

First United Methodist Church of Hampton

110 E Queen St Hampton VA 23669

(757) 723-6577

December 8, 2019 10:00 a.m.
2nd Sunday of Advent



"Christmas, my
child, is love in
action....

Every time we love,
every time we give,
it's Christmas."

~ Dale Evans Rogers

In the name of Christ WELCOME!

Although you may be a stranger to us, you are no stranger to God,
who knows you and loves you, and whose heart is glad at your presence here.
We sincerely hope this time of worship will bless your life.

As you are able, please stand for acts of worship indicated by an asterisk (*).

UMH indicates The United Methodist Hymnal (red book in pew rack)

TFWS indicates The Faith We Sing (thin black book in pew rack)

Our Mission: To Know and Share Jesus Christ

Help us sustain God's creation by placing used worship bulletins
in the basket on the credenza in the back of the sanctuary for recycling.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

The Glory Ringers

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

Rev. Candee Martin

We are walking toward a silent night, drawn by the cords of love.

We are moving to the sound of an angelic chorus, lured by a deep and holy melody.

We are growing in the likeness of Christ, supported by the nudgings of the Spirit.

We are living in awareness of a divine love that fills the universe, pulling us to love and serve, to pray and worship.

*HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

UMH 206

LIGHTING OF THE 2ND ADVENT CANDLE - LOVE

Ann Gordon & Rusty Evans

Today we light the second candle on our advent wreath, the candle of LOVE. Scripture tells us God is love. This was revealed to us when he sent His son into the world as a baby, born of woman. Jesus came with a human heart, big enough to give all of humankind his unconditional love. It is for us to reflect this love in our lives today and every day, to pass it on.

Let us pray:

Dear Lord, let us feel your love divine. Send us out to be loving and generous, compassionate and forgiving. At this time of year, may our hearts share your great love with others in daily acts of kindness. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

HYMN

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (verses 1 & 2)

UMH 611

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Ruby Ruxton Niedermayer

Born April 11, 2019

Daughter of Lindsey Belle and Charles Niedermayer

Granddaughter of Anne and Jay Smith

HYMN

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (verses 3 & 4)

UMH 611

EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7 (NRSV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Kerry Greenhill

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER (In Unison)

We bring you our offerings, loving God. We lay them alongside our lives which we also bring to you. Bless both our offerings and our lives that we may be more truly your people. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Veni

The Glory Ringers

***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

In the Bleak Midwinter (v. 4)

UMH No. 221

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

yet what I can, I give him: give my heart.

HYMN

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH 204

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (spoken)

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.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

In the Bleak Midwinter

The Glory Ringers

SERMON

The Gifts of Advent

Rev. Candee Martin

HYMN

Star-Child

TFWS 2095

***COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING**

*Beyond the darkness, there is a star. Beyond the noise, there is an angel song. Beyond the rush, there is a wondrous stillness. May the God of Advent days touch your lives with hints of a holy night. Go in the peace of God's love. **Amen.***

***POSTLUDE**





Poinsettias in honor of or in memory of loved ones and friends will be placed in the sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 22.



If you would like to honor someone by purchasing a poinsettia, please complete the information below and place in the offering plate or send it to the church office. **The cost is \$12.00 per poinsettia and your check should accompany your order.** Please indicate on the check and/or envelope that the money is for “Poinsettias”.

The deadline for ordering is Monday, December 16.

Number of Poinsettias (\$12.00 each) _____

Given by _____

In honor of

In memory of

*We would appreciate it if you could leave your poinsettias until after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service on December 24.
Thank you.*

Reminders, Announcements, and Other News



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 8:30 am Morning Coffee (FH)
- 9:00 am Sunday School
- 9:00 am Messengers (CR)
- 10:00 am Worship (S)
- 11:00 am Fellowship (FH)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 6:00 pm UMW Circle 2 (Vennie Lulofs)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 6:00 pm Fitness Yoga (FH)
- 7:00 pm Staff Parish Relations Committee (CR)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 10:00 am UMW Circle 1 (FH)
- 11:30 am UMW Circle 4 (Vancosta's)
- 6:00 pm UMW Circle 10 (Pour Girls Restaurant)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 10:00 am Gentle Yoga (FH)
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir (CR)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 4:00 pm Dunn/Kopitsky Rehearsal

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 8:00 am UMM's Annual Toy Drive Breakfast & Bible Study (FH)
- 8:00 am UMW Circle 9 (Hampton Marina Hotel)
- 4:00 pm Dunn/Kopitsky Wedding

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 8:30 am Morning Coffee (FH)
- 9:00 am Sunday School
- 9:00 am Glory Ringer (S)
- 10:00 am Worship (S)
- 11:00 am Fellowship (FH)



12/8

Anne Ferguson
Amy Myrom

12/9

Shandon Martin

12/15

Anna Lee Evans

The Pastor and staff
wish everyone a happy
birthday and pray God's
blessings upon you.

If your birthday is not listed or listed
incorrectly, please accept our
apologies and let us know in the
office so we can correct our
records. Thank you.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**

LITURGIST: Jay Smith
FINANCE: Wayne Barfoot
COUNTERS: Bob Allsbrook
Ralph White

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**

LITURGIST: William Milholen
FINANCE: Bill Diggs
COUNTERS: Brad Allsbrook
JoAnn Walberg

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar this morning given by

Circle 8

In appreciation for Dean Shinn and Our Music Program

Attendance Last week

Worship: **84** Sunday School: **47**

During the
Sundays of Advent
You are invited to the
Fellowship Hall
for
Morning Coffee at 8:30
with
Fellowship at 11:00
following
morning service.





December 1 First Sunday of Advent

Lighting the Advent Candle **HOPE**

Hanging of the Greens Service

Worship at 10:00 am with communion

Collection of food items for H.E.L.P. Food Pantry

December 8 Second Sunday of Advent

Lighting the Advent Candle **LOVE**

Worship at 10:00 am with Glory Ringers

Collection of food items for H.E.L.P. Food Pantry



Live Nativity at 6:00 pm
followed by sub sandwich supper.
A love offering will be accepted.
Bring a batch of your favorite cookies,
lawn chair, and flashlight.
(RSVP to the office by 12/6)

December 15 Third Sunday of Advent

Lighting the Advent Candle **JOY**

Worship at 10:00 am

Chancel Choir presents the cantata

“Sing Joy to All the World”

Collection of food items for H.E.L.P. Food Pantry

December 22
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lighting the Advent Candle **PEACE**

Worship at 10:00 am Lessons and Carols
Poinsettias displayed in the Sanctuary



December 24
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship Service
with Communion
at 7:00 pm

Lighting the **Christ** Candle

December 29
Worship at 10:00 am

January 5
Epiphany Sunday
Worship at 10:00 am





Please remember in prayer those from our congregation:

Jackie Taylor
Linda Minetree
Lou Beasley
Adam Shlyk
Hannah Kourtiche
Allen Langford
Lil' Bit Brown
Nell Writtenberry
Jane Roberts
Barbara Cubbage
Candee Martin and family
Lenny Yarrington
Robin Welch
Marianne Prentiss
Beth Nystrom
Lewis & Audrey Thurston
Jackie Taylor
Winnie & Gale Barnes
Ray and Tricia Waldon
Dean Shinn

Members will be listed for four weeks unless church office is notified.

**Is there someone for whom you would like us to pray?
Please contact the church office.**

Our friends and family members in need of prayer:

Cindi Jenkins (friends of Greg & Mori)
Herman Baker (friend of Thurstons)
Bishop Lewis
Lyle (Wilson's grandson)
Chad Sayers (Winnie Barnes' grandson)
Maddie Davis (student at Armstrong)
Tim (friend of the Milholens)
Patsy G. Maney (friend of Vince Mundie)
Linda Lowry (Linda Marushi's cousin)
Vicki Pogozelski (Judy Rushton's daughter)
Chris (Audrey Thurston's brother)
Barbara Farrand's daughter-in-law
Gene Ferguson (friend of Vince Mundie)
Jim McLees
Dalton Furbee
Josh Swann's grandfather
Charlotte Doran (7 yr old, by Sandra Allsbrook)
Ann Bowie & family (friend of Writtenberry & Kourtiche families)
Joseph Matousek (Susan Neal's son)
Michelle Allsbrook
Kay Allsbrook Outland (Bob Allsbrook's Sister)
Ken Goddard (Beth Nystrom's brother)
Chastain Cannon (Pastor Candee's cousin)
Scarlett Lutz Kasperbauer

Persons will be listed for four weeks unless church office is notified.



*The beautiful wreaths that adorn our doors
were generously donated by
the Crouse, Fisher and Disciple Sunday school classes.*

*The large balcony wreath
was placed by Lynn Chandler
in loving memory of her mother, Ruby G. Keith-Wiles.*

*The chancel wreaths
were placed by Carolyn and Richard Slye
in memory and in honor of their children and families.*



Holly Days Parade Outreach

Let's provide some warm hospitality and outreach to our neighbors coming downtown for the Holly Days Parade on Saturday, December 14! We need a couple volunteers to give out cookies and cocoa, plus a small group to sing Christmas carols during the hour or so before the parade begins at 6pm.

Please contact Rev. Kerry if you would like to help in some way: klgreenhill@gmail.com or 303-641-2442.



Everyone's invited to our
Annual Toy Drive Breakfast
Sponsored by the United Methodist Men
Saturday, December 14
8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

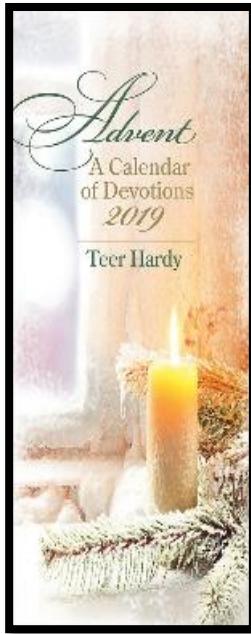
Please bring unwrapped toys for both a boy and a girl.

The **ELF PATROL** will be joining us to help
Mr. and Mrs. Claus collect and sort toys.

A love offering will be accepted for the meal.
Make an important difference for those in need this Christmas!

Bring a guest and be the hands of Christ!

Please RSVP to the church office by Dec. 11th



Advent Devotional books
Advent: A Calendar of Devotions 2019
By Teer Hardy

**are available in the back of the sanctuary
or outside the church office beginning December 1.**

In a thoughtful and informative style, Teer Hardy leads us through the busy preparations of Advent, reflecting upon God's promises and love for the world while also looking forward to the immense change that will be brought forth by the birth of a baby in Bethlehem. This calendar of daily devotions helps readers focus on what matters most throughout the hustle and bustle of the season.

Many **THANKS**
for making the
Red Room

a huge success this year with
your donations and purchases.

*May all of you have a
blessed Christmas.*

~Brad

FOOD DRIVE to benefit H.E.L.P. Pantry

Each week we are collecting food items to help build a holiday meal for those in need in our community. Grocery bags with suggested items will be provided for your convenience on November 25 following the worship service. The collection points will be in the narthex (back of the sanctuary) or inside the entrance door leading to the office. **Please make sure all items are turned in by December 15.** If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Healing Eagle Clinic has asked for help on **Saturday, December 14**. They needed to change the date so that the students from VCU could come to help. Our Mattaponi trip to bring lunch and items from the wish list to them is now Saturday, December 14. If you have any questions, please call the **church office (757) 723-6577** or **Ruth Kourtiche (757) 206-3945**. There is a box in the **Narthex** for donated supplies.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR MATTAPONI HEALING EAGLE CLINIC

- Multivitamins (child and adult)
- Vitamin E
- Tylenol
- Baby Aspirin
- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
- Band-Aids
- #10 Envelopes
- Stamps
- Ensure
- Depends Underwear
- Cans of Ensure (all flavors)
- Cans of Boost for diabetics
- Neosporin Cream
- Antibiotic First Aid Cream and Sprays
- Betadine and Lotion Creams
- 4"x4" and 2"x2" Gauze Pads
- Rubbing Alcohol
- Disposable Protective Bed Pads
- Coffee
- Creamer
- Small Individual Bottled Water
- Copier Paper
- AA and AAA Batteries
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Cleaning Supplies



Second Sunday of Advent

Rethinking Christmas traditions

Why do we do what we do at Christmas? Jesus was not (likely) born on Dec. 25. No one set up a decorated tree next to the manger in Bethlehem. We don't have any record of the holy family celebrating the impending birth of the Christ child through a series of company parties and familial gatherings. They didn't send out cards. The shepherds didn't come bearing cookies and fruit cakes. There was no little boy who showed up and bashed a drum cradle-side while baby Jesus happily slept.

Today we associate a lot with Christmas that was not present at the first Christmas. These associations often become distractions from the intent of Christmas. But they can also be wonderful reminders of what is at the heart of Christmas.

The first chapter of John provides a great representation of what happened at the first Christmas: a gift came into the world, a wonderful gift of light. The light was love—a love that dispels darkness, coldness and fear. The light was present in Jesus. Jesus was given that the world may see a witness to light, love and life. Light. Love. Life.

Those are the gifts of Christmas. Our strange traditions are meant to call our attention back to those words and ideas. We celebrate Christmas to once again be inspired by light, love and life. Trees remind us of life, even the midst of the longest, coldest nights. The lights remind us of the One Light that dispels darkness. The gifts invite us to share and experience love.

But the traditions aren't the point. The season isn't even the point. Light, love and life are the point. There are many who shirk anything having to do with Christmas because our celebrations seem hollow. We're not supposed to act with grace and peace during one season a year. We're supposed to be people of light, love and life ALL THE TIME.

Maybe Christmas can draw us back to that. It can become a compass re-orientating us to what God is doing in the world: bringing more light, love and life. It can be a time to set habits that move us closer to being people who share light, love and life all the time.

So I hope you read this with a growing sense of freedom to let go of some of the traditions that don't quite connect for you.

But may you also be inspired to grab hold of some expressions of light, love and life during the Christmas season. How can you shed a bit more light into the world? How do you plan to share love with others? What do you plan to do that offers experiences of life to others? May Christmas simply be a reminder. May it draw us back to the heart of God's gift made in Jesus, drawing our attention back to practices of light, love and life.

~ **Ryan Dunn, Rethink Church**

Give Love: Global Ministries Giving Campaign

Global Ministries invites you to give love, joy, hope and peace through the agency's year-end giving campaign. Between now and December 31, the organization will be sharing stories of the ways gifts to Global Ministries and UMCOR have transformed the lives of people around the world. Take time to browse the digital Advance catalog and take advantage of the opportunity to become a champion for your favorite Global Ministries cause through the peer-to-peer fundraising program. Please prayerfully consider making a year-end gift to your favorite mission project at UMCMission.org/Givelove and share this opportunity with friends via email and social media.

US dips below majority of membership

The U.S.'s majority status in The United Methodist Church is coming to an end — and may be there already. That's according to projections from the denomination's General Council on Finance and Administration — based on the continuing decline in U.S. membership as much as growth in Africa. According to the agency's forecast, total membership in the central conferences — church regions in Africa, the Philippines and Europe — will exceed that of the U.S. jurisdictions in 2020. "Based on trends that have occurred over the last several years, we are annually averaging a decline of 2.0 percent overall for the jurisdictional membership," Kevin Dunn, the agency's director of data services, told the GCFA board at its November meeting. "We may fall below 6 million (U.S.) members by 2025."

All God's Children Camp 2020

Next summer's dates are set! At camp, children, ages 7 to 12, with an incarcerated mother or father, spend a week at camp, participating in activities such as swimming, hiking, music, Bible study, and conflict resolution. Partnering with Virginia United Methodist camps, All God's Children Camp provides a week of sanctuary for children who face so many challenges in their lives: economic poverty; temporary living conditions; loneliness; low self-esteem; violence; and drugs. Check out the dates below and then pray about becoming one of the 90 mentors needed to make this summer possible. After that, download the mentor application and send it to the address on the application form. Dates for camp are:

June 14-19 @ Camp Chanco on the James (Richmond area)

July 26-31 @ Occohannock on the Bay (Eastern Shore)

August 9-14 @Camp Chanco on the James (Richmond area)

For more information, contact Lori Smith at lttlelori@gmail.com or 571-245-9591. Visit the website at www.vaumc.org/agcc for more information and to download applications.

Visitor Center

TO REACH THE REST ROOMS OR THE NURSERY: Enter through the canopied entrance on the side of the building. Rest rooms are down the hall to the left. The Nursery is up the steps and down the hall to the right. Greeters and ushers are available to guide you.

REGISTRATION PADS are in each pew near the center aisle. Please use these to record your presence, and to pass along information for the pastor or the church office.

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS are available in the pews and in the foyer atop the Prayer Box. Deposit them in the box or drop them in the offering plates.

WE PRACTICE “OPEN” COMMUNION. We celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month, and at other special times. All are welcome at the table of the Lord, regardless of church membership, age, or feelings of worthiness. If you wish to come into relationship with Christ, deepen or renew that relationship, there is a place for you here.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER OF FIRST UMC, please indicate so on the registration pad, or contact the pastor.

OUR SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:

MORNING COFFEE 8:30 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP 11:00 AM

There is a place for you and your family on Sunday mornings here at First UMC Hampton!

Website: <http://firstumchampton.org/>

How to Reach Us

Church Office

office@firstumchampton.org

757.723.6577

Pastor

Rev. Candee Martin

candeemartin@vaumc.org

Minister of Discipleship and Community Engagement

Rev. Kerry Greenhill

klgreenhill@gmail.com

Director of Music Ministries

Dean Shinn

deanshinn@aol.com

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William.Boyer@cox.net

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Nursery Director

Jenny Hamm

jennynichole@outlook.com

