

## 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.

## Announcements

Caroling Today 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. Don't delay! We will travel as one group so please meet just inside the Main Entrance. 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).

Holiday Time Changes, Closings & Cancellations  
There will be no *Coffee Time Fellowship* or *Sunday School* next Sunday. We will have worship at 10:50a led by the College Students 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.

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 least one week in advance at 704-864-3221 or churchoffice@myersmemorialumc.com. 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.



# 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.

## Sunday Servants

**Head Usher:** Richard Lindner      **Scripture Reader:** Ashley Lowry  
**Crucifer:** Jake Hoskins              **Acolytes:** Evan Falls ☺ Mattie Queen  
**Nursery:** Christina Carpenter, Katie Carpenter, Jennifer Gross  
**No Coffee Time until January 7**

## A Record of Our Faithfulness

Sunday, December 17, 2017  
Worship: 226      Online Worship: 4      Sunday School: 118  
Lessons ☺ Carols: 188  
Offering Received last Sunday: \$16,565  
Offering Received year-to-date: \$617,826



**Myers Memorial United Methodist Church**  
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704-864-3222

# Myers Memorial United Methodist Church

December 24, 2017



## 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

# 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 *All Praise to Jesus' Hallowed Name* 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 We Have Heard on High* UMH #238  
*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 Justice  
Micah 6:8 Dan @ Sondra Huntley  
Prayer (in unison)  
**God of all Nations, help us to reflect and share the goodness that surrounds us. Help us seek justice for poor and rich alike, and bring trust and friendship to all of your children. Amen.**  
Sung Response (sung in unison) *Light Dawns on a Weary World*  
see music printed in the bulletin

Sacrament of Baptism UMH #33  
Henry Adam Hearne born February 6, 2016  
son of Adam @ Lauren Hearne  
Juliana Grace Wilhelm born June 14, 2017  
daughter of Patrick @ Krystal Wilhelm

Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin, and your commitment to Christ?  
**We do.**  
Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Henry @ Juliana now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ.**  
**We will surround Henry @ Julianna with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others.**  
**We will pray for them, that they may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

Profession of Faith UMH #35

Children's Time Pastor Sally

\* Hymn of Thanksgiving *Away in a Manger* UMH#217

Offering

Offertory *Hark the Glad Sound* Simon Callahan

\* 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 Luke 1:46-56 Ashley Lowry  
New Testament, page 57  
Leader: The Word of God for us, the People of God.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *Walk in the Light!* André J. Thomas  
Chancel Choir, Fred Little, percussion  
*Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus the light of the world; Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus the light of the world; Lord, our Lord, Thy glorious name Jesus the light of the world All Thy wondrous works proclaim Jesus the light of the world Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus the light of the world; In the heavens with radiant signs Jesus the light of the world Evermore Thy glory shines Jesus the light of the world Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus the light of the world; Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus the light of the world*

Scripture Lesson Luke 2:1-20 NT, page 58  
Leader: The Word of God for us, the People of God.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Justice Comes Rev. Sally Queen

\* Hymn *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* UMH #224

\* 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 *Trumpet Voluntary* Simon Stublely

*Please leave the poinsettias until after tonight's 5:30p Christmas Eve Service*

## GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

### 79 Light Dawns on a Weary World

1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -

see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a

wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain  
 The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;  
 the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!  
 We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,  
 as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

This is a hymn whose tune came first. Upon hearing it, the author recalled the watered garden of Isaiah 58:11, which in turn led to Isaiah 55:12, paraphrased in the refrain. Then came the stanzas, organized around their first two words: Light dawns, Love grows, Hope blooms.