



MAIN STREET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 14 , 2025  
Third Sunday of Advent

10:55am  
Traditional Worship Service

**CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

Wayne Purdy

**WE APPROACH GOD**

**PRELUDE**

*Hymns of Christmas*  
Main Street Ringers; Jill Gardner, director; Connie Burleson, organist

James E. Helman

**CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

**INTROIT**

*What Child Shall Come?*  
Alpha & Omega Youth Choir; Jenny Lail, director; Jennifer Graves, flute; Wes O'Brien, accompanist

arr. Libergen

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Victoria Smathers

A voice cries in the darkest wilderness: **Prepare the way, light is ahead!**

A voice of love calls in our darkest days: **Hear the good news, comfort for all.**

The voice of God has called us here. **We are ready and waiting, listening for hope.**

**\* OPENING HYMN** No. 217

*Away In A Manger*

AWAY IN A MANGER

**\* CANTICLE OF MARY** UMH No. 199 (with sung response)

Sarah McIntosh

**\* SHARING THE PEACE**

Sarah McIntosh

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

The Laws Family

*Advent Candle Lighting Song*, sung by the Carol Choir

Reading from Isaiah 35: 10

**Congregational Response: We choose to believe that the day is coming when “the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away”.**

Lighting of the Joy Candle

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** No. 895

Sarah McIntosh

**WE HEAR FROM GOD**

**ANTHEM**

*He Is Born!*  
Carol Choir; Elaine Fotia and Amei Manten, Handbell Soloists; Jill Branoff, accompanist

arr. Joseph M. Martin

## KIDS' TIME

Victoria Smathers

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

## SCRIPTURE

Daniel 7: 13-14  
Pew Bible, OT page 828

Lanny Lancaster

## SERMON

"Christ is Coming"

Lanny Lancaster

## WE RESPOND TO GOD

### \* HYMN No. 229

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

W ZLOBIE LEZY

## OFFERING INVITATION

Wayne Purdy

## OFFERTORY

*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*

African American Spiritual by

Jill Gardner, soprano soloist; Connie Burleson, accompanist

Robert MacGimsey

### \* 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

### \* HYMN No. 240

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

### \* BENEDICTION

Lanny Lancaster

### \* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

## POSTLUDE

*Postlude on ANTIOCH*

arr. A. Travis/M. Burkhardt

*The Postlude is the final Alleluia of our worship; you are invited to remain seated for a time of joyful prayer.*

\* 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.

**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 336-994-3411 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> grade who can't quite remain in worship the entire time. Kids of all ages are invited to the front for Kids' Time 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)

5:00pm Oasis Mid-week Service in the Sanctuary

### Main Street UMC Staff

Lanny Lancaster, Senior Pastor  
Sarah McIntosh, Associate Pastor  
Al Ward, Minister of Visitation  
Wayne Purdy, Pastor of Youth Ministries  
Victoria Smathers, Dir. of Children's Ministries  
Jill Gardner, Director of Music Ministries  
Clay Howard, Jubilee Music Director  
Jenny Lail, Alpha & Omega Youth Choir Director

Tina Crew, Business Manager  
Betsy Tang, Administrative Assistant  
Kathryn Jenkins, Administrative Assistant  
Kellie Vinay, Preschool Director  
Anthony Simmonds, Custodian  
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)

### **CHAPEL CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS**

United Women in Faith Circle #5 is selling beautiful MSUMC ornaments again this year. These ornaments are made of solid pewter and are made in the USA. We see this year's ornament featuring the "Chapel in the Snow" as a beautiful companion to last year's Sanctuary Ornament! We will again ask for a suggested donation of \$25 each. Proceeds from this sale will go to missions of the church and our community. We will take pre-orders in the Commons Area on Sundays. We will ask for payment at the time of pre-order.

### **CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR HOME FRIENDS**

Please return cards to the box in the Narthex—due date is **TODAY!**

### **LOVE OFFERING**

After twelve years of work as one of our custodians, Willie Craven is retiring. If you would like to express your appreciation to Willie upon his retirement, we will collect a love offering to offer him a token of our gratitude for his service to our church. Donations can be made directly to the church office with a note to add to the "Love Offering for Willie Craven". Due date is **TODAY.**

### **OASIS WORSHIP SERVICE**

Come to the Sanctuary at 5:00pm on **December 17** 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.

### **WEDNESDAY CONNECT DINNER**

The entrée on **December 17** is Pasta Fazool Italian Soup (*gluten-free entrée is available upon request*). Dinner is served at 5:30pm. Reservations can be made by: signing a reservation card and placing it in the offering plate; emailing Kathryn ([kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org](mailto:kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org)); calling the church office at 336-993-3411; 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. New Horizons class serving.

### **HELP NEEDED FOR CHURCH LOCKUP**

We're currently seeking a reliable individual to take on the responsibility of securing our facilities each evening. This would also include unlocking and relocking all buildings on Sundays. This role involves ensuring all doors are properly locked and the premises are safe before departure. Attention to detail and a strong sense of accountability are essential, as this task plays a critical role in maintaining the safety and integrity of our operations. This is a paid position. If you or someone you know is dependable and takes pride in keeping things secure, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Tina Crew in the church office for more details.

### **COOKIES, COOKIES, COOKIES**

We would like to continue our tradition of giving our Bethany Café guests some Christmas cookies during the meal on Dec. 20. Bring your homemade cookies to the church office on **December 15-19** during office hours. Please package 6 cookies in a Ziploc bag and label the bag with the type of cookie.

### **"SOUNDING JOY" CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

You are warmly invited to join us for our Christmas Program, "Sounding Joy" on Thursday, **December 18** at 6:30 pm. The evening will feature special music from our NOW band, A&O choir, Children's Choir, and preschoolers as we celebrate the season together. During the program, we'll explore what the joy of Christmas sounds like — leading to the beautiful discovery that it is the sound of the angels singing about the birth of Jesus.

### **CANTATA SUNDAY**

This year's Cantata service will be a celebrated *Festival of Lessons and Carols* which will take place on Sunday, **December 21 at 10:30am** in the Sanctuary as one combined service. Our Adult Choir Ministry is hard at work preparing the beautiful music of English composer, John Rutter, whose anthems and hymn settings will be at the heart of our Lessons and Carols Service this year. Accompanied by a 20-piece orchestra and led by an intergenerational array of narrators, this service of Ancient Word from the Ancient of Days will deeply touch and inspire our hearts as we contemplate anew the story of EMMANUEL coming to earth to save and encourage our souls.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

On **December 24**, we have three special services that are a part of Main Street's Christmas Eve tradition: Join us at 4:00pm for our Family Christmas Eve Service. This service is led by our youth and is a perfect opportunity for all the children in attendance to become a part of the story! 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. The 7:00pm service will be livestreamed.

### **UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL BOOKS**

The new issues for January/February have arrived! Pick up your copy in the Sanctuary Narthex, at the "Member Pick-up Station" inside the Main Entrance to the Connections Building, or in the Chapel Narthex.

## AWAY IN A MANGER

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes; I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

## INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

1. Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.
2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the babe was born for you.

## HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"