

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

†BENEDICTION
†CHORAL RESPONSE

Share His love by telling what the Lord has done for you
Share His love by sharing of your faith
And show the world that Jesus Christ is real to you
Every moment, every day!

TRINITY CHIMES
(Please remain in place at the end of the service until the conclusion of the Trinity Chimes)

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD
POSTLUDE

THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR
THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR today are given in honor of
my beautiful wife, Diane, on this 21st day of December, our 45th
wedding anniversary, by Randy Hardee. Proverbs 31:10-12

GREETERS
8:30 Alice Faye Clayburn & Sharon Stroupe
11:00 George West & Sandra Norris

ACOLYTES
8:30 Cooper Compton 11:00 Kyle Ham

Red Cross Blood Drive – Hosted by Ayla & Asa Webb
Monday, December 29th from 9am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are
excited to support Ayla and Asa Webb as they host our upcoming Blood
Drive. They are competing for a Red Cross scholarship, and their eligibility is
based on the number of units collected at the December drive. Your donation
makes a difference, both for those in need and for these students.

Welcome First-Time Visitors!
Welcome to First Methodist Church. As part of our Bread Ministry, we
would love to share a loaf of baked bread with you as a symbol of our love
and welcome. Simply raise your hand during our welcome and an usher will
deliver to your seat. We are so glad you are here!

Year-End Giving Reminder
As we approach the end of the year, please remember that all year-end
contributions must be received by December 31st in order to be credited for
2025 giving. Thank you for your continued generosity and for supporting the
mission and ministries of First Methodist.

ONLINE GIVING

SCAN ME!



Prayerfully consider giving
to support the missions and
ministries of First Methodist
Church by scanning the
QR code.

For God so loved that He GAVE his Son.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

The Rise Children’s Christmas Service 3:00 PM
*A contemporary service in the Fellowship Hall where children
can participate and experience the true meaning of Christmas
through stories, songs, and battery operated candles.*

Traditional Children’s Christmas Service 5:00 PM
*Join us for a traditional service for children in the Sanctuary
with scripture, carols, and the tradition of the candlelight
service with battery operated candles.*

Traditional Candlelight Service 7:00 PM
*Celebrate the birth of Jesus through a traditional service of
scriptures, carols, and the lighting of candles in the Sanctuary.*

Traditional Candlelight Service 11:00 PM
*Come late to the Sanctuary for a service to reflect on the hope,
peace, joy, and love that the birth of Jesus brings to all.*

CHRISTMAS CAROLING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

*This afternoon from 3-5pm. Gather in the Arendell Street
Parking lot. We will divide into groups and visit our
homebound delivering Poinsettias and Christmas joy!*

DECEMBER 28TH & JANUARY 4TH
The Rise Contemporary Worship Service 9:45 AM
Traditional Worship Service 11:00 AM
*Following the joy of Christmas and the celebration of our Savior’s
birth, the Light who came into the world, we will gather for a
simplified worship schedule on Sunday, Dec 28th and Jan 4th.*

First
Methodist
Church

900 Arendell Street
Morehead City, North Carolina
252-726-7102
www.firstmethodist.life

Reverend Sarah Williams
Associate Pastor

Reverend Patrick Whaley
Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care

Kim McCoury, Director of Communications
Shanna du Mont, Director of Children’s Ministry
Phil Routszong, Director of Music
Miranda Routszong, Assistant Rise Music
Sabrina Juarez, Facilities Manager
Stefany Boyd, Office Manager
Sunnie Gail Ballou, Organist
Fran Welch, Sound Tech



“WORSHIPPING PASSIONATELY, LOVING EXTRAVAGANTLY, AND WITNESSING BOLDLY”

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE

PRELUDE

†CHIMING OF THE HOUR & INTROIT

†CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Let us worship the God whose love has come among us in Christ. (Based on Psalm 103)

†HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

No. 238

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? [Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

See Him in a manger laid, Jesus, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,while our hearts in love we raise. [Refrain]

†OPENING PRAYER

Unison

God of steadfast love, You sent Your Son into the world in humility and light, revealing a love that bears all things and never ends. Fill our hearts with that same love, that we may welcome Christ among us and embody His light for others.Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles’ Creed

Unison

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

†GLORIA PATRI

Unison

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. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Walter C. Gentry V

Parents: Skipper and Kellie Gentry

Grandparents: Butch and Gail Gentry

WELCOME AND BLESSING

Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God’s new creation and made to share in Christ’s royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Unison

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever, Amen.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 13:4-13

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WORSHIP WITH TITHES, GIFTS, AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“A Blessed Messiah Born”

Chancel Choir

†DOXOLOGY

No. 95

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.

†HYMN

“He is Born”

No. 228

Refrain:
He is born, the holy Child,
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!

He is born, the holy Child,
sing we all of the Savior mild.

Thru long ages of the past,
prophets have foretold his coming;
thru long ages of the past,
now the time has come at last! [Refrain]

O how lovely, O how pure
is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure
gracious gift to humankind! [Refrain]

Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us thy heavenly peace. [Refrain]

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-20

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

SERMON

Brought to the Light: Love

Pastor Powell

†HYMN

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

No. 240

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. [Refrain]