

# ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FRONT STREET UMC



## “A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS”

DECEMBER 15 AT 10:45 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

No 8:45 a.m. traditional service

NOTE: 8:45 A.M. Aldersgate's service worships as usual

## COMMUNION SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 AT 12:00 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

## A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE FOR CHILDREN

DECEMBER 24 AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

## CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 AT 8:00 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

## DECEMBER 29 WORSHIP SERVICES

8:45 A.M. ALDERSGATE SERVICE WITH BREAKFAST

11:00 A.M. WESLEY COVENANT COMBINED SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

No 8:45 a.m. traditional service

## PREPARE FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

The Lord says, “Shout and rejoice, O Jerusalem, for I am coming to live among you.” (Zechariah 2:10) Surely you will agree *that* is an event of utmost significance! So beginning with this present moment of Advent, I hope you will join me in preparing to make this Christmas a most joyous one by readying your family and your life for the Christ.

Anticipating His coming,  
Ross

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# FRONTLINE

Focusing on the life and ministry  
of Front Street UMC



December 12, 2019 Volume MMXIX No. 22

## PREPARE FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS

*The people who walk in darkness will see a great light –  
a light that will shine on all who live in the land where death  
casts its shadow.  
– Isaiah 9:2*

I was thinking recently that I need to do things differently this year. Over the past couple of years Christmas has seemed to me to be a short breather between times of great busy-ness. It has become little more than a holiday speed bump.

I long for the days when the anticipation of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the 12 Days of Christmas were almost palpable. So, I'm thinking this year I'm going to do things differently. I'm going to focus more on our present season of Advent – the time of preparation.

The Isaiah verse above reminds us that this world can cast a shadow of death on our lives if we get too caught up in it. When we spend too much time grinding at work to the neglect of our families, the shadow of death looms over us. When we expend too much energy embracing the popular notions of Christmas, the shadow of death can block the light. What is going on in your life that is blocking the Light that is in-breaking your darkness?

Our hope is not in this world, it's in the Light that shines on all who live in it. Maybe you need to do Christmas a little differently this year. A time of preparation is key to being able to fully embrace an event of great significance.

(continued)

# A LOOK AHEAD:

## KNOWING CHRIST

### A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join the Chancel Choir and Epworth Ringers on **Sunday, December 15 at 10:45 a.m.** for our annual service of Lessons and Carols. The service takes the form of the "Lessons and Carols" found in *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, which was drawn from sources ancient and modern by E. W. Benson, Bishop of Truro, in 1880. It tells the entire story of Christmas by weaving nine lessons with the singing of hymns and carols. **PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO 8:45 a.m. traditional worship service.**



## CHRIST OFFERING

Christ Offering



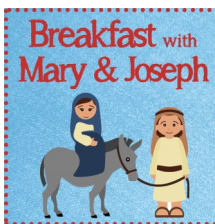
You are the Light of the world.

On **Sunday, December 15** a special Christ offering will be taken. This offering assures that we not only meet our obligations for the year, but that we testify to the light which is Jesus Christ our Lord. Envelopes for your gift will be provided in the pew slots.

## GROWING IN CHRIST

### BREAKFAST WITH MARY AND JOSPEH

Join us on **Sunday, December 15** at 10:00 a.m. for breakfast and conversation with Mary & Joseph as they journey to Bethlehem. Hear the Christmas story from their perspective, and ask questions. Interactive and hands-on Christmas experience for children K-5 (all ages are welcome to participate). Gather in Room 302.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

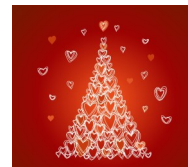
Circles 1, 2, and 4 will meet in the Heritage Center for fellowship and beverages at 10:00 a.m. on **Monday, January 6**. The general meeting will convene in the Chapel at 10:30 a.m. followed by individual circle meetings. Circle 5 will meet **Tuesday, January 14** at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center. All women are invited to join us. For more information, please contact Doris Jefferson at 336-228-0130.



## SHARING CHRIST

### TREES OF LOVE

Thank you to everyone who has adorned our Trees of Love to share Christ with our neighbors this season. It's not too late to participate—please return all items (unwrapped) to the trees by **Wednesday, December 18**. Visit [www.frontstreetumc.org](http://www.frontstreetumc.org) for additional information on each Tree of Love.



## CEREAL SUNDAY

Don't forget **January 5** is Cereal Sunday at FSUMC! Please deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods in the tubs in the cabinet in the Welcome Center. Thank you for helping stock the food pantry at the Salvation Army.



## 2019 CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE

A friendly reminder from the Church Office: in order for contributions to be included as a contribution towards your 2019 statement, please have mail postmarked or dropped at the church office **NO LATER THAN December 31**. All contributions received after December 31 will be applied to your 2020 statement.

Please note: When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction.

## SAVE THESE JANUARY DATES

### 2020 JANUARY LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

#### **Saturday, January 25**

Location, topics, and registration link will be coming soon!

### FAMILY WINTERFEST AND CHILI COOK-OFF

Our Family Winter Festival and Chili Cook-Off will be on **Sunday, January 26 from 5-7 p.m.** Ms. Marcy and the Children's Council have planned all kinds of fun, winter activities for all ages. Do you make a really good chili? Enter our Chili Cook-Off and let your Front Street friends be the judge! Full details of the Winter Festival and how to enter the Chili Cook-Off competition coming in the New Year.



## Prayers

- **Chip and Leslie Winstead** upon the death of his father, Bill Winstead, on 12/5

## Thank You

Dear Front Street UMC Family, I would like to extend an extremely heartfelt thank you from myself and the entire Family Abuse Services agency and clients. We are so grateful for your donations to our domestic violence shelter. We would not be able to do this work without generous community donors and partners like you. Wishing you all the warmest of holidays.

All the best,  
Caretta Watlington  
Director of Residential Services



*The church office will be closed Tuesday, December 24 through Thursday, December 26 for Christmas, and Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day. Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year from all the staff at FSUMC!*

### FINANCIAL GIVING UPDATE

YTD Actual Giving – \$1,058,873.26  
YTD Budgeted Giving - \$1,276,095.28

## STAFF

**Senior Pastor**  
Ross Carter

**Pastor of Discipleship**  
Patrick Murphy

**Youth Minister**  
Chris Huneycutt

**Director of Children's Ministry**  
Marcy McAdams

**Organist/Director of Music**  
Matt Brittain

**Choirmaster**  
Laura Sam

**Director of Aldersgate Music**  
Clay Stevenson

**Finance Manager**  
Tammy Page

**Administrative Assistant**  
Pamela Shields

**Communications Coordinator**  
Joanna Strelow

**Building Superintendent**  
Jackie Long

**Maintenance**  
Joe Peloquin  
Zach Mace

**Playschool/Babies Morning Out Director**  
Rebecca Hurdle

**Afterschool Director**  
Catherine Mills