

Prayers of the People

Cameron Dennis, family of Nita Cox, family of Sonny Hughes, Rachel Broome, Julia Cauble, Sue Auten, Frances Woodyard, Betsy Noblett, Allen & Carolyn Reese, Brenda Carothers, The Hendricks Family, 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.

Annual Christmas Love Feast is tonight December 10 at 7p. It's a joy to gather together in worship of our Lord during this Season of Advent! We hope you are moved by the spirit to love one another as Christ loves us! At the Love Feast we celebrate an ancient practice of breaking bread together to signify our union, fellowship and love! *Childcare is provided.*

Light Dawns, Hope Blooms, Love Grows The 2017 Advent Lessons & Carols Service will be held Sunday, December 17 at 7p. Led by our Chancel Choir, Soulfire Youth Choir and Cantate Singers and guess brass ensemble, this special musical presentation will be a moving service for the entire community to enjoy. *Childcare provided.*



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 10

Gingerbread Sunday
New Member Sunday
9a Focus Prayer Group, *Tower*
9:30a Coffee Fellowship, *CFC*
9:45a Sunday School for all Ages
10:50a Worship, *Sanctuary*
12p Youth Caroling
7p Love Feast, *Sanctuary*

Monday, December 11

6p Disciple I, *E-105*
6p Koinonia Circle
6:30p Disciple II, *Asbury*
6:30p Cub/Boy Scouts, *Scout Hut*

Tuesday, December 12

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 13

9:15a Women's Bible Study, *Asbury*
6p Men's Bible Study, *Asbury*
6p Knit for Christ, *Parlor*
7p Chancel Choir, *Music Suite*

Thursday, December 14

60+ Group to Flat Rock Playhouse
9:30a College Student Work Team to Salvation Army Christmas Central
6p Men's Basketball, *CFC*
7p Chancel Choir, *Music Suite*
8p Narcotics Anonymous, *Downstairs*

Friday, December 15

January Newsletter Deadline
7:15a Prayer & Devotion, *Parlor*

Saturday, December 16

6p Young Adult Gathering, *Martello's*

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*

Sunday Servants

Head Usher: Debbie Brown **Crucifer:** Marie Kalinoski

Scripture Reader: Brendan Rooney

Acolytes: Andrew Walker & Rhett Buchannan

Nursery: Elizabeth Lanier, Karen Carrick, Jennifer Gross, Carrie Allen, Katie Carpenter

Coffee Time Hosts Next Sunday: Drifters Class

A Record of Our Faithfulness

Sunday, December 3, 2017

Worship: 270 Online Worship: 9 Sunday School: 145

Offering Received last Sunday: \$24,030

Offering Received year-to-date: \$585,231



Myers Memorial United Methodist Church

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www.MyersMemorialUMC.org

704-864-3222

Myers Memorial United Methodist Church

December 10, 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

December 10, 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 *A Christmas Carrillon* arr. Tucker
Chancel Bells

* 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 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (1, 2, 6, 7)* UMH #211
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 Love
John 3:16 Jerry, Sally ⊕ Allison Drennan
Prayer (in unison)
O God, you so loved the world as to give us your only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Grant to us the precious gift of faith, that God's love may grow in our world this day. Amen.
Sung Response (sung in unison) *Light Dawns v. 2*
Light grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed. Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes.

Children's Time Gingerbread Sunday Louisa Suggs

Hymn *Love Has Come* WeS #3059

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.**

Offering

Offertory *A al Nanita Nana* arr. Gramann
Chancel Bells

* 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 Isaiah 11:1-9 Brendan Rooney
Old Testament, page 640
Leader: The Word of God for us, the People of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *The Dream Isaiah Saw* text by T. Troeger
Chancel Choir music by G. Rudolf
Fred Little, *Percussion*

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay, leopards will join with the lambs as they play, wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade, blood will not darken the earth that God made. Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart. Bring the dream Isaiah saw: life redeemed from fang and claw. Peace will pervade more than forest and field: God will transfigure the Violence concealed deep in the heart and in systems of gain, ripe for the judgement the Lord will ordain. Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart. Bring the dream Isaiah saw: justice purifying law. Nature reordered to match God's intent, nations obeying the call to repent, all of creation completely restored, filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord. Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart. Bring the dream Isaiah saw: knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.

Scripture Lesson Matthew 1:18-25 NT, page 1
Leader: The Word of God for us, the People of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Love Grows Rev. Sally Queen

* Hymn *Love Came Down at Christmas* UMH #242

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 *Chaconne* Couperin



The Flowers in the Sanctuary
are given to the Glory of God in celebration of
Elise Allen's Second Birthday

Announcements

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. Should you have questions about your giving, please contact Angie Rutlege 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. The *Weekday Preschool* will be closed for Christmas Break December 20-January 1.

Newsletter Deadline for submissions to the January Newsletter will be this Friday, December 15. Please submit information in writing to Sarah Davis in the church office or via email at churchoffice@myersmemorialumc.com.

Catawba Valley District Leadership Conference, Sunday, January 7 from 3 to 5pm at St. Luke's UMC in Hickory. There is no cost to attend but registration is required. Courses available in a variety of topics for all members of the church. You do not have to hold a leadership position in order to attend. Discover more at: <https://wnc-reg.brtapp.com/DistrictLeadershipConference2018>

Book Fair Success! Thank you to everyone who shopped our Scholastic Book Fair! We have reached our goals and we will earn 50% of what we sold in free books for the Preschool! Many Thanks to the volunteers who served as hosts each day, allowing for the book fair to be open all week!

Light Dawns - Love Grows - Hope Blooms
Justice Comes - In Peace & Joy
Sunday Morning Worship at 10:50am Christmas Eve Worship at 5:30p