

Prayers of the People

Nancy Westbrook, Paul Outlaw, Sara Rhyne Davis, Woodie Carothers,
Jim Rogers, Reggie Davis, Melanie Lambert, Sally Drennan, Bill Drum,
Trinity United Methodist Church

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.



Opportunities Available Janet Lagos, our Sunday morning Nursery coordinator is currently seeking volunteers for the next quarter. If you are able and willing to help one to two Sundays in the next 3 months, please contact Janet Lagos at preschool@myersmemorialumc.com or 704-864-3222. You can still listen to the sermon while you snuggle and play with the youngest among us!

Make Up Directory Photos ~ January 2 ~ 2p to 9p Have you recently joined the church? Recently married? Added a child to the family? Or didn't have your photo made last time? This is your final chance to be included in the directory! Please mark today's Connection Card and we will be in contact!

Columbarium Conversation Over the years we've explored the possibility of having a columbarium at Myers Memorial UMC. If this is something you are interested in, please mark today's Connection Card.

A Caroling We Will Go Following Worship on Sunday, December 23, we'll head to CaroMont Hospital to sing and bring Christmas Cheer. Please meet in the main lobby and we will go as a group to sing at the various nursing stations.

Christmas Eve Worship Opportunities It's what we've been waiting for all season long, the unexpected King! Gather with family & friends for communion & candlelight at two services on December 24: 5:30p is casual & planned with children in mind or for those who stay up later, at 11p. All are welcome at both services.

Happy Birthday to You! On Wednesday, January 2, we'll gather again for Wednesday Connect Meal at 5:15p and Worship at 6p. It's our annual Birthday Party for everyone in the church and a dessert for every month! If you are willing to make a dessert, please mark today's Connection Card.

The manger at the front of the Sanctuary is awaiting your Christmas Gift to Christ. The people of Myers Memorial are challenged to give sacrificially so that the financial commitments made to the 2018 annual budget may be fulfilled before the end of 2018. 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.

This Week at Myers Memorial UMC

Sunday, December 16

Gingerbread Sunday

9a Focus Prayer Group, *Tower*
9:30a Coffee Time
9:45a Sunday School for all Ages
10:50a Worship, *Sanctuary*
12p Church Council, *Parlor*
5p Youth & In}{Between Christmas Parties, *Youth Lounge*
7p Lessons & Carols, *Sanctuary*

Monday, December 17

8a District Committee on Ordained Ministry
9a Weekday Preschool
6p Pack 21 Boy Scouts, CFC
6p Troop 21 Boy Scouts

Tuesday, December 18

9a Weekday Preschool
10a GriefShare, *Parlor*
11a Al-Anon, *Asbury*
12p *Parlor Closed for Carpet Cleaning*

Wednesday, December 19

Parlor Closed for Carpet Cleaning
9a Weekday Preschool
9:30a Women's Bible Study, *Asbury*
10a Staff Meeting
6:30p Chancel Choir, *Music Suite*

Sunday Servants

Usher: John Crain

Scripture Reader: Jillian Medlin

Crucifer: Kathleen Sharp

Acolytes: Evan Falls @ Andrew Walker

Nursery: Judy Seay, Annie Oliver, Donna Lutz, Paige Falls, Jennifer Gross, Pam Shoemaker

Giving on the Go

www.MyersMemorialUMC.org
/Online-Giving

Upcoming Dates

Caroling at CaroMont: December 23, 12:15p

Christmas Eve Services: 5:30p @ 11p

Rake @ Run: December 30, 12:15p

Thursday, December 20

8p Narcotics Anonymous, *Downstairs*

Friday, December 21

9a to 12p Church Office Open
7:15a Prayer & Devotion, *Parlor*
Young Adult Christmas Party

Sunday, December 23

9a Focus Prayer Group, *Tower*
9:30a Coffee Time
9:45a Sunday School for all Ages
10:50a Worship, *Sanctuary*
12:15p Christmas Caroling at CaroMont, *Main Lobby*

Monday, December 24

Church Office Closed
5:30p Christmas Eve Worship
11p Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 25

Happy Birthday, Jesus!
Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 26

Church Office Closed

A Record of Our Faithfulness

Sunday, December 2, 2018
Sunday School: 102 Worship: 256
Online Worship: 13
Offering Received: \$15,551

Saturday, December 8, 2018
Online Worship: 18
Love Feast: 254

Sunday, December 9, 2018
~ Snow Day ~
Online Worship: 65 live view
650 views before 12 noon
Offering Received: \$7,268

Myers Memorial United Methodist Church

Third Sunday in Advent

December 16, 2018



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 church meals, share prayer concerns or comments. Please use it as a way to note your attendance in worship today and return it during the offering as an act of offering yourself to God this week.

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 inside both men and women's restrooms.

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.

#ourmissionistolove

Rev. Sally Queen, Pastor
301 South New Hope Road Gastonia, North Carolina 28054
www.MyersMemorialUMC.org 704-864-3222

December 16, 2018

10:50am

Order of Worship

Gathering for Worship

As you gather today, you are invited to light a candle to remember the saints in your life.

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

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

Low, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Diane Bish

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hal & Allison Buchanan

Scripture: Isaiah 35:10

Rhett & Amelia

Prayer: O Lord, Author of life and source of all good gifts, increase our joy as we prepare for the birth of Christ. Visit us today, O God, and grant us the fullness of your joy. Amen.

* Opening Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH #213

During the opening hymn, you are invited to bring a gift to the altar, placing it in the manger.

Children's Message

Pastor Sally

Gift of the Gingerbread

Choral Call to Worship

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

Chancel Choir

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung. It came, a flower bright, amid the cold of winter when half-spent was the night.

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Jillian Medlin

Old Testament, page 638

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:26-38; 46-56

NT, page 57

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Unexpected Visitor

Rev. Sally Queen

Anthem

The Canticle of Turning

Arr. John Ferguson

Chancel Choir

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn? My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn! Though I am small, my

God, my all, you work great things in me, And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn! From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn! Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn! My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sarah 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.

Offering

Offertory

Veni Emmanuel

R. Purvis

* 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

Rev. Sally Queen

* Closing Hymn

What Child is This

UMH #219

Reception of New Members

* 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

People, Look East

Wold



The Candle on the Altar

is to celebrate the birth of *Michael Addison Rhodes*
born October 9, 2018 to parents Thomas & Brinkley Rhodes
Grandparents: Mike & Jennifer Rhodes
and Michael & Martha Dickson

Announcements

Tonight: The 2018 Lessons & Carols service is titled *To the Least, the Last and the Lost* and will feature stories and music depicting the characters of the Christmas story. This service will be led by the Myers Chancel Choir featuring the Myers Youth Chorale, a guest brass ensemble and numerous guest musicians. You are invited to lend your voice to the music on Sunday, December 16 at 7pm to celebrate the unexpected characters we find in the birth narrative of our savior, Jesus.

Youth & In}{Between Christmas Parties ~ December 16 ~ 5p
Both parties will end by 6p, in time for the Youth Chorale to rehearse before Lessons & Carols. Others are invited to hang out in the youth lounge until Lessons & Carols begins at 7p.

Youth (9th-12th graders) will gather in the youth lounge for the annual ornament exchange. Bring your favorite snack to share and a wrapped ornament that costs less than \$10.

In}{Between (4th-8th graders) will meet in their room off the youth lounge where we'll have games, food and fun! Bring your favorite snack to share, and a gender neutral wrapped gift of \$5 or less (seriously, you can wrap something from your house). Don't forget to bring your friend and a gift for them to exchange as well!

#unexpected Due to the weather forecast, the 40th Annual Love Feast was celebrated Saturday, December 8 in the Sanctuary. The service is an annual tradition dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joe Ben Lindsey, Edith & Walter Talley, Flora Ann & Harold Craig and Tolbert W. Lowry whose service helped bring the Love Feast tradition to Myers Memorial UMC. We are also indebted to the Marr & Suggs families for the contribution of their time and means in planning and directing the service this year. Thank you to the many musicians and participants for their efforts in preparing for this year's unexpected Love Feast.

2019 Estimate of Giving Cards may be dropped off at the church office or mailed to Angie Rutledge c/o Cherry Beakert at 322 Burtonwood Dr, Gastonia, NC 28054.

December Hours

Church Office Monday-Thursdays 9-4p; Fridays 9a-12p

Closed: Dec. 24, 25, 26, 31

Special Hours: Dec. 27 & 28, 9a-12p

Weekday Preschool Closed Dec. 20-Jan. 1

Cherry Bekaert, LLP (*Cherry Bekaert is the CPA firm that handles our church finances*) 322 Burtonwood Dr. Gastonia, NC 28054

Closed: Dec. 24, 25 & 31 *Special Hours:* Dec. 21 9am -12p

To receive 2018 tax credit, donations must be received by December 31.