

We THANK the following for their service during our worship service:

Lay Reader: Rett Davis

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS in the pews may be placed in the offering or in the Prayer Request Boxes in the Reading Area and the Narthex, or you may email the Prayer Ministry Team at prayer@frontstreetumc.org. We thank team members Don and Glenda Milligan, who will be in the Prayer Room on our behalf at noon to pray for requests given on the Prayer Request Cards.

JANUARY FOOD COLLECTION FOR EASTLAWN BACKPACK MINISTRY

In **January**, we are collecting the following items: canned black beans, mac 'n' cheese, oatmeal packets, peanut butter (16 oz. plastic jars), peanut butter crackers, and rice (1 lb. bag). Please deposit donations on the bottom shelf of the Donation Center located in the Reading Area.

OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

January 1 and 2 for New Year's. Happy New Year!

2025 CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE

A friendly reminder from the Church Office: in order for contributions to be included as a contribution towards your 2024 statement, please have mail postmarked or dropped at the church office NO LATER THAN **December 31**. All contributions received after December 31 will be applied to your 2025 statement.

Please note: when you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction.

CEREAL SUNDAY

January 4 is Cereal Sunday. To help stock the food pantry at The Salvation Army, please bring cereal or other canned/dry goods. Thank you!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH & CIRCLE 5 MEETINGS

UWF will meet **Monday, January 5**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Heritage Center for coffee and fellowship, then moving to the Chapel at 10:30 a.m. Suzie will update us on the Market for Missions and help us begin planning for 2026. We will also discuss the future of UWF leadership at Front Street. All women are welcome to join this time of fellowship and prayerful consideration.

Circle 5 will meet **Tuesday, January 13**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Staci Poplin, new director of Front Street's Playschool Program, will be our speaker. Our Mission in Action project is collecting items and monetary donations for the Playschool teachers. A list of suggested items will be shared with members in early January.

CYNTHIA POWELL WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Cynthia Powell Women's Bible Study will resume on **Tuesday, January 13**, 2026 in Room 401 at 9:30 a.m. We will begin a new study from the Wesley Bible Studies series entitled *Jeremiah Through Daniel*. All women are welcome. For additional information, please call Patty Diming, 336-570-9739 or email Salley Bradford at salleybradford@yahoo.com.

FAITHFUL FAMILIES

Parents/guardians of children and youth are invited to join Faithful Families, a Sunday School Group aiming to build Christian community that takes seriously going deeper in our relationships with God and one another. Starting **February 8**, Faithful Families will gather in Room 301 from 9:45 a.m.-10:45a.m. on Sunday mornings. Children are invited to join Children's Sunday School or Nursery on the 3rd floor, while youth (6th-12th grade) are invited to Room 303 as they build Christian community together. Contact Daniel Polito with any questions!

SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 28, 2025		
Sunday, December 28		
9:00	Aldersgate Contemporary Worship	Aldersgate Hall
9:45	Sunday School	Classrooms
11:00	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary
Thursday, January 1 and 2 - Church Office Closed		
9:30	Prayer Team Meeting	John Wesley Room
Sunday, January 4		
9:00	Aldersgate Contemporary Worship	Aldersgate Hall
9:30	Children's Choir	Choir Room
9:45	Sunday School	Classrooms
11:00	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one: **January 4 and 18, and 25 and February 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2026**. Please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 or kpaul5@triad.rr.com for details or to sign up.

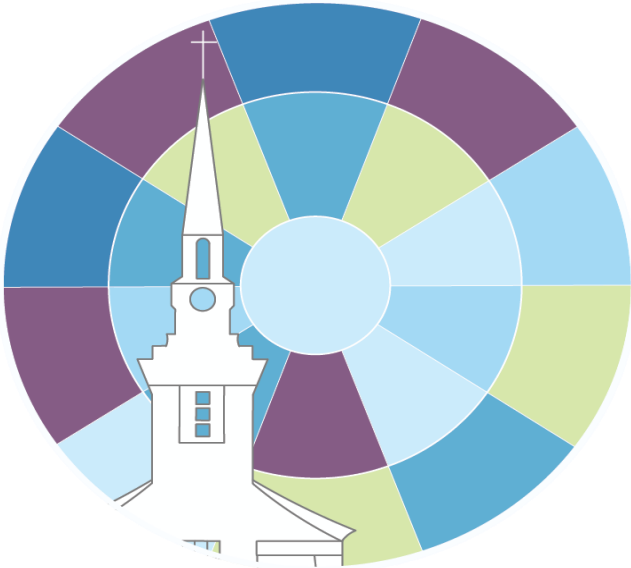
LIVE-STREAMING

We are pleased to be able to live-stream our 11:00 a.m. worship each week for the benefit of those who are not able to be physically present. For those who would prefer to not be on camera, we endeavor to make the back half of the sanctuary a non-video zone. If you have any questions about this service, please feel free to speak with Pastor Ray.

FRONT STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission:

Knowing Christ • Growing in Christ • Sharing Christ



Pastors

Rev. Ray Warren
Rev. Marshall Old, Interim

Discipleship Minister

Daniel Polito

Children's Minister

Melissa Miller

Worship and Family Minister

Josh Abraham

Youth Minister

Chris Huneycutt

Visitation Minister

Leslie B. Peavy

Director of Music Ministry

Dr. Matt Estes

PO Box 2597 Burlington, NC 27216 Church Office: (336)-227-6263

www.frontstreetumc.org

Follow Us



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
DECEMBER 28, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Welcome to the traditional worship service of Front Street!
Please take a moment to fill out the attendance pad found at the end of each pew. You can receive a digital worship kit by texting "Worship" to 833-337-8517. During the worship service we invite you to stand as you are able (indicated by *) and join your voice in reading, singing, or praying the **bold** text. As you prepare for worship please feel encouraged to say hello to your neighbors, or spend a moment in solitude with God.

ELEVEN O’CLOCK

GATHERING AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS

PRELUDE **Once in Royal David’s City** arr. Faye Lopez

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is here! So don't let go of all the reasons to rejoice.

People: We will sing to the One who fills our lives with joy.

Leader: God comes so don't stop lifting your prayers with thanksgiving.

People: We will sing to the One who hears our words and our silence.

Leader: God is here! So don't stop giving your hearts to God.

People: We will sing to the One who graces us with a peace that we cannot begin to understand.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN UMH NO. 220

Angels from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, while we pursue power, you come in weakness as a child. All season long we want more stuff, but you alone offer what is lasting. Through the work of our Lord Jesus, who comes full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels. When we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us Lord. When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel, have mercy on us, Father. When hardness of heart keeps us from believing in your song, let your grace fill us, O God. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope in Christ alone that we may wait and once more hear the glad story of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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.

* GLORIA UMH No. 238 **Angels We Have Heard on High** (vs. 4) **GLORIA**

Children ages 4 – first grade may depart for Children's Church in Room 309.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sign, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE **Luke 1:46-55**

(Please read the bold aloud with the lay speaker.)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. **The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.** He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. **He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly.** The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. **He has helped Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy,** according to his promise to our father, Abraham, and to his descendants forever.

SCRIPTURE READING **Micah 5:1-4** OT Page 865

SERMON **“Sometimes Less is More”** Rev. Marshall Old

UMH No. 881

HYMN OF RESPONSE UMH No. 229 **Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**
W ZLOBIE LEZY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

(Please feel comfortable praying the words of your tradition.)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of the church. If you would prefer to make your contribution via Text-to-Give, just text your offering amount to FSUMC's dedicated number, 336-489-GIVE (4483).

OFFERTORY **Gesu Bambino** Petra Yon
Margaret Dalton, soloist

* DOXOLOGY **LASST UNS ERFREUEN**

All Singing: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! UMH No. 94

* CLOSING HYMN UMH No. 224 **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**
IN DULCI JUBILO

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE **Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow** arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME! We're glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Following this service, there is a gathering in the Heritage Center for fellowship and refreshments. Please join us. Our hosts this week are Steve and Kathy Cecil.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our grandparents, Juanita Ephland Steele, Jack Edwin Steele, Nicholas Chrysostom Johnson, Alice McDaniel Johnson, Cecil Haley Johnson, Lillian Huff Johnson, William Stone Hindman, and Frances Mays Hindman by Tom and Kim Steele.

MEMBERS OF THE ALTAR GUILD serving in December December are Mary Ellen Cross, Marie Crissman, Beth Kelley, Margaret Pardue, and Pat Freiburger.