

✝ SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

SERMON

“You-turn”

Rev. Howard James

✝ HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

“Spirit Song”

UMH 347

(You are invited to pray at the Communion railing.)

✝ CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

✝ BENEDICTION

✝ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We go out into the world, to labor and bring forth new life. We will dream dreams, pursue visions and speak of God’s goodness in the words of those who would hear. And may the God who breathed life into creation be our delight. May Christ Jesus give hope to our dreaming, and may the Holy Spirit, our advocate and supporter set our hearts ablaze with a passion for peace. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.

✝ POSTLUDE

“Once He Came in Blessings” W. Held

Nan Leggett, Organist

✝ Please stand if you are able.

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in Loving Memory of
James C. High & Carolyn T. High.*

*With Love,
Les High & Family,
Stuart High Rogers & Family*

SERVING THIS MORNING

Greeters.....Rob Conway & Tom Leggett
Music Director.....L.A. Cothorn
Organist.....Nan Leggett
Pianist.....Geneva Ashley
Altar Committee.....Sandy Turner, Margie Rabon,
and Elizabeth Gibson

WHITEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

902 Pinckney Street, Whiteville, NC 28472
(910) 642-3376
wumc@whitevilleumc.org
Rev. Howard James

December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent



Mission Statement of Whiteville United Methodist Church

As people of the body of Christ, we will gather for and be strengthened by Word and Sacraments, participate in loving fellowship, grow in discipleship, and serve our community and the world in Christ’s name.

Welcome to Whiteville United Methodist Church

Thank you for worshiping with us today! We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, program, and ministry life here.

We hope the worship will inspire and comfort you as we hear God's message proclaimed. During this time, now more than ever, may the grace and love of Christ surround you.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please use a microphone.)

Rob Conway

PRELUDE "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" arr. G. Martin

Nan Leggett, Organist

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(Symbolizing the presence of the Spirit of the Lord in our service.)

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

✠ RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Behold, now is the acceptable time. Today is the day of God's salvation.

People: We tremble in fear and anticipation at the nearness of a God so great and powerful.

Leader: Return with all your heart, with weeping, fasting, and mourning.

People: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader: Be reconciled to God, through Christ Jesus, and receive a new and right spirit within.

People: We will fast and pray as an inner discipline, preparing ourselves for faithful discipleship.

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

UMH 206

✠ UNISON OPENING PRAYER

Loving Lord, when we have strayed, you have called us to come home to you. "Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing." With all our hearts we return to you, and gratefully accept your gentle love, for the sake of the one whose spirit lives in us, Jesus Christ our loving savior. Amen.

✠ APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

✠ GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

✠ WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND RESPONSE

Leader: Heavenly Father, be merciful to us, for we have sinned. Answer us with awesome deeds of deliverance, O Hope of the Earth. Give us vision and a prophetic spirit. Renew our vocation, as stewards of your creation. Amen.

People: Do not lose heart. Those who humbly admit their sins find favor with God. For God answers prayer, and forgives transgression. Believe this good news: We are forgiven and freed to newness of life.

✠ THE PASSING OF CHRISTIAN PEACE

Piano Selection

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Chancel Choir

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" arr. by Larry Shackley

✠ PRESENTING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

"Praise God"

UMH 95

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

✠ HYMN OF PREPARATION

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

UMH 420

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Whiteville United Methodist Church.

Visitors, please complete a Visitor's Card, which can be found in the pew rack, and place it in the offertory basket in the Narthex. We are happy to have you here with us today. Thank you.

Southeastern Oratorio Society will present its Christmas concert on Monday evening, December 9 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. The musical selections are varied, mostly familiar and all beautiful.

Nativity Sunday, December 15. Practice will be the Friday before from 5:00-7:30.

A Service of Lights will be held Monday, December 16 at the Episcopal Church beginning at 4:00p.m. Please see Patricia Ray for more information.

Please don't forget our Angel tree located in the Narthex. You will find ornaments with a child's age and a Christmas wish list. Gifts can be taken to Families First, monetary gifts are also welcome and appreciated. Please contact Vickie Pait for more information.

Prayer Concerns: Thetus Sessions, Florence Marlowe, Mary Hutchins, Judy Curtis, Carolyn Nix, Phil Stoll, Wendy Hood, Robert & Cynthia Page, John Turner, Sabra Allen, Peggy & Ralph Huffman, Jim Rabon, Dan Biser, Bob & Alma Deans, Jan Avant.

Prayers of Support for our ongoing ministries: WUMC Preschool & Staff, Scouts, Food Pantry.

Prayer Requests: Contact the Church Office at wumc@whitevilleumc.org to add or remove names. Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks.

Ongoing ministries:

Adult Sunday School: Meet in classroom @ 9:00 a.m.

Children's Sunday School (ages 3-12): Upstairs classroom @ 9:00 a.m.

Caregivers Support Group: 2nd Thursday of the month @ 1:00 p.m. in the parlor

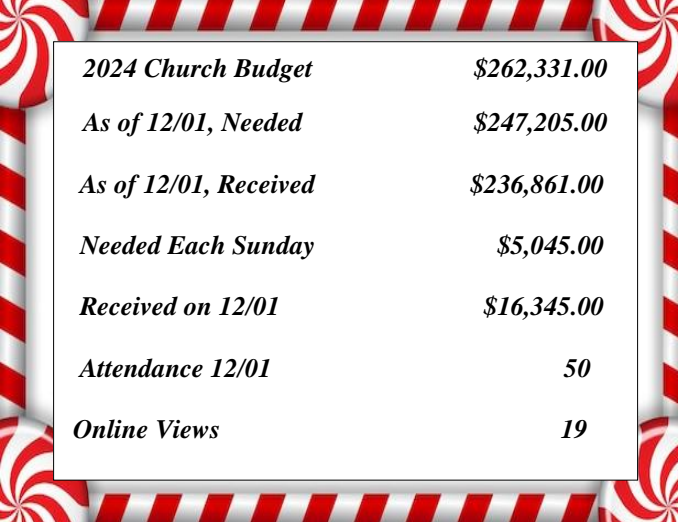
Reaching Out: 4th Tuesday of the month @ 6 p.m. at Dale's Seafood

Fifty-Plus Exercise Class: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the parlor

Food Bank: distributes food on the First and Third Wednesdays 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Handbell Rehearsals: Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsals: Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.



<i>2024 Church Budget</i>	<i>\$262,331.00</i>
<i>As of 12/01, Needed</i>	<i>\$247,205.00</i>
<i>As of 12/01, Received</i>	<i>\$236,861.00</i>
<i>Needed Each Sunday</i>	<i>\$5,045.00</i>
<i>Received on 12/01</i>	<i>\$16,345.00</i>
<i>Attendance 12/01</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Online Views</i>	<i>19</i>

Second Sunday of Advent
December 4 - [Joel 2:12-13, 28-29](#)

One: In a torn world, we wonder how to act with compassion.

Many: In our own lives, we wonder where to find harmony.

One: Even when we don't agree on the details, we want the same thing.

Many: We all want peace.

One: Like people in exile, we feel displaced.

Many: We try to find our way in a world where we cannot find our familiar landmarks, forgetting to look to God first.

One: Without God, there is no peace.

Many: Even now, we can return to God.

(Light the first and second candles.)

One: "Return to the Lord your God, for God is merciful and compassionate, very patient, full of faithful love, and ready to forgive." (Joel 2:13b, CEB))

Many: Our forgiving God brings peace.

