

Announcements

Poinsettias If you placed poinsettias in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of loved ones, you are invited to take those following tonight's service.

Holiday Time Changes, Closings & Cancellations

There will be no *Coffee Time Fellowship* or *Sunday School* next Sunday. We will have worship at 10:50a in the Sanctuary.

Financial Contributions must be received no later than December 31 for tax credit in 2017. Contributions received in the offering plate on Sunday, December 31 will be credited to giving in 2017. Questions about your giving, please contact Angie Rutledge at Cherry Bekaert, 704-671-3662. Cherry Bekaert will be closed December 22-26 and closing at noon on December 29.

The *Church Office* will be closed December 25-27 and January 1 with special office hours on December 28 & 29, from 9a to 12p. We will resume regular office hours on January 2.

Happy Birthday to Everyone! On Wednesday, January 3rd, we'll celebrate everyone's birthday with cakes for each of the 12 months! We look forward to this annual January event and invite those wishing to make a cake to please make note of it on today's Connection Card or contact Connie Elzey or Nancy Wilkins.

Leadership Summit If you have been asked to serve on a church committee, please mark your calendars for the 2018 Leadership Summit on Sunday, January 14 from 2p to 5p. All members of teams or committees are invited and encouraged to attend. This gathering will give us the chance to reflect on the theme of conversations. We will do this in the large group and then break into our ministry teams/committees. We will be setting dates for our annual events and each committee will be designing goals to guide our work in 2018. It will be a full afternoon.

Sanctuary Flower Calendar Multiple dates are available for 2018. You may reserve your date(s) by signing up on the flower calendar outside the work room in the office area. Please print clearly and make note if you wish the flowers to be *in honor* or *in memory* and who is reserving the flowers - you'll have to write small! If you have any special wording, please contact the church office at 704-864-3221 or hurchoffice@myersmemorialumc.com at least one week in advance. By reserving your date, you are committing to a cost of \$40. We will take care of ensuring the flowers are present on that Sunday and you are welcome to take the flowers home to enjoy or share with others.

Divorce Care & Divorce Care for Kids will resume on Tuesday, January 9th. If you or someone you know could benefit in this support group, please let it be known that the invitation to join is always open. Divorce Care and DC4Kids meets for 13 weeks on Tuesday nights at 6:30p. Contact Connie Elzey, dce@myersmemorialumc.com.

Grief Share will resume on January 9 at 10a. Grief Share regularly meets on Tuesday mornings at 10am in the Parlor and supports those working through the grief of losing a loved one. Contact Connie Elzey, dce@myersmemorialumc.com.

Welcome to Myers Memorial United Methodist Church

Our vision is to be Christ Inspired...People Centered...Service Driven.

We hope you are moved by the Spirit to love one another as Christ loves us! In this bulletin you will find a Connection Card that can be used to share information with the pastor and church office. You can also use it to express interest in events, activities, ministries, reserve your spot for Wednesday Connect Meals, share prayer concerns or comments. Please use it to note your attendance in worship today and return it during the offering as a way of offering yourself to God this week.

Additionally, if you have any prayer concerns or celebrations that you would like shared during worship, please write clearly on the prayer card found in the pew and bring it to the railing at the front of the Sanctuary during the first hymn.

Children are always welcome in this place! There are 'busy bags' at each entrance to the sanctuary for children to use and return. There is also age appropriate nursery care for infants, toddlers and preschoolers should they wish to play. All children are invited to participate in worship and the older Nursery children will join us for the Children's Message. Please ask any member or usher to guide you to the Nursery area.

Should you need a restroom, the closest is just outside the rear of the sanctuary, women's room is to the right as you exit and the men's room to the left. A changing table is located just inside in the women's restroom.

Please recycle this bulletin by taking it with you and use the information throughout the week or by placing it in the blue recycle bins located outside the Sanctuary

Upcoming Dates at Myers Memorial UMC

College Student Sunday

December 31 ~ 10:50am Worship

January 3 ~ Connect Resumes

Eat - Gather - Worship

5:15p Dinner & Birthday Party

6:15p Epiphany Worship

January 7 ~ Sunday Night Live

5p Youth Ministry & Choirs

5:30p Children's Choirs & Worship Arts

January 10 ~ Wednesday Connect, Full Schedule

5:15p Dinner

5:45p Small Groups

6:15p Worship

February 4 ~ Souper Bowl Sunday

Chili Bowl Cook-off Lunch to benefit Crisis Assistance Ministry

Myers Memorial United Methodist Church

December 24, 2017

In
Peace
and
Joy

Myers Memorial United Methodist Church

301 South New Hope Road Gastonia, North Carolina 28054
ChurchOffice@MyersMemorialUMC.com
www.MyersMemorialUMC.org
704-864-3222

December 24, 2017

5:30pm

Order of Worship

Gathering for Worship

Parish Notices

When you see the asterisks [*], please stand as you are able.
Bold print is used for congregational responses.
UMH = United Methodist Hymnal, the navy hardbound book in the pew
TFWS = The Faith We Sing, the black softback songbook in the pew
WS = Worship ☉ Song, the green softback songbook in the pew.

Pre Service Music

O Little Town of Bethlehem A. Lovelace
From Heaven On High I Come to Earth J. Pachelbel
Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming J. Brahms

Welcome ☉ Announcements

* Passing the Peace of Christ

Offer signs of greeting in the name of Jesus to those seated around you.

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude *Sleepers Wake! A Voice is Calling* JS Bach

The Christmas Story Luke 2:1-20 NT, page 58

Leader: The Word of God for us, the People of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

* Opening Hymn *The First Noel* UMH #245

Lighting of the Christ Candle Jean Campbell, Mark Campbell,
Romans 15:13 Jeanna ☉ Bill Hyland

Prayer (in unison)
Prince of Peace, shine into our hearts, our homes, our nation, and our world. Deliver us from every evil that obstructs your saving purpose, and fulfill your promises of old to establish your kingdom of peace. Amen

Sung Response (sung in unison) *O Come All Ye Faithful* v. 6 UMH #234

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Children's Time Pastor Sally

Scripture Lesson John 1:1-14 New Testament, page 91

Leader: The Word of God for us, the People of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon In Peace ☉ Joy Rev. Sally Queen

* Hymn of Thanksgiving *What Child is This* UMH#219

Offering

Offertory *The Work of Christmas* Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among brothers, To make music from the heart.

* Doxology *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;* UMH #94

*praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

* Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy Communion Rev. Sally Queen

Today we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. This is our family meal.
All are invited to come forward and receive a piece of bread and then dip the bread into the cup of grape juice. A gluten free station is available.
The Table is open to all who wish to partake.

The Great Thanksgiving UMH #13

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 thanks and praise

It is right, and a good and joyful thing...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer UMH #895

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us,

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Assisting with Communion: Rev. Sarah Davis, Connie Elzey, Tresca McSwain, Tony Sane, Kimberly Deese, Tanya Martin, Phil Winter

Candlelight Carol *Silent Night, Holy Night* UMH #239

*Silent night, Holy night All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant, tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, Holy night Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth Jesus, Lord at thy birth.*

*Silent night, Holy night Shepherds quake, at the sight
Glories stream from heaven above
Heavenly, hosts sing Hallelujah.
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.*

Closing Hymn *Joy to the World* UMH #246

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.*

* Benediction

* Chimes of the Trinity

* Postlude *Swiss Noel* Louis Claude Daquin



Prayers of the People

Buddy Flake, Bill ☉ Libby Drum, Melanie Lambert, Allen ☉ Carolyn Reese, Brenda Carothers, The Hendricks Family, Alice Sweazy, Children at Thako Orphanage, Doug ☉ Jackie Gross
all who struggle in this holiday season

To share confidential or community prayer, please make a note on the Connection Card in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate. You may also use the Connection Card to indicate your desire to receive the Myers Prayer Chain.