

Elkin FUMC Advent & Christmas
Schedule
- Page 2

Missions - Page 3

Birthdays, Anniversaries,
Prayer Requests - Page 4

Calendar - Page 5

Worship Assistants, Meetings, Solid Rock Café -
Page 6

Adult Ministry - Page 7



*The First
Word*

Elkin

First United Methodist Church
November 30, 2017 Vol. XXXII, No. 22

Advent 2017



Advent! From the Latin for arrival or appearance. We can no more celebrate Christmas without observing Advent first than we can celebrate Easter without Lent first. Advent is a time of hope. Hope for the coming of Messiah, our Savior, that we anticipate with the greatest of hope in our hearts. Just like during Lent, we hope with the greatest anticipation in our hearts for the culmination of our salvation in the risen Christ. At Advent, we anticipate our Savior in the human incarnation of the living and true God.

Yet, we want to rush into Christmas! After all, we've read the story, we know there is reason and purpose in our hope. Our hope after all is fulfilled. We know that! Yet there are countless people, many that are right around us, in our presence everyday that still have that hope in their heart with no idea or understanding how to find it nor fulfill it. In his book, *Sacred Days*, my friend and colleague, Tom Steagald, relates a story of his experience years ago working in a bookstore. The

highest sales were from the section on self-help. Once he encountered a young woman in that section, he thought might be shaking from the cold outside. Then he realized she was actually sobbing. He asked if he could help her find something. Her reply was, "I need something." As the pastor in him kicked in, he said, "We all need something, but the help we need is beyond the self to provide."

Have you ever considered that the incarnation of the one true living God abides in you for someone else to see; to experience? It may just be that one of those persons around you each day searching for that hope may just find it in you, the disciple of the incarnate God. Observe a Holy Advent before you get to Christmas and be that appearance of the hope beyond self when you see that person that needs it so very much.

Shalom, Pastor Mike



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FIRST UMC

1st Sunday of Advent—*Sunday, Dec. 3 - 8:45 in the Chapel and 10:55 am in the Sanctuary.*

Celebrate Communion during both services.

Community Chorus Christmas Concert

Sunday, Dec. 3 - 4 and 7 pm

Join everyone in the community for this annual holiday treat. Several of our church members will be performing with Tonya Smith directing and Amy Johnson and Amy Tayloe accompanying.

Spirit Singers Choir Program

Wednesday, Dec. 6 - 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Join us for dinner at 6:00 followed by the Spirit Singers Choir's presentation of "Baby Jesus, We Love You."

Kids' Progressive Dinner—*Saturday, Dec. 9 - 3-8 pm*

We'll leave the church parking lot to journey to the Aldridge Farm, the Canter home and the Gattis home. Be sure and call Amy Johnson at the Church Office for a spot on the bus or to volunteer to help.

2nd Sunday of Advent—*Sunday, Dec. 10 - 8:45 in the Chapel and 10:55 am in the Sanctuary.*

Youth Movie Night & Pizza—*Sunday, Dec. 10 - 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall*

Join us for pizza as we watch the movie "A Nativity Story."

God Squad Choir Program—*Wednesday, Dec. 13 - 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall*

Join us for dinner at 6:00 followed by the God Squad Choir's presentation of "The Loaned Manger."

Chancel Choir Musical—*Sunday, Dec. 17 - 10:55 am in the Sanctuary*

The 3rd Sunday in Advent 10:55 am Worship Service will feature the Chancel Choir's presentation of "The Winter Rose" by Joseph Martin. Lynn Booth Egerton will also be with us bringing her gift of music.

Please note: We WILL have our regular 8:45 am Worship Service with Communion in the Chapel.

Youth Christmas Party—*Sunday, Dec. 17 - 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall*

Bring a "Christmas Ugly Sock" filled with candy (and the matching sock). Bring a snack/finger food/dessert to share. We ask you to bring the following: This Christmas we would like to help The Ark by giving gently used or new children's games, puzzles, toys, books & DVD's. We will take the unwrapped items to The Ark and return by 7:30 pm.

4th Sunday of Advent—*Sunday, Dec. 24 - 10:00 am in the Sanctuary.*

Join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall at 9 am and then join us for worship **at 10 am**.

Children's Christmas Eve Service—*Sunday, Dec. 24 - 5:30 pm in the Chapel*

This popular service for children features the telling of the Christmas story and candle lighting at the conclusion to celebrate Jesus' birth on this most holy night.

Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service—*Sunday, Dec. 24 - 11 pm in the Sanctuary*

Bring your neighbors and friends for our traditional Christmas Eve Service featuring Holy Communion and Candle lighting. Sing your favorite carols, hear the Christmas story told once again and experience the peace of the season as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Community Christmas Lunch—*Monday, Dec. 25 - noon - 2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall*

Volunteers from Elkin FUMC are offering a Christmas lunch for those who may be alone on Christmas Day or not able to have a traditional feast. Volunteers are needed for this outreach. Contact the Church Office to sign up or for more information.

Epiphany—*Sunday, Dec. 31, 2016 - 10:00 am in the Sanctuary.*

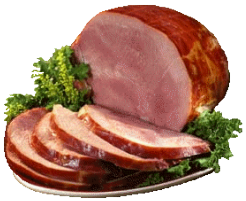
Celebrate the coming of the magi.



Missions

CHRISTMAS MEAL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Once again, the Missions Team is providing a Christmas luncheon for those who are alone or do not have a place to celebrate on Dec. 25. A complimentary ham dinner with all the fixings will be served for those who wish to be with others. It is open to everyone in the community as an outreach project of our church. The meal will be served from noon until 2 pm or when the food runs out.



Mission Team Coordinator David VanAntwerp, along with his team, need help in preparing for this meal. Hams need to be baked before Christmas Day. If you could help with the baking, you may pick up a ham on Sunday, Dec. 17. You may return them fully prepared to

the church kitchen on Christmas Eve between 5 pm and midnight or on Christmas morning by 10 am.

The team also needs volunteers to help cook on Christmas morning, serve the lunch, bus the tables, wash dishes and serve as a host or hostess. You may sign up for the duty of your choice on the bulletin board across from the Church Office. You can also help us spread the word by placing a flyer (on the table near the Chapel) in a public place.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact David VanAntwerp at 336-244-1808 or smsgcumm@gmail.com.

CHATHAM WOODS CHRISTMAS

It is time again, to ask for your help in providing a special Christmas gift for our friends at Chatham Woods. The gift cards we are providing to help them with their grocery purchases continue to be popular and appreciated. The gift



Emma Aldridge hands a gift bag to member, Mary Neil, during a previous Christmas delivery to residents of Chatham Woods.

cards give the recipients the flexibility to buy foods of their choice, which is especially nice for those with special dietary needs. These gift cards are restricted and only used for food or household needs.

Depending on the contributions received, we also like to include a gift. To have your gift applied toward the Christmas effort at Chatham Woods, we need to receive donations by December 10. For more information contact Linda MacDonald at 336-835-6078.



YOUTH SEND CARE PACKAGES

College students who are busy preparing for final exams will receive a surprise in the mail in coming days as care packages from our youth arrive. Goodies such as popcorn, candy, and cookies fill each box to send a message of good cheer to our students at a stressful time during the semester.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR PROJECT AGAPE



Project AGAPE Cattle Project Christmas cards will be on sale Wednesday evenings at supper and on Sunday mornings in the Narthex. They are \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

These colorful cards feature artwork by Armenian children. Six designs are available. Your donation will support the Cattle Project administered by Project AGAPE, which provides a Kashatagh household with a means for

helping themselves and others. This is a great alternative giving opportunity!

TRI-C DONATIONS NEEDED

Dish Detergent is the needed item for December. They are also accepting Bibles to give out to clients. Deposit Bibles and non-perishable food items or toiletries in the basket under the table at the administrative entrance.



Also, we are in search of one or two people to help transport our donations to Tri-C. If you are interested in helping take donations collected at the church over to Tri-C once or twice a month please contact Ben Wallace at the church office.

Congregational Care

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1 - Gary Maxey, Cole Walker
 December 2 - Mike Neaves, Joshua Oakes, Morgan Reid, Melanie Sloop
 December 3 - Mary Cockerham, Jennifer Vestal
 December 4 - Tyee Blanco-Bullen, Laurel Sanders
 December 5 - Stephen Deck
 December 6 - Steve Wells
 December 7 - Jade Byerly
 December 8 - Jane Sartain
 December 9 - Bob Ball, Ally Gentry, Matthew Pelkey
 December 11 - Courtney Beals, Fred Chatham, Trish Grider
 December 13 - Tate Sartain
 December 14 - Molly Love
 December 15 - Jim Harrell, Jr.
 December 16 - Jim Meek, Connor Nance
 December 17 - Richard Brinegar, Holly Gambill
 December 18 - Lori Carroll, Allen Carroll, Kelly Hunsucker
 December 19 - Jennifer Poindexter, Martha Maier, Paul Grider
 December 22 - Caroline Oakes
 December 25 - Matt Harrell
 December 27 - Addison Eller
 December 28 - Bob Nicks
 December 29 - Steve Brendle
 December 30 - David Poindexter, Vickie Wells, Lori Rice
 December 31 - Larry Irwin

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

December 17 - Tony & Betsy Duncan
 December 20 - Hal & Bonnie Stuart
 December 22 - David & Melissa Cline

CHOIR SNACKS

4 yrs – K: Tuesday - 2:45 pm
 December 5 - Alex, Mima
 December 12 - Liam

1st – 6th Grade: Wednesday - 2:45 pm
 December 6 - Avaya, Victoria, Starr
 December 13 - Wyatt, Cama

THANK YOU

Dear First United Methodist Church,

We would like to thank you for the generous donation of food that you supplied for the backpack program. Because of your kindness, it helped six students each weekend. They are so excited to have a simple bag of food, often times double checking with me that they will receive it. Your generosity is very much appreciated from our students, staff & school system.

Sincerely, Ginger B. Isenhoward
 EMS School Counselor

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

COMMUNITY CHORUS CONCERT: This year's concerts will be held Sunday, Dec. 3 at 4:00 and 7:00 pm, here at Elkin FUMC. See you then!

LYDIA CIRCLE MEETING: The Lydia Circle will meet on Monday, Dec. 4, at 11:00 am in the church parlor. We will leave from the church to go visit shut-ins and deliver poinsettias. Come and join us as we have a morning of fun. Later we will gather for lunch at Cedarbrook Country Club and continue our fellowship. If you have any questions please contact Louise Cockerham at 336-835-2203.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY: Elkin FUMC is in the process of producing a new church directory and we need you to be a part of it! Dates for photo sessions are December 18 & 19 and January 5 from 2:00 - 8:40 pm and January 6 from 10:00 am - 4:40 pm You may go online to schedule your session at www.elkinfumc.org/news/directory or paper sign-ups will be available on Sundays following the worship services.

2018 Stewardship Campaign

If you have not turned in your 2018 Estimate of Giving card, please do so this week. You may mail your card (PO Box 69, Elkin, NC 28621) or go online: <http://elkinfumc.org/stewardship>

PRAYER CONCERNS

Church Family: Bliss Vanderpool, Ann Graham, Sam Tesh, Holly Gambill, Betty Tesh, Rev. Paul McCauley, Zack Trexler, Paulette McCauley, Libbi Parks, Emad Elkhayat, Ray Fencil, Larry Johnson, Walt Pettit, Hal Stuart, Bill Amburn, Ercel Carter, Dan & Sallie Park, Mike Shuford, Laura Gwyn, nursing home residents & homebound

Extended Care: Mary Cockerham, Iris Amburn, Jenny Brown, Frances Harris, Mary Neil, Linda Maxey

Extended Family: Ruth Deck, John Seats, Diana Hamm, Richard Smoot, Clifford Jordan, Ronnie Ray, Nada Sheets, Emily Stewart, Ethan Spencer, Florence Leverett, Ana Garciana, Steve McLain, Betty Jordan, Linda Caudill, Jeff Miltner, Sharon and Brad Watterson, Pierce & Aishling, Priscilla Smith, Marc Bishop, Lynn & Dale Rose, Buck Freeman, Lorene Newman, Michael Hines, Dennis Stanley, Robert Miller, Joan Shuford, Dr. Richard Belcher, Dr. Gladys Campbell, Mary Harper Edsall, Nan Boyd, Angie Ferguson, Gus Bellia, Lonnie Snider, Family of Lillian Johnson, Teresa Shook, Lisa Core, Mille Joyce, Family of Jody Brown, Family of Dr. Howard Nabors

All of our military personnel and their families

December Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS

Sunday

8:45 am - Worship
 9:45 am - Sunday School
 10:55 am - Worship
 5:30 pm - JOY Bible Study
 - Men's Bible Study

Youth Activities (unless listed otherwise)

5:00 pm - Middle School Youth
 6:00 pm - Youth Dinner
 6:30 pm - High School Youth

Monday-Thursday

9:00 am - 1:00 pm - Weekday Programs

Monday

6:30 pm - Cub Scouts
 6:45 pm - Boy Scouts

Tuesday

9:00 am - Morning Bell Choir
 12:00 pm - JOY Bible Study
 2:45 pm - Kids' Choir (4 yrs - K)

Wednesday

2:45 pm - Kids' Choir (1st - 6th grade)
 6:00 pm - Solid Rock Café Fellowship Meal
 6:45 pm - Adult Bible Study
 Activities for Children & Youth
 Evening Bell Choir
 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

10:00 am - Adult Bible Study

Friday

Church Office Closed

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS—DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 4:00 & 7:00 PM-Community Chorus Concert 5:00 PM-Youth out to Dinner	4 11:00 AM-Lydia Circle Deliver Poinsettias 2:30 PM-Congregational Care Team	5 6:30 PM-Girl Scouts	6 6:30 PM-Spirit Singers Kids' Choir Program	7	8	9 3:00 PM-Kid's Progressive Dinner
10 5:30 PM-Youth Pizza & Movie	11 11:30 AM-Young at Heart Lunch 7:00 PM-Vision & Leadership Team Mtg.	12 6:30 PM-Girl Scouts 7:00 PM-Trustees Mtg.	13 6:30 PM-God Squad Kids' Choir Program	14	15	16
17 10:55 AM-Chancel Choir Musical 5:00 PM-Youth Christmas Party	18 2:00-8:40 PM-Directory Photos	19 2:00-8:40 PM-Directory Photos 7:30 PM-Finance Team Mtg.	20 <i>No Wednesday Evening Activities</i>	21	22	23
24 9:00 AM-Refreshments 10:00 AM-Worship Service 5:30 PM-Kid's Christmas Eve Service 11:00 PM-Christmas Eve Service	25 Church Office Closed 12:00 PM-Christmas Day Lunch	26 9:00 AM-Church Office Closed	27 <i>No Wednesday Evening Activities</i>	28	29	30
31 9:00 AM-Refreshments 10:00 AM-Worship Service						

Ministry Volunteers

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, December 3 - First Sunday of Advent

Lay Reader: Jane Hazelman
Children's Church: Jennifer Kleinheksel
Acolytes/Chimer: Bronwyn Sloop, Miles Cline, Grace Harrison
Crucifer: Claire Grider
Greeters: J.L. & Jane Lowe, Mary Renegar, Tony Duncan,
 Chris & Tammy Coley, Bob & Gail Midkiff
Ushers: Frank Beals, Rick Caudle, Glen Grider, Lon Snider,
 Darryl Rhyme
Counters: Dave Johnson, Gardner & Lauren Meek

Sunday, December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

Lay Reader: Claire Grider
Children's Church: Rachel Eidson
Acolytes/Chimer: Paul Grider, Alyssa Snider, Erika Snider
Crucifer: Henry Freeman
Greeters: Tom Gwyn, Steve & Vickie Wells, Martha Maier,
 Emaline Cockerham, Louise Cockerham, Andy & Ann Garner
Ushers: Steve Wells, David VanAntwerp, George Crater
Counters: Mike Powell, Andy & Ann Garner

Sunday, December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

Chancel Choir Musical—"The Winter Rose"
Children's Church: No Children's Church
Acolytes/Chimer: Ella Kleinheksel, Lucas Keller, Grant Leeds
Crucifer: Alex Duncan
Greeters: Steve Mackie, Jake Schot, David & Betsy Robertson
Ushers: James Freeman, David Poindexter, David Cline, Charlie
 Bellia, Danny Freeman
Counters: Frank Beals, David & Betsy Robertson

Sunday, December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lay Reader: TBA
Children's Church: No Children's Church
Acolytes/Chimer: Lydia Teachey, Granger Teachey, Reece Long
Crucifer: Paul Grider
Greeters: Rob & Gina Peterson, Gambill Aldridge, Jennifer Martin
 Brown, Sam Tesh
Ushers: Gary Conrad, Gerald Combs, Steve Brown, Tiger Sloop,
 Randy Hunsucker
Counters: Gambill Aldridge, Margaret Tucker, Steve & Vickie
 Wells

Sunday, December 31 - First Sunday after Christmas Day

Lay Reader: Ellen Schumak
Children's Church: No Children's Church
Acolytes/Chimer: Starr Morrison, Alyssa Snider, Erika Snider
Crucifer: Margaret Freeman
Greeters: Carey & Cindy Bruton, James & Lisa Freeman
Ushers: UMYF Members
Counters: Joan Sanders, Jill Bellia, Ercel & Stacey Carter

DECEMBER MEETINGS

Congregational Care Team

Monday, December 4, 2:30 pm (Library)

Vision & Leadership Team

Monday, December 11, 7:00 pm (Library)

Trustees

Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 pm (Library)

Finance Team

Tuesday, December 19, 7:00 pm (Library)

SOLID ROCK CAFÉ

Wednesday, December 6

Menu: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Biscuits, Gravy
Desserts: Powell, Harrison, Shuford, MacDonald, McDowell

Wednesday, December 13

Menu: Turkey, Dressing, Biscuits, Gravy, Yams
Desserts: Lowe, Sanders, Andrew, McCrary, Parker, Dent

Wednesday, December 20 & 27

No Meal or Activities

2017 Laity Service Award Recipient



Thank you to Steva Bledsoe, chosen for our 2017 Laity Service Award. This award of appreciation is given to a Lay person for exceptional mission work within our church AND our community. The recipient represents all of us in our missional work and encourages us to be active in helping others in our community.

Adult Ministry

YOUNG AT HEART ENJOY FOOD, FELLOWSHIP



We had our first Young at Heart gathering on November 13 with 40 people in attendance. Greta Wallace prepared a wonderful lunch for everyone which included homemade soup, pimiento cheese sandwiches and poundcake.

We will have another gathering on Monday, December 11 at 11:30 am. We will have Baked Chicken with Rice & Gravy, Mixed Vegetables, Biscuits and dessert. During our time together we will have a Christmas Sing-Along! Cost is \$5 per person. Please RSVP to Cindy Furr (336-835-2323, cfurr@elkinfumc.org) by Thursday, December 6.





First United Methodist Church

PO Box 69 ▪ 340 Hawthorne Road ▪ Elkin, NC 28621

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE STAMP HERE

Church Office: 336-835-2323

Fax: 336-835-8035

Website: www.elkinfumc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/elkinfumc

Email: office@elkinfumc.org

Church Staff:

Rev. Michael A. Shuford, Pastor (mshuford@elkinfumc.org)

Cindy Furr, Director of Discipleship (cfurr@elkinfumc.org)

Amy Johnson, Director of Music/Children’s Ministries (ajohnson@elkinfumc.org)

Benjamin Wallace, Parish Life Coordinator (bwallace@elkinfumc.org)

Beth Darnell, Director of Weekday Programs (bdarnell@elkinfumc.org)

Pat Trexler, Custodian (ptrexler@elkinfumc.org)

George Brown, Assistant Custodian (gbrown@elkinfumc.org)

Submit articles/photos to the Church Office or email office@elkinfumc.org

To receive The First Word, send an email to office@elkinfumc.org with The First Word in the subject line. In the body, please indicate your method of receiving it: email only, postal mail only or both. Remember, email copies save the church postage and are good stewardship of God’s resources.

Seize the Season and Give Back



PayPal will add 1% to all donations made online to Elkin FUMC now through December 31.

Visit www.elkinfumc.org/Give and select “Click Here to Give”

Sunday Service Cancellation Policy

We will always have 10:55 am Worship.

A decision will be made by 7 am on the morning in question for the 8:45 am service.

The decision will be communicated through...

- WIFM Radio in Elkin
• WXII - Channel 12 in Winston-Salem
• www.elkinfumc.org
• Elkin FUMC page on Facebook

Weekday activities will be cancelled if the Elkin City Schools are cancelled.



Scoutmaster Mike Powell congratulates the troop’s newest Eagle Scout, Henry Freeman, as his parents look on.

FREEMAN EARNS EAGLE SCOUT

Henry Freeman, son of James and Lisa Freeman, became FUMC’s latest Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor held Sunday, Nov. 26 in the Sanctuary.