

Main Street

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Worshipping



Serving



Building



Welcoming

The Connection

FOLLOWING CHRIST FROM CITY CENTER

Letter from the Pastor

As we enter into a new year, ponder upon this the analogy of the coffee cup.

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you or shakes your arm, making you spill your coffee everywhere. Why did you spill the coffee?

"Because someone bumped into me!!!"

Wrong answer. You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup. Had there been water in the cup, you would have spilled water.

Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled.

So we have to ask ourselves... "What's in my cup?" When life gets tough, what spills over?

Joy, gratitude, peace and humility?

Or, is it anger, bitterness, blame, frustration, victim mentality and quitting-tendencies?

Life provides the cup, YOU choose how to fill it. That bears repeating: YOU CHOOSE. You GET to CHOOSE.

Today, let's work towards filling our cups with gratitude, forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation, resilience, positivity, compassion, kindness, caring, drive, proactivity, excitement, and love for others.

Blessings for the New Year!



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New Year's Prayer

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 23:6

Reminder:
The Church office will be closed on New Year's Day and will reopen at 9:00 am on Monday, January 5th.

A beautiful seldom seen prospective of our Christmas Eve Service.

Flowers for our Worship Services

January 4 - Available

January 11 - Available

January 18 - Available

January 25 - Rebecca Harmon Sherrill



The new 2026 flower calendar is located on the bulletin board outside the church office. Call the church office or visit the calendar to sign up! Multiple families can always share flowers if there's a special date you would like.



Susanna Circle

Tuesday, January 6th
10:00 am ~ Wesley Commons

Celebration Circle

This year our theme for Celebration Circle will be mapping our way forward. This program is about finding our way forward into the unknown by holding on to God and our core values. Come map out our year on Wednesday, January 14th at 10:30 am. Let's get together and make a new plan for the New Year. Hope to see you all there.

After Church on Sunday, January 4 and during the week of January 4, please help De-HOG the decorations from Christmas!



Missions

The Mission Team had a fruitful year. Here are a few of the highlights:

Coordinated meals for the GGUM Free Clinic for the month of October.

Provided support for Glenn and Allie Williams mission trip to Cuba in November.

Provided Engage meal November 12th to support Cuba mission trip.

Provided financial support to ship Samaritan's Purse boxes.

Provided \$6,000 to support GGUM.

Provided \$4,000 to support Pathway House.

Promoted Wreaths Across America.



**January 8
February 12
March 12
April 9**

**Food Ministry
1-3 pm
Fellowship Hall
2nd Thursdays**

Stewardship and Finance

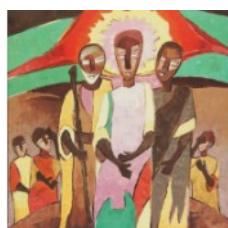
Financial Report as of December 28, 2025

Budgeted Actual Difference

YTD Contributions: \$738,390 \$539,195 (\$199,195)

YTD Expenses: \$738,390 \$555,023 \$183,367

Reminder: If you are going to make a legacy gift to the Foundation, the check needs to be written to Main Street Church Foundation. Thank you.



January/February Upper Room

Devotionals are available in the church office, the narthex, and side door entrance.

\$1.50 regular ~ \$2.00 large print.

Member Care

Whew! The care team has had a busy December, but that's the way we like it. Here's a few ways we ministered.

- Cards
- Christmas treats and cookies
- Dinners
- Poinsettias
- Magnify attachment to watch the worship service
- Tabletop Christmas Tree
- "Hard copy" of the monthly Connection

Member Support Team

Happy New Year! With the new year, the Member Care Team has a new name and will provide some additional ministries. More information to come.

Pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Have you wondered why there are pop tabs in the window sill on the office hallway? The youth collect these tabs to take to the Ronald McDonald House in Greenville. The RMH takes them to a recycling center and based on the price of aluminum, the recycling center cuts them a check.

This money then goes back into the House for general operating expenses – keeping their doors open to continue to serve families.

Thanks for lending your support!

ELEVATE

MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STUDENT MINISTRIES

Stay Updated on Elevate Youth!



Remind: Text "@elevateyo" to 81010



Instagram: @mainstreetyouth



Facebook: Elevate Youth

Ponderings from Preston

As we begin the new year, here are two Bible verses to consider:

- - 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
- - Romans 12:2: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Many see the new year as a time to be renewed, or become a new and improved version of their best self. Let 2026 begin with a desire to be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Christ is working in our lives daily, transforming us into His new creation. He promises to make all things new, and is carrying us into the year with the hope of knowing that His plans are always good.

God Bless and Happy New Year,

Preston



More December fun: Big Air & Riverbanks Zoo on December 26!



On December 12, youth went on an outing to the Walk Through Bethlehem in Cold Springs! We were reminded of the birth of our Savior as we enjoyed the Christmas season!

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." - Luke 2: 10-11





Continuing Prayer Concerns: Robert Tinsley, Athena Hagood, Andrea Harris Cabe, Mary Lynn Polk, Judy Connell, Kelly Ackerman, Arthur Radcliffe, Ted and Henrietta Morton, Linda Bell, Brad Wenner, Elaine Dukes, Joe Chapman, Tommy Andrews, Ray Shirley, Devon and Peggy Aaron, (Gina Jolly's mom and dad), Edith Blanchett (Kathy Johnson's mother), Marian Adams, John Harr, Jackie Daniel, Richard Pinckney, Sara Catherine Wilkinson, our church, peace around the world and within our city, county, state, and country, and any unspoken prayers.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. Philippians 4:6



ENGAGE in Small Groups

Engage is not just on Wednesdays~ Options are available to suit your schedule.

Thursday Morning Advent Study

We will continue Rev. R.T.'s Holy Family Advent Study "Nazareth, Egypt, and Back" on Thursday, January 8th, at 11 am in the Library. And good news, Rev. R.T. is extending the study through January 29th. So plan on attending each Thursday of the rest of the month. Just bring your Bible and a friend!

Tuesday Hymnology Study

We are offering a new Hymnology study on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 am in the Choir Room. This study, taught by Myra Greene, will begin on January 20th and will last for 10 weeks. Please join us for this intriguing study on song writers and composers.

Wednesday Men's Bible Study

12:00 in the Library starting January 21st
Pizza provided or bring a bag lunch.
No need to sign up—come when you can.



In Memoriam

Sara "Sally" Findley Adams
December 27, 2025

Wednesday Nights

Engage Meal 5:15 - 6:00 pm

January 21 Beef Vegetable Soup & Dessert
Dula Class

January 28 TBD

Please RSVP @ mainstreetgreenwood.org by 1:00 on Monday each week so our "chefs" can plan.

***** To help offset the rising costs of kitchen supplies, we are asking each group to donate \$20 of their profits to Account #5701—General Kitchen Supplies. Thank you for understanding.**

Wednesday Night Bible Studies: starting January 21st

Engage Book of Esther Bible Study

This study is open for anyone interested! Join in at 6:00 pm in the Drake Class. Myra Greene is leading this six week study (except for Ash Wednesday).

Disciple Fast Tract

"Into the Word into the World"

This class is also for anyone who is interested. Led by Jamison Tinsley and Glenn Williams, they will meet at 6:00 pm in the Library.

A book is needed for this class. Contact Glenn or the church office, and we will order for you.

On December 15, the Flock reunited for their annual Christmas Party with special guests—Addy McCaslan, Peyton Larkins, and Ella Bassett. The group brought toiletry items for the middle school girls in District 50. Thanks to Macon McCaslan for suggesting this worthy and much needed outreach and to Jennifer Larkins for hosting.



Engage Returns January 21, 2025

Wednesday Evenings
6-7 pm



On December 14th, the children presented the play "The Greatest Story Ever Told." Outstanding doesn't begin to cover it! Shout out to Lisa Smith, for directing the play and the music. Her assistants were Wendy Hill, Mary Kate Skinner, Allison Wooten, and Granger Smith accompanied on the guitar. Several of our youth: Wells Campbell, Peyton Larkins, Zach Leopard, Kolton Owens, Maggie Shirley and Rosemary Skinner lent a hand in its success.



Creative Juices were flowing on Parents' Night Out on December 5th. The children had a fantastic time making all kinds of Christmas crafts.



CELEBRATIONS

January Birthdays

- 3 Mack Tharpe
- Rose Burns
- 4 Bess Hoy
- 6 Nancy Lumley
- Carly Rogers
- 7 Bennett Charles
- Sue Maloney
- 8 Ashley D'Alessandro
- 10 Marilyn Barmore
- 12 Sara Catherine Wilkinson
- 14 Martha Culbertson
- 15 Chris Wise
- 16 Zach Leopard
- 17 Charlotte Hoy
- 21 Wally Dorn
- 22 Brandon Smith
- 24 Logan Andrews
- 25 Jane Prewett, Sharon Bagwell
- 28 John Sherrill, Keaton Tharpe



January Anniversaries

- 1 Terry and Betty Strange
- 3 John and Amy Young
- 17 George and Cindy Harris
- 23 Harley and Melissa Moore
- 28 Ronney and Joan Smith



Congratulations to Sherman Culbertson on his graduation from Lander University in December. Your church family is so proud of you!



Family Ministries hosted Christmas Jeopardy and a delicious meal. Lots of fun and fellowship.

January 2026

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>We hope to see you at our events! Call the Church Office with any questions. 864-229-7551</p>	<p>4 Epiphany Sunday 9:00 am Early Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:30 pm Small Discussion Group</p>	<p>5 11:00 am Member Support Team Committee Meeting 5:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>6 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool</p>	<p>7 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool</p>	<p>8 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 11:00 am Holy Family "Nazareth, Egypt, and Back" Study</p>	<p>9 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool</p>	<p>10</p>
		<p>11 9:00 am Early Service-Sanctuary 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:30 pm Small Discussion Group</p>	<p>12 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911</p>	<p>13 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:30 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>14 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool</p>	<p>15 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 11:00 am Holy Family "Nazareth, Egypt, and Back" Study 6:00 pm Girl Scouts Troop 1389</p>	<p>16 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool Afternoon-Youth Retreat to Lake Junaluska</p>
		<p>18 9:00 am Early Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 3:30 pm Small Discussion Group</p>	<p>19 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911</p>	<p>20 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:00 am Greenwood UMC District Pastor's Meeting 11:00 am Hymnology Study</p>	<p>21 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 5:15 pm Engage Wednesday Night Supper 6:00 pm Elevate Youth 6:00 pm Engage Book of Esther Bible Study 6:00 pm Engage Disciple Fast Track Bible Study</p>	<p>22 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 11:00 am Holy Family "Nazareth, Egypt, and Back" Study</p>	<p>23 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool</p>
		<p>25 9:00 am Early Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 3:30 pm Small Discussion Group</p>	<p>26 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911</p>	<p>27 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 11:00 am Hymnology Study</p>	<p>28 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 5:15 pm Engage Wednesday Night Supper 6:00 pm Elevate Youth 6:00 pm Engage Book of Esther Bible Study 6:00 pm Engage Disciple Fast Track Bible Study</p>	<p>29 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 11:00 am Holy Family "Nazareth, Egypt, and Back" Study</p>	<p>30 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool Mud Pies 100th Day of School</p>



Children's Ministry Volunteer List

Email Mary Kate Skinner to be part of the rotation at mkskinn@gmail.com

Acolytes and Crucifer:

January 4 Maggie Shirley and Josh Albon
January 11 Crawford Burns and Ryder Larkins
January 18 Diana Fields and Benjo Smith
January 25 Campbell and Finnley Smith and Mary Margaret Skinner

Sunday School & Extended Session:

January 4 Allison Hartung
January 11 Joanne Campbell
January 18 Allison Wooten and Wendy Hill
January 25 Allison Wooten and Wendy Hill

Nursery: Sydney Sluder & Rachel Jolly



Rev. Bowling and the children at Hanging of the Greens



The Connection

A monthly publication connecting members and friends of Main Street United Methodist Church.

Main Street United Methodist Church

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Rev. R.T. Bowling, III, Pastor

Gina Jolly, Director of Music Ministry
Sarah Bowen, Organist
Preston Goforth, Youth & Young Adult Director
Allison Wooten & Wendy Hill, Children's Ministry
Allison Wooten, Mud Pies Creative Learning Director

Debbie Sharpe, Administrative Assistant
Jo Patterson, Office Assistant
Linda Miller, Financial Secretary
Donald Young, Building Caretaker
Michael Fisher, Custodian