



Nolensville First United Methodist Church

Our mission is to be a neighborhood church, where people experience a life-changing relationship with Jesus, in a welcoming church family.



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Bringing in the Light of Christ

✠ Call to Worship

L: In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hill; all nations stream to it. Many people shall come saying,

P: Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us His ways and that we may walk in God's path.

L: And with what shall we come to God's house?

P: With branches of cedar and holly, evergreens and pine! Make the church fragrant with the smell of living things! Hang the greens, listen to the words of the prophets, and let us prepare both this space and our hearts for the One who comes to give us second birth!

✠ Hymn of Praise

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

UMH 196

The Meaning of the Advent Wreath

Lighting of the Prophet's Candle

Litany of the Greens

L: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King?

P: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

L: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the eternal Christ?

P: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

L: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, our Savior?

P: With wreaths of holly and ivy, symbolizing his passion, death and resurrection.

L: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God?

P: By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold the saving work of God.

L: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

A: Glory to God in the highest!

Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vv. 1-2)

UMH 211

The Prophet: Jeremiah 23:5-6

The Evangelist: John 12:12-13

The Meaning of the Cedar

Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vv. 3-4)

UMH 211

The Prophet: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The Evangelist: John 3:16

The Meaning of the Garlands & Wreaths

✠ Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed (vv. 1,3)
(Hanging of the Outdoor Wreaths)

UMH 203

The Prophet: Isaiah 53:1-9

The Evangelist: John 1:9-14

The Meaning of the Holly

Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful (vv. 1,,3)

UMH 234

The Prophet: Isaiah 60:1-5a

The Evangelist: 1 John 1:5-10

The Meaning of the Poinsettia

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem (vv. 1,3)
(Placing of the Poinsettias)

UMH 230

The Prophet: Psalm 103:1-5

The Evangelist: 1 Peter 2:23-25

The Meaning of the Mistletoe

✠ **Hymn**

Joy to the World (v.3)

UMH 246

The Prophet: Genesis 1:1-4

The Evangelist: John 1:1-5, 8:12

The Meaning of the Lighting of the Tree

The Blessing of the Chrismon Tree

Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of Your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
(The Chrismon Tree and other decorations are lit)

UMH 206

The Gifts of Christmas

Hanging of the Chrismons

Music

Presentation of the Manger

Receive your strip of cloth from the basket to prepare room for the Christ Child in your life.

Hymn

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (v. 2)

UMH 240

✠ **Benediction**

✠ **Hymn of Fellowship**

Joy to the World (v.4)

UMH 246

✠ **Taking the Light of Christ into the World**

Postlude

Nolensville First United Methodist Church
7316 Nolensville Road | Nolensville, Tennessee 37135
www.NolensvilleUMC.org
Office: 615-776-2815 | Jacob's Ladder: 615-776-7362

Chrismon Definitions and Symbols

THE CROSS

Symbolizes the crucifixion of Christ



CHALICE

The cup symbolizing the sacrament of the Eucharist or Communion; it also represents forgiveness and reconciliation with God.



CROWN

A king's crown is the symbol of royal power and authority. It symbolizes Jesus as King of the Jews, in fulfillment of prophetic expectation, as well as the exalted Christ as King of Kings.



ALPHA AND OMEGA

The Greek letters alpha (first) and omega (last) from Rev. 1:8 and 22:13, symbolizing Jesus as the Christ who has come and will come again; it also symbolizes the continuity of God's presence in human history.



DESCENDING DOVE

The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, recalling the Holy Spirit's descent on Jesus as a dove at His Baptism.



CHI RHO

Two Greek letters which are the first letters in the Greek word for Christ.



TRINITY

A form of the triquetra, a symbol of the Trinity from Great Britain. The three points represent Father, Son, and Holy Spirit while the continuous interwoven line represents unity.



BABE

A symbol of the baby Jesus.



LAMB OF GOD

Judaism views the lamb as an offering. Christians think of Jesus as the Lamb of God who was sacrificed to forgive our sins.



NATAL STAR CROSS

A natal cross, with a four-pointed Bethlehem Star representing the sign in the night sky announcing Jesus' birth combined with a cross, symbolizing the salvation which the birth of this child brings.



PAX

Peace in Latin representing hope for peace in this world.



STAR OF DAVID

The Star of David or the Creator's Star. The six points represent six aspects of God: love, mercy, wisdom, majesty, power, and justice. In this form, the two triangles represent the Trinity.



CHRISTMAS EVE

AT NOLENSVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5:00 PM

Family
Friendly

Childcare for 3 + under available

7:30 PM

Contemporary Carols,
Candlelight, & Communion

Childcare for 3 + under available

11:00 PM

Classic Carols,
Candlelight, & Communion

No childcare available