

WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITORS

Welcome! We're so glad you've come to worship with us this morning. Learn more about First Methodist and help us get to know you by filling out a connection card and dropping it in the offering plate or scan the QR code with your phone.



SCAN ME!

We can't wait to hear from you!
We hope you've been blessed today.

Welcome First-Time Visitors!

Welcome to our 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!

THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given in loving memory of Katie Kirk by Joe and Beth Kirk

GREETERS

8:30 Bud & Vicki Daniels

11:00 Claudia Beamon & Becky Lail

Memorial Gifts

The church gratefully acknowledges the memorial gifts given in loving memory of Nancy Detweiler, David Sipes, and Prentiss Scott. We give thanks for their lives and for the generosity of those who honor their memory through these gifts, which help continue the ministries and mission.

Poinsettias for Christmas

Poinsettias may now be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$20 per plant, and the deadline to order is December 10. These flowers will fill our worship spaces throughout the Christmas season.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, December 29th from 9am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

Brought to the Light - Advent For All Who Need It

As we enter advent, we hope you will pick up one of our advent books, Brought to the Light. They are a free gift from us to you. The book will contain the themes of our sermons throughout the four Sundays of advent. We hope this will be a good way for you to read and study along with us so that we can use this season together to grow in our faith. If you prefer to have it come to you digitally, visit the app for a link to subscribe.

Project Christmas Cheer

There are no families to adopt this Sunday, as applications were not collected this week. We look forward to offering our final 15 families on Sunday, December 7th. Contact Lisa Chappell or Doris Wade if you have any questions. Delivery day is December 20th.

Moravian Lovefeast & Candlelight Service

Join us on Sunday, December 7th at 6:00 PM for our Moravian Lovefeast and Candlelight Service, a cherished tradition of worship, song, and Moravian bread and coffee as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season.

Chancel Choir Cantata - Gloria!

On Sunday, December 14, our Chancel Choir will present the world premiere of Mary McDonald's compelling three-movement original work, a soaring expression of praise to "God alone, the Author and Finisher of our faith." Gloria offers a vibrant and fresh contribution to the Latin sacred repertoire and will be shared during both the 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM worship services.

Kids Christmas Musical "The Uncertain, Poor Shepherd"

Join us on Sunday, December 14th at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for our Children's Christmas Cantata, "The Uncertain, Poor Shepherd." Come celebrate the season as our kids share the story of Christmas through music and drama, reminding us of God's love and grace revealed to even the most humble hearts. Bring your family and friends for this evening of worship!

Merrytime Community Orchestra Concert

Monday, December 15th at 6:00pm

Enjoy a beautiful evening of music as the MerryTime Community Orchestra, under the direction of Felicia Sink, presents a Christmas concert. Celebrate the joy and wonder of the Christmas season. All are welcome. Bring a friend and come enjoy this wonderful community performance!

Christmas Caroling - Sunday, Dec 21st at 3:00pm

Sing the carols and share the joy of the season as we travel from home to home. All are welcome. We will gather at the church just before 3:00 and divide into small groups and drive in our separate cars to 5-8 houses per group and sing! Fa la la la la la la la...

The Singing Christmas Tree

Open to All Church Members. Join us for the Singing Christmas Tree in Fayetteville on December 6! We'll leave the church at 11:00 AM, stop for lunch in Kinston, and attend the show at 4:30 PM. The deadline to sign up is November 10th. Register online or in the church office.

First Methodist Church

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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
Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.
Our hearts rejoice in Him, for we trust in His holy name.
Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
We place our hope in You this Advent. (based on Psalm 33)

†HYMN	“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”	No. 203
	Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son! Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free; to take away transgression, and rule in equity.	
	He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong; to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light, whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.	
	He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth; love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth. Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go, and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.	
	To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend; his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end. The tide of time shall never his covenant remove; his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.	

†OPENING PRAYERUnison
Almighty God, You meet us in every season of waiting and speak hope into the barren places of our lives. You promise new and eternal life even as creation still groans for its full redemption. Awaken our hearts to trust Your promises, and let the hope of Christ’s coming steady and guide us, that we may walk in Your light all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles’ CreedUnison
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 PATRIUnison
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.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
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 PRAYERUnison
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.

SCRIPTURERomans 8:18-25
¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT
WORSHIP WITH TITHES, GIFTS, AND OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY

†DOXOLOGYNo. 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“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”No. 196
Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

SCRIPTURELuke 1:11-17
¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

SERMON	Brought to the Light: Hope	Pastor Sarah
†HYMN	“I Want to Walk as a Child of Light”	No. 206
	I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.	
	Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.	
	I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]	
	I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. [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