



# First United Methodist Church

North Wilkesboro, North Carolina

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Third Sunday after Epiphany    10:50 a.m. Service of Worship  
Worship • Connect • Love • Serve

January 25, 2026

## Welcome!

We Enter Into Worship

↑Please stand as you're able.

Prelude — *Now I Belong to Jesus*..... Stanley

Welcome and Announcements..... Rev. Kelley Groce

Chiming the Trinity *in celebration of the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*

↑Hymn #545 UMH — *The Church's One Foundation*

↑Bringing in the Cross and the Light

↑Call to Worship..... Ann Absher

To the fisherman Jesus said:

**“Follow me and I will make you fish for people.**

To the tax collector Jesus said:

**“Follow me.”**

To the rich man Jesus said:

**“Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”**

At the last supper Jesus said:

**“Follow me.”**

To you and to me and to all of us Jesus says:

**Follow me!**

— written by Rev. Kathleen Sheets, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Jesup, IA.

L: Let us pray together:

↑Opening Prayer ..... Ann Absher

**O God, our light and our salvation, shelter us in your love.**

**O God, our stronghold, protect us from danger.**

**We come with shouts of joy to worship you this day.**

**We come with song and music to celebrate your love.**

**We come with longing to seek your presence.**

**Be with us now, O God, as we sing your praises. Amen.**



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Mail: P.O. Box 1145, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

• Campus: 401 6<sup>th</sup> St., North Wilkesboro

336-838-2691 • office@firstnw.org • www.firstnw.org

Pastor: Rev. Kelley Groce

Director of Music Ministries: David Brooks • Organist/Pianist: Ricky Sharp

Director of Children's Spiritual Formation: Tanya Cline • Nursery Assistant: Gracie Blackburn

Directors of Youth Ministries: Laura & David Brooks

Financial Assistant: Denise Greene • Preschool Director: Rebecca Holbrook

Assistant to the Pastor: Jane Cunningham

Lay Leader: Beth Lovette • Chair, Servant-Leader Board: Ann Absher

Superintendent, Appalachian District: Rev. Lory Beth Huffman

Bishop, Western North Carolina Conference: Rev. Dr. Ken Carter

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↑*Gloria Patri* (Glory Be to the Father) 70

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

↑Sharing God's Peace ..... Ann Absher  
The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

As God's grateful children,  
**let's share with one another signs and words of God's amazing grace.**

Children's Time ..... Tanya Cline

We Hear, Consider, and Respond to God's Word

Anthem — *How Marvelous, How Wonderful*

Psalter Lesson — Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 758 UMH ..... Ann Absher

Gospel Lesson — Matthew 4: 18-23 NRSV ..... Rev. Kelley Groce

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Sermon — “The Importance of Invitation” ..... Rev. Kelley Groce

\*A Statement of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church 884

**We believe in the one God, creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations, the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love. We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the Savior of the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength. We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every need. We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice. We believe in the church, those who are united in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service. We believe in the reign of God as the divine will realized in human society, and in the family of God, where we are all brothers and sisters. We believe in the final triumph of righteousness and in the life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer – You're invited to the rail for a time of personal prayer.

We Worship with Our Tithes and Our Offerings

If you do not wish to give an offering today, you may do so through online giving at <https://onrealm.org/firstnw/give> or by scanning the QR code on the back page.

Offertory — *You are Mine* ..... David Haas

Mike and Vicky Dancy, vocal duet

↑Doxology 95 — *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

We Go Out to Share the Good News

↑Hymn #2129 FWS — *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

↑Benediction ..... Rev. Kelley Groce

↑Postlude/Recessional — *Glory to God* ..... Stanley Walker/arr. Ricky Sharp

*Acolytes: Luke Robinson and Connor Brooks; Crucifer: Oren Cline*

*Nursery (for children up to age 4): Opens at 8:45 a.m.*

*Welcome visitors! We are glad that you are here. If you have children aged birth to pre-K or four years old, the nursery is open! Please check with someone nearby for guidance. We also have coloring/games packets for your child to enjoy during the service. Those packets are available as you enter the church. Feel free to go back and get one. We'd love to connect with you, so please see the name/address booklet in the pew, fill out your information, tear it out, and place it in the offering plate or at the end of your pew.*