

**WELCOME!!!**

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

We welcome each of you to our worship services today.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES & TEACHERS**

Children's and Youth Classes

**Blackburn Education Building**

**Nursery (Infant to Pre-K):** Rm. 102 - Kelly Hayes, Alicia Gregory, Nicole Duenas

**Sunday School**

**Children's Sunday School (Pre-K—5th Grade)**

**Room 104** Hannah Bland, Kate Putney, Ellen Poland, Amy Stadiem

**Youth Small Groups**

**Room 204** Kaitlyn Dean, Mandy & Wes Berry

**Adult Classes**

**Bradshaw Class:** Parlor, Barbara Robl

**Open Door Discussion Class:** Room 201

**Transforming Lives Class:** 2nd Floor, Room 202

**Sanctuary Building**

**Adult Classes**

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

**Woman to Woman:** First Floor, Conference Room -

Debbie Bradley

**Hardison Discussion Class:** 2nd Floor, Dave

Williams, various class members

**Watson Class:** 2nd. Floor, Snookie Parker

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

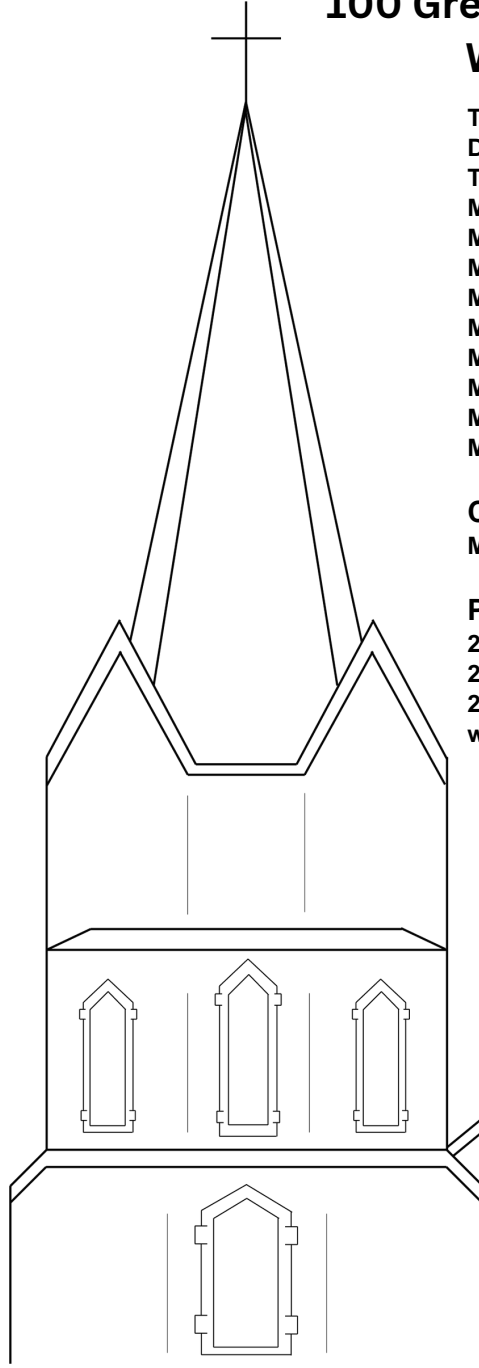
The Reverend Mike Frese, Senior Pastor  
Dr. William M. Presnell, Pastor Emeritus  
The Reverend Robert E. Bergland, Pastor Emeritus  
Mr. David Bellows, Director of Traditional Music Ministries  
Ms. Blythe Evans, Contemporary Worship Leader  
Mrs. Hannah Bland, Director of Children and Family Ministries  
Mr. Tiler Bland, Director of Youth Ministries  
Mrs. Lindsey O'Neill, Administrative Assistant  
Mrs. Shelley Gibson, Director of Communications  
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"*

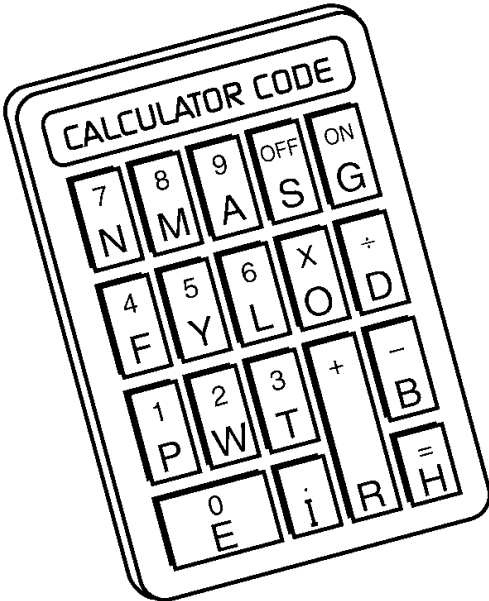
**December 8, 2024  
Second Sunday of  
Advent**

# God's Messenger Prepares the Way

What does God say in this Scripture?



Use the calculator code to find out.



“ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 6  
 \_\_\_\_\_ OFF \_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ ÷  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 5  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_ OFF \_\_\_\_\_ OFF \_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ ON \_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_ +  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 6  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ 0  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_ ”

### First Methodist Women December Meetings

**Laura Davenport Circle:** December 10 at 10 a.m. in the Church Parlor, contact Ellen to RSVP (903.5970).

**Hope Circle:** Serving Christmas Dinner to youth on December 8 at church, Christmas Dinner at Ellen Bergland's home on December 10.

**Christmas Gifting:** We are collecting socks, gloves, and hats to distribute to our neighborhood friends on Christmas morning in a joint effort with First Christian Church. Please drop any donations in the blue bins in the atrium. We also need 2 or 3 volunteers who are willing to assist passing them out on Christmas morning! Please contact Jessica to help out (252.363.3388).

**Live Nativity:** The live nativity is a tradition at FUMC where the kids dress up and tell the Christmas Story. If your child is interested in participating, sign up below and arrive at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The kids will be dismissed during service to get dressed in their costumes.



### MUSIC MINISTRIES

**Children's Choir** will not meet for rehearsal today. The Children's Choir will be singing next in worship on December 15 at the 5:00 p.m. White Gift Service.

**Christmas Concert** performance is tonight, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. FUMC Chancel Choir, Guest Soloists and Orchestra will combine under the direction of David Bellows to present a festive program featuring the Corelli *Christmas Concerto*, Vivaldi's *Gloria* and other Carols. Free Concert. Donations accepted for the "Psalm 150" Music Ministries Fund.

**Christmas Eve Choir** interested in singing some fun carols for the 8:45 p.m. service on December 24? Consider joining the chancel choir for just this special service. Contact David Bellows for more details: [davidbellows@fumcwilson.org](mailto:davidbellows@fumcwilson.org).

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**  
 9:00 Contemporary Worship Service - Asbury  
 10:00 Adult Sunday School Children/Youth Small Groups - Sanctuary Building and Blackburn  
 10:00 Birthday Party for Jesus - Asbury  
 11:00 Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary  
 4:30 Youth Christmas Party - Progressive Dinner  
 7:00 Christmas Concert - Sanctuary

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9**  
 8:30 Weekday School - Blackburn Weekday School

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10**  
 8:30 Weekday School - Blackburn Weekday School  
 10:00 Staff Meeting - Conference Room  
 10:00 Laura Davenport Circle Christmas Cheer - Parlor  
 12:00 FMW Board Meeting - Conference Room  
 12:00 Hospitality Team - Watson  
 6:00 Trustees Meeting - Conference Room  
 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal - Watson Classroom

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11**  
 8:30 Weekday School - Blackburn Weekday School  
 6:00 Finance Committee Meeting - Watson Classroom  
 6:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Music Suite

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**  
 8:30 Weekday School - Blackburn Weekday School  
 6:30 Praise Band Practice - Asbury Hall

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13**  
 8:30 Weekday School - Blackburn Weekday School  
 9:00 ECU Organ Lessons - Sanctuary

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**

### LOOKING AHEAD...

**December 15:** White Gift Service  
**December 24:** Family Christmas Eve Service  
**December 24:** Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
**December 24 - 26:** Church Office Closed  
**December 29:** 5th Sunday Combined Worship & Brunch  
**December 30:** Weekday School Closed  
**December 31:** Weekday School Closed

### From the Pastor . . .

When I was a child, Christmas was all about presents. That’s not to say that I didn’t appreciate all the cookies and candies my mother would make, or the special meals that occurred during the Advent season. However, unloading my Christmas stocking and unwrapping the gifts were the highlight of the season. Christmas meant new toys, new games, and new clothes. The focus was on the “things” of Christmas.

As I have grown older, the “things” of Christmas have become less important. Patty and I still ask our daughters what they want for Christmas (by “they” we mean everyone in the family). What we are looking for is a list of possible “things” that would be useful and appreciated. We’d prefer not to have them unwrap something that is destined for the drawer, closet, or garage, never to see the light of day. While they are thinking through their lists, they return the question and ask us what we want for Christmas. Ugh. Thankfully, Patty and I are at a stage in life when we really don’t need anything. What we really would like is a gathering with the family that is filled with joy and laughter. We want meaningful connection in our time together. We desire love to be shared. These are not “things,” but a quality of life.

In Dr. Seuss’ story of the Grinch, there is a realization that the “things” of Christmas ultimately are not what is most important. Cindy Lou Who points the way after the Grinch steals “Christmas.” She discovers that the Grinch didn’t steal Christmas, only the accoutrements of Christmas. Christmas still came to Whoville. In the story of the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-42), Jesus offers the woman living water. She mistakenly thinks Jesus offers her some “thing” (water). However, Jesus offers her something much better – himself. That offer is given to us as well. The question for us is whether well can see past all the “things” of Christmas and discover the gift of Jesus himself.

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:**  
Chalmer Grantham - Rex

Congratulations to Robert Paul Stallings & Elizabeth Baker Bedgood who were married November 16, 2024 at Jones Chapel in Raleigh, NC with Reverend Jim Bell officiating. They will reside in Raleigh. The parents are Paul & Marilyn Vereen Stallings and Charles & Deborah Bedgood III. The grandmother is Frances Stallings Winstead, & step grandfather, the late John A. Winstead, Jr.

---

### BY OUR PRESENCE

*The following numbers represent our in-person and livestream numbers for Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024:*

**9:00 am Worship Service**  
In-Person - 77 Online - 24  
**11:00 am Worship Service**  
In-Person - 110 Online - 66  
**Total In-Person Attendance** - 187  
**Total Online Worship Attendance** - 90  
**Sunday School** - 44

---

### BY OUR GIFTS

2024 Operating Budget	\$1,083,500
Weekly Requirement	\$20,837
Received December 1, 2024	\$10,739
YTD Requirement	\$1,000,154
Received YTD	\$995,602
Over (Under)	(\$4,552)

---

### BY OUR SERVICE AND OUR WITNESS

**FUMC Kids** will host their annual Birthday Party for Jesus today from 10 - 10:45 a.m. in Asbury Hall. This is open to kids from age 3 - 5th grade and includes games, cookies & more!

All college-aged young people and their families are invited to a **Christmas Brunch** hosted by the Active Faith Circle in Asbury Hall on Dec. 15 at 10 a.m.

## The Worship of God

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Hour  
Second Sunday of Advent

### Gathering of God’s People

**Sharing in Song**                      **MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD**                      Praise Band  
**HOLY FOREVER**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting of the Second Advent Candle**                      The Williams Family

**Children’s Moments**

**First Lesson**                      **Malachi 3: 1-4**

**Morning Prayer**

**Special Music**                      **NOEL**                      Praise Band  
**(Please sign and pass the attendance pad)**

**Prayer of Dedication**

### WORD FOR THE DAY

**Second Lesson**                      **John 4: 5-15**

**Morning Message**                      **“Christmas Is Not About Things”**                      Reverend Mike Frese

### OUR RESPONSE

**Sending Forth**                      **HIS NAME SHALL BE**                      Praise Band

**Benediction**                      **O COME LET US ADORE HIM**                      Praise Band

**Sound Operator: Shelley Gibson**                      **Reader: Blythe Evans**  
**ProPresenter: Denise Stinagle**                      **Greeters: Beth Herndon and Lee Edwards**  
**Video: Todd Stinagle**

**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  
Second Sunday of Advent

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

**PRELUDE** "Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying, BWV 645" J.S. Bach

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**+HYMN NO. 203** "Hail To The Lord's Anointed" ELLACOMBE

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** The Gibson Family

**CHORAL INTROIT** "Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying" J. S. Bach

## +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

**FIRST LESSON** Malachi 3: 1-4 **OT pages 889-890**

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Please sign and pass the attendance pads.*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** "Prepare The Way Of The Lord" W. Rowan

**+HYMN NO. 95** **DOXOLOGY** OLD 100th

## +PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**+SECOND LESSON** John 4: 5-15 **NT pages 94-95**

**MORNING MESSAGE** "Christmas Is Not About Things" Reverend Mike Frese

**+HYMN NO. 202** "People, Look East" BESANCON

## +DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

## +A TIME OF SILENCE AND TRINITY CHIMES

**POSTLUDE** "Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying" P. Manz

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Margaret Edmundson Palmer and Haywood Edmundson by their family.**

## Participating with the clergy today:

Sound: David Presnell

Readers: Daniel and Perry Maravi

Video: Shelley Gibson

Greeters: Terri Mitchell

## Prepare for Next Sunday: *Giving the Gift of Life*

First Lesson: Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1: 4-9