

MEMBERS OF THE ALTAR GUILD serving in January are Stacey Lahey, Clara Clayton, Janie Crouch, Mary Zeta Hornaday, and Robin Mann.

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

Acolyte: Sarah Moran  
Communion Servers: Stephen and Stephanie Gable  
Lay Reader: Mary Holden Burke  
Three Kings: Harper Hayes, Cate and Mary Martin Hill

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](mailto:prayer@frontstreetumc.org). We thank team member Beverly Thomas, 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 and 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.

#### 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.

#### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH & CIRCLE 5 MEETINGS

UWF will meet **tomorrow**, 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.

#### FRESH MOBILE MARKET | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

We need helping hands to pack food, load cars, and direct traffic at our Fresh Mobile Market **beginning at 1:15 p.m.** Actual pick up time runs from 2:00 -3:30 p.m. Your time and energy make a direct impact—thank you for helping get food into the hands of the hungry!

#### 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!

#### 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](mailto:kpaul5@triad.rr.com) for details or to sign up.

#### ACOLYTES IN 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP

Acolytes serve each week in the 11:00 a.m. worship service, offering children a meaningful way to participate in worship and grow in their faith through leadership and service. Acolyte service is open to children in 4th grade and older, and training is provided. Please consider signing your child up to serve. Questions? Contact Ms. Melissa or Lizzie Hill.

SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 4, 2026

##### 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

##### Monday, January 5

10:00	UWF	Heritage Center
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##### Tuesday, January 6

8:00	Men's Breakfast Bible Study	Heritage Center
7:00	Epworth Ringers	Bell Room

##### Wednesday, January 7

8:00	Youth Breakfast Club	Biscuitville, 669 Huffman Mill Rd
7:00	Chancel Choir	Choir Room

##### Thursday, January 8

10:00	Knitting & Crocheting Group
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##### Sunday, January 11

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

#### 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](http://www.frontstreetumc.org)

Follow Us



**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**JANUARY 4, 2026**  
**EPIPHANY SUNDAY**  
**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 CONCERN**

**PRELUDE**                    **Christmas Carols**                    Eugene Gigout

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

**People: God, help us find your glory.**

Leader: We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the good news in the least likely places.

**People: God, help us notice your glory.**

Leader: We gather as people yearning for love's presence, the assurance that we are not alone and love will have the last word.

**People: God, help us encounter your glory.**

Leader: On this Epiphany Sunday, may the Light of Love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.

**All:** **God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.**

**\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN UMH No. 254 We Three Kings**

**KINGS OF ORIENT**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING      Jeremiah 31:7-14**                    **NIV**

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

For thus says the Lord: sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, **"Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."** See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, **"He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."** For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

**\* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE      Luke 4:16-30**                    **NT Page 61**

**SERMON**                    **"The Misfits' Messiah: Rejected"**                    **Rev. Ray Warren**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE UMH No. 247**  
**O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright**  
**WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET DER MORGENSTERN**

**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**                    **How Far?**                    **Wayne Wold**

**\* 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

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God, we do not understand Jesus, the prophet. We do not want to get our hands dirty with the poor, the oppressed, the prisoners. Forgive us for being insulated and isolated. Open our hearts to the poor and help us to love them as you love them, working to bring in the good news of the reign of God. In Christ's name we pray. 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      We Three Kings**

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. 245 The First Noel**                    **THE FIRST NOEL**

**\* BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**                    **Go Tell It on the Mountain** arr. John Carter

**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 Stephanie Huffstetler and Pat Pelt.

**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.