

Prayers of the People

Cameron Dennis, Rachel Broome, Julia Cauble, Sue Auten, Frances Woodyard, Betsy Noblett, 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.

Worship & Caroling On December 24 we'll worship together at 10:50a for the 4th Sunday of Advent and then immediately following worship we'll gather at the main lobby of CaroMont Hospital for caroling. Our choir members will lead us as we sing at select nurse's stations and waiting areas. We hope you'll join us in spreading cheer through song!

Christmas Eve Worship 5:30p O Come Let Us Adore Him and gather for worship, communion and candlelight on the Eve of Christ's birth! While children of all ages are welcome in worship, there will be a nursery for the youngest among us (birth through preschool).



A Christmas Gift to Christ

The manger at the front of the Sanctuary is awaiting *your* Christmas Gift to Christ. The people of Myers Memorial have been challenged to give sacrificially so that the financial commitments made to the 2017 annual budget may be fulfilled before the end of 2017. The finance committee and Pastor Sally challenge us to give Generously and Sacrificially.

We believe that God calls us during this season to celebrate the depth of God's love as found in the Christ child. What better way to honor baby Jesus, than by making a financial gift in addition to your tithe and offerings you faithfully give to the ministry budget each week. This additional gift will be your Christmas gift to Christ. The manger is awaiting your Christmas gift to Christ and you may bring this forward during the opening hymn.

The goal is to have everyone, from the youngest to the oldest committed to achieve the goal so that we may again celebrate what God can do when we are faithful. Thank you for partnering with Myers Memorial for mission and ministry.

We believe that the local church is the heart of God's redemptive plan for the world, and is worthy of our prayers, presence, service, witness, and financial support. If you have a question about the financial commitment you made to Myers Memorial for 2017, please contact Angie Rutledge at Cherry Bekaert, 704-671-3662 or arutledge@cbh.com.

This Week at Myers Memorial UMC

Sunday, December 17

9a Focus Prayer Group, *Tower*
9:30a Coffee Fellowship, *CFC*
9:45a Sunday School for all Ages
10:50a Worship, *Sanctuary*
5p Youth Christmas Party, *Lounge*
7p Lessons & Carols, *Sanctuary*

Monday, December 18

6:30p Cub/Boy Scouts, *Scout Hut*

Tuesday, December 19

10a GriefShare, *Parlor*
11a Al-Anon, *Asbury*
6p Girl Scouts, *First Floor*
6:30p Chancel Hand Bells, *Music Suite*
6:30p Disciple IV, *E-105*

Wednesday, December 20

Weekday Preschool Closed
Newsletter Assembly
7p Chancel Choir, *Music Suite*

Thursday, December 21

Weekday Preschool Closed
6p Men's Basketball, *CFC*
7p Chancel Choir, *Music Suite*
8p Narcotics Anonymous, *Downstairs*

Friday, December 22

Weekday Preschool Closed
7:15a Prayer & Devotion, *Parlor*

Sunday, December 24

10:50a Worship, *Sanctuary*
12p Christmas Caroling, *CaroMont Hospital*
5:30p Christmas Eve Service, *Sanctuary*

Monday, December 25-27

Weekday Preschool Closed
Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 28

Weekday Preschool Closed
9a to 12noon Church Office Open

Friday, December 29

Weekday Preschool Closed
9a to 12noon Church Office Open

Sunday Servants

Head Usher: John Crain

Scripture Reader: Slayton Fletcher

Crucifer: Jillian Medlin

Acolytes: Brock Davis & Rhett Buchanan

Nursery: Allison Buchanan, Lauren Snyder, Chris McCullen, Matthew McCullen

No Coffee Time until January 7

A Record of Our Faithfulness

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Worship: 241

Online Worship: 10

Sunday School: 132

Love Feast: 402

Offering Received last Sunday: \$15,939

Offering Received year-to-date: \$601,170



Myers Memorial United Methodist Church

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Myers Memorial United Methodist Church

December 17, 2017

Hope Blooms

Third Sunday in Advent

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

December 17, 2017 Susan Martello, Liturgist 10:50am

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.

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 *Prelude in G Major* JS Bach

* Call to Worship (responsively)
Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has visited and redeemed us,
People: and has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of David.
Leader: By the tender mercy of our God,
People: the dawn from on high will break upon us,
Leader: to give light to those who sit in darkness
People: and to guide our feet in the way of peace.

* Opening Hymn *Angels from the Realms of Glory* UMH #220
You are invited to bring your extra financial gift to the manger at the front of the sanctuary.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Candle of Hope
Romans 8:34-25 Patrick, Linsy, Ellery ☺ Henry Aul
Prayer (in unison)
O Dawn of the new creation, spill a ray of hope to lift the hearts of your sons and daughters, for we are bound by a vision that is not always clear to see. As we live into your promises, help us to wait patiently for the coming of your kingdom. Amen.

Sung Response (sung in unison) *Light Dawns* v. 2
Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes.

Children's Time Pastor Sally

Choral Call to Prayer *Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming* Praetorius
Chancel Choir
Lo, how a Rose e're blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung. It came a flower bring, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Sarah Watkins Davis

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.**

* Hymn of Thanksgiving *My Soul Gives Glory to My God* UMH#198

Offering

Offertory *Christmas Has It's Cradle* Stan Pethel
Soulfire; Ashley Lowry, Lathan Flake, soloists
Christmas has its cradle, where a Baby cried; Did the lantern's shadow show Him crucified? Did He foresee darkly His life's willing loss? Christmas has its cradle and Easter has its cross. Christmas has its cradle, shepherds came to see Little Son of Mary Lamb of God to be; Had His Father warned Him, none would grant Him room Save in the Christmas cradle and in the Easter tomb? Christmas has its cradle, Wise men came to bring Myrrh and gold and incense, offerings for a King; Myrrh alone stayed with Him, death's balm for this Boy, From the Christmas cradle and to His Easter joy. Christmas has its cradle, where that Baby cried; In the Easter garden, Christ lay, crucified; When death's power was conquered, God's life through Him poured; Christmas has its cradle and Easter has its Lord!

* Doxology **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel.**

* Prayer of Thanksgiving

Scripture Lesson Psalm 71:1-6 Slayton Fletcher
Old Testament, page 532
Leader: The Word of God for us, the People of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Arr. Dan Forrest
Chancel Choir
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!" Christ, by highest Heav'n 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!" Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die; Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Scripture Lesson Luke 1:26-38 NT, page 56
Leader: The Word of God for us, the People of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hope Blooms Rev. Sally Queen

* Hymn *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* UMH #218

Reception of New Members UMH #38
Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

Congregation:
**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.
As members together with you in the body of Christ
and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant
faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.**

* Benediction
* Congregational Response *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH#204
**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.**
* Chimes of the Trinity
* Postlude *Allegro Maestoso Vivace (Sonata II)* F. Mendelssohn



Announcements

Advent Lessons & Carols *Tonight* 7pm Sanctuary

Holiday Time Changes, Closings & Cancellations
There will be no *Coffee Time Fellowship* or *Sunday School* on Sundays December 24 or December 31. 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* is open Mondays - Thursdays from 9a to 4p and Fridays from 9a to 12p. We will be closed December 25-27 with special office hours on December 28 & 29, from 9a to 12p.

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.

A Savory Way to Support the Sherwood Staff Myers is helping to host the Sherwood Elementary Staff Holiday Party tomorrow, Monday, December 18. We would like to provide savory appetizer/pick ups for their lunch that day. If you would be willing to make a platter of sausage balls, small sandwiches, pinwheels, fruit tray or something along those lines, we'd love to provide sustenance for the staff before they head home for the winter break. Please contact Sarah to offer your assistance and bring your contribution to the church prior to 9:30a tomorrow!