

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
December 2, 2018
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome: It's time to celebrate, we are in the presence of God. We invite you to joyfully prepare your hearts to receive God's love and to feel connected to the Body of Christ this day. Please take a moment to sign the pew pads. We'd like to keep you informed of what we are doing, so please give us your email, too.

* Please stand as you are able.
† 8:45 Worship Only †† 11:00 Worship Only

EIGHT FORTY-FIVE

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

GATHERING AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS

VOLUNTARY **Wachet auf, rufft uns die Stimme, BWV 645** J. S. Bach
("Sleepers Wake, a Voice Is Calling") (1685-1750)

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** (RESPONSIVELY)

Leader: Praise be to God!

People: Blessed be the Lord God, for he has visited and redeemed his people.

Leader: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen.

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 213**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates **TRURO**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES † The Bart and Heather Lakey Family
†† The Rett and Jan Davis Family

We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming. For the Lord will fulfill his promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. A righteous Branch will spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry, for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us most merciful Father. For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PERSONAL CONFESSION AND MEDITATION (IN SILENCE)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (IN RESPONSE TO CONFESSION)

Leader: 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.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE **Gloria in excelsis Deo!** **GLORIA**



* **PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Children ages 4—first grade may depart for Children's Church in Room 304.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (IN UNISON)

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON **Malachi 3:1-5** OT Page 889

* **GOSPEL LESSON** **Luke 1:5-25** NT Page 56

SERMON **"Preparing the Way"** Rev. Ross Carter

CALL TO PRAYER

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

† **OFFERTORY** **Wachet auf, rufft uns die Stimme**
Johann Gottfried Walther
(1684-1748)

†† **OFFERTORY** **As the Dark Awaits the Dawn** Carl Schalk
Chancel Choir (b. 1929)

As the dark awaits the dawn, so we await your light. O Star of promise, scatter night, loving bright, till shades of fear are gone. As the blue expectant hour before the silvering skies, we long to see your day arise, whole and wise, O lucent Morning Star. As the moon reflects the sun until the night's decrease, may we your healing light release, living peace, unto your holy dawn. Shine your future on this place, enlighten every guest, that through us stream your holiness, bright and blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

-Susan Palo Cherwien (b. 1953)

* **DOXOLOGY** **Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow** **OLD 100th**

All Singing: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

UMH No. 95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (IN UNISON)

Holy God of Light and Love, lead us through this season of journey, not only in our worship, but also in our living. Ignite not just candles, but the flames of our faith, that we might more fully trust you with all we are and all we have. As we offer our gifts to you, open our hearts to the joy of generosity, that we might give compassion recklessly, judgment sparingly, and forgiveness unconditionally. In the name of the Christ, we pray. Amen.

† **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** **UMH No. 17**

†† **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** **UMH No. 24**

The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord's Prayer
The Sharing of Bread and Cup

After sharing Communion, you are invited to take a December prayer card to use in your daily prayer life.

COMMUNION **O Come, Emmanuel** Daniel Pinkham
Variations on an Advent Hymn for Organ (1923-2006)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (IN 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. 196** **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus** **HYFRYDOL**

* **PRONOUNCEMENT OF BLESSING**

POSTLUDE **Toccata-Prelude on 'Wachet auf'**
Francis Jackson
(b. 1917)

WELCOME! We're glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Following this service, there is a gathering in the Heritage Center for fellowship and refreshments. Please join us. Our hosts this week are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pardue.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory of Edwin B. Garrison by Mary Ann Garrison.

MEMBERS OF THE ALTAR GUILD serving in December are Mary Ellen Cross, Marie Crissman, Helen Ellington, Sarah Folckomer, Beth Kelley, and Trisha Craig.

We thank the following for their service during our worship service:

Communion Servers:	Betty & Mary Elizabeth Huneycutt
Liturgist:	JoAnn Barbour
Lay Reader:	Stan Whitlow
Acolytes:	Henry Lakey
Crucifer:	Hunter Lakey

THE PRAYER REQUEST CARDS in the pews may be placed in the offering or in the Prayer Request Boxes in the Reading Area and the Narthex Area, or you may email the Prayer Ministry Team at prayer@frontstreetumc.org. We thank team members David and Nancy Hamby, who will be in the Prayer Room on our behalf at noon to pray for requests given on the Prayer Request Cards.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Front Street's Advent Devotions 2018 is available. Please pick up a copy in the Welcome Center, Narthex, or Heritage Center. We ask that you only take one copy per family.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are now available for pick up outside the church office. PLEASE pick yours up by **December 30**. This will help in reducing our mailing costs. Thank you.

ARRIVAL OF THE COMPLIMENTARY 8 x 10 PORTRAIT

We recently had a Lifetouch photography event. If you elected to have your complimentary 8 x10 sent back to Front Street UMC for pick up, the portraits are now located on **Sunday mornings** at the Welcome Center for you. Please stop by to collect your portrait.

TREES OF LOVE

Beginning **today**, there will be opportunities for the members of our church to share Christ's love with our neighbors. There are three decorated trees near the Heritage Center. The **Tree of Hope** supports Our Sister's House. The **Tree of Life** supports families in need due to Hurricanes Florence and Michael. The **Tree of Joy** supports Project AGAPE. The Mission Committee asks that you please take this opportunity to help those in need during this Christmas season. For more information on the Trees of Love, visit www.frontstreetumc.org/features.

HYMNS AND HOPS

You are invited to an interdenominational and intergenerational community gathering **tonight** at 7 p.m. at The Oak House in Elon. All are welcome to come for friendship, hymn singing, and fun.

MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY

If you are interested in becoming part of Front Street to join the membership, we are beginning quarterly membership Sundays. The first one will be on **Sunday, December 9**. If you would like to join Front Street UMC at any of the worship services that Sunday, please contact the church office to complete the information needed for the church roll.

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join the Chancel Choir and Epworth Ringers on **Sunday, December 16** at **10:45 a.m.** for our annual service of Lessons and Carols. **PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO 8:45 a.m. worship service.** Our 9:00 a.m. Aldersgate service worships as usual.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Date	8:45	9:00	11:00	Online	Total
11/4	0	50	247	10	307
11/11	46	41	174	9	270
11/18	57	61	216	12	346
11/25	49	45	199	10	303

SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 2, 2018

Sunday, December 2

8:45	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:00	Contemporary Worship Service	Aldersgate Hall
9:45	Sunday School	Classrooms
11:00	Sanctuary Worship	Sanctuary
2:00	Angel Tree Pick Up	Aldersgate Hall
4:00	Children's Choir	Sanctuary
4:00	Youth Choir	Choir Room
5:00	Wesley Ringers	Room 307
5:00	Youth Bells	Bell Room
5:00	Disciple Bible Study	Room 401
6:00	UMYF/Confirmation Class	Aldersgate Hall

Monday, December 3

10:30	UMW Christmas Program and Luncheon	Sanctuary/ Aldersgate Hall
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Tuesday, December 4

7:30	Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Christmas	Sanctuary/ Aldersgate Hall
9:30	Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study	Room 305
6:15	Epworth Ringers	Bell Room
7:00	Stewardship Committee Meeting	John Wesley Room

Wednesday, December 5

7:30	Youth Breakfast Club	Dr. Cecil's Office 1711 Sykes St.
6:00	Aldersgate Praise Band	Aldersgate Hall
7:00	Chancel Choir	Choir Room

Thursday, December 6

9:30	Prayer and Meditation	Prayer Room
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Sunday, December 9

8:45	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:00	Contemporary Worship Service	Aldersgate Hall
9:45	Sunday School	Classrooms
11:00	Worship Service	Sanctuary
5:00	Disciple Bible Study	Room 401
TBD	UMYF/Christmas Shopping	Aldersgate Hall

CHRIST OFFERING

On **Sunday, December 16**, 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.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The **2019** flower calendar is on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center. The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one: **January 6 and 20**. Please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 or kpaul5@triad.rr.com for details or to sign up.

IMAGE ON FRONT COVER "The Birth of St. John the Baptist" in the Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena, California. Artist: Bartolomé-Esteban Murillo (Spanish, 1617-1682).

LIVE-STREAMING ON FACEBOOK

We are pleased to be able to live-stream our 11:00 a.m. worship each week for the benefit of those who are not able to be physically present. For those who would prefer to not be on camera, we endeavor to make the back half of the Sanctuary a non-video zone. The balcony is also available for non-video seating. If you have any questions about this service, please feel free to speak with Pastor Ross.

FRONT STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission:

Knowing Christ • Growing in Christ • Sharing Christ



Pastors

Rev. Ross Carter
Rev. Patrick Murphy

Youth Minister

Chris Huneycutt

Organist/Director of Music

Dr. Matt Brittain

Choirmaster

Laura J. Sam

Coordinator of Congregational Care

Carol W. Sineath

Director of Children's Ministries

Marcella Z. McAdams

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