

****A High Moment of Praise and Purpose:**

Rev. Helen J. Burchette Ordained and Installed as Youth Pastor at Burchette Chapel UCC**

By Rev. Dr. Dannie Williams

The sanctuary of Burchette Chapel United Church of Christ in Manson, North Carolina was filled with joy, gratitude, and the unmistakable movement of the Spirit on the afternoon of January 18th, during the weekend honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The church gathered to celebrate the ordination and installation of Rev. Helen J. Burchette as Youth Pastor, marking a powerful moment of praise, testimony, and sacred affirmation. It was a day that reflected not only the joy of calling fulfilled, but also the truth that God's timing is always on display and right on time.

Family, friends, clergy from across the United Church of Christ and beyond, and members of the wider community gathered to witness this sacred milestone. Among those present was Rev. Stephen Ball, recently installed pastor of First Christian UCC in Burlington, NC, joining many others who came to support and celebrate a life devoted to ministry.

Presiding over the service were leaders whose presence reflected both tradition and continuity in the Eastern North Carolina Association. Rev. Dr. Dannie Williams, Interim Associate Conference Minister, led the Service of Ordination and Installation with reverence and joy, while Rev. Eddie Weathers, former Associate Conference Minister of the ENCA, assisted in the sacred moment. Their leadership reminded all present that the work of ministry is never done alone, it is held by community and covenant.

The ordination and installation of Rev. Helen J. Burchette at Burchette Chapel UCC was a joyful and spirit-filled celebration of calling and community. The service opened in worship and was graciously presided over by Rev. Brenda Burton. Surrounded by family, friends, and clergy, Rev. Burchette was affirmed in her call as Youth Pastor, with the loving support of her pastor, Rev. Charlie Leath, and the Burchette Chapel congregation. Words of encouragement were given by The Reverend Raymond S. Watkins, Sr. Pastor of Mount Calvary United Church of Christ, Durham, North Carolina.

This sacred moment reflected the heart of the Southern Conference's **Call to Care**—showing up, walking alongside one another, and honoring the work God is still doing in and through God's people. The service served as a powerful reminder that while this was a long time coming, there is still work to do, and God is not finished yet. Rev. Burchette's installation stands as a testimony to faithfulness, community, and the ongoing movement of the Spirit in the life of the church. Congratulations and we look forward to what God has for you next!