

THE CORNERSTONE CONNECTION



Reaching Up To Christ and Out To Each Other
December, 2024

From the Pastor:

It's almost Christmas and I just returned to the Church office after visiting some folks at Piedmont Hospital. It's no fun being in the hospital during Christmas. Some of you may have experienced that or had family or friends hospitalized over Christmas. Everyone is supposed to return home at Christmas. But some I'm afraid, are not.

Fortunately, we have family, friends, and even hospital staff who will bring Christmas care to us. They bear gifts, food, greenery, pray, and even sing for us. Most of all they bring themselves and are present to us in a special way. So, I guess, in that regard, it might be considered a blessing to be hospitalized at Christmas instead of another time of the year. At Christmas we genuinely see how much folks care. It's not so much the gifts they bring, but their care and presence that matters. When we receive love in this way, it helps us become more loving people. It heals us on the inside – the best kind of healing.

As we prepare for Christmas, let us be mindful of how God came to be present to us to reveal his love and care. Our savior's birth took place under very meager living conditions, less safe than in a hospital. We can't really say Jesus was home at Christmas – there was no place for his family in the Inn. Yet he was surrounded by loving parents, farm animals, and poor shepherds. The heavenly hosts filled the sky surrounding the manger, proclaiming the Good News of our Savior's birth.

From humble circumstances, Jesus would later grow up to reveal God's love through miracles and healings of common people. Great as they were, the miracles were but signs of an even greater healing – the cure of our souls. God's love revealed through Jesus' concern for all people was transformational. His presence and healing touch cured, not only their bodies, but transformed their hearts as well. With thankful hearts those healed would run about, witness and spread the good news of the Messiah's coming.

This Christmas, let us reveal the ways God has touched and healed us by being present to others who may be in need. Through your actions and presence, you may be the only Christ some people will see at Christmas – at a homeless shelter or even in a hospital. But that may be just enough to bring them relief, some emotional and spiritual healing and give them a thankful heart. That is how God's love for us operates, it makes us thankful and transforms our hearts. As God first loved us, so let us love others.

Knowing God's vast love for us through Jesus Christ, I wish for each of you a wonderful and peaceful Christmas and pray the Lord may touch and bless you in some special way in the coming year!

Peace, *Irvin*

Lectionary Study for December:



Sunday, Dec. 1st:

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10 (UMH 756)
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

Sunday, Dec. 15th:

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, Dec. 29th:

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148 (UMH 861)
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Sunday, Dec. 8th:

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79 (UMH 208)
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, Dec. 22nd:

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55 (UMH 199)
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

December Birthdays:

*1st John Owen
5th Anne Sullivan
17th Randy Hayes
23rd Edith Blafield*

Coming up Next Month:

January Birthdays:

*10th Olivia Henke
14th Judy Prather
15th Lilith Hasenjaeger
18th Sarah Stovall
20th Judy Pernie
20th Zin Bronola
24th Georgia Hurley
25th Debbie Betancourt
29th Kathy Hurley*

Please contact Church office if there are any additions or corrections to the birthday & anniversary list.

For prayer e-mail and/or bulletin prayer list requests please notify the church office, 328-1496 or crnrstone@comporium.net (office hours are Mon-Thurs 9-2 p.m.). When the church office is closed, leave a voice mail on office phone or you may also email, call or text church secretary, Cary Bartelmo, cbartelmo@comporium.net; 803-372-7923.

Debbie Jackson has a Card Ministry—please contact her if you would like someone to receive a greeting card. 803-417-3510

On Christmas morning at 6:15 a.m. we will meet at Bethel Men’s Shelter to serve breakfast. Please see Marty Monahan if you would like to volunteer!

On Dec. 29th, the children & youth will serve supper at the Bethel Men’s Shelter. Donations of jars of spaghetti sauce or spaghetti noodles are welcome, as well as monetary donations! We will meet at the shelter at 5:00 p.m. if you would like to volunteer!

Christmas Eve Communion Service will be held at 5:30 p.m. at Epworth UMC, 620 Briarcliff Rd., Rock Hill.

To view the worship service each Sunday on Cornerstone's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/CornerstoneUMCRockHill/>

Scripture Reader For December:

Dec. 1st: Randy Hayes
 Dec. 8th: Steve Pilecki
 Dec. 15th: Diane Brewer
 Dec. 22nd: Steph Pilecki
 Dec. 29th:

If you are interested in being a scripture reader for worship services, contact church office.

Acolyte Schedule For December:

Dec. 1st: Gavin Sliva
 Dec. 8th: Emery Sliva
 Dec. 15th: Teresa Boehme
 Dec. 22nd: Dee Dee Anthony
 Dec. 29th: Elijah Henke

Schedule for offering counters (Sunday mornings):

Dec. 1st: Linda McCallum; Dan Sliva
 Dec. 8th: Debbie Jackson; Diana Deyton
 Dec. 15th: Dale Williams; Randy Hayes
 Dec. 22nd: Debbie Jackson; Howard McCallum
 Dec. 29th: Debbie Jackson; Vicky Castro

Youth Group will meet the 3rd Sunday of each month from 5-7 p.m.

Individual snack items and k-cups are collected and taken to the hospice house each month by JoAnn Till and Marlene Dial. The collection basket is in the Wesley fellowship room.

Memorials

In Memory Of:
 Rick Hasenjaeger
 Rick Hasenjaeger
 Rick Hasenjaeger
 Don Mobley

Given By:
 Lynda Broome
 John & Debra Dillingham
 John & Angela Farrell
 Ellie Mobley

Honorariums

In Honor Of:
 Pastor Irvin Plowden, Jr.
 Pastor Irvin Plowden, Jr.

Given By:
 Georgia & Kathy Hurley
 Wesley Fellowship Class

Year-to-date Financial Status as of 11/30/24:

Undesignated donations: \$145,097.83
 Overhead distributions: \$147,765.14
 Bottom line for year so far: (2,667/31)

June through December apportionments past due: \$9,297.75 total

Sharron Jones, Finance Chair

Johnny Starnes, Treasurer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Communion 1st Sunday of Advent -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am Sunday School -11 am Worship -12:15 Trustees</p>	<p>2 10:30 am Devotional study at CUMC Poinsettia orders due in</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 6:00 pm Choir practice</p>	<p>5 6:00 pm Addie McClintock Circle at Nancy Evan's house</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am Sunday School -11 am Worship 5:15 pm Finance 6:00 Church Council</p>	<p>9 10:30 am Devotional study at CUMC</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 6:00 pm Choir practice</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 1-4 pm Seniors group (GPS) Christmas party at Cornerstone</p>
<p>15 -9:30 Good Eats -9:45 Sunday Sch -11 am Worship Choir Cantata & Children's song during worship</p>	<p>16 10:30 am Devotional study at CUMC</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 6:00 pm Choir practice</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am S.S. -11 am Worship</p>	<p>23 10:30 am Devotional study at Cornerstone Cary-vacation</p>	<p>24 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service at Epworth Cary-vacation</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day Feeding breakfast at homeless shelter (Office closed)</p>	<p>26 Cary-vacation</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am Sunday School -11 am Worship -5 pm Children & Youth feed supper at Bethel Men's Shelter</p>	<p>30 10:30 am Devotional study at Cornerstone Cary-vacation</p>	<p>31 Cary-vacation</p>	<p>Jan. 1 New Year's Day (office closed)</p>	<p>Jan. 2 Cary-vacation</p>		
		<p>Offering Counters 1st: L. McCallum Dan Sliva 8th: Debbie J.; Diana Deyton 15th: D. Williams; Randy Hayes 22nd: Debbie J.; H. McCallum 29th: Debbie J.; Vickv Castro</p>	<p>Scripture Readers 1st: Randy Hayes 8th: Steve Pilecki 15th: Diane Brewer 22nd: Steph P. 29th: Anne Price</p>	<p>Acolytes: 1st: Gavin Sliva 8th: Emery Sliva 15th: Teresa Boehme 22nd: DeeDee Anthony 29th: Elijah Henke</p>	<p>Opening & Closing: Johnny Starnes Altar Guild Maxine Smith</p>	<p>Sunday Worship Schedule: 9:30 am Good Eats fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Service</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>New Year's Day</i> (office closed)	2 <i>Cary-vacation</i>	3	4 <i>2-4 pm Baby shower for Sara McClain at Cornerstone</i>
5 Epiphany Sunday Communion -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am Sunday School -11 am Worship -12:15 pm Trustee meeting	6 <i>10:30 am Devotional study at CUMC</i>	7	8 <i>6:00 pm Choir practice</i>	9	10	11 <i>9:30-11 a.m. Medical Benefits Seminar for Seniors group</i>
12 -9:30 Good Eats -9:45 Sunday School -11 am Worship 5:15 pm Finance 6:00 pm Church Council	13 <i>10:30 am Devotional study at CUMC</i>	14	15 <i>6:00 pm Choir practice</i>	16	17	18
19 -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am S.S. -11 am Worship	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day -10:30 am Devotional study at Cornerstone -6:30 pm UMM meeting	21	22 <i>6:00 pm Choir practice</i>	23	24	25
26 -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am Sunday School -11 am Worship	27 <i>10:30 am Devotional study at Cornerstone</i>	28	29 <i>6:00 pm Choir practice</i>	30	31	
		<u>Offering Counters</u> 5th: L. McCallum Dan Sliva 12th: Debbie J.; Diana Deyton 19th: Vicky Castro; Randy Hayes 26th: Debbie J.; H. McCallum	<u>Scripture Readers</u> 5th: Ken Jones 12th: Randy Hayes 19th: Steve Pilecki 26th: Diane Brewer	<u>Acolytes:</u> 5th: Gavin Sliva 12th: Emery Sliva 19th: Teresa Boehme 26th: DeeDee Anthony	<u>Opening & Closing:</u> Johnny Starnes <u>Altar Guild</u> Maxine Smith	<u>Sunday Worship Schedule:</u> 9:30 am Good Eats fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Service