

Announcements

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. Think of it as a short-term nutrition reset, designed to change your life in 30 days. This event is to help you further understand this 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.

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 to church on Sunday, December 30th. 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 using the Connection Card so we can know how many yards we can rake! More people, more rakes, more yards, less leaves!

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.

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, Jan 1

Special Hours: Dec. 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: Dec. 24, 25 & 31, Jan. 1

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

Follow us on Facebook @myersmemorial for upcoming events and ways you can faithfully love God and our neighbors at The Pumpkin Church!

If you are visiting with us tonight, we welcome you and invite you to return for worship and service together in 2019 as we seek to earnestly serve God in all that we do.

This Week at Myers Memorial UMC

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

Communion Servers: 5:30p

Rev. Sally Queen, Rev. Sarah Davis

Rev. Carolyn Sears, Connie Elzey,

David Elzey, Tresca McSwain, Shelly

Alman, Brent Alman, Freida

Pendleton

Communion Servers: 11p

Rev. Sally Queen, Rev. Sarah Davis

Tony Sane, Alice Sweazy

Giving on the Go

www.MyersMemorialUMC.org

/Online-Giving

Merry Christmas from the Myers Memorial UMC Staff

Rev. Sally Queen

Rev. Sarah Watkins Davis

Connie Elzey

Tony Sane

Tresca McSwain

Heather Steffey

Leon Cox

Tracey Roberts

Helen Dix

Janet Long

Evelyn Long

Myers Memorial United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 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 24, 2018

Christmas Eve

5:30p @ 11p

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

Pre-service Music

All Praise to Jesus' Hallowed Name

JS Bach

Noel Huron

D. Bedard

Ave Maria

F. Peeters

Savior of the Heathen, Come

JS Bach

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

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Mark, Jaclyn & Isabella Tant (5:30p)

Randy & Lee Black & Family (11p)

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6

Prayer: Almighty God, by the birth of your holy child Jesus you gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness. Grant that in his light we may see light. Bestow upon us that most excellent Christmas gift of love to all people, so that the likeness of your Son may be formed in us, and that we may have the ever brightening hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

* Opening Hymn

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

UMH #240

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

Children's Message

Pastor Sally

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

New Testament, page 91

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Unexpected Gift

Rev. Sally Queen

* Hymn of Thanksgiving

Star Child

TFWS #2095

Offering

Offertory (5:30p)

O Holy Night

Tony Sane & Haley Wise

Adolphe Adam

Offertory (11p)

Still, Still, Still

Norman Luboff

Chancel Choir

Still, still, still, One can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, The world is sleeping, Holy Star its vigil keeping. Still, still, still, One can hear the falling snow. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'Tis the eve of our Savior's birth. The night is peaceful all around you, Close your eyes, Let sleep surround you. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'Tis the eve of our Savior's birth. Dream, dream, dream, Of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels without number, Watch you as you sweetly slumber. Dream, dream, dream, Of the joyous day to come

* Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

UMH #94

Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

* Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy Communion

Rev. Sally Queen

Tonight we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. This is our family meal. All are invited to come forward and receive a piece of bread and then dip the bread into the cup of grape juice. A gluten free station is available. The Table is open to all who wish to partake.

The Great Thanksgiving

UMH #13

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise

It is right, and a good and joyful thing...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Scripture

John 1:1-14

Rev. Carolyn Sears (5:30p)

Rev. Sarah Davis (11p)

Candlelight Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night

UMH #239

Silent night, Holy night All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin, mother and child

Holy infant, tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from thy holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord at thy birth Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, Holy night Shepherds quake, at the sight

Glories stream from heaven above

Heavenly, hosts sing Hallelujah.

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

UMH #246

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!

Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,

and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills, & plains repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,

far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth & grace, and makes the nations prove

the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,

and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

* Benediction

* Chimes of the Trinity

* Postlude

Partita on In Dulci Jubilo

JS Bach

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.