Blakemore, director

Ken Bible and George D. Elderkin

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2: 1-12
Pew Bible, NT page 2

Lanny Lancaster

HOMILY

"This is the Way: A Light to the Nations"

Lanny Lancaster

*** HYMN** No. 249

There's a Song in the Air

CHRISTMAS SONG

*** OFFERING INVITATION**

Offertory

In The Bleak Midwinter

Phil Kuntz

Allen Orton Gibbs

*Doxology No. 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Wayne Purdy

THE 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 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.

SHARING THE MEAL

Music for Meditation, Jill Gardner

In the United Methodist Church, the Lord's Table is open to everyone who seeks the grace of God in Christ. Because of our conviction that God's grace is extended to people of all ages, children are welcome at the communion table. You will stand to receive the elements and then kneel to pray at the communion rail if you choose. As a sign of your openness to receive the sacrament, stretch out your hands to receive the bread. The pastors will place a piece of bread in your hand and you will be offered the cup. By faith, this will be for you a sharing in the Body and Blood of Christ. The ushers will guide your coming to and going from the Lord's Table. If you are unable to come to the front to receive communion, just let one of the ushers know and the pastors will serve you in your seat. You are welcome to leave an offering to the poor on the communion rail. Pre-packaged Communion elements are available upon request from the basket at the communion rail.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

* **HYMN** No. 221

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

* **BENEDICTION**

Lanny Lancaster

* **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

* **POSTLUDE**

Sing We Now of Christmas

Nathan Cain

* please stand as you are able

Today's Communion Assistants: Cynthia Barron, Tina Crew

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)

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.

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.

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)

5:00pm 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, Dir. of Children's Ministries
Nancy Blakemore, Director of Music Ministries
Clay Howard, Jubilee Music Director
Jenny Lail, Alpha & Omega Youth Choir Director
Jill Gardner, Organist/Pianist

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

Announcements

LADIES TEA—You are invited to join the ladies of the *Tuesdays Together in Faith Group* at a Ladies Tea to kickoff the new year on **January 7** at 10:30am in the Commons. RSVP to Susan Furmage at 336-671-1244.

THE WEDNESDAY CONNECT DINNER on **January 8** is Lasagna (*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*). *We accept cash, check, or cards. Great Expectations SS class serving.*

NEW START TIME FOR OASIS WORSHIP SERVICE: Come to the Sanctuary at 5:00pm (*new time!!*) on Wednesdays for an intimate 30-minute service with Holy Communion and prayer led by one of our pastors, with music by Chuck Foster, and a short devotion by a member of our congregation. Our Oasis service is meant to be a time of refreshment & encouragement in the middle of a busy week.

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: Our United Methodist Men are taking orders for Mrs. Pumpkins Frozen Chicken Pies! You can order frozen 9 inch Moravian Chicken Pie, Baked Spaghetti, and/or Brownies for \$15 each, or mix and match 3 for \$42.00. 4 pack 5-inch individual frozen Moravian Chicken Pies are available for \$17.00 and NOT in the mix and match deal mentioned above. Orders can be placed with any United Methodist Men member with your order request, name, email and phone number. The last day to order will be February 17. You should plan to pick up your order between 9am and noon on **February 22**.

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.

HERITAGE CLUB meets for breakfast at the Olympic Restaurant in Kernersville on **January 14** at 9:00am.

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, just come, watch, discuss. Please let us know that you will attend by signing up at mainstreetumc.org and click “signups” on the red stripe. Class will be limited to 24 participants and will run for 6 weeks.

COLLECTION BOXES are in the new main entrance for: **BOOKSAPALOOZA**, donate new or used books; **HOPE CENTER**, donate empty egg cartons, clothing, groceries; and **CRISIS CONTROL**, donate non-perishable food, each month has an item to focus on, January's item is canned beef stew.

CHILI COOKOFF to raise funds for Youth Mission Trips this summer will be at 5:30pm on **January 26**. Make up a pot of your favorite chili and enter it into our contest (there will be prizes!). Even if you don't want to make chili for the contest, we still need people to eat all the chili, so come on out! Admission is free but donations will be gratefully accepted for Youth Missions.

THANK YOU for helping to care for our Sanctuary by not bringing in food or beverages.

Lyrics

WE THREE KINGS

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

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

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

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

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

5. Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

THERE'S A SONG IN THE AIR

1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky! There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry! And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a Kind!

2. There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth, for the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth. Ay! The star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

3. In the light of that star lie the ages impearled; and that song from afar has swept over the world. Every hearth is aflame and the beautiful sing in the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!

4. We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song that comes down through the night from the heavenly throng. Ay! We should to the lovely evangel they bring and we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Out God, heaven cannot hold him, no earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

4. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Service of Holy Communion

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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. *All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE 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 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.