

The Main Stream

January 21, 2025 - Volume 2025, Issue 1



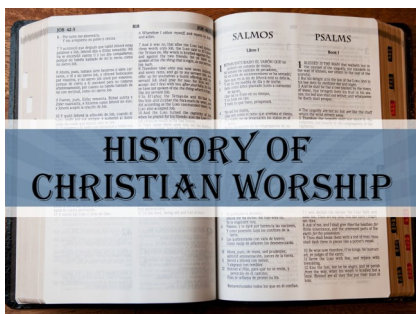
Happy New Year Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

One of my favorite quotes comes from Saint Benedict (widely regarded as the Father of the Monastic Movement): "Always, we begin again." It has become a constant reminder to me that every single day that we wake up is a new chance at this thing we call, "life," a new opportunity to love God, love others, and yes, even to love ourselves.

Certainly, the dawn of a New Year is a chance to begin again. Each New Year is like a holy threshold, crossing into a new season of life. Many of the details of our lives may look the same: same school, same job, same home, same joys, same challenges. But, in reality, they are new if we are open ourselves to the movement of the Spirit of Christ breathing new life into them.

As you stand on this holy threshold that we call, "2025," how might you move forward? Where do you feel energy, or possibilities, or even necessities drawing you forward? One of the spiritual "secrets" is that God is moving in it all. One of the best ways to move forward, to "begin again" is with Christ and the people of Christ, the Church. After all, Jesus said very emphatically, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:6) May Christ be with you and with us in this new year: new opportunities, new chances, a new life! "Always, we begin again!"

Pastor Lenny



History of Christian Worship Bible Study

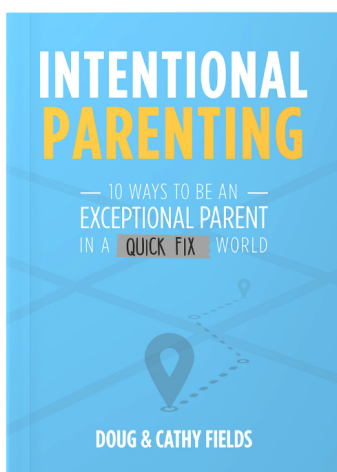
A 6-week video-based study called "A History of Christian Worship" will be offered on Wednesday nights starting on February 12.

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.

Sharing in Joy:

- Congratulations to Jesse Byers and Ashley Greenfield upon the birth of their son, Michael Thomas Wayne Byers. Grandparents are Wayne & Diane Byers.



Intentional Parenting Study

Join Victoria Smathers (*Director of Children's Ministry*) and Kellie Vinay (*Director of MSUMC Preschool*) in this 6 week study.

Classes meet alternating Thursdays beginning January 23 at 6:30 pm in Room 320.

Class is open to all- MSUMC members or non!

Discover how to be intentional in your parenting to help you be the parent you want to be.

Available at parentcuestore.org

sign up online @ mainstreetumc.org
or scan QR code



Welcome, New Members



Emmett & Jane Ellis



Carey Ellis



Carol Manz



Ivan & Beth Johnson



Patricia Braswell



Wanda Kirkman Nelson



Kim Bradfield



Bob McIlree



FLOOD BUCKETS

In the months after Hurricane Helene, the needs of our neighbors in WNC are no less urgent or heavy on our hearts. Our *Night of Worship* team is gearing up for a special Hands-On outreach opportunity, and they need your support! A donation of \$75 dollars will sponsor one entire flood bucket full of cleaning supplies and other aid items. Our NOW team will be gathering all the needed materials to pack flood buckets, and we will come together as a church family to assemble them during the NOW service on Thursday, **February 6**. Please consider contributing to this outreach opportunity financially or by joining

us on February 6 for assembly! If you have questions about how you can help, please contact the church office at 336-993-3411.

JOURNEYS OF PAUL IN GREECE AND TURKEY

Pastor Mark Key is hosting an educational and spiritual trip to Greece and Turkey tracing the "Journeys of Paul" with Educational Opportunities in September of 2025. The pilgrimage will include a large selection of the places Paul traveled to and wrote letters to. The experience will give the sojourners an in-depth understanding of the apostle who wrote 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament, traveled more than 10,000 miles and started at least 16 churches in the Roman Empire. For more information, contact Pastor Mark at mkey@wnccumc.net.



Youth Chili Cook-Off

**January 26, 2025 at 5:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall**

There will be Chili (all types) and prizes! Don't miss the fun--join us at the Chili Cook-Off! Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. This is a fundraiser for Youth Missions. Contact Wayne Purdy in the church office for more details about entering your chili in the cook-off.



Now that I've completed my term as Finance Chair, I'd like to share positive 2024 year-end financial results and want to thank everyone for stepping up to support Main Street's Ministries. Total 2024 budget income was \$1,049,000 and total expense was \$1,049,000.

With the congregation's sacrificial and generous giving this year, especially in December, we replenished our operating reserve, a major accomplishment. At one point our deficit was -\$43,000 after paying necessary expenses. Next, we fully funded actual 2024 expenses with 2024 income. With help from an endowment fund and another special outreach fund, 100% of planned mission support was funded for local and non-local organizations such as Crisis Control, Shepherd's Center, Food Bank of NW NC, Egbe School in Africa, Kairos Prison Ministry and many others. Finally, we funded \$75,000 or almost 75% of budgeted connectional support through the Conference and our local District. As of November, we had only funded 40% of this line item.

Additionally, building fund giving was \$160,700 which funded our monthly \$12,000 payments. The current loan balance has reduced to \$1,272,880. Also, we raised over \$47,000 for Western NC Disaster support, and money for many other ministries and non-budgeted needs. Even though we had a challenging financial year, the congregation stepped up in a major way at year end, paving the way for Main Street's ministries to again be strong and successful in 2025.

—Wes O'Brien, Past Finance Chair



CareNet Counseling center, located on our campus in the Chapel building, is in need of additional weekday greeters. If you are interested in volunteering a couple of hours each week, please contact Tina Crew in the Church Office.



New Start Time for Oasis Service

Beginning January 8, our Oasis service will start at **5:00pm** in the Sanctuary.

Oasis is an intimate 30-minute service with music, prayer, communion, and a brief message of encouragement by a member of our congregation.



2024 has been an exciting year as Holy Cross Orthodox Church has partnered with Main Street UMC in Bethany Café. They are preparing two meals per year as well as volunteering throughout the year on our teams.

Starbucks at Oak Ridge joined Main Street and Union Cross Starbucks in donating Soul Food which is given to in-house and delivery guests each month. Through December Starbucks has donated over 4500 items to our guests. Cake and All Things Yummy has donated over 450 cupcakes. In addition, Sunday School classes, Wednesday Night Dinners and individuals have donated items such as backpacks with school supplies, prepared meals, snack items, household items that every family needs, garden vegetables and other items for which I failed to keep a record. (I'll try to do better in 2025!) It is a blessing each month to see what God has sent!

Unfortunately, for us, Starbucks on Main Street has elected to donate their food to Feed America. We are thankful for the food they have donated and are also thankful their food will still be providing nourishment to those who need it.

And then we have cookies for Christmas! We had 450 bags of cookies donated for Bethany Café in December. We blessed all our in-house guests and delivery recipients with bags of cookies. Thank you to all who provided cookies.

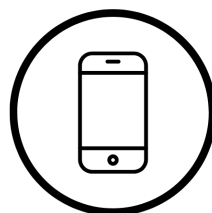
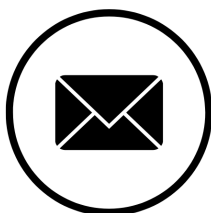
The Bethany Café Team wants you to know how much we appreciate your support of our monthly provision of food to the Kernersville community. Thank you and we look forward to a blessed 2025!



A collection box is in the new main entrance for donations to Crisis Control's Item of the Month. The item for January is **CANNED BEEF STEW**; other non-perishable food items can be donated as well.

Do we have your current contact information?

Please let the Church Office know if you have recently moved, dropped your landline, switched email addresses, etc. Thank you for helping us stay in touch!





Main Street's Heritage Club is a group of active adults who gather for fun activities.

Contact Debbie Smith (*call church office for phone number*)
for more information and to make reservations.

The Heritage Club would love to have new friends join them at these next events:

- **Friday, January 31: Game night** at Main Street UMC in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00. Bring a favorite finger food or dessert to share. If you have a game that you like to play, please bring that too.
- **Friday, February 7: Pizza dinner and movie night.** Join us at 5:30 in the Main Street UMC Fellowship Hall for pizza, salad, and dessert. We will watch the movie "Forge" after dinner. Cost will be \$5 per person to cover the cost of the food. Reservations are required by February 4.
- **Friday, February 21: Lunch at the Seafood Shack** in Walkertown at 11:30. Meet there and pay for your meal at the restaurant.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE NON-PROFIT?

If you would like to make a case for including a specific non-profit organization in the Main Street 2025 Outreach Budget, please come to the **January 21** meeting of the Outreach Committee at 7:00pm in Room 310 (downstairs Commons classroom) to speak for no more than 3 minutes and/or submit a dozen handouts about that organization to the Church Office prior to Jan. 21. Contact Jan Hampton for more information.

We extend our sympathies to:

- The family & friends of Sandy Tufo.
- The family & friends of Lottie Mae Flemming.
- Eileen Kirby-Smith on the death of her brother-in-law, William E. Tyndall.
- Robert Edwards and Nancy Blakemore on the death of their cousin, William "Billy" C. Edwards, Jr.
- Rose Marie Mitchell upon the death of her brother, Raymond Gizara.
- Scott Higgins upon the death of his father, Kenneth Higgins.
- Brandon Pegram upon the death of his mother, Debbie.
- Dave Black upon the death of his mother, Priscilla.

**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**.

A collection box is in the new main entrance for donations of the following items to the Hope Center:

- Empty egg cartons
- Clothing in good shape (*including shoes and baby clothes*)
- Fresh produce from your garden
- Grocery items including Toilet paper and other paper products
- Diapers, wipes and baby food
- Feminine hygiene products
- Breakfast cereal, peanut butter, canned meat and other non-refrigerated foods



Don't cook on Wednesdays, come have dinner with us from 5:30-6:30pm! Dining together is a great opportunity for fellowship, 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.

- Jan. 22—Chicken Potpie Casserole** with New Horizons class serving
- Jan. 29—Baked Potato Bar** with Seafarers serving
- Feb. 5—Ham & Bean Soup** with Christian Fellowship and Rise SS classes serving
- Feb. 12—Pot Roast** with Cornerstone serving
- Feb. 19—Creamy White Chicken Chili** with Genesis/Crossroads/Becoming classes serving

The suggested donation is \$6.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child (10 and under). We accept cash, check, or card. A gluten-free option is available upon request.

Reservations for dining in-person or "to-go" must be made by NOON on Monday: use the Wednesday Dinner reservation form on our website under the red "signups" stripe or contact Kathryn in the church office at 336-993-3411 or email kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org

As we begin 2025, Creation Care encourages each of us to reflect on our daily habits; and begin to ask ourselves what can we do differently to make an impact in our households, our town of Kernersville and model to others how we take care of our God's world and creation.

We can begin by:

- Avoiding use of single use plastic bottles/plastic bags (reusable water bottles and shopping bags)
- Recycling whenever possible
- Reducing water consumption (usage, behaviors, devices)
- Using what we have
- Considering second-hand items first
- Waiting... and wait some more (asking yourself, do I really need this?)
- Can something be fixed before replacing the item?
- Driving less (combine errands/trips)
- Reducing use of paper (think before printing/utilize QR code for church bulletins)



OLDER ADULT



LUNCHEON

OLDER ADULT LUNCHEON

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on

February 13

at 11:45am

for lunch and fellowship!

RSVP to Pat Knox at 336-993-5413



Main Street's Prayer Shawl group will meet on

January 23, February 13 & 27

at 9:30am in the Church Library.

Contact Patty Rapp (*call church office for phone number*) for more information — this group loves to have new friends join them!



Elementary



January

Just as seasons come and go, so do our emotions. And how we choose to handle those emotions can shape us and teach us a lot about how God cares for us. No matter what emotion we may be feeling or what we may face, because of Jesus, we can learn to trust that God knows how we feel. Jesus showed us how to face life with resilience, and because of it, we can trust God no matter what.

February

Every single one of us was created in the image of God. But even as image bearers, we were created as unique. There is only one you, and this month we have the chance to explore how God can use the ways we were created to make a difference.



Prek

January

Our preschoolers will grow up and experience a lot of different situations and emotions. We want children to know that Jesus is a friend that loves them at ALL times. A friend that will never leave them. That's why, this month, we are talking about THE best friend—the One who is ALWAYS a good friend. Rain or shine, Jesus is always a good friend of mine!



February

This month, you get to tell preschoolers that Jesus loves them. Jesus loves their family. Jesus loves their friends. **Jesus loves everyone!** And Jesus wants everyone to follow Him! So, crank up that bus! Get those wheels turning! There is a great big world that needs to hear that Jesus loves everyone!

a Record of our Faithfulness

OUR PRESENCE:	12-15-2024	12-22-2024	12-29-2024	1-5-2025	1-12-2025	1-19-2025
Sunday School	123	120	86	101	Snow	117
8:30am In-Person Worship	73	79	88	70	Snow	76
8:45 Jubilee In-Person Worship	85	77	52	75	Snow	90
10:55am In-Person Worship	163	155	116	121	143	155
In-Person Worship Totals	321	311	234	266	143	321
8:45am Jubilee Live Stream Worship (<i>Unique Views</i>)	74	23	17	14	n/a	15
10:55am Live Stream Worship (<i>Unique Views</i>)	18	48	47	51	195	85
Total Live Stream Unique Views	92	71	64	65	195	99
Live Streaming Totals (<i>unique views x 1.8</i>)	166	128	115	117	351	178
Attendance Totals	487	439	349	383	494	499
OUR GIFTS as of:	12-15-2024	12-22-2024	12-29-2024	1-5-2025	1-12-2025	1-19-2025
<i>Moving Forward</i> Building Fund Weekly Contributions	\$ 705	\$ 5,475	\$ 1,748	\$ 1,415	\$ 630	\$ 25,810
Weekly Contributions to Budget	\$ 34,062	\$ 43,294	\$ 49,110	\$ 12,806	\$20,025	\$ 8,620
Budget Contributions YTD	\$ 891,327	\$ 934,621	\$ 983,732	\$ 12,806	\$32,831	\$ 41,451

Main Street Ministries as of Dec. 31

Regular Giving \$ 968,180
 Expenses \$ 1,049,211
 Over/(Under) (\$ 81,031)
 Budget \$ 1,100,000

Building Fund as of Dec. 31

Building Fund Giving \$ 160,701
 Building Loan Payments \$ 144,000
 Over/(Under) \$ 16,701
 Loan Balance \$ 1,272,728

PUBLICATION DEADLINE:

Newsletter Articles are due by noon on the FIRST Friday of every month for publication in the mid-month newsletter.

**Main Street
United Methodist Church**

336-993-3411

306 South Main Street
Kernersville, NC 27284

Let's Worship Together

There is no better way to worship our Lord than
Worshipping Together. Come and Worship with
us at one or all of our services:

- Less-Formal Traditional Worship Service*:
Sundays at 8:30am in the Sanctuary
- Jubilee Contemporary Worship Service*:
Sundays at 8:45am Jubilee Service in the
Chapel
- Traditional Worship Service*: Sundays at
10:55am in the Sanctuary
- Oasis Mid-Week Service of Meditation:
Wednesdays at 5:00pm (September-May)
- NOW: Night of Worship*: 1st & 3rd
Thursdays of each month at 6:30pm in the
Chapel

* *childcare is provided at these services*

Church Staff

Our Ministers: the congregation of Main Street

Lanny Lancaster, Senior Pastor
Phil Kuntz, Associate Pastor
Al Ward, Minister of Visitation
Wayne Purdy, Pastor of Youth/College Min.
Victoria Smathers, Dir. of Children's Min.
Nancy Blakemore, Dir. of Music Min.
Jill Gardner, Organist/Pianist
Tina Crew, Business Manager
Betsy Tang, Administrative Assistant
Kathryn Jenkins, Administrative Assistant
Clay Howard, Jubilee Music Director
Kellie Vinay, Preschool Director
Jenny Lail, Alpha & Omega Youth Choir Dir.
Cynthia Barron, Kitchen Hostess
Anthony Simmonds, Willie Craven, and
La'Niah Johnson-Flemming, Custodians