

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

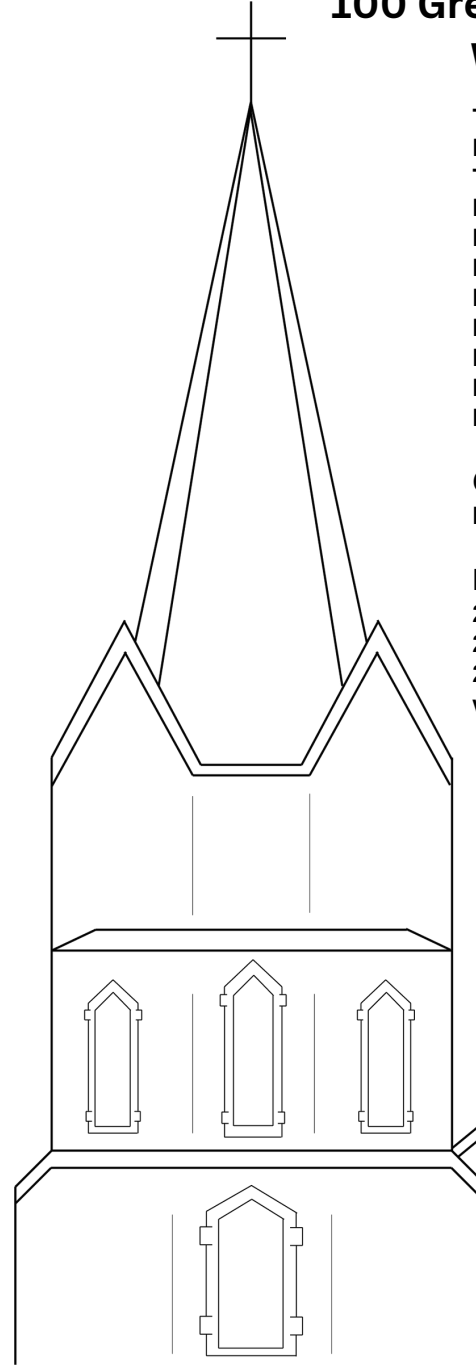
**Pathfinders Bible Study Class:** Chapel, Michelle Newton

**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

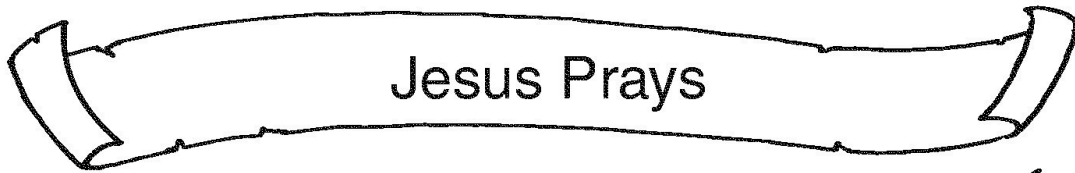
Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### Phone Numbers

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

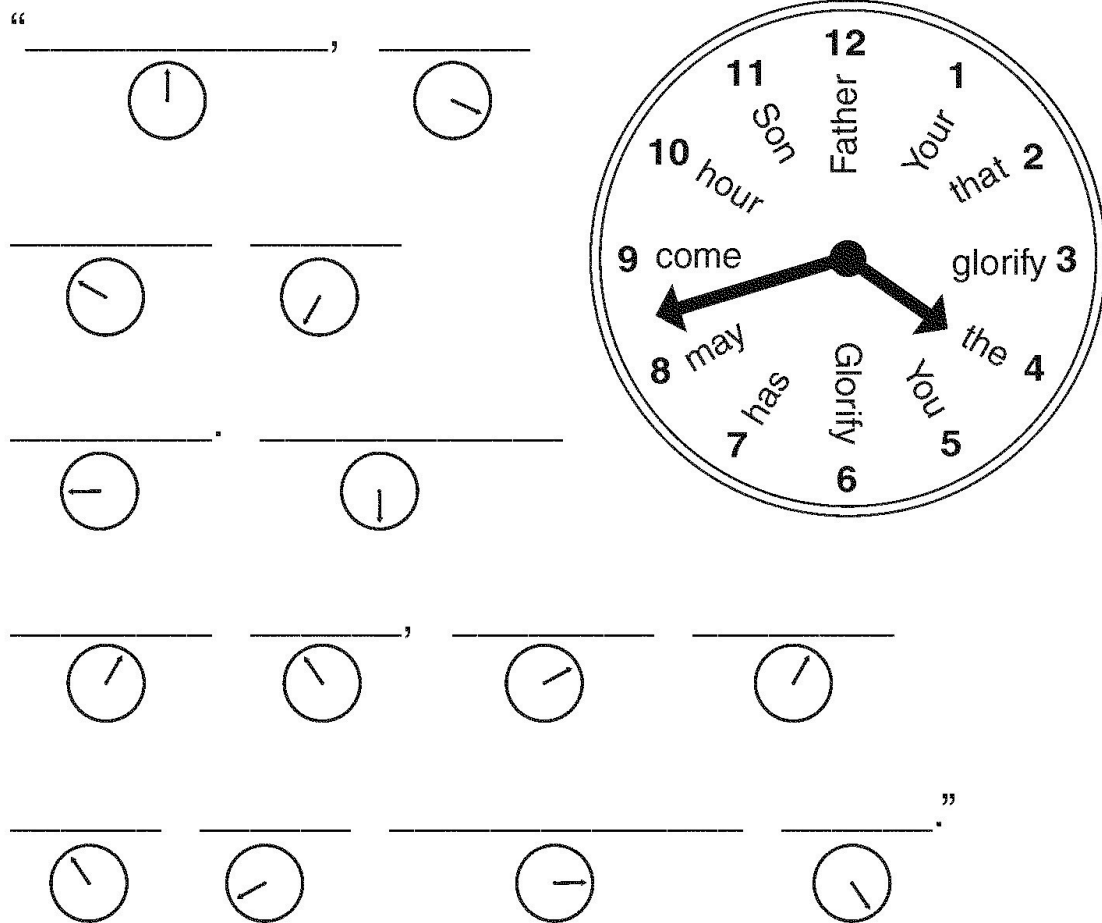
"Invite, Inspire, Ignite"

November 30, 2025  
First Sunday of Advent



Jesus looked toward heaven and prayed.

Use the clock code to  
write the words on the blanks.



**Greeters:** If anyone is interested in serving as a greeter for the 11:00 a.m. traditional service, please contact Beth White (rbmb12003@yahoo.com) or Terri Mitchell (terrisew@yahoo.com).

**FUMC Weekday School Christmas Celebration- Tuesday, Dec. 2:** Join us for a festive evening of fun and holiday cheer! Children's activities and visits with Santa will take place from 5:00–6:15 p.m. Our Weekday School children will then share the joy of the season with a concert at 6:30 p.m., followed by hot chocolate and sweets in Asbury Hall. Bring your family and celebrate the season with us!

**You're Invited to a Birthday Party for Jesus!**  
FUMC Kids invites all children to join us on December 7 from 10:00–10:45 a.m. for a joy-filled celebration! We'll be writing cards for our shut-ins, hearing the Christmas story from a very special guest, decorating Christmas cookies, and enjoying lots of fun games! Come meet us in Asbury Hall and be part of the fun as we celebrate the birth of Jesus together!

**Active Faith Circle's Upcoming Events:**  
**AFC Favorite Things Christmas Party:** Join us Wednesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Ruckus & Redemption for fellowship and a Favorite Things gift exchange. Bring one wrapped gift (\$25 or less). All women are invited!  
**AFC Home for the Holidays College Brunch:** College students and their families are invited to join us for a special holiday brunch on Sunday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m. in Asbury Hall. Come enjoy food, fellowship, and a warm welcome home!

## MUSIC MINISTRIES

**Children's Choir** will not meet this evening. We will be meeting for rehearsal next Sunday, December 7 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. (No Green Street that evening). The Children will be singing next for the White Gift Service on December 14 at 5:00 p.m.

**Handbell Choir** rehearsal December 1 at 6:00 p.m. in the Watson Classroom.

**Chancel Choir** rehearsal December 3 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 present the beloved festival of lessons and carols. This concert event is free and open to the public. Donations accepted to benefit the "Psalm 150" music ministry fund.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

10:00 Combined Worship and Light Brunch - Sanctuary and Asbury Hall  
5:00 Youth Gingerbread Competition - Upstairs in the Blackburn Building

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

8:30 Weekday School - Blackburn Weekday School  
9:30 Weekday School Christmas Practice - Sanctuary  
10:15 CHEW Packaging - Asbury Hall  
6:00 Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Watson Classroom

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

8:30 Weekday School - Blackburn Weekday School  
9:30 Weekday School Christmas Practice - Sanctuary  
12:00 Staff Meeting - Conference Room  
1:30 First Methodist Women Meeting - Conference Room  
5:00 Weekday School Christmas Celebration - Asbury Hall and Sanctuary

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:30 Weekday School - Blackburn Weekday School  
6:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Suite

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:30 Weekday School - Blackburn Weekday School  
6:30 Church Christmas Dinner - Asbury

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast - Asbury  
8:30 Weekday School - Blackburn Weekday School

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

*Organ Tuning All Day in the Sanctuary*

## LOOKING AHEAD...

**December 7:** Birthday Party for Jesus

**December 7:** Youth Progressive Christmas Party

**December 12:** Christmas Concert

**December 14:** College Brunch at 10 a.m.

**December 14:** White Gift Service

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

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

**December 24-26:** Church Office Closed

## WELCOME VISITORS!

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



From the Pastor . . .

Our celebration of Christmas employs a number of different traditions. We decorate Christmas trees, string lights, hang mistletoe and sing carols to name just a few. Many of our Christmas traditions originated in pre-Christian cultures. Perceptive Christian missionaries saw the connection between their common usage and the message of the gospel. These missionaries “baptized” the old practices and gave them new meaning, relating them to the meaning of God’s gift of Jesus Christ. This year, during Advent, each sermon will reflect on the history of one particular Christmas tradition and then share how that tradition shares the good news of the gift of Jesus.

We begin with the Christmas tree. Ever wonder why we bring evergreen trees into our homes each December? The tradition of using non-deciduous trees reaches back thousands of years—from Egyptian palm branches, Roman Saturnalia celebrations and Viking legends. Christian missionaries, seeking to explain the meaning of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus moved beyond these ancient practices to something deeper. For them, the evergreen tree pointed towards the promise of eternal hope.

In the bleakness of northern hemisphere Christmases, when the ground is frozen, flora is dormant and the landscape seems largely dead, the evergreen tree is a powerful example of life. Even the harshness of a winter environment cannot take away the symbol of ongoing life of a fir tree. So, also, the gift of Jesus reminds us that God is with us in the midst of seasons of barrenness in our lives. With Jesus, new beginnings are always possible. Even when we face the darkness of death, Jesus promises us the gift of eternal life.

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.

We extend our love and sympathy to **Robert Satterfield** and his family. Robert's mother, **Emma Garnett Satterfield**, passed away on November 20.

BY OUR PRESENCE

The following numbers represent our in-person and livestream numbers for Sunday, November 23, 2025:

|                                              |
|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>9:00 am Worship Service</b>               |
| In-Person - 79    Online - 46                |
| <b>11:00 am Worship Service</b>              |
| In-Person - 125    Online - 54               |
| <b>Total In-Person Attendance - 204</b>      |
| <b>Total Online Worship Attendance - 100</b> |
| <b>Sunday School - 37</b>                    |
| <b>Sunday Evening Programming - 71</b>       |

BY OUR GIFTS

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 2025 Operating Budget           | \$1,053,395 |
| Weekly Requirement              | \$20,258    |
| Offering Received Nov. 23, 2025 | \$15,216    |
| YTD Requirement                 | \$952,108   |
| Received YTD                    | \$872,896   |

BY OUR SERVICE AND OUR WITNESS

**FUMC’s Christmas Dinner** will be on Thursday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m. Please call the front office at 252-237-6121 to see if there are still seats available, or join us after dinner for the Peace Tree Lighting at 7:20 in the courtyard.

**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 and St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church. Please drop any donations in the blue bins in the atrium.

**Men’s Prayer Breakfast:** The next breakfast will be this Friday, December 5 at 7:00 a.m. The menu will include: pancakes, muffins, 3 meats, grits, scrambled eggs, fruit, & orange juice. All men are invited to join in Asbury Hall for breakfast, fellowship, and devotion!

**Angel Tree:** FUMC Kids is sponsoring an angel tree, located in the Blackburn building hallway. Feel free to grab an angel and surprise a child with a Christmas gift and more importantly the love of Jesus! Wrapped gifts are due back to the church by December 9.

Lyrics to Opening Songs for Worship Service

*His Name Shall Be by Matt Redman*

**Verse 1**  
Oh, can you hear the angels' song that rang so sweet and clear  
When heaven's light and music fell, and mercy found us here  
Glory in the highest, and on the earth be peace  
Glory to God, the angels sing

**Verse 2**  
He came to tell the Father's love, His goodness and His grace  
To show the brightness of His smile, the glory of His face  
So, glory in the highest, and on the earth be peace  
Glory to God, Your children sing

**Chorus**  
His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father  
Prince of Peace for all eternity, oh oh  
His name shall be

**Verse 3**  
He came to lift the weary ones, give peace, and perfect rest  
To take away our burdens and to give a glorious gift  
So, glory in the highest, and on the earth be peace  
Glory to God, the world will sing

**Chorus**  
His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father  
Prince of Peace for all eternity, oh oh  
His name shall be Wonderful, Counselor  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father  
Prince of Peace for all eternity, oh oh  
His name shall be

**Bridge**  
One name above all others  
One name that came to save us  
Oh sing, His name is, His name is Jesus  
One name above all others  
One name that came to save us  
Oh sing, His name is, His name is Jesus

**Chorus**  
His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father  
Prince of Peace for all eternity, oh oh  
His name shall be, oh oh  
His name shall be  
His name shall be

*Holy Forever by Chris Tomlin*

**Verse 1**  
Held within a manger  
The Son of God arrived  
The One who would be called Emmanuel  
The promise was delivered  
Unto a virgin bride  
The One who would be called Emmanuel

**Pre-chorus**  
Your name is the highest  
Your name is the greatest  
Your name stands above them all  
All thrones and dominions  
All powers and positions  
Your name stands above them all

**Chorus**  
And the angels cry: “Ho-o-ly”  
All creation cries: “Ho-o-ly”  
You are lifted high, ho-o-ly  
Holy fore - ver

**Verse 2**  
In the humble town of David  
A Savior born today  
The One who would be called Emmanuel  
Behold the host of Heaven  
With holy roar, proclaim  
The One who would be called Emmanuel  
The Messiah, our God, is with us now

**Chorus**  
**Bridge**  
Hear Your people sing: “Ho-o-ly”  
To the King of Kings: “Ho-o-ly”  
You will always be holy  
Holy fore - ver

**Pre-chorus 2 Repeat**  
**Chorus**  
And the angels cry: “Ho-o-ly”  
All creation cries: “Ho-o-ly”  
You are lifted high: “Ho-o-ly”  
Holy fore - ver  
Hear Your people sing: “Ho-o-ly”  
To the King of Kings: “Ho-o-ly”  
You will always be ho-o-ly  
Holy fore - ver

All powers and positions  
Your name stands above them all  
Jesus, Your name is the highest  
Your name is the greatest  
Your name stands above them all  
All thrones and dominions  
All powers and positions  
Your name stands above them all

**Chorus**  
And the angels cry: “Ho-o-ly”  
All creation cries: “Ho-o-ly.”  
You are lifted high: “Ho-o-ly”  
Holy fore - ver  
Hear Your people sing: “Ho-o-ly”  
To the King of Kings: “Ho-o-ly”  
You will always be ho-o-ly  
Holy fore - ver

# The Worship of God

10:00 a.m. Combined Worship Hour  
First Sunday of Advent

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

PRELUDE “Savior Of The Nations Come, BWV 659” J. S. Bach

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+OPENING SONGS “His Name Shall Be” Praise Band  
“Holy Forever” (Christmas Version)  
(words on previous page)

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE The Rowe Family

## +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 CHOIR “Advent Celebration” M. Patterson  
*Blythe Evans, Accompanist*

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS *A special time where the children will assemble the nativity.*

FIRST LESSON 2 Corinthians 4:1, 7-11, 16-18 NT pages 180 & 181

## PASTORAL PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS  
*Please sign and pass the attendance pads.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Come To Us, O Promised One” L. Larson

+HYMN NO. 95 DOXOLOGY OLD 100th

## +PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+SECOND LESSON John 17:1-5 NT page 111

MORNING MESSAGE “What’s Christ Have To Do With It:  
The Christmas Tree” Reverend Mike Frese

+HYMN NO. 211 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” VENI EMMANUEL  
(vss 1-5, 7)

## +DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

## +A TIME OF SILENCE AND TRINITY CHIMES

POSTLUDE “Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel'” A. Carter

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

The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ina and Harvey  
Little by Nancy and Billy Owens.

Participating with the clergy today:  
Sound: David Presnell Reader: Susan Powers  
Video: Stuart Poland Greeters: Lee Edwards and Terri Mitchell

Prepare for Next Sunday: “What’s Christ Have To Do With It: Mistletoe”  
First Lesson: 1 Corinthians 5:16-21 (Isaiah Passage – Prince of Peace)  
Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-11

*Please join us for a light brunch in Asbury Hall after the service today!*