



Worshipping



Serving



Building



Welcoming

FOLLOWING CHRIST FROM CITY CENTER

Letter from the Pastor

It is December, and we are in the Advent– Christmastide Seasons. This is a time of year that can be difficult for many of us. The reason for this human dilemma is the “Rose Colored Glasses” Syndrome. This is when we look at the past and make it greater than it was. If we use the discernment God gives us through the Holy Spirit, we can overcome this human frailty and see the past for what it was. The past we lived in was filled with trials and tribulation, too. John Wesley wrote about this in “On Former Times”. Below is an excerpt of Wesley's thoughts:

Is it not the common practice of all men to praise the past and condemn the present time? And this may probably operate much farther than one would at first imagine. When those that have more experience than us, and therefore, we are to think more wisdom, are almost continually harping upon this, the degeneracy of the world; those who are accustomed from their infancy to hear how much better the world was formerly than it is now, (and so it really seemed to them when they were young and just come into the world, and when the cheerfulness of youth gave a pleasing air to all that was round about them,) the idea of the world's being worse and worse would naturally grow up with them. And so it will be, till we, in our turn, grow peevish, fretful, discontented, and full of melancholy complaints, “How wicked the world is grown! How much better it was when we were young, in the golden days that we can remember!” ~ John Wesley (“On Former Times”).

So in these weeks to come, make a conscious effort to enjoy the grace that is present in this Advent-Christmastide Season. When you discover this moment of weakness Wesley called, “melancholy complaints”, ask God's powerful illuminating grace to come into your life. He will give you vision and discernment to have a happy Christmas.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Ralph T. Bowling, III

a very important
meeting

Church Council Meeting

All are Invited to the last meeting of the year.
Sunday, Dec. 14th @ 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall



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Christmas Eve and Communion Service
on Wednesday, December 24th at 5:00.

The Church office will be closed on
December 24th, 25th,
and January 1st.

Flowers for our Worship Services

December

Poinsettias



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, December 2nd
10:00 am ~ Wesley Commons

Celebration Circle
No December Meeting
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year



Celebration Circle served dinner to 62 residents at Pathway House on November 18th. What a happy day for those serving and receiving!

Thank you Church Family!

Thank you all very much for staying after worship to help decorate our church in preparation for the beginning of the Christmas season. Our church looks beautiful!



Join us at 3:00 pm on Sunday, December 21,



to go
caroling to
some of our
home-
bound
members!

THE GIVING TREE

Please consider taking a tag from our Giving Tree this year in the Fellowship Hall foyer. These children we are helping attend District 50 schools. The selected children come from terrible and hard to imagine circumstances. Some are homeless, living in a car or sofa surfing every other night. As a church ministry, we should come together and give these children a memorable Christmas.

Return gifts by December 3rd

*All gifts will need to be Unwrapped
*Include Tag with Gifts

Questions Contact: Wendy 864-993-6328 or Allison 864-344-1414

Stewardship and Finance

Financial Report as of November 30, 2025

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
YTD Contributions:	\$681,600	\$470,378	(\$211,222)
YTD Expenses:	\$681,600	\$514,748	\$166,852

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.

The November/December Upper Room devotionals are available in the church office, the narthex, and side door entrance. \$1.50 regular ~ \$2.00

Member Care

The member care committee would like to salute Terry Robinson, one of our faithful members, for all she does for our homebound members. She works tirelessly, and we are forever grateful.

New Member Care Service

"Reassurance Call"

Purpose: To ensure our Main Street UMC members are well.

Who: Main Street UMC members who live alone with no in town family or neighbors available for a daily check in. Contact Caroline Hawthorne if you would like to receive this service.

What: Committee member will text or make a phone call daily at a pre-arranged time to check in. If the committee member is unable to get in touch, with "our member", the emergency contact will be notified for follow-up.



Calling all wise men and wise women...
Think you know all there is to know
about Christmas?

Join us for lunch followed by
Christmas Jeopardy!

Tuesday, December 9th
11:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Lunch provided by Family Ministries



ELEVATE

MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STUDENT MINISTRIES

Stay Updated on Elevate Youth!

-  **Remind:** Text "@elevateyo" to 81010
 **Instagram:** @mainstreetyouth
 **Facebook:** Elevate Youth

December Youth Activities

Sundays

Sunday School - 10-10:45 am in Youth Room

Mark Your Calendars:

- November 30 - Hanging of the Greens
- December 6 - Poinsettia Deliveries
- December 7 - Youth Christmas Party (5:30-7:00 at the Marino's with a white elephant gift exchange and ugly sweater contest)
- December 12 - Breakfast Club (Cost covered & transportation provided afterwards - let Preston know if you need a ride!)
- December 12 - Walk Through Bethlehem
- December 26 - Big Air & Riverbanks Zoo (sign up by December 21)

Save the date for our youth retreat in January!

ENCOUNTER RETREAT

**JANUARY 16-18
AT LAKE JUNALUSKA**

Featuring worship sessions with Guest Speaker: Chris Singleton PLUS Snow tubing in Maggie Valley!



Sign up with a \$50 deposit by Dec. 12! (\$150 total cost)



Pictured: Fun memories in November! TopGolf, soda tab delivery to Ronald McDonald House, decorating Christmas ornaments, and Breakfast Club were highlights.





Continuing Prayer Concerns: Andrea Harris Cabe, Kelly Ackerman, Brad Wenner, Ted and Henrietta Morton, Brenda Munnerlyn, the Templeton family, Tim Munnerlyn, Elaine Dukes, Miriam Garner, Joe Chapman, Athena Hagood, Mary Lynn Polk, Tommy Andrews, Ray Shirley, Devon and Peggy Aaron, (Gina Jolly's mom and dad), Sandra Lewis (Allison Wooten's mother), 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.**

Wednesday Men's Bible Study

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

Thursday Morning Advent Study

Holy Family- "Nazareth, Egypt, and Back"
December, 4, 11, 18, & January 8
11 am in the Library
Led by Rev. Bowling
Just bring your Bible and a friend!

The Autumn Craft and Food Market—formerly known as Holiday Market on Main—returned with a new and improved format on November 8th. **Outstanding** is all we can say! In addition to our usual craft vendors, we had a **Bountiful Bites Booth** filled with assorted baked items—cakes, Lou's chocolate chip cookies, lace cookies, cheesecakes, toffee, brownies, & snack mix. A variety of frozen items rounded out the booth—soups, BBQ, Capris Lasagna— just to name a few. What's more was the **Bountiful Bites Café**, where shoppers and vendors could purchase sausage biscuits and coffee for breakfast as well as Ed Wiedemann's homemade pimento cheese and Ruple Harley's BBQ sandwiches with chips and a drink for lunch. Bob Curetin and Allison Wooten served as our cahiers! Café tables were available to enjoy your lunch or take a break from shopping. Sunday morning, folks stopped at the **2nd Helpings Table** outside the elevators to shop for frozen items and baked goods. Many many volunteers helped to make this event a **HUGE** success. Special thanks to Josie Shirley for the creative signage. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. All proceeds are supporting Main Street UMC's ministries.

Wednesday Nights

Believe it or not, it's already time to plan for meals and programs for the Spring Semester of Engage. The dates are January 21st—May 6th, with No Engage on April 1st as it is Holy Week. Please call the church office if you are led to lead a book or Bible study or if your group would like to provide a meal.

Thank you so much!



Last Engage brought to you by Family Ministries
Thanksgiving Fun, Fellowship, and Fare



TOTAL PROFIT: \$7,036



December 5th - Parent's Night Out
5:30 -8:00 pm
December 13th - Christmas Play Rehearsal
Christmas Party
December 14th - Christmas Play
"The Greatest Story Ever Told"
11:00 am Service

**Engage Returns
January 21, 2025**

**Wednesday Evenings
6-7 pm
(Nursery Provided)**

Loose Change at Work

- Purchased books for Greenwood Genetic Center
- Packed 51 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child
- Purchased a new see-saw plane for the playground
- Will be purchasing items for The Giving Tree.

Thank you for continuing to support the children as they are learning to give back to the community and to those less fortunate.



Shout out to Missions for donating the postage!



Practice for
"The Greatest Story Ever Told"
December 14th at 11:00 Service

As we reflect on the past few months as Co-Children's Coordinators, we would like to thank you all for sharing your children. This time together has been such a blessing. After Hanging of the Greens, each family was gifted an Advent Book for Christmas. Our prayer is for you to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to 2026!

Love, Allison & Wendy

CELEBRATIONS

December Birthdays

- 2 Tyler Andrews
- 3 Richard Pinckney
- 4 Bill Mays
Jade Oliver
- 5 Whit Valkenburg
- 6 Bobbie Kittle
- 7 Mary Birchmore,
Emmie Burns
- 8 Gregg Moore, Meg Schulze
- 9 Sally Adams, Brian Andrews
- 10 Melissa Moore
- 13 Bill Gray, Yvonne Rouse
- 15 David Otabor, Hannah Crooks
- 16 Judy Connell, Freddia Partridge
- 18 Cole D'Alessandro
- 19 Helen White
- 20 Rebecca Sherrill
- 23 Dewitt Smith
- 24 Bill Tinsley
- 29 Ann Pendergrass, Carroll Sams
- 30 Tommy Rambo, Carolyn Thomes
- 31 Emerson Hoy, Jennings Thompson, Eloise Tunstall



December Anniversaries

- 11 Lee and Ellesor Holder
- 12 Winston and Josie Shirley
- 16 John and Kim Sprouse
- 19 Richard and Susan Pinckney
- 29 Brian and Susan Albon
- 30 David and Cathy Painter
- 31 Danny and Bess Hoy, Glenn and Allie Williams



Congratulations to *Taylor and Phillip Grimshaw* on the birth of their new daughter, Mary James, born on November 4th. Sisters Alice Lorraine and Annie are so excited having a new sister!

Congratulations to *Ruple and Carol Harley* on the birth of a new granddaughter, Eleanora (Ella) Scarlett Migdalas, born on November 3rd, to parents, Davis Renee and Theo Migdalas.



Food Pantry Report



Just had to let all of y'all know the impact of the MSUMC's Food Pantry. On November 13th, it was something else.....**21 clients in the first 20 minutes!!!!** Ella Winfield, Shell Dula, and myself were really hustling, but it was a good hustle. Thanks to Kathy Murff for making sure we had plenty

of bags for the afternoon total of 35.

Some of our clients were a Peruvian couple (having their 1st baby in 2026), Larry (the disabled vet), Richard (in a motorized wheelchair who always brings back his past month's paper bag for reuse, (we are praying PT will help in getting him out of the wheelchair) and others...Truly, it is all about relationships!!!

Now, as we plan for 2026, please consider being part of this ministry. What a wonderful avenue to meet the needs of our surrounding communities. I promise you will be blessed.

Mary Dula

Needed items: Grits, crackers, peanut butter, and fruit
2nd Thursdays—December 11, January 8, & February 12



Interested in Yoga?
9:30 am in the Youth Room
December 8, 12, 15, & 19
Katie Russell—Instructor
Come and participate or
just observe to see if this may
be for you!



December 2025

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>1 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 10:00 am Member Care Meeting 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911</p>	<p>2 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 10:00 am Susanna Circle at Wesley Commons 6:30 pm Greenwood Wesley Fellowship</p>	<p>3 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:00 am Mud Pies Polar Express Field Trip</p>	<p>4 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 11:00 am Holy Family "Nazareth, Egypt, and Back" Study 7:00 pm Pick-up Basketball</p>	<p>5 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:00 am Mud Pies 4K Theater Field Trip 5:30 pm Parent's Night Out 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>6 8:15 am UMM Men's Breakfast 10:30 am Youth Pointa Delivery </p>
<p>7 9:00 am Early Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 2:30 pm Pick-up Basketball 5:30 pm Elevate Youth Christmas Party 7:30 pm Pickleball</p>	<p>8 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:30 am Morning Yoga 10:00 am Mud Pies 4K Emerald Gardens Field Trip 5:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911</p>	<p>9 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:30 am Staff Meeting 11:00 am Christmas Leopardy  5:30 pm Missions Committee Meeting</p>	<p>10 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool</p>	<p>11 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 11:00 am Holy Family "Nazareth, Egypt, and Back" Study 1:00 pm Food Ministry 6:00 pm Staff Christmas Party 6:30 pm Band Practice 7:00 pm Pick-up Basketball</p>	<p>12 7:00 pm Youth Breakfast Club at Starbucks 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:30 am Morning Yoga 2:30 pm Youth Walk Through Bethlehem Outing 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>13 9:00 am Children and Youth-Christmas Play Rehearsal 10:30 am Children's Ministries-Christmas Party and Lunch 11:15 am Bible Class Outing to Greenville</p>
<p>14 9:00 am Early Service-Sanctuary 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 2:30 pm Pick-up Basketball 4:00 pm Church Council Meeting 7:30 pm Pickleball</p>	<p>15 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:30 am Morning Yoga 6:00 pm Methodist Joyful Flock Christmas Party 6:00 pm Mud Pies Christmas Program 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911</p>	<p>16 7:30 am Mud Pies Preschool</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 11:00 am Holy Family "Nazareth, Egypt, and Back" Study 6:00 pm Girl Scouts Troop 1389 7:00 pm Pick-Up Basketball</p>	<p>19 9:30 am Morning Yoga 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>20 9:00 am Soup Kitchen Volunteers TEAM #4 </p>
<p>21 9:00 am Early Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 2:30 pm Pick-up Basketball 3:00 pm Church-Wide Christmas Caroling  7:30 pm Pickleball</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Church Office Closed 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service </p>	<p>25 Christmas Day Merry Christmas! The church is closed. </p>	<p>26 2:30 pm Youth "Big Air" Outing in Columbia</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 9:00 am Early Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 2:30 pm Pick-up Basketball 7:30 pm Pickleball</p>	<p>29 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 911</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve</p>	<p>January 1 New Year's Day! The church is closed. </p>		



Children's Ministry Volunteer List

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

Acolytes and Crucifer:

December 7 Diana Fields and Mary Margaret Skinner

December 14 Mary Kate Skinner

December 21 Crawford Burns and Caroline Leopard

December 24 Ansley Boring/Maggie Shirley & Peyton Larkins

December 28 Maggie Shirley and Josh Albon

Advent Banner:

December 7: Rosemary Skinner

December 21: Addison Leopard

December 24: Mary Margaret Skinner

Sunday School & Extended Session:

December 7 Mary Kate Skinner

December 14 Allison Wooten and Wendy Hill

December 21 Mary Dula

December 28 Lindsay Burns

Nursery: Sydney Sluder & Rachel Jolly

December Events

December 3 Polar Express Field Trip
Giving Tree Deadline

December 5 4 year olds ~ Best Christmas
Pageant Ever @ GCT

December 8 4 year olds sing at Emerald
Gardens

December 12 Polar Express Day

December 15 Mud Pies Christmas program
6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

December 16 Mud Pies Christmas Parties

December 17– January 5
Christmas vacation—See you in 2026!



Mud Pies enjoyed a Thanksgiving Feast on Tuesday before their break!

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, 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 Tharpe, Administrative Assistant

Jo Patterson, Office Assistant

Linda Miller, Financial Secretary

Donald Young, Building Caretaker

Michael Fisher, Custodian