

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 Mike and Margaret Mitchell.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Jim Barbour in memory of his beloved wife JoAnn, absent from us this long year. The world would be dimmed by the fading of her light had she not shared it with so many while she was among us.

MEMBERS OF THE ALTAR GUILD serving in February are Glenda Blue, Glenda Milligan, Carol Pace, and Elaine Williams.

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

Acolyte: Cate Hill
Lay Reader: John Lewis

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 Rett and Jan Davis, who will be in the Prayer Room on our behalf at noon to pray for requests given on the Prayer Request Cards.

FEBRUARY FOOD COLLECTION FOR EASTLAWN BACKPACK MINISTRY

In **February**, we are collecting the following items: canned soup, canned vegetables, fruit cups (no applesauce, please), granola bars, and macaroni and cheese. Please deposit donations on the bottom shelf of the Donation Center located in the Reading Area.

FAITHFUL FAMILIES

Parents and guardians of children and youth are invited to join Faithful Families, a Sunday School group focused on building Christian community and growing deeper in our relationships with God and one another. The group meets **Sunday mornings** from 9:45–10:45 a.m. in Room 301. During this time, children may attend Children's Sunday School or Nursery on the 3rd floor, and youth (grades 6–12) will gather in Room 303 to build community together.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

All are invited to join Daniel for a 6 week Lenten Bible Study that explores the lesser known characters and stories of Easter! Starting on **February 25**, we will gather on Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m.-8 p.m. in Room 402 to engage *An Unlikely Lent: Extraordinary People of the Easter Story* by Rachel Billups. Contact Daniel (daniel@frontstreetumc.org) if you would like a copy of the book (\$18).

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Morning Circle will meet on **Monday, March 2**. We will gather at 10:00 a.m. in the Heritage Center for coffee and fellowship, then adjourn at 10:30 a.m. to the Chapel for our meeting. Andrew Stanford of NCASC will join us to share an update on the status of refugee settlement in our community. Members are asked to please submit their 2026 pledge to Linda Shirley or Ruth Ann Stubblefield. We anticipate a meaningful time of fellowship together.

Circle 5 will meet on **Tuesday, March 10**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Heritage Center. We are pleased to welcome Matt Estes, who will speak about the music ministry at Front Street. As a mission project, members will have the opportunity to contribute toward the needs of Front Street's Music Department.

LITTLE LAMBS TODDLER PLAYGROUP

You are invited to Little Lambs, a relaxed Saturday morning playgroup at church for our youngest friends and their grown-ups. Little Lambs is open to children from birth through four years old, with siblings welcome, along with their parents and caregivers. The playgroup will meet on **Saturday, March 7**, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 304. Little Lambs is a sweet space for play, connection, and fellowship, where children can explore and play together while parents enjoy conversation and community. If you plan to attend, please let us know by emailing Kelby Hardy at kelbylwest@gmail.com.

SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Sunday, February 22

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
6:00	MYF	Aldersgate Hall

Tuesday, February 24

8:00	Men's Breakfast Bible Study	Heritage Center
9:30	Cynthia Powell Women's Bible Study	Room 401
7:00	Epworth Ringers	Bell Room

Wednesday, February 25

8:00	Youth Breakfast Club	Biscuitville, 669 Huffman Mill Road
9:30	Ladies Bible Study - <i>Tame Your Thoughts</i>	Room 404
6:00	Lenten Children's Bible Study	Room 302
6:30	<i>An Unlikely Lent</i> Bible Study	Room 402
7:00	Chancel Choir	Choir Room

Thursday, February 26

10:00	Knitting and Crocheting Group	Bride's Room
7:00	Visioning Team Meeting	Room 402

Sunday, March 1

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	Confirmation Class	Youth Suite
6:00	MYF	Aldersgate Hall

UPPER ROOM

The March-April issue of the Upper Room is available. Copies are located in the Narthex and Welcome Center.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one: **March 22 and 29 and April 5, 12, 19, and 26**. Please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 or kpaul5@triad.rr.com for details or to sign up.

VBS 2026 - SAVE THE DATE

VBS is coming! Mark your calendar for Vacation Bible School, happening August 3-7! It's going to be a fun-filled week of faith, friends, and unforgettable experiences for our kids—more details coming soon.

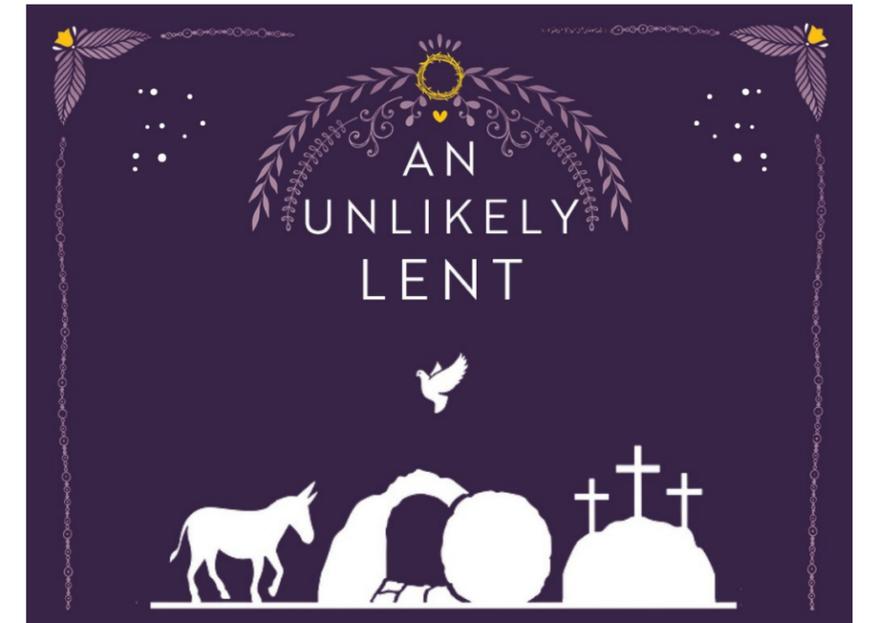
LIVE-STREAMING

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



Pastor
Rev. Ray Warren

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
FEBRUARY 22, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

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 **I Want Jesus to Walk with Me**
Thomas Keesecker

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Today, we follow Jesus into a wilderness full of isolation, fatigue, hunger, thirst, and temptation.

People: We follow, trusting in God's mercy.

Leader: We witness Jesus resist the siren calls of sensationalism, notoriety, and misuse of power for selfish gain.

People: We recognize God's mercy at work in the face of temptation.

Leader: We notice the angels who tend Jesus, messengers of care in a harsh and lonely place.

People: We pay attention to God's merciful presence that did not abandon Jesus and does not abandon us now.

Leader: We come to the wilderness together, clinging to the truth that we are not alone—God is with us.

People: We gather to worship God, whose unfailing mercy journeys with us into the wildernesses of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN TFWS NO. 2223

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
ST. BRENDAN'S

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves. The places where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you, and when our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you. When we are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you. When we are tempted to use

sensational means to increase people's faith, rather than being guided by the humility of Christ: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you. When we are tempted to use bribery to influence and control people: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you. When we are tempted to manipulate you, O God, to satisfy our own needs: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

* THE APOSTLES' CREED

UMH No. 881

**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 PATRI UMH NO. 70

MEINEKE

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen. Amen.**

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**O God, on this first Sunday of Lent, awaken our hearts so
that we may listen to the Scriptures and hear the Word
you are speaking to us. As we hear your Word, may the
power of the Holy Spirit empower us to respond faithfully
so that we may experience the good work you are doing
in and through us. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 32

OT Page 506

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

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. **Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.** While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my

transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. **I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.** Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. **Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

ANTHEM UMH No. 527 **Do, Lord, Remember Me** DITMUS
Chancel Choir

* SCRIPTURE READING **John 12:1-8** NT Page 106

SERMON **"An Unlikely Lent: Unlikely Offering"**
Rev. Ray Warren

HYMN OF RESPONSE UMH No. 521 **I Want Jesus to Walk with Me**
SOJOURNER

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 **Amazing Grace** Arlen Clarke
Chancel Choir

* DOXOLOGY **Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD 100th
All Singing: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above,
ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen. UMH No. 95**

* CLOSING HYMN TFWS NO. 2112
Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley LONESOME VALLEY

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE **A Romp** Thomas Keesecker