


MAIN STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent

10:55am
Traditional Worship Service

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Victoria Smathers

PRELUDE

The Holly and The Ivy arr. Mizzy McCaskill & Dona Gilliam
Peter Shanahan, flautist; Jill Gardner, pianist

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Victoria Smathers

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

*** OPENING HYMN** No. 220 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

REGENT SQUARE

*** SHARING THE PEACE**

Victoria Smathers

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Vinay Family

Advent Candle Lighting Song, sung by Kincaid Vinay
Reading from Isaiah 11:6

Congregational Response: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.

Lighting of the Peace Candle

PASTORAL PRAYER

Sarah McIntosh

KIDS' TIME AND BLESSING OF THE SHOEBOXES

Victoria Smathers

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.

ANTHEM

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Young Adult Choral Ensemble; Peter Shanahan, flautist; Jill Gardner, Director and Pianist

Mark Hayes

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 1
Pew Bible, OT page 489

Lanny Lancaster

HOMILY

"The Righteous are Like a Tree"

Lanny Lancaster

*** HYMN** TFWS No. 2025

As the Deer

AS THE DEER

OFFERING INVITATION

Sarah McIntosh

OFFERTORY

Greensleeves on A Ground Anonymous/Edited F. Cesarini
Peter Shanahan, flautist; Jill Gardner, organist

* **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

Sarah McIntosh

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION (Musical Setting) UMH pg. 12

Lanny Lancaster and Sarah McIntosh

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.**

Pastor ... we join in the song of unending praise, singing:

(To the tune of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored:

Heav'n and earth cannot contain, All the glory of your name!

Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is he who now drawn nigh.

In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:

Hail, hosanna! Praises due, be forever, Lord, to you!

Pastor ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

(To the tune of *Angels from the Realms of Glory* - refrain only)

Christ has died, Christ is risen, And our Christ will come again.

Pastor ... all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

* **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (to the tune of *Away in a Manger*)

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name! Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels, Come, Lord, reign alone: Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high
throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day: As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In time of temptation, to lead us be near; From evil deliver your children most dear.**

**For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign. And yours is the power; all things you
maintain.**

To you be the glory, resounding again, From all of creation, 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

Sarah McIntosh

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. 218

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

CAROL

* **BENEDICTION**

Lanny Lancaster

* **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

POSTLUDE

Noel of the Birds

Jacques Berthier

Peter Shanahan, flautist; Jill Gardner, organist

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

Today's Communion Assistants:

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)

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

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.

OASIS WORSHIP SERVICE

Come to the Sanctuary at 5:00pm 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 and encouragement in the middle of a busy week. Oasis will meet only on weeks that we have the Wednesday Night Connect Dinner.

WEDNESDAY CONNECT DINNER

The entrée on **December 10** is Pot Roast (*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); 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. Great Expectations SS 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 at 336-993-3411 for further details.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR HOME FRIENDS

Let's continue the wonderful Main Street tradition of showing love and care for each other with Christmas Cards for our Home Friends and Members over the age of 90. A list of names is available in the November newsletter and at the Member Pick-up Station. Please return cards to the box in the Narthex by **Dec. 14**.

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 Compassion in Action team invite you to approach the holidays with HOPE. Please join us for a *Service of Hope and Healing* on Tuesday, **December 9**, 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.

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 **December 14**.

BELONG—A CONVERSATION ABOUT MEMBERSHIP AT MSUMC

Have you been curious about becoming a member at Main Street? Do you have questions about what membership is all about? Ready to Join and want to know next Steps? No matter where you are on that continuum, if you want to come find out more about membership here at Main St, join Pastor Sarah in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, **December 14** at 10:00am to learn more!

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. We need 250 bags to have enough to include one bag with each meal served.

"SOUNDING JOY" CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

You are warmly invited to join us for our Christmas Program, "Sounding Joy" on Thursday, **December 18** at 6:30 p.m. 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.

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

1. Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
2. Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
4. Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear; suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

AS THE DEER

As the deer pants for the water, so my souls longs after you. You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you. You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield. You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men [all], from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing. O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!
4. For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.