

December 2025



The Messenger

"Advancing Christ's Kingdom"



Warlick's Baptist Church

2684 Warlick's Church Rd.
Connelly Springs, NC
28612

Phone: 828-397-6298

Contact Us

Pastor

Gary Murry
gary@warlicksbc.org

Associate Pastor

John Jolly
refugespastor@aol.com

Youth Pastor

Kyle Sacra
ksacra@gmail.com

Minister of Music

Eddie Little
eddiechoir@yahoo.com

Administrative Assistant

Tonya Harrison
tonya@warlicksbc.org

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Gary Murry

Kyle Sacra

Tonya Harrison

Eddie Little

Pat Isbell

John Jolly

Jackie Ennis

Valerie Orders

Eddie Reece

Danny Carswell

True Hospitality

A 7-year-old boy was chosen to be the innkeeper in the Christmas program. When Joseph and Mary approached him, looking for shelter in Bethlehem, he simply had to say there was no room.

The kindhearted boy tried to take the sting out of the situation, however. "I don't have room for you in the hotel," he said. "But I'd love to have you come in for milk and cookies."

Christian Symbol



POINSETTIA — This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in

Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.

Your Light Has Come



In the introduction to his book *For All God's Worth*, theologian N.T. Wright says, "Christmas is God lighting a candle, and you don't light a candle in a room that's already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that's so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are. The light shines in the darkness,

says St. John, and the darkness has not overcome it."

For that reason, Wright explains, Christmas isn't a dream or a momentary escape but reality. And the same is true for Christianity. "Either Jesus is the Lord of the world and all reality makes sense in his life, or he is dangerously irrelevant to the problems and possibilities of today's world," he adds. "There is no middle ground. Either Jesus was, and is, the Word of God, or he, and the stories Christians tell about him, are lies."

December Events

- **8th** – *Widows of Warlick's* – 1 pm
- **13th** – *Women of Faith Cookie Exchange* – 10 am
- **13th** – *Youth Party* – 6-8 pm
- **14th** – *Children's Christmas Play* – 6 pm
- **15th** – *Senior Adult Meal* – 11:30 am
- **17th** – *Caroling* – 6 pm
- **21st** – *Children's Christmas Party*
- **21st** – *First Day of Winter*
- **24th** – *Christmas Eve*
- **24th** – *Christmas Eve Service* – 9 pm
- **25th** – *Christmas Day*
- **28th** – *Memorial Service*
- **31st** – *New Year's Eve* – No services



Bible Quiz

Who told Mary that her child would be called "the Son of the Most High"?

- A. Zechariah
- B. Gabriel
- C. Simeon
- D. Joseph



Answer: B (See Luke 1:26–32.)

Senior Adult News



December Birthdays



1st – Judy Adams
8310 Frost Ct.
Connelly Springs, NC 28612

5th – Joe New
7860 River Rock Dr.
Hickory, NC 28602

12th – Mike Houser
8407 Oliver Childers Rd.
Connelly Springs, NC 28612

18th – Brenda Compton
P.O. Box 367
Rhodhiss, NC 28667

26th – Sharon Murry
3959 Pine Knoll Dr.
Hickory, NC 28602

29th – Darlene New
7860 River Rock Dr.
Hickory, NC 28602

30th – Carl Compton
P.O. Box 367
Rhodhiss, NC 28667

Happy Birthday to any other
seniors who may have
December birthdays!

Recent Attendance

On Nov. 17 at 11:30 in the CLC Warlick's Seniors enjoyed a meal of ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, sides and desserts. There were 37 attending, which included several visitors. The meal was delicious with a large variety of sides and desserts. Paper products of all kinds were brought to help supply East Burke Christian Ministries. Fall decorations, good fellowship and food were enjoyed by all those present. Thanks to all those who helped prepare and/or clean up after our get together.

December Plans

On Monday, December 15, we will meet in the CLC for a holiday meal party finger foods of all kinds. Members are asked to bring any food of your choice. We will not be exchanging gifts at this meal.

Please bring any of these items for EBCM: shelf stable milk (Dollar Tree – aisle 6), cereal, oatmeal, peanut butter, crackers, applesauce)

- Senior Adult Committee Meeting - Thursday, Nov. 13th at 10:00 am

Please continue to pray for our members who are unable to attend our services and lunches.
Please put them on your Christmas card list. If you need addresses, please see Theresa Hunt or Judy Fulbright.

Senior Adult Vision Statement

"All of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic,
love one another, be compassionate and humble."

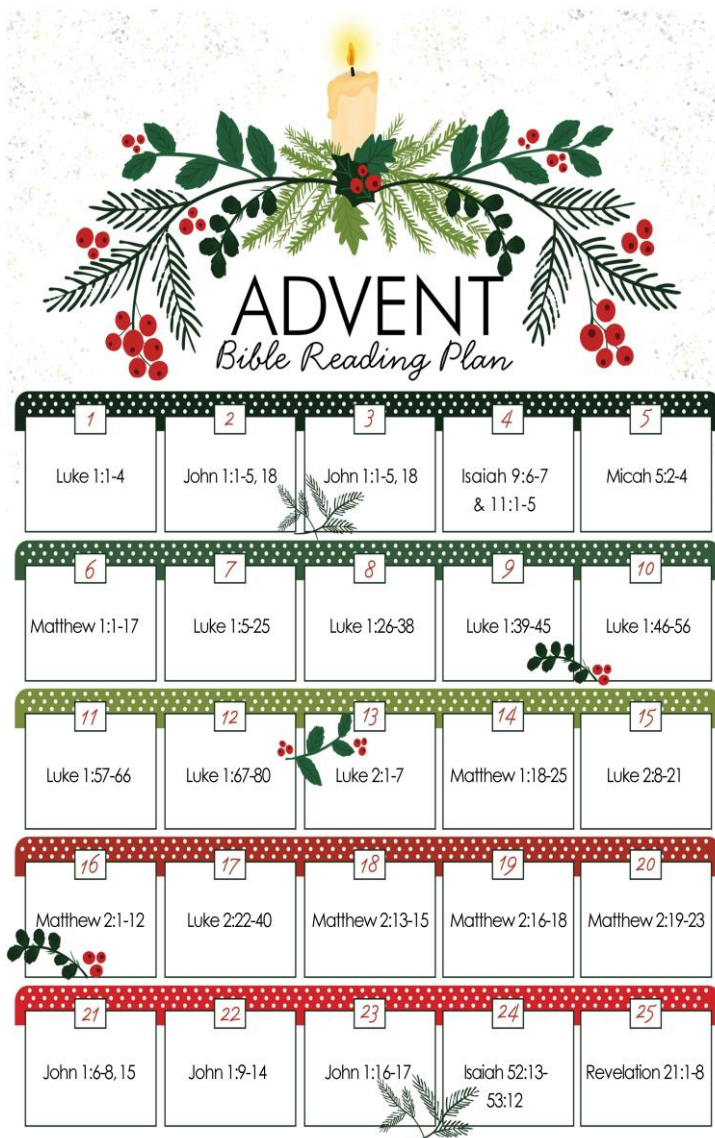
1 Peter 3:8



Widows of Warlick's

Meeting: Monday, December 8th
1 pm in Robbie's room
Please bring finger foods for our Christmas party

The Widows of Warlick's
enjoyed lunch at
Timberwoods Restaurant on
November 20th.



Women of Faith

COOKIE EXCHANGE

Bring your favorite homemade treats, share the joy of baking, and leave with an assortment of festive treats to sweeten your holiday season! Please call Jeanne Townsend at 828-502-9146 for any questions.

December 13 10 am

The Angels' Song in Three Words

On the very first Christmas Eve, frightened shepherds were suddenly surrounded by light and music. A choir of angels filled the night sky, singing: *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"* (Luke 2:14, KJV).

Nineteenth-century pastor Charles Kingsley reflected on how those three simple words — glory, peace, and good will — still capture the meaning of Jesus' birth and the hope it brings.

Glory. God's glory isn't shown in dazzling displays of power but in humility and mercy. The baby in the manger revealed God's greatness by stooping low, forgiving, and showing love.

Peace. True peace is more than the absence of conflict. It comes when we follow God's example of selflessness, giving up pride and selfish ambition to live in harmony with one another.

Good will. God's good will toward us is a gift that transforms our lives. Through Jesus, God invites us out of selfishness and sin into a life marked by love, kindness, and community.

The angels' song wasn't meant only for shepherds long ago. It still sings to us today, calling each of us to live in glory, peace, and good will.



His Many Names, Our Great Hope

Long before the manger in Bethlehem, the prophet Isaiah pointed God's people to the promise of a Savior. In Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) we read: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Even before Jesus' birth, his names revealed who he is and what he would bring. Each title carries a promise that still impacts our lives today.

- **Wonderful Counselor.** Jesus brings wisdom and guidance for every situation. In moments of confusion, we can lean on him to direct our steps with love and truth.
- **Mighty God.** He is strong enough to carry our burdens and powerful enough to overcome sin, fear and death itself.
- **Everlasting Father.** Jesus reflects the heart of God the Father, offering care that is constant and unchanging. His love doesn't fade with time or circumstance.
- **Prince of Peace.** In a world filled with turmoil, Jesus offers a peace that goes deeper than circumstances, a peace that guards our hearts and minds.



At Christmas, we celebrate more than a baby's birth. We celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise, a Savior with many names. Each one reminds us of his eternal love and presence. This season, let his names bring you comfort, strength and peace.

Little Debbie Christmas Tree Cake Christmas Dip



Ingredients

- 2 cartons Little Debbie Christmas tree cakes vanilla
- 8 oz pkg cream cheese softened
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 small container frozen whipped cream topping thawed
- red & green sprinkles for garnish
- cookies, pretzels, graham crackers, etc. for dipping

Instructions

1. Unwrap all the Christmas tree cakes, and set one aside for garnish.
2. Roughly chop the unwrapped cakes into cubes, then add them to a mixing bowl. Also add the cream cheese, milk, and vanilla extract. Using a hand mixer, whip them all together until the mixture's smooth.
3. Using a spatula, fold in the thawed whipped topping until evenly combined.
4. Transfer the dip to a serving bowl, cover, and refrigerate to chill.
5. When ready to serve, remove from the fridge, uncover, and top with red & green sprinkles.
6. Serve with a variety of dipping options- such as graham crackers, cookies, pretzels, and even fresh fruit.

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Vulnerable Love



God throws open the door of this world — and enters as a baby. As the most vulnerable imaginable. Because he wants unimaginable intimacy with you. What religion ever had a god that wanted such intimacy with us that he came with such vulnerability to us? What God ever came so tender we could touch him? So fragile that we could break him? So vulnerable that his bare, beating heart could be hurt? Only the **One who** loves you to death.

—Ann Voskamp, The Greatest Gift



Dec. 16th - Christmas Caroling- 6 pm

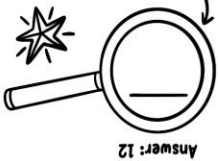
Dec. 13th - Youth Christmas Party - 6-8 pm

Dec. 14th - Children's Christmas Play - 6 pm

Dec. 21st - Children's Christmas Party - After Service



How many small stars can you find?



JOY TO THE WORLD

BIBLE QUIZ!

- What city was Jesus born in?
a) Jerusalem b) Bethlehem c) Nazareth
- What did the wise men follow to find Jesus?
a) a rainbow b) a dove c) a star
- Where did Jesus sleep when he was born?
a) in a manger b) in a basket c) in a cradle
- Who came to visit baby Jesus first?
a) the king b) the shepherds c) the wise men

Quiz answers: b, c, a, c, b

Fill in the blanks! What gifts did the wise men bring Jesus?



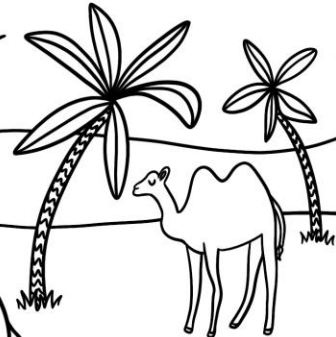
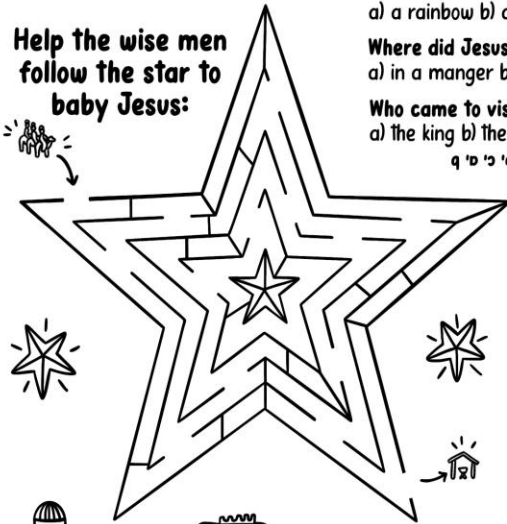
Are you as wise as the wise men that visited Jesus? Unscramble the words!

GLANE _____
RNAGEM _____
TASR _____
ECEAP _____
LROYG _____

Answers: angel, manger, star, peace, glory



Help the wise men follow the star to baby Jesus:



Candles That Tell a Story



Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent. Depending on denomination, churches use different color combinations for the candles. Some place four blue candles around the wreath with a white one in the center, while others use all white. Many light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth, and then a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

- **The wreath:** Its circular shape represents the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The green symbolizes eternal life.
- **The four candles:** Mark the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ's birth.
- **Purple candles:** in ancient times was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence. The first purple candle represents Hope; the second, Peace; and the final purple candle, Love.
- **Blue candles:** Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- **The pink candle:** Lit on the third Sunday, it represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.
- **The white candle:** The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — "the light of the world."

The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people — "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV).

The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles—it's a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.



Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope.

In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen..

WARLICK'S BAPTIST CHURCH
2684 WARLICK'S CHURCH RD
CONNELLY SPRINGS NC 28612



Gifts for a King

Bring him thy precious things
And lay them at his feet;
The gold of love, the hope that springs
The unknown ways to meet.

Bring him thy lovely things;
The joy that conquers care,
The faith that trusts and sings,
The frankincense of prayer.

Bring him thy bitter things;
The myrrh of grief and fears,
The aching heart that stings
With pain of unshed tears.

These for thy gifts to him;
And for his gifts to thee,
The comfort of his steadfast love,
His tender sympathy.

—Annie Johnson Flint



A Prayer for December

Dear Lord,

Thank You for being with us through every season of this year. As December fills our days with reflection and quiet moments, help us slow down, breathe, and remember what truly matters.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, fill our hearts with peace, joy, and love. Help us show kindness to others, care for those who are hurting, and be thankful for every blessing we receive.

Let Your light guide us through this season and into the new year ahead.

Amen.

Puzzle!

The Christmas Story

Unscramble each set of letters to form a word from the Christmas story. One letter in each set doesn't belong. Write each extra letter below, on the line above the correct number. Then answer the question: What did we all receive at Christmas?

(1) TGLBEHHEME	_____
(2) NEAGLO	_____
(3) NRMEDAG	_____
(4) ODEKSNY	_____
(5) AMGYR	_____
(6) OHESJIP	_____
(7) EFJSUS	_____
(8) ITEENMSW	_____
(9) SPHHDSREEO	_____
(10) EMCFAL	_____
(11) TLSRA	_____
(12) CSSNUEO	_____
(13) HEVSPE	_____
(14) ENIN	_____



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11

12

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14

Answers: Bethlehem (G), Manger (D), Donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), Wise men (T), Shepherds (O), Star (L), Camel (F), Census (O), Sheep (V), Inn (E), God's gift of love



“Because of his boundless love, Jesus became what we are that he might make us to be what he is.”

—Irenaeus, third-century Christian apologist

“Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it’s Christmas.” —Dale Evans

“Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts.” —Janice Maeditere

“Jesus did not come to make God’s love possible, but to make God’s love visible.” —Author unknown

“Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.” —Calvin Coolidge



Please notify the Church Office if there is a mistake or if your birthday is not on the list.

1st
Judy Adams

5th
Joe New

15th
Kieran Smith

21st
Tommy Cook

26th
Tammy Hayes
Sharon Murry

28th
Mike Houser

30th
Carl Compton

4th
Jordan Towery

14th
Austin Hicks

18th
Brenda Compton
Garrett Clark

22nd
Jordan Parker

27th
Carter Knox

29th
Darlene New
Kurt Parker

Greeters for Worship Service

7th – David & Kim Walker
14th – Bill & Juanita Swan
21st – Adam Rawls & David Walker
28th – Lonny & Michelle Hildebrand

Deacons for Altar Call

7th - Garrett & Leslie Clark/Adam & Wendy Rawls
14th – Lonny & Michelle Hildebran/Jerry & Theresa Hunt
21st - Michael & Jennifer Donnelly/Rusty & Anna Oakley
28th - George Hollowell & April Traxler/David & Kim Walker

Nursery

7th – Michael & Jennifer Donnelly
14th – Lonny & Michelle Hildebrand
21st – Hunter & Isabel Jensen
28th – Heather Knox & Jeanne Townsend

Ushers

7th – George Hollowell, Bill Swan, Carl Lowman, Will Lowman, Adam Rawls, Rusty Oakley
14th – Jordan Parker, Robbie Parker, Ron Snow, Keith Bowman, Tommy Cook, David Walker
21st – Steve Davis, Jerry Hunt Sr., Lonny Hildebrand, Garrett Clark, Dwight Lail, Chad Hart
28th – Mike Houser, Floyd Hayes, Jordan Hayes, Gary Towery, Jordan Towery, Brayden Sigmon

December Volunteers



Warlick's Baptist Church

A place to grow, serve & belong.

December

First Day of Winter

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:00 a.m. – Sunday School 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service	8 Widows of Warlick's 1 pm	9	10 6:30 p.m.- Bible Study Adults/Youth/Children	11 Senior Adult Comm. Mtg – 10 am	12	13 Women of Faith Cookie Exchange - 10 am Youth Christmas Party – 4-6 pm
14 9:00 a.m. – Sunday School 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service Christmas Play – 6 pm	15 Senior Adult Meal – 11:30 am	16	17 Caroling – 6 pm	18	19	20
21 9:00 a.m. – Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service Children's Christmas Party	22	23	24  Christmas Eve Service 9 pm	25 	26	27
28 9:00 a.m. – Sunday School 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service Memorial Service	29	30	31  No Services			

