

**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

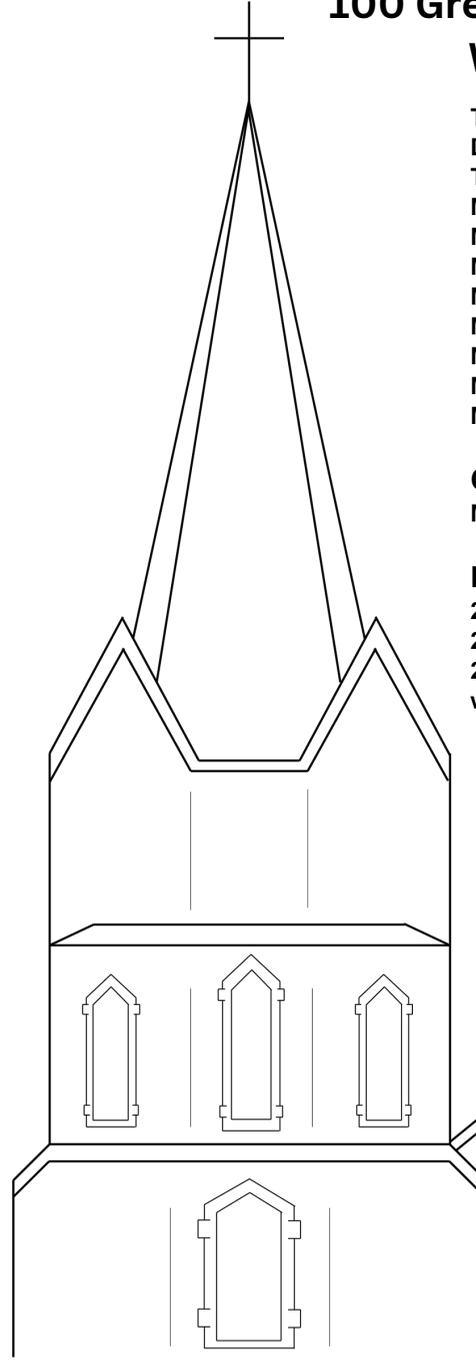
The Reverend Mike Frese, Senior Pastor  
Dr. William M. Presnell, Pastor Emeritus  
The Reverend Robert E. Bergland, Pastor Emeritus  
Mr. David Bellows, Director of Traditional Music Ministries  
Ms. Blythe Evans, Contemporary Worship Leader  
Mrs. Hannah Bland, Director of Children and Family Ministries  
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)



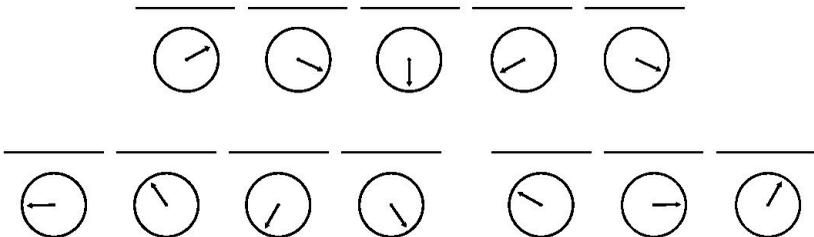
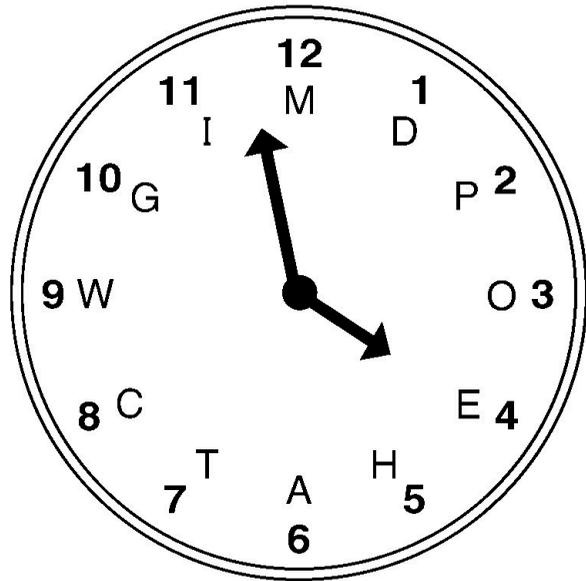
“Invite, Inspire, Ignite”

**December 7, 2025**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

# Saved Through Christ

We are given something very important through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Write the letter that corresponds to the time on the clock.



## WELCOME VISITORS!

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



**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).

**Pecans:** If you haven't paid for your pecans, please drop off the money at the church as soon as you can!

**December Chancel Committee:** Thanks to Sallie Cozart (chair), Barbara Clark, Betty Wooten, Ginny Eagles, Janice Walston, Nancy Thompson, and Vaughn Berry Daniel for serving on the December Chancel Committee.

### 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 be meeting for rehearsal today from 5:00-6:00 p.m. There is no Green Street today. The children will be singing next for the White Gift Service on December 14 at 5:00 p.m. Children should arrive in the choir room before our 4:15 p.m. rehearsal so they have enough time to get robed.

**Handbell Choir** rehearsal December 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Watson Classroom.

**Chancel Choir** Lessons and Carols dress rehearsal December 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**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 to the public. Donations accepted to benefit the "Psalm 150" music ministry fund.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 9:00 Contemporary Worship Service - Asbury Hall
- 10:00 Adult Sunday School Children/Youth Small Groups - Sanctuary Building and Blackburn
- 10:00 Birthday Party for Jesus - Asbury Hall
- 11:00 Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 4:30 Youth Progressive Christmas Party
- 5:00 Children's Choir Rehearsal - Choir Suite

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 8:30 Weekday School - Blackburn Weekday School
- 6:00 Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Watson Classroom

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 8:30 Weekday School - Blackburn Weekday School
- 10:00 Staff Meeting - Conference Room
- 6:00 Trustees Meeting - Conference Room

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 8:30 Weekday School - Blackburn Weekday School
- 6:30 Chancel Choir Lessons and Carols Dress Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 6:30 Active Faith Circle's Christmas Party - Ruckus & Redemption

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 8:30 Weekday School - Blackburn Weekday School
- 9:30 Weekday School Chapel - Sanctuary
- 6:00 Finance Committee Meeting - Watson Classroom
- 6:30 Praise Band Practice - Asbury Hall

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 8:30 Weekday School - Blackburn Weekday School
- 7:00 Chancel Choir Christmas Concert - Sanctuary

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

#### LOOKING AHEAD...

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

**December 14:** White Gift Service

**December 17-January 6:** *Weekday School Closed*

**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*

**January 1:** *Church Office Closed*

**January 19:** *Church Office Closed*

**January 23:** Youth Lock-in

**February 7:** Parent Daughter Dance

## From the Pastor . . .

During this Advent season, we are looking at common Christmas traditions that we often employ without knowing their origins and their history. While most of these traditions existed prior to or outside Christianity, faithful missionaries saw analogies between non-Christian practices and the gospel. Thus, they “baptized” these practices by sharing the gospel of God’s love offered in Jesus Christ through them. This week, we will focus on mistletoe. What’s Christ got to do with mistletoe?

Mistletoe is never mentioned in scripture and certainly isn’t a part of story of Jesus’ birth. Its name literally means, “dung twig.” It is a parasitic plant that grows on deciduous trees. Though humble by nature, it has a mystical quality. As an evergreen, it remains bright and green in the midst of otherwise barren trees. The Celts revered it. The Norse have a legend in which the mistletoe plays a crucial role. Because of that legend, Scandinavian warriors would stop mid-battle if they found themselves under mistletoe, believing it would dishonor their god to fight beneath this sacred sign of life.

Christian missionaries saw in the mistletoe legend a perfect parallel to the gospel: an instrument of death transformed into a promise of life and blessing. Just as mistletoe became a symbol of peace that caused warriors to lay down their weapons and seek reconciliation, the cross of Christ calls us to abandon our battles of bitterness, pride, and resentment. God’s gift of Jesus at Christmas is an offering of peace—with God, with ourselves, and with one another. This Advent season, when you hang the mistletoe, remember it as more than an excuse for stolen kisses, but as a reminder that peace begins when we forgive as we have been forgiven.

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.**

The rosebud in the chancel is in honor of **Sophie May Womble**, who was born on November 28th. Proud parents are Kinsey and Brad Womble. Proud grandparents are Nancy and Billy Owens and Brenda and George Womble.

### BY OUR PRESENCE

*The following numbers represent our in-person and livestream numbers for Sunday, November 30, 2025:*

**10:00 am Combined Worship Service**

In-Person - 194 Online - 56

**Total In-Person Attendance - 194**

**Total Online Worship Attendance - 56**

**Sunday Evening Programming - 42**

### BY OUR GIFTS

2025 Operating Budget	\$1,053,395
Weekly Requirement	\$20,258
Offering Received Nov. 30, 2025	\$12,463
YTD Requirement	\$972,365
Received YTD	\$890,949

### BY OUR SERVICE AND OUR WITNESS

#### Christmas Mission Opportunities

**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.

**White Gift Service Next Sunday:** We need volunteers for sorting the food after the service and on Monday, December 15 at 9 a.m. to unwrap and stock the pantry. Please contact Debbie Bradley at 252-315-3223 if you are interested.

**Angel Tree:** We thank all of those that purchased gifts for the Angel Tree!

**Samaritan’s Purse:** Many thanks to each of you that filled a Christmas Shoebox this year. What a joy it was to deliver 167 boxes from FUMC!

**Habitat for Humanity** is having a fundraiser this Tuesday, December 9 at Bill’s Grill in Wilson. A portion of all proceeds will benefit Wilson Habitat.

## The Worship of God

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Hour

Second Sunday of Advent

### Gathering of God’s People

Sharing in Song      **FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN/OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART**      Praise Band  
**PEACE BE STILL**

Welcome and Announcements

The Lighting of the Second Advent Candle      The Stallsworth Family

Children’s Moments

Mission Moment      Justin Poland

First Lesson      **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

Morning Prayer

Special Music      **GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN (HE HAS COME FOR US)**      Praise Band  
(Please sign and pass the attendance pad)

Prayer of Dedication

### WORD FOR THE DAY

Second Lesson      **Romans 5:1-11**

Morning Message      **“What’s Christ Have To Do With It: Mistletoe”**      Reverend Mike Frese

Holy Communion

### OUR RESPONSE

Closing Song      **THE BLESSING**      Praise Band

Sending Forth

**Sound Operator: Bill Bass**

**Reader: Ellen Poland**

**ProPresenter: Denise Stinagle**

**Greeters: The Nestor Family**

**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 SECOND ADVENT CANDLE The Dunn 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 MOMENTS

MISSION MOMENT Justin Poland

FIRST LESSON 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 NT page 181

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Please sign and pass the attendance pads.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Come Quickly, Lord Jesus" M. Schweizer

+HYMN NO. 95 DOXOLOGY OLD 100th

## +PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SECOND LESSON Romans 5:1-11 NT page 155

MORNING MESSAGE "What's Christ Have To Do With It: Mistletoe" Reverend Mike Frese

## HOLY COMMUNION

*Everyone is invited to join in the singing of the Communion hymns.*

Prelude on 'Divinum Mysterium' W. Held

Hymn 184 Of The Father's Love Begotten DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Hymn 196 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus HYFRYDOL

Prelude on 'Veni Emmanuel' F. Peeters

*Monetary offerings left at the altar will be used for the pastor's discretionary fund.*

+HYMN NO. 209 "Blessed Be The God Of Israel" MERLE'S TUNE

## +DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

## +A TIME OF SILENCE AND TRINITY CHIMES

POSTLUDE "The Jig' Fugue in C Major, BuxWV 174" D. Buxtehude

+++++

+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

Reader: Bea Newton

Video: Stuart Poland

Greeter: Terri Mitchell

Crucifer: Walton Green

Acolyte: Nola Green

## Prepare for Next Sunday: "What's Christ Have To Do With It: Caroling"

First Lesson: Luke 1:46-55

Second Lesson: Luke 1:67-69