

The Main Stream

December 10, 2024 - Volume 2024, Issue 12



"snow day" @2024 Michael D. Lancaster

*at breakfast table this morning
 delighting as the sunrise
 illuminated the falling
 crystalline snow
 each flake, glittering, shimmering
 in the light
 like dancing debutants
 at the ball
 each flake falling so softly
 upon the earth
 like a gentle kiss on the cheek
 until the new blanket
 embraced the land
 like a mother soothing a child
 rocking him to sleep with
 an ancient melody
 written so long ago
 across the sea
 that no one remembers
 who wrote it*



*What subtle surprises are you noticing? What are the signs that the Love and Light of Christ is born anew in you, in us, and in our world once again?

Pastor Lanny



This is the Way...

How is God calling you forward in 2025? How is God calling us forward as Main Street United Methodist Church? Come join us on Wednesdays at 11am or 6:30pm as we look at Jesus' life, teachings, and ministry and reflect on how that can teach us the way forward into this new year. Pastor Lanny will lead this class in the Chapel, starting on January 8 and ending on May 21.

Please let us know that you plan to attend by registering at mainstreetumc.org and click "signups" on the red stripe.



Children’s Christmas Play, “The First Christmas,” is December 13, at 6:30 pm

This year the Kid’s Connect Choir will present their Christmas play, “The First Christmas,” in the Sanctuary, and the whole church is invited to come! The evening begins at 6:30pm with the voices of children singing. Stella Turner will play Christmas piano music, then follows the Christmas play, a fully costumed, retelling of the Christmas story with audience participation—including a carol sing-a-long of beloved, familiar carols. We will hear from Director of Children’s Ministries, Victoria Smathers, who will share about Children’s Ministry at MSUMC. The evening ends with Christmas Cookies and Cocoa in the Commons! This evening promises to be “merry and bright” while touching the very heart of Christmas. We hope to see you there and singing along with us on Friday evening, **December 13 at 6:30 pm** in the Sanctuary!



Main Street UMC Preschool is combining with the A&O Choir and the NOW band on

Thursday, December 19 at 6:30pm

for a new tradition. Please join us as our preschool children tell the story of the night our Savior was born! We will enjoy music from kids, adults, and youth and we hope you all will join us for this special night!



Christmas Eve Worship Services

December 24 in the Sanctuary

As you celebrate the birth of Christ with family and friends, include one of our Christmas Eve worship services in your plans:

- We have a 4:00pm Family Service that is led by our youth and includes a duet by Alicia Lail and Sarah Foster along with an opportunity for all the children in attendance to become a part of the Christmas Story!
- We offer Traditional Candlelight Services at 7pm and 11pm with Holy Communion, special music, and a Christmas message from our Senior Pastor, Rev. Lanny Lancaster.

Welcome, New Members

Join us in welcoming recent new MSUMC members Nick Fisher, Adam Register, Carmen Safrit, and Jordan Hinrichs & Lucy Hirschenberger!



Jordan Hinrichs &
Lucy Hirschenberger



Carmen Safrit



Nick Fisher

NEW MEMBER
Sunday
January 12, 2025

Contact Pastor Phil Kuntz if you are interested in joining the church on this date.

A graphic illustration on a light beige background. It features a black silhouette of a family (two adults and two children) standing in front of a church building with a steeple and a cross. There are also birds and a sun/moon in the sky.

COLLECTION BOXES

are in the new main entrance for:

- **BOOKSAPALOOZA** — donate new or used books
- **HOPE CENTER** — donate empty egg cartons, clothing, groceries
- **CRISIS CONTROL**— donate non-perishable food, each month has an item to focus on, December's item is Hot Beverages (tea, cocoa, instant coffee)

GIFTS GIVEN

in Memory or in Honor of a Loved One **THIS CHRISTMAS**

Poinsettia In Memory of

- Adam & Andy Watson by Dave & Polly Black
- Andy Black by Dave & Polly Black
- Nicole Schnabel by Rich & Nancy Blakemore
- Max & Moxelle Coltrane by Anne & Joe Coltrane
- Billy & Carolyn Gentry by Ken & Pat Drewry
- Chris Chapman by Ken & Pat Drewry
- Leroy & Mary Spangler by Ken & Pat Drewry
- Luther Conger by Ken & Pat Drewry
- Dale Hilton by Ken & Pat Drewry
- Alma & Melvin Taylor by Faye Friddle
- Norman Friddle by Faye Friddle
- Pat Thomas by Jane & Barry Greeson
- Rev. James, Ed Smith, & Lisa Kay Barrier by Debbie Griffin
- Danny Turman, Richard Hedgecock, & Cherri Carroll by Debbie Griffin
- Elaine Frost by Scott & Tina Higgins
- Ivey & Doris Redmon by Scott & Tina Higgins
- Rev. Dale Hilton by Margie Hilton
- James Hinson by Ron & Joan Johnson
- Pat Thomas by Mark Kinlaw
- Laurie Badgley McCormick by Bonnie Macumber
- Danny Marsh by Dawn Marsh
- Leonard Pios by Jessica Medley
- Dale Moody by Bettie Moody
- Bunt & Kemp Whicker by Judy Osborne
- Lanny G. Owens by Connie Owens
- Dr. & Mrs. Fred M. Pegg and Gary Pegg by Bill & Patsy Pegg
- Col. Bill Creed by Victoria Smathers
- Diane & Andrew Taylor by Victoria Smathers
- John & Elaine Frost by Jennifer Toffel
- Elmer & Jean Ebert by Kris Wilhelmi
- Jeff Wilhelmi by Kris Wilhelmi
- Louise M. Conger by Patty, Ed, Debbie, & Luke
- Luther R. Conger by Patty, Ed, Debbie, & Luke

Poinsettia in Honor of

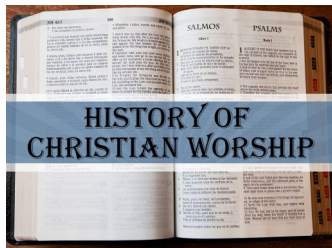
- Rowan Clayton by Rich & Nancy Blakemore
- Sheryl & Paul Manz by Rich & Nancy Blakemore
- Carol Manz by Rich & Nancy Blakemore
- Dayna by Gwen Bradshaw
- Dean by Gwen Bradshaw
- Tanya Brumfield by Bert Brumfield
- Laura Swift by Anne & Joe Coltrane
- The MSUMC staff by Ken & Pat Drewry
- Ray Thomas by Jane & Barry Greeson
- New Horizons SS class by Mark Kinlaw
- Ernest & Dorothy Mitchell and Raymond & Helen Gizara by Joe & RoseMarie Mitchell
- David, Nancy, Christina by Bettie Moody
- Darrell Davis by Ginger Wilkerson
- Phyllis Davis by Ginger Wilkerson
- My Children & their families by Judy Osborne

Gifts to the Stocking Fund in Memory of

- James Hinson by Ron & Joan Johnson
- Glen & Thelma Robbins by Jack & Robin Rayfield
- Walter & Carolyn Walker by Jack & Robin Rayfield
- Patricia Murphy by Victoria Smathers
- Lisa Oland and Mary Sue Bowden by Angela Winfree

Gifts to the Stocking Fund in Honor of

- Gwen's grandchildren by Gwen Bradshaw



History of Christian Worship Bible Study

A 6-week video-based study called "A History of Christian Worship" will be offered on Wednesday nights starting on February 12. Segments include Music, Art & Drama, Baptism and Communion. How have these elements of worship evolved over the 2000 years of Christianity and in various faith communities? The class will meet from 6:30 to 8:15 in room 320 (upstairs Commons classroom) and be led by Wade and Jan Hampton. No preparation is required between classes, just come, watch, discuss. Please let us know that you will attend by signing up at mainstreetumc.org and click "signups" on the red stripe. Class will be limited to 24 participants.



On November 14th the ladies of the United Women in Faith awarded our yearly Mission Pin to Nancy Blakemore for all the hard work she has done for our church as the Director of Music Ministries for many years. Thank you Nancy for your dedication and passion that you share with our church.



United
Women
in Faith

COUNTING TEAM HELP NEEDED

We are in need of an additional person to be a part of the Sunday Counting Team on the 2nd Sunday of each month.
If you can volunteer, please contact Tina Crew in the Church Office.



New Start Time for Oasis Service

Beginning January 8, our Oasis service will start at **5:00pm** in the Sanctuary.

Oasis is an intimate 30-minute service with music, prayer, communion, and a brief message of encouragement by a member of our congregation.



We are approaching the end of a year of many blessings at Main Street but also filled with changes. My term as Finance Chair will be complete at the end of the year. It has truly been a blessing to serve as Finance Chair the past three years and has strengthened my faith as our committee navigated much uncertainty along the way.

In this season of Gratitude, one way to give God thanks for God's rich and overflowing blessings for us this year is to make special financial offerings to God through the Church.

Every week, Main Street United Methodist Church touches lives with the Light and Love of Christ. Your support of Christ's Church is a crucial part of fulfilling our mission from Christ the King himself to **"Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."**

I'm glad to report that 2025 dollars pledged are \$527,000 and are about equal to prior year pledges. Our pledged financial support is now slightly above prior year pledged. Pledges received to date will cover only 51% of our 2025 budget. Pledging is a way to express your faith by committing to entrust a portion of your blessings for His work. Have you made your financial pledge of faith? If not, either use the Give button on our website or pick up a pledge card in the Narthex or Commons and leave it in the office.

Here is a brief financial update. Through November 30, actual expenses were \$924,000 and income was \$889,000. The budget deficit is -\$35,000 but has improved since October. We have postponed financial support for local outreach as well as Conference Connectional Support that funds key causes and needs. Connectional Support includes initiatives such as United Methodist Committee on Relief supporting disaster response around the world; World Service Ministry supporting 115+ countries helping with basic human needs and sharing the good news of Jesus around the world; and Conference Funds supporting churches, communities, and pastors in areas affected by Hurricane Helene. Lastly, building fund contributions to date are \$153,000 supporting loan payments of \$132,000. The building loan balance is \$1,287,000.

—Wes O'Brien



Don't cook on Wednesdays, come have dinner with us from 5:30-6:30pm! Dining together is a great opportunity for fellowship, but if you need to get your meal "to-go", then we can do that, too! We have disposable takeout containers but we encourage you to bring your own re-usable containers for "to-go" meals.

- Dec. 18—Pork Loin** with Genesis/Becoming/Crossroads classes serving
- Dec. 25 and Jan. 1—no meal**
- Jan. 8—Lasagna** with Great Expectations serving
- Jan. 15—Spiral Cut Ham** with Grose-Kirkman and Journey classes serving
- Jan. 22—Chicken Potpie Casserole** with New Horizons class serving
- Jan. 29—Baked Potato Bar** with Seafarers serving

The suggested donation is \$6.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child (10 and under). We accept cash, check, or card. A gluten-free option is available upon request.

Reservations for dining in-person or "to-go" must be made by NOON on Monday: use the Wednesday Dinner reservation form on our website under the red "signups" stripe or contact Kathryn in the church office at 336-993-3411 or email kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org

Ways to Support the Youth

This summer our youth will once again be embarking on 2 summer youth mission trips (hopefully in Western North Carolina) through Appalachia Service Project. The youth here at Main Street have been blessed beyond measure by the support of our church family. As the costs for supplies and van rentals continue to rise each year, we have been able to keep the cost for each participant the same for the past several years due to the continued support of MSUMC; your support allows for more youth to participate in this life-changing event. Please help us keep our costs down by making a donation to our Youth Mission Fund and/or supporting these fundraisers.



Chili Cook-off: Our annual Chili Cook-off to raise money for our youth summer mission trips will be Sunday night, **January 26** at 5:30pm. Please come and join us for good food and fellowship and a chance to support our youth so they can be the hands and feet of Christ.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Bring your appetite and your check books on Tuesday night, **March 4** from 6:00 to 7:00pm to eat all the pancakes you want. All proceeds from the Pancake Supper helps us raise money for our youth summer mission trips.

Sharing in Joy:

- Congratulations to Cooke & Carole Eidson upon the birth of their granddaughter, Claire England Eidson.

Shoebox Update

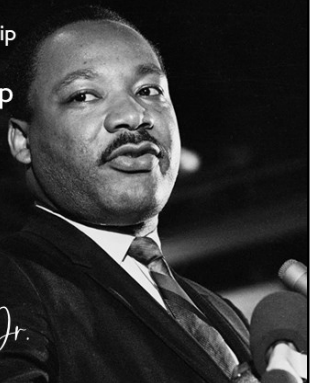
Thank you, Main Street, for the 153 filled shoeboxes that you donated to go to children around the world through Operation Christmas Child!

Kernersville Christian Ministers Fellowship
presents a

Community Service of Worship
for Human Relations Day
January 19, 2025

*Celebrating the
Life and Ministry of*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Giving to Main Street UMC

As we come towards the end of 2024, and you are reviewing your year-end giving, remember we offer 3 ways you can support the ministries of Main Street.

- **Checks or cash in the offering plate** – There are no fees with this option.
- **Go through your bank and have automatic “bill pay” send a check to the church** – There are no fees involved with this option as well. If you have your banking app on your phone, this is another no-fee option that your bank offers.
- **Online Giving to Main Street UMC!** – There is a FEE charged to the giver or church with this option.

If you choose to use the Online Giving Option, please select ‘GIVE’ from www.mainstreetumc.org. You will see that the process is secure, safe, and easy. You can set up your own account in just a few easy steps, choose to have automated giving, or simply give once. Your donations can be directed to various Main Street programs, such as Missions, Youth, Memorials, etc. If you wish to save Main Street the 2.9% processing fee, simply select ‘Cover card processing fee’ option.

- All gifts that are mailed through the US Post Office must be postmarked or received by **December 31** to be counted for 2024.
- Online gifts can be made at www.mainstreetumc.org and then click “give” on the red stripe.
- ACH gifts (from your bank's checking/saving accounts) must be authorized before **4:00pm on December 27, 2024**, to be a 2024 donation.
- Stock gifts should be initiated no later than Monday, **December 16**.

If you are giving online, please consider doing so before the deadlines above in case you encounter issues entering the transactions.

The Church Office will be ***closed on Wednesday, December 25*** but will be open for normal business hours for the remainder of the week (*8:30-4:00 Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, and 8:30-noon on Fri*) and you are welcome to drop off any contributions in-person!

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of Main Street UMC. Contact Tina Crew at 336-993-3411 or by email at tina.crew@mainstreetumc.org.

Reminder

- We will NOT HAVE our Oasis service or Wednesday Connect Dinner on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1
- The Church Office will be CLOSED on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1
- There will be NO Men’s breakfast on Dec. 26.
- We will NOT HAVE our NOW service on Jan. 2

It’s almost time to think about Chicken Pies! Our United Methodist Men will begin taking orders for Mrs. Pumpkins frozen chicken pies on January 1.

Creation Care and the Holiday Season

In this season of giving and being with family, we also need to remember to take care of the earth and the environment around us. Did you know that the equivalent of 2 million turkeys and 40% of holiday food end up in the trash? Did you know that 227,000 tons of wrapping paper, and 38,000 miles of ribbon end up in the trash? Did you know that only 1% of consumer goods given are still in use 6 months later. Did you know that 1 billion Christmas cards end up in the trash each year?

What do we need to do to reduce this waste? (1) Plan for how much food we're going to need, if we have a lot of leftovers, share with someone who may need a little help. (2) Use wrapping paper that can be recycled (if it can be scrunched into a ball, and it stays in a ball – it can be recycled), also use ribbon that can be recycled. (3) Buy local and handmade goods. Make a donation to a charity in someone's name. (4) Recycle your cards, there are several places that accept cards to be repurposed. (5) We're sure that you all have many more solutions on how to help save money and the environment.

Fun Facts: [1] The first Christmas tree wasn't a tree, but it was made of dyed goose feathers and came from Germany. [2] The term Xmas comes from Greece. X is the Greek symbol for Christ. [3] Christmas comes from the words - Cristes Maesse, meaning "Mass of Christ".



We extend our sympathies to:

- Amy Macumber upon the death of her sister, Laurie Badgley McCormick.
- Robin Yontz upon the death of her mother, Martha Yontz.
- The family & friends of Theo Dunlap.
- The family & friends of John Yates.
- Peggy Douth upon the death of her niece, Joyce Shaffer Patric.
- Martha Gound upon the death of her brother-in-law, David Abel.

JOURNEYS OF PAUL IN GREECE AND TURKEY

Pastor Mark Key is hosting an educational and spiritual trip to Greece and Turkey tracing the "Journeys of Paul" with Educational Opportunities in September of 2025. The pilgrimage will include a large selection of the places Paul traveled to and wrote letters to. The experience will give the sojourners an in-depth understanding of the apostle who wrote 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament, traveled more than 10,000 miles and started at least 16 churches in the Roman Empire. For more information, contact Pastor Mark at mkey@wnccumc.net.



Elementary



January

Just as seasons come and go, so do our emotions. And how we choose to handle those emotions can shape us and teach us a lot about how God cares for us. No matter what emotion we may be feeling or what we may face, because of Jesus, we can learn to trust that God knows how we feel. **Jesus showed us how to face life with resilience, and because of it, we can trust God no matter what.**

February

Every single one of us was created in the image of God. But even as image bearers, we were created as unique. **There is only one you, and this month we have the chance to explore how God can use the ways we were created to make a difference.**



January

Our preschoolers will grow up and experience a lot of different situations and emotions. We want children to know that Jesus is a friend that loves them at ALL times. A friend that will never leave them.

That's why, this month, we are talking about THE best friend—the One who is ALWAYS a good friend.

Rain or shine, **Jesus is always a good friend of mine!**



Prek

February

This month, you get to tell preschoolers that Jesus loves them. Jesus loves their family. Jesus loves their friends. **Jesus loves everyone! And Jesus wants everyone to follow Him!** So, crank up that bus! Get those wheels turning! There is a great big world that needs to hear that Jesus loves everyone!

a Record of our Faithfulness				
OUR PRESENCE:	11-17-2024	11-24-2024	12-1-2024	12-8-2024
Sunday School	119	101	114	13
8:30am In-Person Worship	81	77	83	n/a
8:45 Jubilee In-Person Worship	84	68	67	n/a
10:55am In-Person Worship	135	154	139	424
In-Person Worship Totals	300	299	289	
8:45am Jubilee Live Stream Worship (Unique Views)	11	14	23	n/a
10:55am Live Stream Worship (Unique Views)	37	70	52	98
Total Live Stream Unique Views	48	84	75	98
Live Streaming Totals (unique views x 1.8)	86	151	135	176
Attendance Totals	386	450	424	600
OUR GIFTS as of:	11-17-2024	11-24-2024	12-1-2024	12-8-2024
<i>Moving Forward</i> Building Fund Weekly Contributions	\$ 4,910	\$ 6,658	\$ 1,083	\$ 25,925
Weekly Contributions to Budget	\$ 19,357	\$ 21,790	\$ 13,317	\$ 22,990
Budget Contributions YTD	\$ 799,166	\$ 820,957	\$ 834,274	\$ 857,264

Main Street Ministries as of Nov. 30

Regular Giving \$ 816,539
 Expenses \$ 924,043
 Over/(Under) (\$ 107, 504)
 Budget \$ 1,027,511

Building Fund as of Nov. 30

Building Fund Giving \$ 125,765
 Building Loan Payments \$ 132,000
 Over/(Under) (\$ 6,235)
 Loan Balance \$ 1,280,204

PUBLICATION DEADLINE:
 Newsletter Articles are due by noon on the FIRST Friday of every month for publication in the mid-month newsletter.

**Main Street
United Methodist Church**

336-993-3411

306 South Main Street
Kernersville, NC 27284

Let's Worship Together

There is no better way to worship our Lord than
Worshipping Together. Come and Worship with
us at one or all of our services:

- Less-Formal Traditional Worship Service*:
Sundays at 8:30am in the Sanctuary
- Jubilee Contemporary Worship Service*:
Sundays at 8:45am Jubilee Service in the
Chapel
- Traditional Worship Service*: Sundays at
10:55am in the Sanctuary
- Oasis Mid-Week Service of Meditation:
Wednesdays at 5:30pm (September-May)
- NOW: Night of Worship*: 1st & 3rd
Thursdays of each month at 6:30pm in the
Chapel

* *childcare is provided at these services*

Church Staff

Our Ministers: the congregation of Main Street

Lanny Lancaster, Senior Pastor
Phil Kuntz, Associate Pastor
Al Ward, Minister of Visitation
Wayne Purdy, Pastor of Youth/College Min.
Victoria Smathers, Dir. of Children's Min.
Nancy Blakemore, Dir. of Music Min.
Jill Gardner, Organist/Pianist
Tina Crew, Business Manager
Betsy Tang, Administrative Assistant
Kathryn Jenkins, Administrative Assistant
Clay Howard, Jubilee Music Director
Kellie Vinay, Preschool Director
Jenny Lail, Alpha & Omega Youth Choir Dir.
Cynthia Barron, Kitchen Hostess
Anthony Simmonds, Willie Craven, and
La'Niah Johnson-Flemming, Custodians