

**WELCOME!!!**

**WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!**

We welcome each of you to our worship services today.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES & TEACHERS**

### **Blackburn Education Building**

**Nursery (Infant to Pre-K):** Rm. 102 - Claire Davis, Topanga Dumm, Hailey Matthews, Alicia Gannon

### **Sunday School**

### **Adult Classes**

**Bradshaw Class:** Parlor, Barbara Robl  
**Transforming Lives Class:** 2nd Floor, Room 202

### **Sanctuary Building**

### **Adult Classes**

**Pathfinders Bible Study Class:** Chapel, Michelle Newton

**Hardison Discussion Class:** 2nd Floor, Dave Williams, various class members



Want to receive our weekly newsletter? Scan the QR code or call the office at 252.237.6121

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
100 Green Street NE  
Post Office Box 1423  
Wilson, North Carolina 27894-1423

# **First United Methodist Church**

**100 Green St., NE, P. O. Box 1423**

**Wilson, NC 27894**

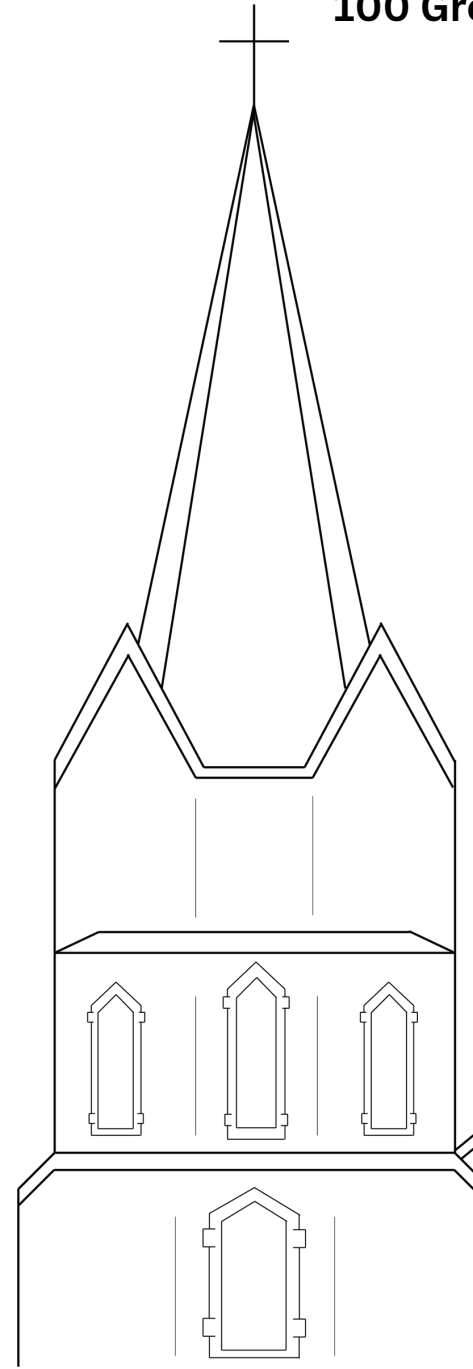
The Reverend Mike Frese, Senior Pastor  
Dr. William M. Presnell, Pastor Emeritus  
The Reverend Robert E. Bergland, Pastor Emeritus  
Mr. David Bellows, Director of Traditional Music Ministries  
Ms. Blythe Evans, Contemporary Worship Leader  
Mrs. Hannah Bland, Director of Children and Family Ministries  
Mr. Tiler Bland, Director of Youth Ministries  
Mrs. Lindsey O'Neill, Church Secretary  
Mrs. Lorie Daniel, Director of Weekday School  
Mrs. Fran Stafford, Financial Secretary  
Mr. Boris Farmer, Custodian

### **Church Office Hours**

**Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

### **Phone Numbers**

**252-237-6121 Office**  
**252-291-4588 Weekday School**  
**252-237-0699 FAX**  
**[www.fumcwilson.org](http://www.fumcwilson.org)**

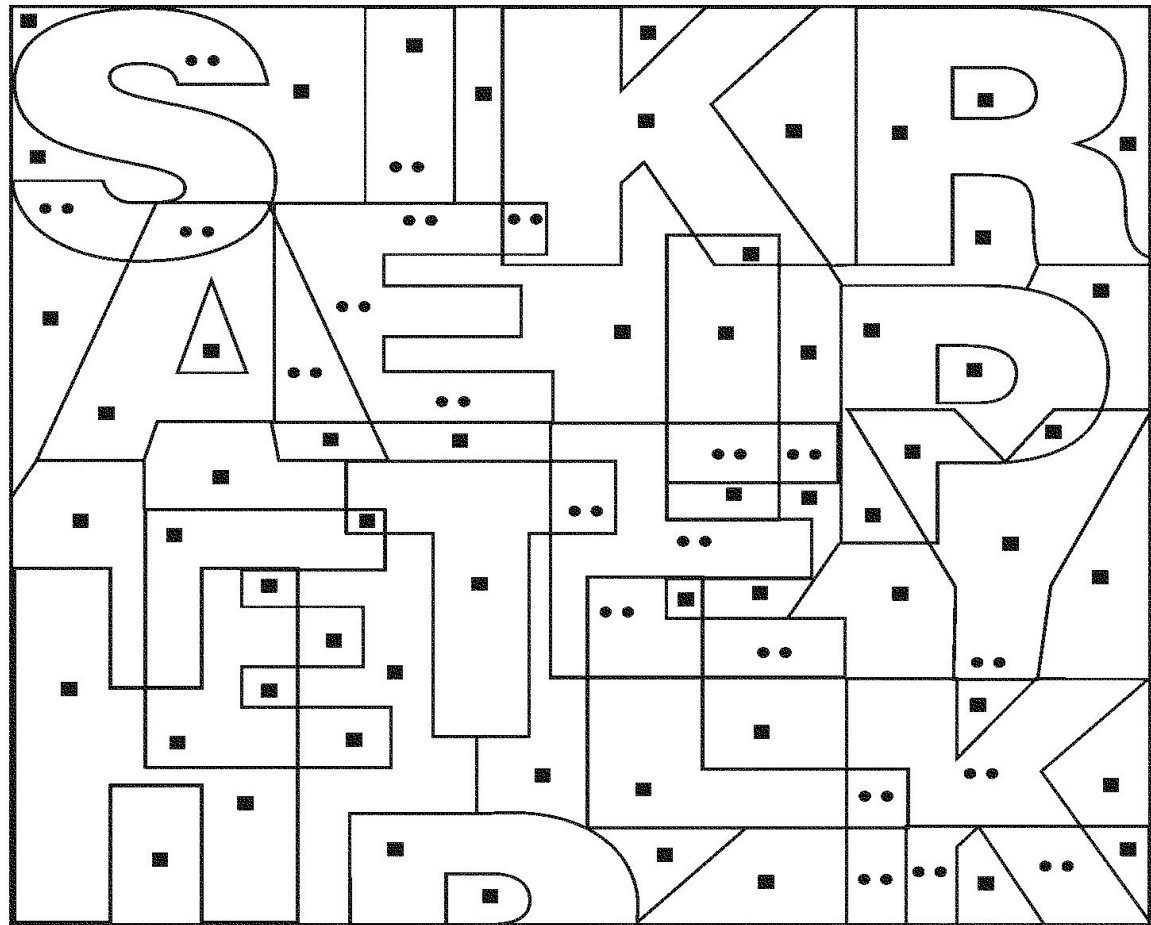


**“Invite, Inspire, Ignite”**

**November 16, 2025**  
**Twenty-third Sunday after**  
**Pentecost**

Seek the LORD

Shade in the spaces with •• to reveal a word.



Let the wicked forsake their ways and the  
unrighteous forsake their thoughts.

**We are so glad you've joined us!**  
Please scan the QR code so we can  
connect with you!



**Please prayerfully consider filling a Samaritan's Shoebox for Christmas this year.** Boxes are available in the Narthex and Asbury Hall and are due back to the church no later than November 23. You may also donate by making checks payable to FUMC and putting Samaritan's Purse in the memo line.

**Flowers:** December 28 is still available. Please email [lindseyoneill@fumcwilson.org](mailto:lindseyoneill@fumcwilson.org) or call the front office to reserve this date.

**Fifth Sunday:** Please note that our next Fifth Sunday worship service will be at 10:00 a.m. on November 30 in the Sanctuary. It will be a wonderful combined service featuring a combination of music from both our services and our Children's Choir! Following the service, please join us for a light brunch in Asbury Hall.

**Children's Choir** rehearsal today at 5:30 p.m.  
in the Choir Suite.

**Chancel Choir** rehearsal November 19 at 6:30 p.m.  
in the Choir Suite.

**Christmas Concert** performance on December 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. FUMC Chancel Choir and Guest musicians will perform the beloved festival of lessons and carols. This concert event is free to the public. Donations accepted to benefit the "Psalm 150" music ministry fund.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

**November 23:** Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes Due

**November 27-28:** *Church Office Closed*

**November 30:** Combined Fifth Sunday Service at 10 a.m.

### December 2: Weekday School Christmas Program

### December 4: Christmas Church Dinner

### December 5: Men's Prayer Breakfast

## December 7: Birthday Party for Jesus

**December 7:** Youth Progressive Christmas Party  
 December 12: Christmas Concert

**December 12:** Christmas Concert  
**December 14:** White Gift Service

**December 14:** White Gift Service  
**December 24:** Christmas Eve Fair

**December 24:** Christmas Eve Family Service at 5 p.m.  
**December 24:** Christmas Eve Communion Service at 9 p.m.

**December 24:** Christmas Eve Communion  
**December 24-26:** *Church Office Closed*

From the Pastor . . .

We are off and running with our three-part sermon series on Jesus’ story known as the “Parable of the Prodigal Son.” Each sermon will focus on one of the three main characters in the parable. Last week, we named the story, “The Parable of the Loving Father,” and examined how the actions of the loving father reflected the love of God. We noted that God consistently loves us, seeks to be in relationship with us, is willing to forgive us and wants us to live with a fullness of joy. The love of the father is the foundation upon which the stories of the two sons rest upon. In the same way, the love of God is the foundation upon which the stories of our individual lives rest upon.

In the “Parable of the Prodigal Son,” we see the younger son intentionally spurn the love of his father and leave the protection of his home. He wants to make his own way in the world apart from his father. Sadly, this ancient story mirrors our own journeys as well. Sometimes, like the younger son, we make dramatic departures from God's love through conscious rebellion, but more often we drift away gradually, almost imperceptibly. Our priorities shift. Something else takes center stage – our careers, our achievements, our families, our pursuit of approval from others. We replace our relationship with the Father with countless other distractions, and before we realize it, we’ve wandered far from home. Sin has a way of clouding our perspective until we find ourselves spiritually bankrupt, surrounded by pigs, wondering how we got here.

Thankfully, the story doesn’t stop with the younger son’s destitute situation. The young man “comes to his senses” and heads home. Recognizing his mistakes, the son doesn’t expect restoration with the father, only the grace to become a servant. Much to his surprise, the father meets him while he is still far off, running down the road with arms wide open. This, too, is the story of faith. God, through Jesus Christ, offers us an unconditional welcome back into the family of God. Ultimately, this part of the parable is less about leaving and more about returning. Wherever you find yourself at this point of your faith journey, remember, God is already running to meet you.

Mike Frese

UPHOLDING OUR VOWS TO THE CHURCH BY OUR PRAYERS  
Remember those in hospitals, retirement and rest homes, and the sick and shut-ins with prayers, cards, calls, and visits.

HOSPITAL:  
George Hunt - ECU Health Medical Center

**New Members:** We are excited to welcome Sarah and Brendan McLaughlin into the fellowship of FUMC Wilson this morning. They come to us through letter of transfer. Their children, Lloyd and Walker, are joining as preparatory members.

BY OUR PRESENCE

The following numbers represent our in-person and livestream numbers for Sunday, November 9, 2025:

9:00 am Worship Service

In-Person - 80    Online - 28

11:00 am Worship Service

In-Person - 103    Online - 51

Total In-Person Attendance - 183

Total Online Worship Attendance - 79

Sunday School - 35

BY OUR GIFTS

2025 Operating Budget	\$1,053,395
Weekly Requirement	\$20,258
Offering Received Nov. 9, 2025	\$19,390
YTD Requirement	\$911,592
Received YTD	\$825,166

BY OUR SERVICE AND OUR WITNESS

**The FUMC Family Dinner & Christmas Celebration** will be on Thursday, December 4 at 6 p.m. Please join us for a night of Christmas cheer and family fun! Spaces are limited. **Please purchase tickets by November 17!** You can volunteer/donate and buy tickets by scanning the QR codes below, calling the church office, signing up on the sheets in the church office, or emailing lindseyoneill@fumcwilson.org.



Volunteer or Donate

Purchase Tickets



The Worship of God  
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Hour  
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering of God’s People

Sharing in Song

HOLY SPIRIT COME  
REST ON US

Praise Band

Welcome and Announcements

Children’s Moments

First Lesson

Luke 15:11-24

Morning Prayer

Special Music

WHEN GOD RAN  
(Please sign and pass the attendance pad)

Praise Band

Prayer of Dedication

WORD FOR THE DAY

Second Lesson

Isaiah 55:6-9

Morning Message

“The Prodigal Son: Parable of the Found Son”

Reverend Mike Frese

OUR RESPONSE

Closing Song

JESUS MY EVERYTHING

Praise Band

Sending Forth

Sound Operator: Shelley Gibson  
ProPresenter: Bella Gibson  
Video: Will Lasitter

Reader: Austin Miller  
Greeters: The Clemmer Family

We are so grateful to all who give of their time and talents to our Praise Band. Thank you for leading in worship and for your ministry to our church!

# The Worship of God

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Hour  
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

*Please let the first note of the prelude be a call to silent meditation.*

PRELUDE “Prelude on 'Lobe Den Herren” W. Wold

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+HYMN NO. 139 “Praise To The Lord, The Almighty” LOBE DEN HERREN

## +AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day He rose from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

+HYMN NO. 71 GLORIA PATRI GREATOREX

## CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

+FIRST LESSON Luke 15:11-24 NT pages 78 & 79

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Please sign and pass the attendance pads.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing” D. A. White

+HYMN NO. 95 DOXOLOGY OLD 100th

## +PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 55:6-9 OT pages 685 & 686

MORNING MESSAGE “The Prodigal Son: Parable of the Found Son” Reverend Mike Frese

+HYMN NO. 673 “God Be With You Till We Meet Again” RANDOLPH

## +DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

## +A TIME OF SILENCE AND TRINITY CHIMES

POSTLUDE “Prelude in G Major, BWV 541” J.S. Bach

+++++++  
+Those who are able, please stand.

The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth Butler Eagles, Robert Bradley Eagles, and Francis Logan Eagles by the family.

Thank you to Becky Gibbons and Terry Kirkland for arranging the beautiful Harvest Table in the Sanctuary in loving memory of Katie Teague Covington.

## Participating with the clergy today:

Sound: David Presnell Reader: Kristen Spainhour  
Video: Mark Godwin Greeters: Joy and Ben Eisner

## Prepare for Next Sunday: “The Prodigal Son: Parable of the Bitter Brother”

First Lesson: Luke 15:25-32  
Second Lesson: Matthew 23:1-12