

 **Main Street**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 3, 2017

Prelude

Wake, Awake J.S. Bach
Emily Wallace, organist

For Unto Us Handel arr. Frost
Violins, viola, cello, bass

***Call to Worship**

Pastor James McCoy-Bruce

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 No. 234**

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(Verses 1, 2, 3, and 6)

***Common Prayer**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us prayer together.

O God, our heavenly Father, the whole world rejoices at the coming of Your Son. Everywhere around us we see signs of His coming. As we gather in this evening hour, as your family, draw us closer to You; fill our hearts with anticipation and longing for Your Son's return, and make His Spirit very present in our hearts tonight. May the life symbolized in the hanging of these greens be a sign of the greater life we find in Him. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Preparation Kim Clark

Anthem *Prepare the Way of the Lord* William Rowan
Chancel Choir and organ
Lisa Smith and John McFadden, soloists

Paraments Kim Clark

Anthem *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* Jay Rouse
Chancel Choir, piano, and cello



Candles Kim Clark

Instrumental Carol *I Wonder As I Wander*
Cello and flute

The Advent Wreath Kim Clark

Anthem *Light the Advent Candle* Davenport arr. Wagner
Chancel Choir, piano, and violin

Evergreen Wreaths and Poinsettias Kim Clark

Anthem *Air for Advent* Tom Fettke
Chancel Choir, strings, and oboe



Holly and Ivy Kim Clark

Anthem *The Holly and the Ivy* arr. Russell Robinson
Chancel Choir and piano

Chrismon Tree

Kim Clark

Anthem

Advent Prayer
Chancel Choir, piano, and flute

arr. Patrick Liebergen

The Nativity

Kim Clark

Anthem

Messiah Comes, Emmanuel
Chancel Choir and organ

Gilbert M. Martin

The Christmas Story from The Gospel according to Luke

Pastor James McCoy-Bruce

Anthem

Fear Not
Soloist: Carolyn Lumley
Chancel Choir, piano, strings, oboe, clarinet, and trumpet

Mary McDonald

***Collect For Advent (Unison)**

Pastor James McCoy-Bruce

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 No. 218**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

***Blessing**

***Postlude**

Toccata on Savior of the Nations, Come

arr. Distler

***Please stand as you are able**

Reception Following the Service

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

Acknowledgements

Tonight marks the thirtieth 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 delicately-crafted Chrismons, and for the gifts of time and talent shared, we are thankful. Additional thanks to Debbie Tharpe, Hanging of the Greens Chairperson.

Offering

A special offering will not be taken, but collection plates will be placed at the exits of the Sanctuary for donations to help defray the cost of the service.

Greeters

Mary Dula, Carol Harley, Robbie Kohli,
Brenda Munnerlyn, Terry Robinson, Greg and Cele Shelley

Reader: Kim Clark

Poinsettias

The poinsettias are given to the glory of God by Jane Marshall in loving memory of her parents, Randy and Camille Wolfe and her husband, Terry.

The Hangers of The Greens

Keaton Alexander	Marler Askew
Ben Harley	Rachel Holder
Thomas McCoy-Bruce	Cecilia McGinnis
Wylan Radcliffe	Marisa Rogers
Josh Sluder	Olivia Rowland
Hampton Warner	Sydney Sluder

The Children

Gibson Askew	Daniel Barrineau	Reeves Barrineau	Peyton Larkins
Evan Lawrence	Addison Leopard	Morgana McKee	Julia Meredith
Teague Meredith	Tucker Meredith	Richie Pinckney	Mary Margaret Skinner
Jarratt Smith	Witt Smith	Aliyah Washington	Chelsea Washington
Ryder Welborn	Sawyer Welborn		

Instrumentalists

Sarah Dean, cello	Demaine Cunningham, string bass
Tamia Hayes, viola	Thomas McCoy-Bruce, clarinet
Rhonda McGinnis, flute	Paul Peart, II, violin
Elizabeth Smith, oboe	Javernique Tinsley, violin
Andy Westbrook, trumpet	

Main Street UMC Chancel Choir

John McFadden, Director of Music Ministries

Emily Wallace, Organist and Pianist

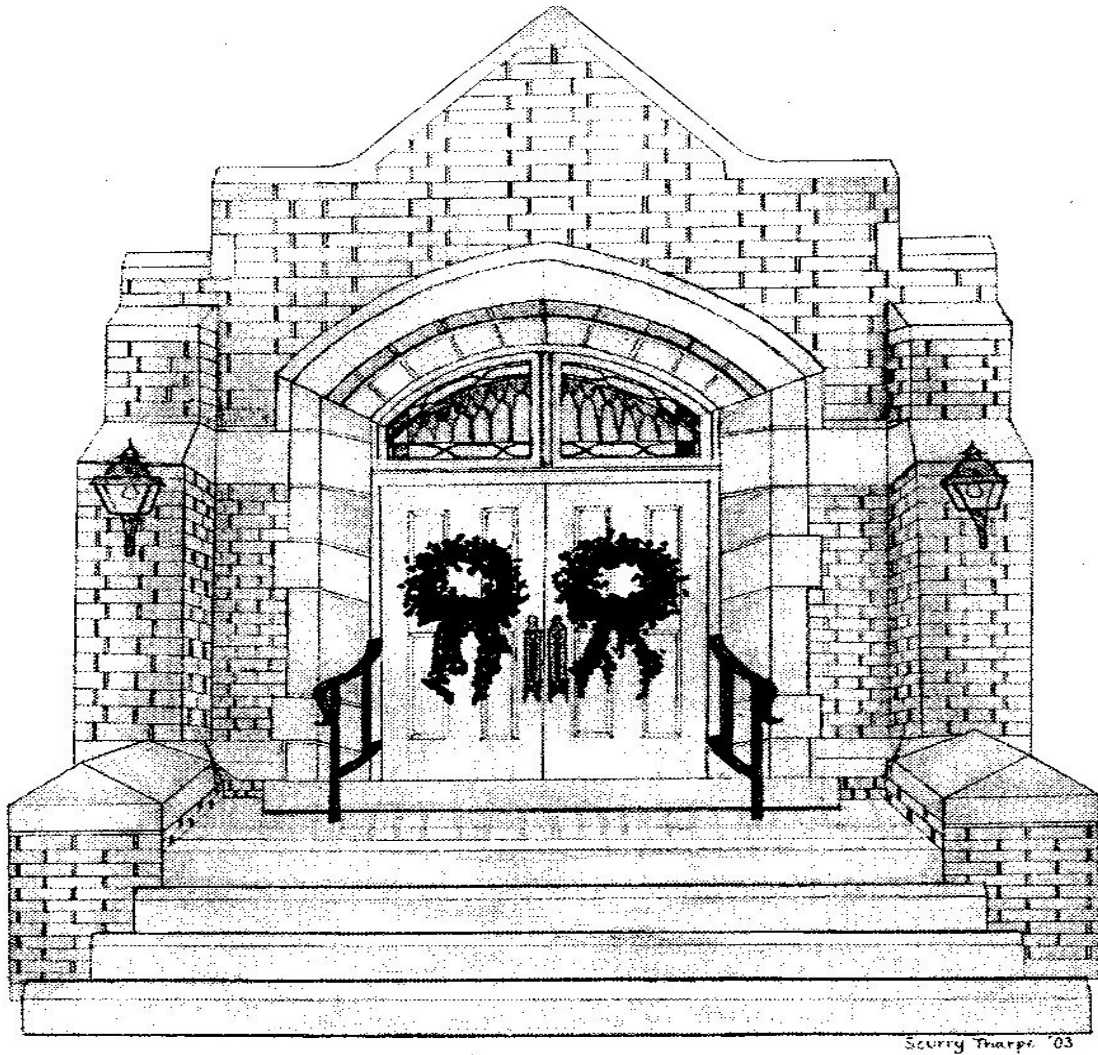
Kathy Bailey	Emmie Burns	Brab Crooks
Pam Faulkner	Anne Farquhar	Peter Gaither
Myra Greene	Bill Klauber	Ann Landis
Carolyn Lumley	Jane Marshall	Angela McCall
David McFadden	Debbie McFadden	Rhonda McGinnis
Amy Meredith	Dennis Moore	Woody Nivins
MaryAshlynn Perkey	Tommy Rambo	Lee Robirds
Braden Shulfer	Lisa Smith	Andrew Tripp
Gladys Turner	Dale Wallace	Lou Walters
Steve Wilkie	Linda Zigos	Pam Poulin

July 23, 1949 - November 27, 2017
A faithful Chancel Choir member

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 help the tone of your own personal worship and celebrations.

Following Christ from City Center



Main Street United Methodist Church Staff

Reverend James McCoy-Bruce, Senior Minister

John McFadden, Director of Music Ministries
Emily Wallace, Organist
Kathy Kelly, Adult Program Coordinator
Lee Robirds, RN, Congregational Nurse
Lisa S. Smith, Children's Coordinator
Sharon Britz, Director of Youth and Student Ministries
Allison Wooten, Mud Pies Director

Linda Miller, Financial Secretary
Emmie Burns, Administrative Assistant
Jo Patterson, Office Assistant
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Michael Fisher, Building Caretaker
Melvin Boyd, Building Caretaker

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