



God Gave

Advent is here! This season our church is stepping into a story that doesn't start with our effort, our plans, or our perfectly coordinated holiday schedules — it starts with God giving. Before we could make sense of our messes, before we could even think about reaching for Him, God reached for us. Advent is our yearly reminder that the heart of Christmas is a God who gives generously, faithfully, and sometimes in ways that surprise us. Our sermon series, "God Gave," walks us through the gifts God poured out then and still pours out now.

We begin with the beautiful truth that God Gave a Promise. At the start of the Christmas story, God doesn't hand out instructions — He hands out assurance. The promise of Emmanuel, "God with us," came long before Mary even learned what was happening. God had already given grace, favor, and a miraculous plan. His promises might sometimes feel delayed or confusing (like tracking a package that apparently "left the facility" three days ago), but they are never uncertain. Advent invites us to rest in the God who keeps His word, even when we don't yet see how.

We then move to the reminder that God Gave a Purpose. Joseph's plans were thoroughly disrupted — nothing about his situation made sense on paper. But in the middle of his complicated circumstances, God gave clarity, courage, and direction. Joseph teaches us that God's purpose often arrives wrapped in the unexpected. And while we might prefer tidy answers and predictable paths, God gives us what we truly need to follow Him. Peace doesn't come from figuring everything out; it comes from trusting the One holding the map.

Next, we celebrate that God Gave a Partner. When Mary went running to Elizabeth, she wasn't just looking for moral support — she was stepping into one of the sweetest friendships in Scripture. God gave them each other as confirmation, encouragement, and joy (and honestly, who doesn't need at least one friend who makes your baby leap with happiness?). Advent reminds us that God often strengthens our faith through people who show up, cheer us on, and walk with us when the road gets bumpy.

Then comes the good news that God Gave Good News — and He gave it to shepherds. Not influencers. Not kings. Not the people who had their act together. Shepherds. Ordinary, overlooked workers minding their business on the night shift. Before they ran to the manger or spread the word, God gave them awe and joy. The Gospel always starts as a gift we receive with wonder before it becomes a message we pass along.

At the center of everything stands the miracle that God Gave Himself. In a quiet, crowded town, in a stable no one thought twice about, God came close. He wrapped Himself in humanity, breathed our air, and took on our fragility. He gave light to darkness, hope to the hopeless, and love with skin on. Christmas is not about what we offer God — it's about what God offers us: Himself. Advent invites us to welcome Christ again with openness, gratitude, and maybe a little awe that the King of the universe chose a manger and not a palace.

Finally, we remember that God Gave Peace. Simeon and Anna show us what it looks like to wait well — with patience, hope, and a kind of peace that doesn't depend on circumstances (or on how long the line is at the checkout). God gave them promises to cling to, purpose to live out, and peace to carry them all the way home. Their story reminds us that Christmas is not the grand finale of the season — it's the starting point of walking with Jesus into whatever comes next.

This Advent, may we open our hands and hearts to receive what God gives. The entire Christmas story — and every part of our own story — begins with a giving God. As we journey through these themes together, may we laugh, reflect, and rediscover the generosity of the God who gives... and keeps on giving.

~ Pastor Matt

STAFF MEMBERS

Matt Morris - Senior Pastor | **Joe Essick** - Associate Pastor | **Carla Ely** - Minister of Music | **Zach Jones-Ely** - Contemporary Music Director
Allie Roth - Kids Ministry Director | **Joyce Sosnowski** - Financial Administrator | **Christina Nelson** - Campus Administrator
Steve Nelson - Youth Ministry | **Cindy Odum** - Daycare Director | **June Sofley** - Daycare Assistant Director



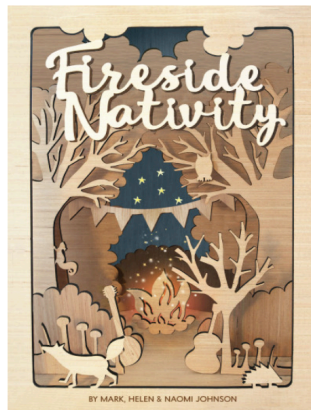
KIDS MINISTRY

We're looking for teachers, helpers, and leaders to serve in Sunday School and other children's programs. Contact Allie Roth at 336-813-2133.

FIND YOUR PLACE TO SERVE

We seek to give our best to our guests. There are multiple ways you can serve on Sunday mornings and beyond to make our church a welcoming place for all who worship with us. To discuss opportunities, please contact Pastor Joe 336-355-0539.

Each of us is an
Innkeeper
who decides if there is
room for *Jesus*
-Neal A Maxwell



The Tabernacle Kids Choir

Presents:

Join us by the Fireside as we share our favorite Campfire story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 14 - CLC
5pm - CHRISTMAS Musical
5:45pm - Dinner
(Soup Supper)

*Everyone bring a crockpot of your favorite SOUP or CHILI to share :)

*Also BRING canned food for our local food pantry.

End of Year Giving— the Internal Revenue Service policy states that any gifts given to Tabernacle that you wish to be reflected on your 2025 Giving Statement must be received in the church office (or postmarked, if being mailed) by **December 31st**. **Joyce will be in her office limited hours during the last week of the year. Please call her cell at 336-707-5395 before coming to the office if you wish to meet with her in person.**

TABERNACLE METHODIST CHURCH AS OF NOV 2025

Receipts	\$514,174.96
Disbursements	\$580,234.89
Deficit	\$66,059.93



Reminder,
Our Table
will return on
Wednesday,
January 28,
2026

SAMARITAIN'S PURSE OCC PROCESSING CENTER

**Thurs, Dec 18th 10am - 4pm in
Charlotte**

Volunteer to help process shoe boxes. Limited spots. Contact Chris Ehrhardt 336-362-2934



The Angel Tree is HERE! **Gifts due Sunday Dec. 14.** This ministry is for children in our community, referred to us by the school counselors, who could use some Christmas cheer with a few new toys and clothing. To choose an Angel or for questions contact Teresa Ehrhardt at 336-312-0431. Thank you for your willingness to continue to help with this mission. We are looking forward to helping make Christmas special for these children and showing them that Jesus loves them.

Staff Love Offering

It has been a long standing tradition at Tabernacle to bless our staff with a love offering during the Christmas season. We will collect a Staff Love Offering through Sunday Dec. 14 for presentation before Christmas. Join us in blessing our pastors and staff with your gift made out to Tabernacle Methodist Church with memo LOVE OFFERING or give online through Realm by choosing the LOVE OFFERING Fund.

Thank you — The Staff Parish Relations Committee

GET YOUR LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFT HERE!



Looking for Christmas gift ideas? Want to skip the crowds at the mall? Shop Rada Cutlery for high-quality, USA-made gifts - and support our mission projects at the same time! Every purchase helps the TMC Sunshine Circle continue their outreach and ministry. Shop here: <https://rb.gy/7vtgy>



Christmas Poinsettias

Orders **Due Sunday Dec 14** in honor or memory of your loved one. Cost \$ 13.50. Flowers will be in the Sanctuary for the 11 am worship on Dec. 22.

Kindly pick up your flowers after service on Dec 22. Any questions, contact Rhonda Branson 336-451-7173. Forms are available in the Church office. Payment and form can be placed in offering plate or in the office.



Where Did 2025 Go?!

As we come to the close of another year, I want to extend a big **THANK YOU** on behalf of Children's Ministry. We have had a wonderful year growing our children's program, and none of it would have been possible without the support of Tabernacle. The saying "it takes a village" is no joke, and I am so grateful for a village that so graciously supports our ministry.

Whether you donated, served in the nursery, taught Sunday School, chased kids at VBS, prepared food, or prayed for us—we are deeply thankful for your time, love, and effort.

Here's a quick recap of all the fun we had in 2025:

Chili Cook-Off, Pancake Supper, Easter Egg Hunt, Spring Musical, VBS, Back-to-School Messtival, Graduation Sunday, Churchwide Picnic, Trunk-or-Treat, and our Operation Christmas Child Packing Party. We'll finish the year with our **Community Christmas Tree Lighting on December 6 at 5:30 p.m.** and our **Christmas Musical on December 14 at 5:00 p.m.**

Our mission is to show children the love of Jesus and teach them how to share that love with their friends and families—while having plenty of fun along the way! If you feel led to serve in any capacity within our children's ministry, we would love to have you. I continue to pray for volunteers who are eager to build meaningful relationships with our kids. In a busy world, we need to pause, invest in our children, and remember that they aren't just the future of the church—they are the now too.

Thank you again,
Allie Roth - Children's Ministry



Wednesday Nights!

Wow! This school year is flying by and we are having a blast. Every Wednesday evening Tabernacle hosts 30-60 middle school and high school students for a great evening of games, food, and a scripture lesson on living for Jesus. When we partnered with Awestruck, our two small groups multiplied into something truly special. Thank you for all you do to enable Tabernacle to connect with the youth of our community! Come on out on a Wednesday and see!



MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In Loving Memory of Larry Proctor by
Jay & Lynda Gordon
Jimmy & Janice Horney
Fellowship/Friendship Circles

In Loving Memory of Averi Burke by
Chelsea Kiger

In Loving Memory of Glenn Griffin by
Fellowship/Friendship Circles

December 2025

Birthdays

03 Hayley Anthony	21 Cathy Webster
03 Beverly Calhoun	22 Marie Byrd
03 Jeannine Duke	22 David Stapleton
03 Mike Garrett	23 Thomas Griffin
03 Kim Worthington	24 Ally Hardie
06 Jackie Neece	25 Linda Hoskins
07 Coey Goodwin	25 Joy Wicker
09 Alan Branson	26 Bob Coyle
09 Cheryl Kendrick	26 Richard Winquist
11 Forrest Brothers	28 Greyson Ehrhardt
12 Heidi Brown	28 Julia Deltano
12 James McKnight Jr	28 Allie Roth
13 Katie Kendrick	28 Ophelia Timmons
13 Marie Sartin	29 Jadine Machado
16 Tanner Greeson	29 Vicky Wheeler
18 Patsy Helms	30 Karen Moore
19 Teresa Ehrhardt	31 Zach Ely
19 Kenan Cox	31 Nate Ely
20 Cami Burke	31 Rubianne Ely
21 Jesse Pratt	

Anniversaries

16 Steve & Karen Redmon
18 Warren & Paula Ginn
22 Harry & Mary Griffin
26 Ronald & Dianne Hinson
27 Chris & Amy Ehrhardt

Mark Your Calendars

6 - Southeast Community Tree Lighting @ 5:30-8:30 pm, Ball field
11 - Methodist Men Meeting @ 6:30pm FH
14 - Kid's Choir Christmas Musical @ 5pm CLC
- Angel Tree Gifts Due
- Poinsettia Orders Due
15 - Angel Tree Gifts delivered to Nathanael Green Elementary School @ 10am
18 - Samaritan's Purse Processing Center @ 10am-4pm Charlotte
20 - Newsletter deadline to submit content
21 - Christmas Cantata @ 5pm Sanctuary
22 - Playschool & GCSNC - Winter Break (resumes 1/05/26)
24 - **Christmas Eve** Services 5pm/CLC and 11pm/Sanctuary
25 - **Christmas Day**
28 - Combined Worship @ 10am in Chapel
31 - **New Year's Eve**
- End of Year Giving Statement deadline

Monthly

Kids Choir Practice - Sundays 11 am
Alive Praise Band practice - Sundays 7pm
A "Good Start" Bible Study - Mondays 6am CLC
Women's Fitness Fellowship - Mondays 5:30 pm
Cub Scouts / Boy Scouts - Mondays 6:30 / 7:30 pm
Sunshine Circle - 3rd Monday 7pm
Men's Basketball Fellowship - Tues/Thurs 6:30 pm
Kids' Tumbling - Tuesdays 4:15 pm
Backpack Ministry - Wednesdays
Quilt Ministry - 2nd Wednesday 10 am
Youth Group - Wednesdays 6:30 pm (no summer)
Chancel Choir practice - Wednesday 6:30 pm
Methodist Men - 2nd Thursday 6:30 (no summer)
Fellowship & Friendship Circle - 2nd Thursday 2 pm
Campus Life Youth - Thursdays 4:30 pm

Adult Sunday Classes

Adult Disciples **Rm 130**
Curiosity Class **Rm 134**
Men's Bible Study **CLC**
The Parables Class **Rm 126**
Women's Bible Study **CLC**
Classes Start at 10-10:45am

Office, TWDS & Playschool Holiday Hours

Office: 12/25-12/26 & 1/01-1/02

TWDS: 12/24-12/26 & 1/01

TMC Playschool: 12/19 - 1/02

GCSNC: 12/22-1/03

Enjoy your Winter Break!!