

Prayers of the People

Deanna Clemmer, Paul Outlaw, Sara Rhyne Davis, Woodie Carothers,
Jim Rogers, Reggie Davis, Melanie Lambert, Sally Drennan, Bill Drum,
Nancy Westbrook, 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.



Faithful Families ~ February 2019 The Myers Health Cabinet, in conjunction with the Gaston County Health Department, are excited to offer this program as a way to promote health for individuals and families associated with our church family. This faith based nutrition program is open to everyone, so invite your friends to participate as well! This is a 9 week program that includes discussions, recipe tasting, and activities as we set goals for leading healthier lives! The Health Cabinet is looking for 10 interested persons to sign up from Myers with a goal of starting in February 2019. Please mark today's Connection Card with your interest and more information will be provided.

Leadership Summit If you have been asked to serve on a church committee, please mark your calendars for the 2019 Leadership Summit on Sunday, January 6 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 2019. It will be a full afternoon as we dream and make plans for the future of Myers Memorial UMC.

Sanctuary Flower Calendar Multiple dates are available for 2019. 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. There is room for two sponsors/two arrangements each week. If you have any special wording, please contact the church office at 704-864-3221 at least one week in advance. By reserving your date, you are committing to a cost of \$45. 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.

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 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

Thursday, December 27

9a to 12p Church Office Open
8p Narcotics Anonymous, *Downstairs*

Friday, December 28

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

Sunday, December 30

College Student Sunday

9a Focus Prayer Group, *Tower*
9:30a Coffee Time
9:45a Sunday School for all Ages
10:50a Worship, *Sanctuary*
12:15p Rake & Run

Monday, December 31

Church Office Closed

Coming in 2019

Wednesday Connect Resumes: January 2
5:15p Dinner, 6p Worship, 6:30p Small Group Space
Leadership Summit: January 6, 2p-5p
Sunday Night Live Resumes: January 6, 5:30p
Grief Share Support Resumes: January 8, 10a
Weekend Backpack Fundraiser Luncheon: January 20, 12p
Youth Winter Retreat: January 25-27
Parenting Tweens & Young Teens Gathering: January 27, 12p
Souper Bowl Chili Cook-Off for CAM: February 3, 12p
DivorceCare and DivorceCare4Kids: February 5, 6:30p

Sunday Servants

Usher: Melinda Brown
Scripture Reader: Dawson Moore
Crucifer: Ashley Fehrs
Acolytes: Evan Falls @ Andrew Walker
Nursery: Judy Seay, Annie Oliver, Donna Fletcher, Lauren Hearne, Nancy Wilkins, Jennifer Stroupe

Giving on the Go

www.MyersMemorialUMC.org
/Online-Giving

A Record of Our Faithfulness

Sunday, December 16, 2018
Sunday School: 101 Worship: 263
Online Worship: 19
Offering Received: \$26,421

Lessons @ Carols: 180
Online Worship: 19

Upcoming Dates

Christmas Eve Services: 5:30p @ 11p
Rake @ Run: December 30, 12:15p

Myers Memorial United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 23, 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.

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

#ourmissionistolove

December 23, 2018

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

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

Pastorale on "Sleepers Awake"

J. Leavitt

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Scripture: Isaiah 35:10

Lynda Sides

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

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH #220

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

Children's Message

Pastor Sally

Choral Call to Worship

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Chancel Choir

Michael Praetorius

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem bath 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.*

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.

* Hymn of Thanksgiving

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

UMH #229

Offering

Offertory

Lo, He Comes in Clouds Descending

K. Osterland

* 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

Scripture Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

Dawson Moore

Old Testament, page 865

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

The Hands that First Held Mary's Child

D. Forrest

Chancel Choir

*The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood.
From boards they sawed and nailed and filed and splinters they withstood.
This day they gripped no tool of steel they drove no iron nail.
But cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail.
When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame.
And gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name.
The angel's voice he once had dreamed poured out from heaven's height.
And like the host of stars that gleamed blessed earth with welcome light.
This Child shall be Emmanuel not God upon a throne.
But God-with-us, Emmanuel as close as blood and bone.
The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard
And from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human Word
The tools which Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift.
And use with anger, fear and pride to crucify God's gift.
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the Child who's born today
But charged with faith, may we behold to follow in His way*

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

Unexpected Dream

Rev. Sally Queen

* Closing Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

UMH #224

Reception of New Members

page 38

* 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

Finale on "Sleepers, Awake"

J. Leavitt

The Candle on the Altar

is to celebrate the birth of *Mary Windham Lott*

born December 2, 2018 to

Parents Chad & Whitney (Windham) Lott; big Sisters Anna Ruth

& Catherine; and Myers Grandparents Jim & Phyllis Windham.

Announcements

A Caroling We Will Go following Worship today we'll head to CaroMont Hospital to sing and bring Christmas Cheer. Please meet in the main lobby immediately following worship and we will go as a group to sing at the various nursing stations.

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: December 24, 25, 26, 31, January 1

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

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

Closed: December 24, 25 & 31

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

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.

Annual Rake & Run ~ December 30 College Students, Youth, In} {Betweeners, their families (and everyone else) are invited to bring your rakes, leaf blowers, and tarps. Following worship, we'll fuel up on pizza for the annual Rake & Run. Our mission is to get every last leaf out of the yards of our older Myers' members before the end of the year! We'll return to the church around 4p. How many leaves can we rake? It all depends on your participation! Please RSVP to Tresca so we can rake as many yards as possible! More people, more rakes, more yards, less leaves!

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.

Whole 30 Kick Off ~ Saturday, January 5, 1-4p ~ The Whole30 is a meal plan that changes your mindset about eating habits. This event is to help you further understand the Whole30 way of eating, maybe try a few of the food items from the food plans, and gain support for this lifestyle change. Sponsored by the Myers Health Cabinet. Please mark your interest on today's Connection Card or follow the Health Cabinet link on our website.

