

NON-PROFIT
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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WILSON, NC
PERMIT #254

WELCOME!!!
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!
We welcome each of you to our worship services today.

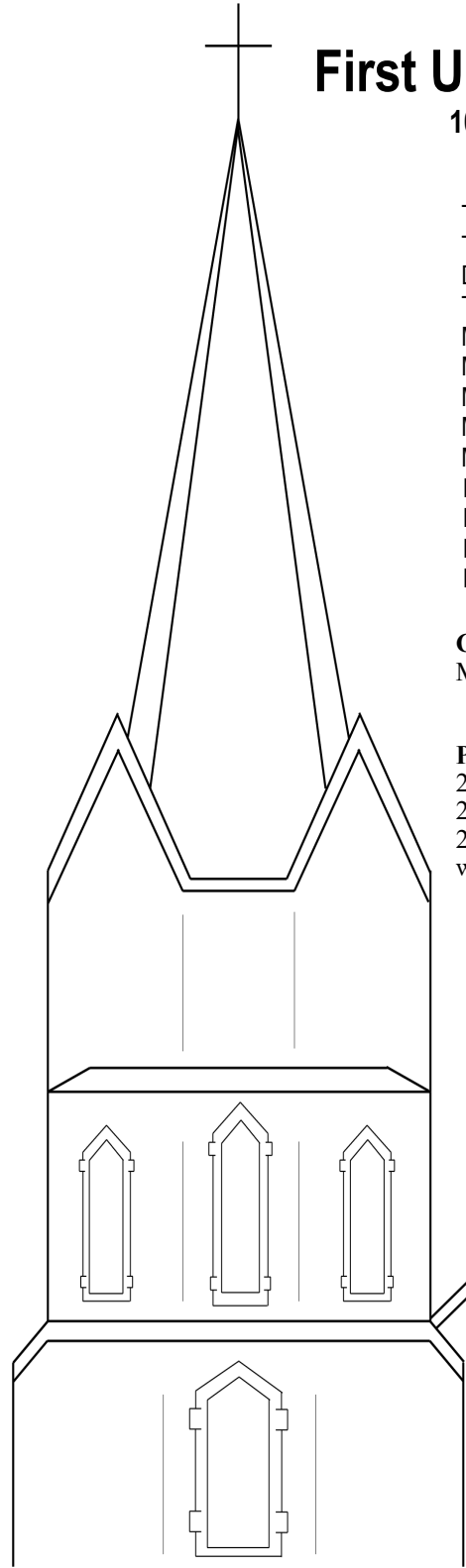
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES & TEACHERS
Children's and Youth Classes
Blackburn Education Building

Nursery (Infant to Pre-K): Rm. 102 - Kelly Joyner, Jill Clemmer, Alicia Gregory, Hannah McDuffie
Sunday School:
Preschool (3 yrs to Pre-K): Rm. 104 - Kate Putney, Lee Edwards, Morgan Williford, Ellen Poland
Kind., 1st, & 2nd Grade: Rm 205 - Lauren Clark, Joy Eisner, Amy Stadiem, & Jenny Harrison, Paige Harper
3rd, 4th & 5th Grades: Rm 201 - Suzette Gibson, Amy Stadiem, Jenny Harrison, Meagan Wooten
Youth: Blackburn Bldg., Room 202, Kaitlyn Dean, Mandy & Wes Berry, Lee Tyson, Kris Skinner

Adult Classes

Sanctuary Building & Blackburn Building
Pathfinders Bible Study Class: Sanctuary Bldg., Chapel, Michelle Newton
Woman to Woman: Sanctuary Bldg., First Floor, Conference Room - Cathy Helmer
Hardison Discussion Class: Sanctuary Bldg., 2nd Floor, Dave Williams, various class members
Watson Class: Sanctuary Bldg., 2nd. Floor, Kent Anderson & Snookie Parker
Bradshaw Class: Blackburn Bldg., Parlor, Barbara Robl & Susan Barnes
Open Door Discussion Class, Blackburn Bldg., Room 203, Susan Barnes, Lee Tyson
Transforming Lives Class, Blackburn Bldg., 2nd Floor, Lorrie Halverson

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



First United Methodist Church

**100 Green St., NE, P. O. Box 1423
Wilson, NC 27894**

The Reverend James D. Bell, Senior Pastor
The Reverend Charles J. Robl III, Associate Pastor
Dr. William M. Presnell, Pastor Emeritus
The Reverend Robert E. Bergland, Pastor Emeritus
Mr. David Bellows, Director of Traditional Music Ministries
Mr. Tiler Bland, Director of Youth Ministries
Mrs. Shelley Gibson, Director of Communications
Mrs. Lorie Daniel, Director of Weekday School
Mrs. Fran Stafford, Financial Secretary
Ms. Jo Shackelford, Church Secretary
Mrs. Amy Stadiem, Interim Director of Children and Family Ministries
Mr. Boris Farmer, Custodian
Mrs. Jean Briggs, Custodian

Church Office Hours
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

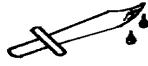
Phone Numbers
252-237-6121 Office
252-291-4588 Weekday School
252-237-0699 FAX
www.fumcwilson.org

"Invite, Inspire, Ignite"

Sunday, November 19, 2023
Twenty-fifth Sunday
after Pentecost

The letter listed some things for the believers to avoid.

Find the letter and the objects to avoid.



As the Christmas season approaches, we are thrilled to invite everyone to the annual **FUMC Christmas event on Tuesday, December 5, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.** Event highlights include two dinner seatings, a Christmas musical program, visits with Santa, children's activities, and a hot chocolate & coffee bar. The event is a collaboration of the FUMC UWF, Children's Council, Youth Group, and Weekday School.

Dinner tickets are on sale in the church office and weekday school office now through December 3rd at noon. Adult tickets are \$10, children ages 3-12 are \$5, children ages 2 and under eat free. There is a cap for families at \$30. Seating is limited so reserve your seats today! If you're unable to attend a dinner, please plan to join us for the program and children's activities. Your presence will make this celebration truly special. Let's come together to celebrate the joy and wonder of Christmas as we connect with each other and build lasting memories with our community and church family.

The 2024 Stewardship Campaign is now under way.



Supporting our Church through our time, talent, and giving is essential to ensuring our Church continues its mission to invite, inspire, and ignite disciples of Christ. Please support the stewardship campaign by using the QR code to learn more and make your pledges today.

Sunday morning nursery caregiver sought. We have an opening for a caregiver (21 years old or older) in our Sunday morning nursery for infants, toddlers, and young children. The hours are 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on a rotating basis for every other Sunday. The caregiver would serve as part of a team with another caregiver. To apply or to recommend someone for this position, please contact Pastor Jim Bell at jimbelle@nccumc.org.

Have you visited the Church Library recently? If you haven't, you would be surprised at the vast collection of books on managing grief, parenting, Bible study, humor, social issues and many more timely subjects. Volunteers are always welcome. Contact Karen Blume at 230.5299 for more information on our library collection, book donations, and volunteering.

We would love to have every one of our church families to be represented in our new pictorial directory. Please call Wally Stocks Photography at 252.399.0844 to schedule an appointment. There is no charge to you and you are not required to purchase anything, although you may if you wish to.

On Sunday, December 10, during the Sunday School hour, all children are invited to participate in the Birthday Party for Jesus. We will enjoy fellowship, small snack, craft, and celebrating the birth of Jesus! We will collect toys for Faith Connections. Please bring an unwrapped toy to donate.

That afternoon at 3:00, all children, young and old, are invited to meet in Asbury Hall to enjoy cookies, hot chocolate, fellowship, and crafts. **At 4:00 p.m. we will begin spreading Christmas cheer by door step caroling at the homes of various members of our church.**

MUSIC MINISTRIES

If you are a Bass, we need you in the Chancel Choir! The Chancel Choir will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. The **Children's Choir** is meeting on Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. during Green Street Kids. This group is open to kids 4 years old through 5th grade. **Come Join Us!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- 9:00 Contemporary Worship Service - Asbury Hall
- 10:00 Adult Sunday School & Children/Youth Sunday Morning Small Groups - Sanctuary Bldg./Blackburn Bldg.
- 11:00 Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 3:00 Charge Conference - Asbury Hall
- 5:00 Children's Choir & Green Street Kids - Watson Classroom
- 5:00 Youth Group - Asbury Hall

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

- 8:00 Weekday School - Blackburn Bldg.
- 10:00 Safety Committee
- 6:30 Youth Council - Asbury Hall

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- 8:00 Weekday School - Blackburn Bldg.
- 10:00 Staff meeting - Watson Classroom (*Office Closed*)
- 6:00 SPRC - Conference Room
- 6:30 Handbells - Watson Classroom

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

- Weekday School is closed*
- 6:30 Chancel Choir - Choir Room

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

- Weekday School is Closed*
- Church Office Is Closed*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

- Weekday School is Closed*
- Church Office is Closed*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Looking Ahead . . .

November 23-24 **Church Office Closed - Thanksgiving**

- December 3** Peace Lights Tree Ceremony
Green St. Kids decorate Blackburn Tree
Dinner with "adopted" Christmas Gift recipients
- December 5** Churchwide Dinner and Weekday School Christmas Program
- December 10** Birthday Party for Jesus
Green St. Kids - Cookies & Caroling
Youth Christmas Party
- December 15** Christmas Concert "A Festival of Lessons and Carols"
- December 17** 9:00 Contemporary Worship
11:00 Traditional Worship with Chancel Choir presentation of "A Festival of Lessons and Carols"
5:00 White Gift Service

From the Pastor. . .

Discerning God’s Will

Many of you may be familiar with Lewis Carroll’s adventure story titled “Alice in Wonderland. At one point in the book, Alice is walking through the forest. She comes to a fork in the road. Ahead of her are two paths. She is perplexed about which one to take. In a tree above her sits the Cheshire Cat. He is smiling. Alice asks the cat, “Which path should I take?” The cat responds with another question, “Where are you going?” meaning “What is your destination?” Alice is frustrated and she responds, “I don’t know!” The cat replies, “If you don’t know where you are going, it doesn’t matter which path you take.” Then he smiles!

I am afraid this is the condition of many people in our world today. They do not have a direction or a purpose.

I am convinced that the very best way to live is in following God, in honoring and obeying God. When we seek to follow God, then God will help us in determining which paths to take in our lives. When we want to follow God, then we seek to follow his will for our lives. We want to do what God wants us to do. How do we determine that? How do we discern God’s will?

Dr. Leslie Weatherhead has written that “the greatest help available in discerning the will of God is reached when we deepen our friendship with him.” Those who know God are the quickest and surest at discerning His will. We discern God’s will for our lives when we grow closer to God through spiritual disciplines.

This Sunday’s sermon will explore practical steps that can help us discern God’s will. Join us!

Discerning God’s will, day by day,

Pastor Jim

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: **Neil Wheeler** - Wilson Medical Center

This morning at the 9:00 worship service we welcome **Alan Williams** into the fellowship of FUMC - Wilson. Alan comes to us by Profession of Faith.

BY OUR PRESENCE

The following numbers represent our in-person and livestream worship for

Sunday, November 12, 2023

9:00 Contemporary Worship Service

In-Person – 79 Online - 54

11:00 Traditional Worship Service

In Person - 147 Online – 79

Pilgrimage - 44

Total In-Person Worship Attendance – 226

Total Online Worship Attendance – 133

Sunday School Attendance - 64

BY OUR GIFTS

2023 Operating Budget \$ 1,137,834

Weekly Requirement \$ 21,881

Received November 12, 2023 \$ 19,617

YTD Requirement \$ 1,006,545

Received YTD \$ 944,068

Over (Under) \$ (62,477)

BY OUR SERVICE AND WITNESS

Samaritan’s Purse Shoeboxes are due today by noon. Thank you to those who have completed and returned a box, filled a box online, or who have given a financial gift to brighten a child’s Christmas!

The 2023 Charge Conference will be held today, Sunday, November 19, at 3:00 p.m. in Asbury Hall.

The 2023 Christmas Memorial greenery sale continues. Please contact Libby Baskervill at 252.230.5884 to reserve wreaths, garlands, and poinsettias in honor of or in memory of your loved ones. Items will be available in the same sizes and prices as last year. (see flyers on the Welcome Table in the Atrium.) Mark your calendars!

The Worship of God

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 Contemporary Worship Hour

GATHERING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

BREATHE ON US

Praise Band

CHRIST BE ALL AROUND ME

Sharing in Song

Welcome and Announcements

Children’s Moments

Update to the Congregation

Philip Thompson, Church Council Chair

First Lesson

I Thessalonians 5:12-22

Reception of New Member

Morning Prayer

Special Music for Offering

HOLY SPIRIT

Praise Band

(Please sign and pass the attendance pad.)

Prayer of Dedication

WORD FOR THE DAY

Second Lesson

Acts 15:22-29

Morning Message

“Discerning God’s Will”

Reverend Jim Bell

OUR RESPONSE

Sending Forth

LORD I NEED YOU

Praise Band

Sound Operator: Ashdyn Clemmer

Pro Presenter: Eddie Reel

Video: Emma Reel

Reader: Garrett Honeycutt

Greeters: Heather Lasitter and 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
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
11:00 Traditional Worship Hour

PRELUDE “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” A. D. Miller
(Please let the first note of the prelude be a call to silent meditation)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+HYMN NO. 400 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” NETTLETON

CHORAL INTROIT “We, Thy People, Praise Thee” J. Haydn

+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 - A short children’s devotion for preschool and elementary children.

UPDATE TO THE CONGREGATION Philip Thompson, Church Council Chair

FIRST LESSON **I Thessalonians 5:12-22** **NT page 205**

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me” K. Lee Scott
(please pass and sign the attendance pad)

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

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SECOND LESSON **Acts 15:22-29** **NT page 135**

MORNING MESSAGE “Discerning God’s Will” Reverend Jim Bell

+HYMN NO. 395 “Take Time To Be Holy” **HOLINESS**

+DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

+A TIME OF SILENCE AND TRINITY CHIMES

+POSTLUDE “Toccata in Seven” J. Rutter

+++++

+Those who are able, please stand.

The Harvest Table in the chancel is given to the glory of God by Terry Kirkland and Becky Gibbons.

Participating with the clergy today:

Video: FT Franks
Sound: T Franks

Reader: Ellen Bergland
Greeter: Mary Jo Kimbro

PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY: “Christ the King” Psalm 100 and Matthew 25:31-45