Prayer Requests  
December 3, 2017

Sunday  
Scott Davis  
The Family of John Foster  
Linda Owens

Monday  
Jeanette Benoist  
The Family of Susanne McInnis  
Barbara Frye

Tuesday  
Jean Crouch  
Morrison Prison Ministry  
The Family of Joe Sanford  
Nicki Haywood

Wednesday  
The Family of Robert McDonald  
Sharon Warfel

Thursday  
Tommy Campbell  
The Family of William Douglas Newton (Gaynelle Moon’s brother)  
The Family of Debbie Spurlin  
Melanie Wood (Jennifer Guncheon’s mother)

Friday  
The Family of Robert Cain  
The Family of Carol McLean

Saturday  
The Family of Katherine Cox  
Renee Dunn

Church Staff  
Senior Pastor: Rev. Allen Bingham  
allenbingham@nccumc.org  
Financial Secretary: Cornelia McKenzie  
corneliamckenzie@gmail.com  
Program Director: Mary Griffith  
marygriffith@carolina.rr.com  
Choir Directors: Statha Osborne, Chuck Wright  
stattosborne@hotmail.com, ewright992@gmail.com  
Organist/Pianist: Helen Alexander  
helenwalexander@gmail.com  
Sexton: Al Floyd  
Caring for our children: Tabatha Miller

Last week’s attendance:  
Sunday School: 69  
Worship: 163

Gifts  
Operating Budget for 2017: $493,245.35  
Operating Budget Needed to Date: $455,302.04  
Given to Date: $422,318.63  
Percentage Given: 92.76%  
Amount needed each week to meet 2017 budget: $9,485.48  
Budget offering last week: $9,148.00  
Pennies for Zoe (Total to Date Collected): $13,510.00  
Zoe pennies collected in November: $545.00

Servers for December 3  
Ushers:  
Steve Webb Team  
TV Ministry: Duff Morse  
Heat/AC: Randy Leak and Tommy Leak  
Cruicifers: Kevin Aiken  
Acolytes: Trent Deane and Allie Matheson  
Nursery: Leigh Ann Ray  
Greeters: Mac and Aimee Diggs, Tom Wheeler  
Soup Kitchen Leader: VOLUNTEER NEEDED  
Hedge Prayer:  
Discovery Young Adult Class  
Hermitage Volunteer: East Rockingham UMC  
Sunday Morning Fellowship:  
This Sunday: Glenn Alexander  
Next Sunday: Benson Crotts

Calendar for December 3-9  
Sunday  
Dec 3  
9:30 am  
Sunday School Fellowship  
9:45 am  
Sunday School for all ages  
10:15 am  
Worship Hour  
2:00 pm  
UMW General Meeting, FH  
Monday  
Dec 4  
10:00 am  
First Place Bible Study  
Tuesday  
Dec 5  
10:00 am  
Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Chapel  
12:30 pm  
Circle 9, FH  
5:30 pm  
Girl Scouts, BB  
7:00 pm  
God’s Gorgeous Butterflies, BB  
Wednesday  
Dec 6  
3:30 pm  
Wonderful Wednesday  
4:45 pm  
Light Personal Development, BB  
6:00 pm  
Circle 8, Ellen Covington’s Home  
7:00 pm  
Choir Rehearsal  
Thursday  
Dec 7  
11:00 am-2:00 pm  
Connections- Grief and Loss Workshop, FH  
Friday  
Dec 8  
4:45 pm  
Light Personal Development, BB  
BB Bynum Building  
FH Fellowship Hall

First United Methodist Church  
Loving God – Loving Others – Loving the World  
PO Box 637 – 410 East Washington Street  
Rockingham, North Carolina 28380  
Telephone No. 910-895-4027  
Service is shown one week tape delayed on TWC Channel 15  
Sundays at 7:00 pm
ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:55 a.m.  December 3, 2017

When the music begins, please prepare for worship in silent prayer and meditation. Following the service, greet one another with joy and affection!

(*) Please stand as you are able

ENTRANCE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  Sheila Gilmore, Lay Leader

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship!

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE  Prepare the Way, O Zion  Smith

OPENING PRAYER

INTROIT  Emmanuel, Emmanuel  McGee

*HYMN  Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus  UM Hymnal, 196

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSSE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE  Raney

Light of life, Maker of day, gather our shadows and cast them away. Beacon of truth, gleaming and bright, shine in our hearts, shatter our night.

We begin the season of Advent with expectant and believing hearts.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word. During Advent we confront the darkness that so often exists around us. We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word. During Advent we confront the doubt that so often resides within us. We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word. During Advent we confront the division that so often occurs between us. We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

*AFFIRMATION  The Apostle's Creed  UM Hymnal, 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 arose from the dead; 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 PATRIA  Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, in now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING GOD OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY  Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming  Purifoy

*DOXOLOGY  Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow  UM Hymnal, 95

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavens' hosts;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURE  Mark 13:2-37

ANTHEM  O Come, Emmanuel  Hagenberg

SERMON  Coming Home: A Song of Surprise

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

INVITATION, CONFESSION, AND PARDON

UM Hymnal, 12

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UM Hymnal, 13

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER  A Covenant Prayer  UM Hymnal, 607

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low by thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN  Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence  UM Hymnal, 626

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*BENEDICTION

Blessing  Dengler

*CHIMING OF THE HOLY TRINITY

The flowers on the altar today are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Mickey "Mimm" Opie on her birthday by her daughter and son-in-law, Rita and Norman Bland, her granddaughter, Paige Bailey and her grandson, Adam and Mason Bailey.

+++ TODAY is the final UMW event for 2017 at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Circle 9 is the Hostess Circle for this General Meeting. Chris Thornton, Chaplain with Richmond County Hospice, will be our guest speaker. We hope to have many in attendance to hear our guest speaker. All UMC ladies are invited!

Chrysalis is January 13-15 for all 11th and 12th grade youth. All applications with deposit MUST be turned in TODAY. Let Statha Osborne or Mary Griffith know TODAY if you would like to go.

The Youth are inviting the entire church to and “Old Fashion Christmas Caroling” on Sunday, December 10 at 5:00 pm. The bus will leave at 5:00 pm. We will go caroling to all of our shut-ins! We will return to the church at 7:00 pm to enjoy hot chocolate and Christmas goodies. We hope everyone will join us for some Old Fashion Christmas Cheer!

The Children’s Christmas Program will be Wednesday, December 13 at 5:30 pm. Everyone is invited to attend! Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

The Merry Makers! Christmas Party will be Thursday, December 14 at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy lunch ($11.00), entertainment, and exchange Christmas tree ornaments! You may bring a treasure from your own tree or buy a new one for the gift exchange. Reservations are due by Thursday, December 7. Join your Merry Makers! friends for a Christmas celebration!

Everyone is invited to the UMM BREAKFAST, Sunday, December 17 at 8:30 am. Please call the church office by Wednesday, December 13 to RSVP.

The Chancel Choir will present their Christmas Cantata, Sunday, December 17, 6:00 pm. The musical selections include traditional hymns as well as new sounds and focuses on preparing our hearts and minds to the coming of our Lord! You may even start singing along with the songs of the season! Invite your family and friends to join us for this festive evening.

Would you like to be a part of a Live Nativity Scene on December 24 at our church? If yes, please call the church office by December 11. We will meet on December 17 at 4:30 pm in the Children's Church Room on the 4th floor of the Children's Wing to be fitted for costumes. We need adults, youth, children, and live animals.

Merry Christmas, one and all! God be with you all!