

Main Street United Methodist Church

November 27, 2011

*Open hearts...Open minds...Open doors
The people of The United Methodist Church*

Prelude

There Is No Rose
Abide With Me
We Are God's People
 Sinfonia Brass Ensemble

arr. Drew Brooks
 Paul Basler
 Brahms / arr. Robert Nagel

***Call to Worship**

Reverend Terry C. Martin

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

People: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the Christ?

People: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, evergreen.

Leader: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

People: By hearing again the words of the prophets, through spoken word and song.

Leader: For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

People: Glory to God in the Highest!

*** Processional Carol**

O Come, All Ye Faithful
 (verses 1,2,3, and verse 6 at bottom of page 2)

Adeste Fideles

During the Advent season, we prepare for the one who has come, whom we expect to come, and who will come again. In this season, we recall God's entering history as one of us in his Son, Jesus Christ. We prepare our hearts so that God will find room and expression in our lives. As we proceed through the Advent season, we pray for the day when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. During Advent we look toward Christmas – the fulfillment of God's love for all people.

Through many generations we have had reminders of Jesus' birth in the beautiful symbols of music, customs, and tradition so that we will not forget what our God has done. In the Hanging of the Greens, we share with Christians through the ages the memory and anticipation of Christ's coming.

Anthem

Up Good Christen Folk and Listen
 Chancel Choir

Piae Cantiones, 1582

Up! Good Christen folk, and listen how the merry church bells ring,
 And from steeple bid good people come adore the newborn King.
 Tell the story how from glory God came down at Christmastide.
 Bringing gladness, chasing sadness, Show'ring blessings far and wide.
 Born of mother, blest o'er other, *Ex Maria Virgine*, (of the Virgin Mary)
 In a stable, ('tis no fable), *Christus natus hodie*. (*Christ is born today*)



O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O
 1. *A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve -*
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O
 * 4. See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his cra - dle,

come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem.
ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.
 lo, he shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lor - um.
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;

Refrain
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
 Jesus to thee be all glory given.
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain.*

Pastor: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Pastor: Let us pray.

Our Father, we long for the simple beauty of Christmas – for all the old familiar melodies, words, and symbols that remind us of that great miracle when He who had made all things came one night as a babe, to lie in the crook of a woman’s arm. But in that longing, let us even more yearn for your renewed presence among us even as we expect and celebrate the Coming of your Son.

Before such mystery we kneel, as we follow the shepherds and Wise Men to bring You the gift of our love – a love we confess has not always been as warm or sincere or real as it should have been. Now, as we enter into this Advent Season, we pray that love would find its Beloved, and from You receive the grace to make it pure again, warm and real.

We bring You our gratitude for every token of Your love, for all the ways You have heaped blessings upon us during the years that have gone. And we do pray, Lord Jesus, that as we begin this four-week journey of expectation and hope, we may do it in a manner well-pleasing to You. May all we do and say, every tribute of our hearts, bring honor to Your name, that we, Your people, may remember Your birth and feel Your presence among us even yet.

May the loving kindness of this Advent Season and the true Spirit of Christmas not only creep into our hearts this season, but there abide, so that not even the return to earthly cares and responsibilities, not all the festivities of our own devising may cause it to creep away weeping. May the joy and spirit of Christmas remain with us now and forever. In the name of Jesus, who came to save His people from their sins, even in that lovely name, we pray. **Amen.**

Paraments

Paraments have long been a tradition in the Christian community. They provide a colorful representation of the many Christian symbols. They help us worship by linking visible symbolism to the seasonal themes. We not only hear the themes but can see them symbolized before us. For many months, during the Pentecost season or Ordinary Time, the color used by the church in the paraments has been green. Green symbolizes growth – in the Christian life for each individual and each place where the church has witness. As we begin the Advent season, we change the paraments to purple – the color of royalty and of God’s reign – in preparation for the coming of the Christ.

Anthem

Love Came Down at Christmas

Howard Helvey

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;
love was born at Christmas: star and angels gave the sign;
star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the God-head, love incarnate, love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but where-with for sacred sign;
but where-with for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine,
love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign;
love for plea and gift and sign.

Candles

We often light candles at Christmas to symbolize the coming of Christ to give light to a world lost in darkness. In prophesying of the light Christ would bring to the world, Isaiah proclaimed, "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."

Of Jesus, John wrote: "In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." Jesus spoke to the people and said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The soft glow, the reflection of light, and the gentle warmth of candles remind us of the radiance, the guidance, and the compassion of Jesus.

Anthem

The People Who Walk in Darkness
Chancel Choir with Granger Smith, djembe

Pepper Choplin

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.
The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.
Now lift up your eyes, see the glory of the Lord.
Now lift up your eyes, see the glory of the Lord,
and all flesh shall see it together.

The people who have walked in darkness,
they have seen a wondrous light
And all who live in death's dark shadow
Rise and shine, your light has come.

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.
The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.
Now lift up your eyes, see the glory of the Lord.
Now lift up your eyes, see the glory of the Lord,
and all flesh shall see it together.

Arise and shine, your light has come to the people who walk in darkness!



The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a simple circle of evergreen branches. They testify to the continuation of life; bending the branches so that the ends touch to form a circle further symbolizes life without end.

Four candles encircle a central Christ candle. The candles signify God's Son as the light of the world. There are four candles for the four weeks in Advent. Each Sunday in Advent we light the candles from the preceding weeks, along with a new one. The Christ candle is not lit until Christmas Eve. The Advent wreath, with the increasing brightness from the candles, witnesses to the light that cannot be put out.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God, and the Word was with God. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Anthem

Light One Candle

Natalie Sleeth

Angel Choir, God's Glory Singers and piano

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope.
He brings hope to every heart; he comes, he comes.

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to every heart; he comes, he comes.

Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy.
Every nation will find salvation in Bethlehem's baby boy.

Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love.
He brings love to every heart; he comes, he comes.
He brings love to every heart; he comes, he comes.

Evergreen Wreaths and Poinsettias

Evergreens have long been considered symbols of eternity, a sign of God's everlasting nature, and an indication that the faithful will experience eternal life in communion with God in Jesus Christ.

The Advent custom of decorating with evergreen branches comes to us from the peasants of the Middle Ages, who believed that preparations should be made for the coming of Jesus. On the first Sunday of Advent, each family would gather evergreens and place them near the hearth in their home. We continue that tradition today as we hang the greens in our sanctuary, our church home. As Isaiah 60:13 tells us: "The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary."

The poinsettia's symbolism is twofold. The star-shaped formation of the red leaves remind us of the star that shone on that first Christmas. The red flower reminds us of the blood of Jesus upon the cross, the Jesus who is our Savior.

Anthem

Before the Marvel of This Night
Chancel Choir and organ

Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease.
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace,
Sing peace, sing gift of peace.

Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss,
Sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love, that rules the universe above:
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love,
Sing love, sing God is love.

Holly & Ivy

The meanings behind many of the symbols we use in our Christmas decorations come from legends, rather than pure facts. One Christian legend says that the Holly was not originally an evergreen plant but that one cold winter night, the holly miraculously grew leaves. Why? To hide the Holy Family from Herod's soldiers. Another legend about this Christmas plant says that a little orphan boy was living with the shepherds when the angels came to announce the birth of the newborn king. Having no gift for the baby, the child wove a crown of holly branches for his head. But when he lay it before Christ, he became ashamed of its poverty and began to cry. Miraculously, Jesus touched the crown and the leaves began to sparkle and shine. The orphan's tears, where they had fallen onto the gift, turned into beautiful scarlet berries.

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

The rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

Now is the time for decorations. Winter covers the hills with white.
Gather pine and make a garland; deck the halls on this Christmas night.

Red, red the holly berry; green the ivy upon the vine.
Now is the time for celebration. 'Tis the season of Christmas time.

Chrismon Tree

The Christmas Tree is a wonderful sign of God's love and faithfulness. Never losing its green color, the Christmas tree reminds us of God's steadfast love, which endures forever.

Legend has it that Martin Luther was the first person to decorate his home with a Christmas tree. Luther was walking home one Christmas Eve when he saw the glitter of the stars shining through the snow-covered branches of the fir trees. Luther was so awed by the sight that he took one of the trees home with him and placed candles on the branches, to demonstrate to his family what a glorious sight he had seen.

From this first Christmas tree in the Luther household, the custom spread. Now Christmas trees are used in homes, in churches, and in communities, wherever the birth of Christ is celebrated and the love of Christ is shared.

The use of Chrismons on the tree began in the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Virginia in 1957. Chrismons, or "Christ's Monograms", are handmade designs forming the familiar symbols of the Christian faith.

These symbols speak to Christians of the deep meaning of the gospel. The fish is the most ancient symbol for our Lord and was used as an easily recognized secret sign by early Christians. The first letters of the Greek words for Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior, form the Greek word for fish.

The Anchor Cross was called the cross of hope by first-century Christians; it reminds us that Jesus is the hope of the world. The star, angels, lambs, and other Christian symbols are used for Chrismons; each of them helps us recall the Christmas story.

Anthem

Still, Still, Still
Chancel Choir and organ

arr. Norman Luboff

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping.
Holy star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
close your eyes, let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

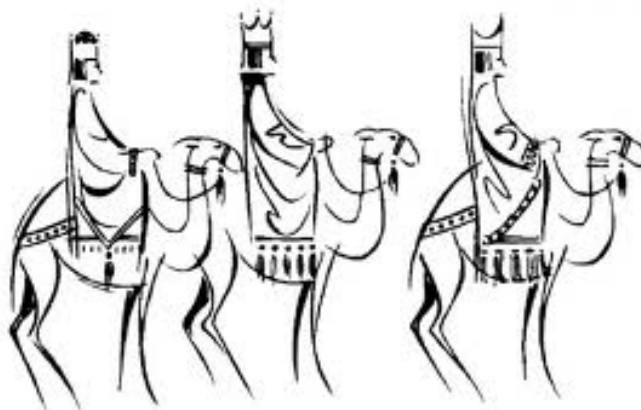
Gifts

For most people, whether they care to admit it or not, the celebration of Christmas and the exchanging of gifts go hand-in-hand. The Christmas gift-giving tradition is thought to remind us of the magi's offerings to the Christ Child and God's gift of Jesus to humankind. Tonight our decorators will place under the Chrismon Tree the blankets that you have donated over the past weeks. After they have completed their task, if you brought a blanket tonight and would like to place it under the tree, you are welcome to do so. In the coming weeks these blankets will be given as gifts to those in our community who are in need of assistance.

Carol

We Three Kings

Kings of Orient



We Three Kings

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; King and

gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er,
 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and sac - ri - fice: Al - le - lu - ia,

moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia, sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

The Nativity

The Christmas décor would not be complete without the presence of the nativity scene. We remember the first Christmas night as Mary and Joseph took shelter in a stable. Using a manger, or feeding trough, filled with straw for a crib, Mary lay her newborn baby down to sleep. Cattle, donkeys, and other livestock didn't seem to mind the invasion of their home by the weary travelers. As the angels proclaimed the news of the birth to shepherds out in the field, excitement filled the air. Months later, Wise Men from the East followed a star to Bethlehem in search of the baby – the King. With them, they brought valuable gifts which they presented to the child as they worshipped him. By the time the Wise Men found Jesus, he and his family had probably found more suitable housing than the stable; nevertheless, we associate the Wise Men with the first Christmas night and often complete the nativity scene with the magi and their camels.

Anthem

Star Child
Salt & Light

Carlton Young

Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod.

Refrain:

This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know.

Refrain

Grown child, old child, memory full of years,
sad child, lost child, story told in tears.

Refrain

Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store,

Refrain

Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine.

Refrain

Anthem

Away in a Manger

traditional tunes

Combined ensembles with hand chimes and Orff instruments

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

Anthem

Sussex Carol

arr. Dale Grotenhuis

Chancel Choir, brass and organ

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,
on Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad?
Why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad?
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place.
Angels and people with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night,
all out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
Glory to God and peace to all, now and for evermore, amen.
Now and for evermore, amen!

Collect For Advent (Unison)

Reverend Terry Martin

Gracious God, Your vision of peace and wholeness comes to us in sweeping revelations and in tiny signs of hope. Kindle our hearts that we may be a hopeful people. Keep us from growing weary of waiting lest we miss the glory of your appearing. Even so, come quickly, O God. Amen.

***Carol**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Mendelssohn

Choir and congregation:

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Choir only:

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Choir and congregation:

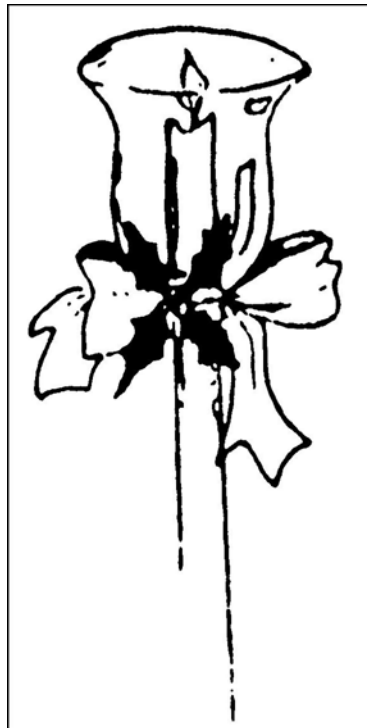
Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo

***Benediction**

***Postlude**



* Please stand as you are able

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Tonight marks the twenty-fourth Hanging of the Greens Service. Many people have contributed to the beauty of this service tonight and in the past. Main Street United Methodist Church is blessed by friends who lovingly share their gifts. From the beautifully handcrafted pew end candleholders to the graceful needlework and the delicately-crafted Chrismons, for the gifts of time and talent shared, we are thankful.

Greeters

Nancy Bagwell, Bob Bennett, Hazel Bennett, Ned and Mary Birchmore,
Gerry and Avary Doubleday, Anne Drake, Sarah Gaye Norris, and Jo Wilson

Reader: Kim Clark

The Hangers of The Greens

Brady Britt	Josie Adams
Scurry Charles	Abby Dent
Marshall Dotson	Lexi Harris
David Kidwell	Carly Rogers
Nick Nickles	Haley Rogers
Sam Rice	Herin Warner

Live Wreaths

The live wreaths on the outside doors are given by *Charles and Sarah Alice Schulze* in loving honor of **Dusty and Del Schulze** and in loving memory of **Bill and Margaret Tinsley**.

Poinsettias

The poinsettias in the chancel are given to the glory of God in loving honor of **Anne Drake** on her 80th birthday, November 29, by her husband, Chuck Drake.

Crucifer: Keaton Alexander

The Children

Ann Baker	Jon Trent Cason	Campbell Jones	Vivi Joy Pinckney
Gryphon Balentine	Bennett Charles	Caroline Joseph	Olivia Rowland
Haley Barnhart	Sam Crooks	Layton Logan	Campbell Vickery
Lucas Bassett	Drew Hinton	Rebekah Lomax	Zoe Vickery
Abby Cabe	Rachael Holder	Sophie Beth Nickles	

Angel Choir

Ella Bassett	Claire Leuthner	Vivi Joy Pinckney
Spence Hagood	Rebekah Lomax	Madalin Radcliffe
Libby Hartung	Trace Meredith	William Rowland

God's Glory Singers

Ann Baker	Lucas Bassett	Rachel Holder	Wylan Radcliffe
Gryphon Balentine	Bennett Charles	Layton Logan	Olivia Rowland
Haley Barnhart	Sam Crooks	Cecelia McGinnis	

Salt & Light

Madeline Johnson

Noel Johnson

Schuylar McGinnis

MaryAshlynn Perkey

Guest Instrumentalists

Aaron Herman, trumpet

Andrew Pless, trumpet

Drew Brooks, horn

Forest Newark, trombone

Joseph Cockrell, tuba

Granger Smith, djembe

Chancel Choir

Alice Balentine

John DeLoach

Jane Marshall

Joyce Nickles

Elmer Schaible

Carol Blosser

Anne Farquhar

Lynda Martin

Ann Pendergrass

Myra Shaffer

Dick Blosser

Pam Faulkner

Rhonda McGinnis

Pat Poole

Lisa Smith

Emmie Burns

Bayard Lindell

Dennis Moore

Pamela Poulin

Gladys Turner

Brab Crooks

Patricia Lindell

Martha Moore

Lee Robirds

Lou Walters

William Culbertson

David Westberry

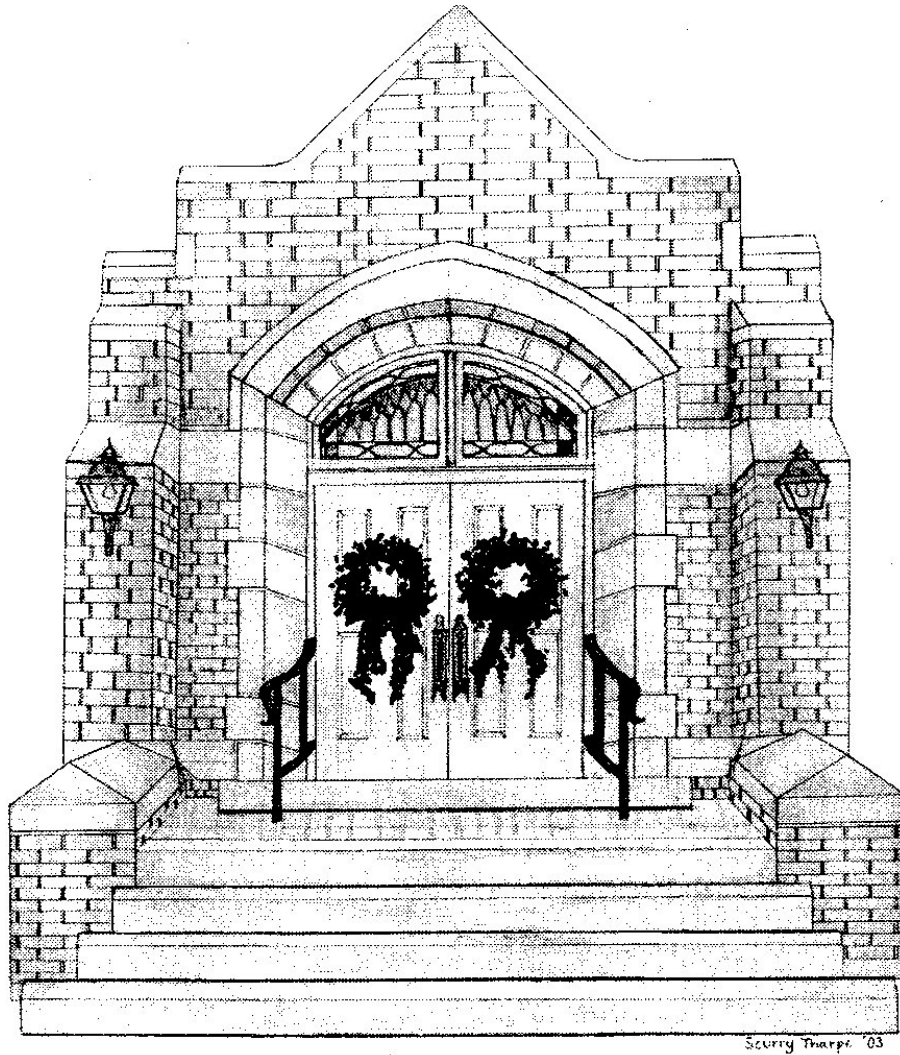
Reception Following the Service

All are invited for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE

Through the centuries, Christians have observed a time of waiting and expectation before celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The celebration of Christmas for Christians is such an important part of the church calendar that it is easy to assume it has always been. But the major Christian festival for the early church was Easter. Around the fourth century, Christmas became part of the Christian calendar and by the year 336, December 25 was generally established as the date of Jesus' birth. Soon afterwards, church leaders began to feel the need for a period of preparation leading up to the actual celebration of the Christ Child's birth - thus we have the Advent season. The Advent season is a time for reflection and preparation, but its mood is joyful. One of the ways we mark the start of Advent and the new church year is with the Hanging of the Greens service.

The observance of the Hanging of the Greens is an old English custom of decorating one's home with evergreens and other festive trappings for Advent and Christmas. Many of the decorations and customs are derived from ancient customs and legends. It is the hope that putting these customs in the context of a worship service on the first Sunday in Advent will help set the tone of your own personal worship and celebrations.



Main Street United Methodist Church

Established 1858
211 North Main Street
Greenwood, South Carolina 29646

Open hearts...Open minds...Open doors
The people of The United Methodist Church



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Main Street United Methodist Church Staff

Rev. Terry C. Martin, Senior Pastor
Larry Moore, Director of Music Ministries
Joyce Nickles, Organist
Kathy Kelly, Program Coordinator
Lee Robirds, RN, Congregational Nurse
Jessica Morris, Director of Youth Ministries

Emmie Burns, Church Secretary
Gail Carnes, Financial Secretary
Bill White, Building Superintendent
Benny Lewis, Church Janitor
Shirley Wilson, Church Janitor

Church Phone: 229-7551
E-mail: churchoffice@msumc1.org

Pastor Home Phone: 227-6706
Website: www.msumc1.org