

✝ SCRIPTURE READING

John 2:13-25

SERMON

“The Tables Have Turned”

Rev. Howard James

✝ HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

“Trust and Obey”

UMH 467

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

✝ CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

✝ BENEDICTION

✝ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Go now, with God’s foolishness and weakness as your only wisdom and strength. Proclaim Christ crucified, and seek riches only in the love of God’s Word and in zeal for God’s house. And may God’s just demands be your nourishment & delight. May Christ be the power and wisdom of God to you. And may the Holy Spirit keep you, thought and word, in God’s good grace. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, In the name of Christ. Amen.

✝POSTLUDE “They’ll Know We Are Christians” setting by P. Scholtes Nan Leggett, Organist

✝ Please stand if you are able.

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God.

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

January 18, 2026
Second Sunday after the Epiphany



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 worshipping 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 “Meditation on ‘Bradbury’” setting by 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: Heavenly Father, we’ve followed you this morning into this place hoping to experience the extraordinary.

People: Just as you changed water into wine at the wedding in Cana, you can change our lives and make them exceptional.

Leader: We can’t help but feel wonder and surprise at your willingness to bless us with love and grace.

People: May our worship and devotion honor and glorify your name.

All: Emmanuel, be with us always! Amen!

✝ **HYMN OF PRAISE** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” UMH 110

✝ **UNISON OPENING PRAYER**
Truth be told, Jesus, there are lots of tables that need overturning in our lives; Beneath the veneer of respectability the tidy rows and neat regulations hide dark addictions and angry judgements, hungry greeds, and heartless rejections. We know the pain—and so do those around us—of keeping up the facade; What a relief it would be to have it all upset, smashed, scattered, destroyed. So, perhaps, Jesus, today you could pay us a visit and help us to radically rearrange the furniture of our lives. Amen.

✝ STATEMENT OF FAITH

A Modern Affirmation (UMC 885)

Leader: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

People: We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children’s good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father’s unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. 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: With hearts of sorrow, we come before you, O God, to confess what you already know— we have failed to keep your laws. Again and again, we have followed our own selfish will, rather than your holy and life-giving will for our lives. We have twisted your decrees and institutions to suit our preconceptions and interests rather than your own. Forgive us, O God, and cleanse us from hidden faults, that the words of our mouths, and the meditations of all our hearts, may be acceptable to you, our Rock and our Redeemer.

People: God shows steadfast love and blesses to the thousandth generation those who walk in God’s ways. In love, God sent Jesus to bless and redeem God’s people. God forgives us our sins and restores us to new life. Let us rejoice in God’s mercy. Amen.

✝ **THE PASSING OF CHRISTIAN PEACE** Piano Selection

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD
“Lamb of God” arr. by Lloyd Larson
Chancel Choir

✝ **PRESENTING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD** “Praise God” UMH 95

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

✝ **HYMN OF PREPARATION** “O How I Love Jesus” UMC 170

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.

UWF Soup Sale forms are now available. Please fill out your forms and place them in the offering plate or turn in at the office no later than Jan. 25th. Donations are graciously accepted to support our UWF with local missions.

Don’t Forget! We are still accepting items for our spring rummage sale. Items accepted include but are not limited to kitchenware, toys, home décor, holiday décor, books, etc. Please NO clothing. The date for the rummage sale will be announced later.

The church office will be closed Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Church Council will meet Monday, January 19 in the parlor, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Prayer Concerns: Ann Pait, Myra Snipes, Wayne Overcash, Dick & Janice Simms, Butch & Sharon Dutton, Sabra Allen, Thetus Sessions, Florence Marlowe, Mary Hutchins, Phil Stoll, Wendy Hood, Peggy & Ralph Huffman, 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 parlor @ 9:00 a.m.

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

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

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

Boy Scouts [ages 11-18] Mondays @ 7:00 p.m.

Cub Scouts [ages 6-10] Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: @ 10:00 a.m. in the parlor

Preschool [ages 2-4] Monday – Friday 8:15-11:30 a.m.

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

Food Bank: distributes food on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 9:30-11:00 a.m.

United Women of Faith: 1st Monday of the month @ 6:00 p.m. in the parlor

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

Reaching Out: 4th Tuesday of the month @ 11:30 (support group for widows and widowers)

***2026 Budget Coming
Soon!***