

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

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

Acolytes: Cate Hill and Sarah Moran
Communion Servers: Willard and Carolyn Haggins
Lay Reader: Anna Gail Workman

THE 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 area, or you may email the Prayer Ministry Team at prayer@frontstreetumc.org. We thank team member Vicky Glassford, who will be in the Prayer Room on our behalf at noon to pray for requests given on the Prayer Request Cards.

DECEMBER FOOD COLLECTION FOR EASTLAWN BACKPACK MINISTRY

In **December**, we are collecting the following items: canned meat, canned vegetables, granola bars, oatmeal or grits packets and peanut butter (16 oz. plastic jars). Please deposit donations on the bottom shelf of the Donation Center located in the Reading Area.

CEREAL SUNDAY

Today is Cereal Sunday at FSUMC! Please deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods on the top shelf of the Donation Center in the Reading Area. Feel free to drop off these items any time during the month.

TREES OF LOVE

This holiday season, share the love of Christ with our neighbors by participating in Trees of Love.

- Tree of Grace:** Support the **Pastor's Discretionary Community Relief Fund**, which assists community members experiencing financial hardship by helping cover essential expenses such as electric, gas, and water bills. New this year: our knitting and crocheting group has added handmade toboggans to the Tree of Grace. You may select a toboggan from the tree and make a donation to the Discretionary Fund.

- Tree of Hope:** Help bring Christmas joy to clients of the **Alamance County Family Justice Center**, which supports survivors of domestic abuse and their children. Your gifts will help make their holiday season brighter.

- Tree of Life:** Contribute to **Congregations for Children** (C4C), a United Methodist Church initiative serving children living in poverty. Through our partnership with Eastlawn Elementary School, we provide food through the Backpack Ministry and other vital support for students and families in need.

How to participate: Take an ornament from one of the Trees of Love and return the item listed on the back, **unwrapped**, to the designated tree outside the church office by **Sunday, December 21**. *Monetary or gift card donations should be delivered directly to the church office.*

CIRCLE 5

Circle 5 will meet on **December 9** at 6:30 p.m. in the Heritage Center. During this gathering, we'll assemble goody bags for the Eastlawn teachers. If you'd like to contribute items, a Sign-Up Genius is available for volunteers. We already have the bags and several supplies on hand, and coming together to fill them always makes for a fun and meaningful time. Please join us.

MORNING MOVIE WITH FRONT STREET SENIORS!

Join the Front Street Seniors for a special morning at the movies on **Thursday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m.** at Graham Cinema. The featured film will be *A Christmas Carol* (1984), starring George C. Scott. Tickets are **\$5 cash**, and the box office will open at **9:45 a.m.** Everyone is encouraged to wear festive Christmas attire as we celebrate the season together. Please RSVP to Leslie at lesliebpeavy@gmail.com. We hope you can join us for this fun and festive outing!

WHEELCHAIR RAMP BUILD

The next wheelchair ramp build is scheduled for **Saturday, December 13**. If you're able to lend a hand or need more details, please contact Tom Sineath at tom.sineath@gmail.com.

SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 7, 2025		
<u>Sunday, December 7</u>		
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
5:00	MYF/Christmas Cheer Shopping/Wrapping	Aldersgate Hall
<u>Tuesday, December 9</u>		
9:30	Cynthia Powell Women's Bible Study	Room 401
6:30	Circle 5	Heritage Center
7:00	Epworth Ringers	Bell Room
<u>Wednesday, December 10</u>		
8:00	Youth Breakfast Club	Biscuitville, 669 Huffman Mill Rd
4:30	Playschool Winter Wonderland	Aldersgate Hall
7:00	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
<u>Thursday, December 11</u>		
10:00	Knitting & Crocheting Group	Bride's room
<u>Saturday, December 13</u>		
8:30	Wheelchair Ramp Build	
10:00	Knitting & Crocheting Group	Bride's Room
<u>Sunday, December 14</u>		
9:00	Aldersgate Contemporary Worship	Aldersgate Hall
9:30	Children's Choir	Choir Room
9:45	Sunday School	Classrooms
11:00	A Festival of Lessons & Carols	Sanctuary
5:30	MYF Christmas Party	Huneycutt Home

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 | 11:00 A.M.

Join us for a joyful and reflective Service of Lessons and Carols as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season. Through scripture readings and beloved carols, we will celebrate the story of God's promise and the coming of Christ.

All of our choirs will share in worship during this special service - our Children's Choir, Chancel Choir, and Epworth Ringers.

Parents, please note there will be no Children's Church. Children are encouraged to stay in the sanctuary and enjoy the beautiful music. The nursery will be available to any children birth-first grade.

FRESH MOBILE MARKET | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 | 2:00-3:30 P.M.

We need helping hands to pack food, load cars, and direct traffic at our Fresh Mobile Market. Your time and energy make a direct impact—thank you for helping get food into the hands of the hungry!

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 7, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
COMMUNION SUNDAY

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 **Lo! A Rose E’er Blooming**
Johannes Brahms

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**
Leader: This Advent, we hope and pray for:
People: Peace as we journey together, sight for the blind and healing for the sick,
Leader: Freedom for the prisoners and good news for the poor,
People: Release for the oppressed with justice for all and love for each other.
All: And the coming of God’s topsy-turvy, inside out, upside-down Kingdom.

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN UMH No. 219 What Child is This**
GREENSLEEVES

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Sprunt and Beth Hill

Reader: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.

Reader: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

Light the candles on the Advent wreath.

SUNG RESPONSE UMH No. 211 (v. 2)
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel **VENI EMMANUEL**

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Psalms 72:1-7** NIV
(Please read the bold aloud with the lay speaker.)

Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness. **May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor. May he endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.** May he be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth. In his days may the righteous flourish and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.

* **NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-7** NT Page 2

SERMON “Unwrapping His Name: Messiah and Lord”
Rev. Ray Warren

HYMN OF RESPONSE UMH No. 249 There’s a Song in the Air (vv.1, 2)
CHRISTMAS SONG

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 Cold, the Winter Mark Schweizer
Chancel Choir

* **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! Alleluia! UMH No. 94

ADVENT CONFESSION
Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We’ve kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
The Great Thanksgiving UMH No. 17
The Lord’s Prayer (Musical Setting A)
The Sharing of Bread and Cup

If you are unable to come forward for communion, please acknowledge an usher to be served where you are seated.

COMMUNION MUSIC **The First Noel** arr. David Lanz

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* **CLOSING HYMN UMH No. 251 Go, Tell It on the Mountain**
GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

* **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Go Tell It On the Mountain
Emma Lou Diemer

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 Don and Lizzie Hill and Sprunt and Beth Hill.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the Advent season.

YOUNG DISCIPLES ON COMMUNION SUNDAY: Today, we celebrate communion, and there is no formal children’s church during this service. All children are invited to remain in the service to participate in communion (i.e. community). The nursery will remain open for children up to age 5.