

✠ SCRIPTURE READING

*Genesis 3:1-7*

SERMON

“The Christmas Story Begins”

Rev. Tal Madison

✠ HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

“Once in Royal David’s City”

#250 UMH

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

✠ CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ CHORAL RESPONSE

“Shalom To You”

#666 UMH

✠ POSTLUDE

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” setting by A.L. Page

Nan Leggett, Organ

✠ Please stand if you are able.

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

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

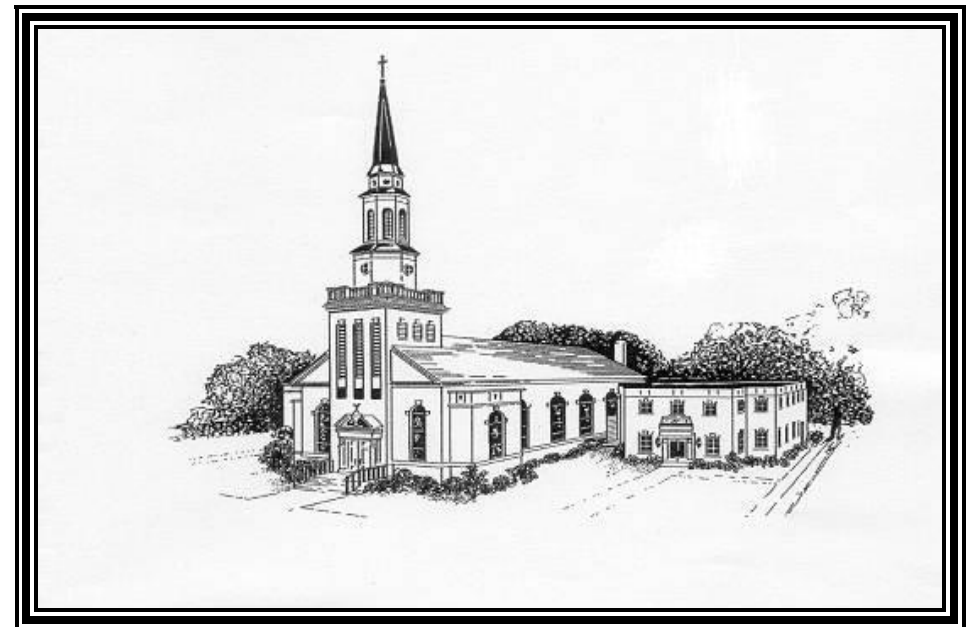
**SERVING THIS MORNING**

Greeters.....	Rob Conway & Tom Leggett
Music Director.....	L.A. Cothorn
Organist.....	Nan Leggett
Pianist.....	Geneva Ashley
Altar Committee.....	Suzanne Hall, Celia Lynch, Margie Rabon, Sandy Turner and Gina Deans
Soundboard.....	Suzanne Hall

# WHITEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 11, 2022



**Our Church Vision**

We exist as a Place where Everyone & Every Age can Connect with Christ.

**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 at Whiteville. 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

**PIANO SOLO**

“Away in a Manger”

Sydney High

**PRELUDE** “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” J. Pachelbel Nan Leggett, Organ  
(Entering the sanctuary and preparing for worship, you are invited to discover the theme of today's service by reading through this order of worship. Also, please pray for those on the prayer list and for all persecuted people around the world.)

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

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

**CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

**WELCOME**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Hillary & Addison Melvin and Sue Hawks

✠ **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made, so we gather to praise.

**People: Loving One, strengthen us and steady us.**

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made, so we gather to pray.

**People: Living One, say to the fearful parts of us, “Here I am.”**

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made, so we gather to sing.

**People: Everlasting One, open our hearts, quench our thirst, and let us blossom.**

**ALL: God, as we attend to you, fill us with joy.**

✠ **HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates”

#213 UMH

✠ **UNISON OPENING PRAYER**

Lord, thank you for surprising us with your joy! In the middle of our day-to-day chaos your care and grace find us just when we need it. Continue to transform us with your love, so that we can work on building your kingdom more fully here with all we have and all we are. 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**

Pastor: In Christ's mercy and grace, God's ransomed ones return.

**People: In Christ's love and faithfulness, everlasting happiness, and joy flow abundantly and forgiveness and mercy make us whole.**

**THE PASSING OF CHRISTIAN PEACE**

Piano Selection

**PASTORAL CONCERNS AND PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

Chancel Choir

“Light One Candle” arr. by Heather Sorenson

✠ **PRESENTING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD** (“Praise God”)

#95 UMH

✠ **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Suzanne Hall

✠ **HYMN OF PREPARATION**

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

#2128 TFWS

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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.

**Poinsettia** forms should be turned in today (December 11<sup>th</sup>). The price is \$17.00.

**Stewardship Campaign 2023** – Everyone is encouraged to participate as we make our plans for 2023. Pledge cards are due December 18 and are available in the Narthex. You may place them in the offering plate or return them to the church office.

**Christmas Cantata:** Sunday morning, December 18<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Eve:** Our congregation has been invited to join Whiteville First Baptist for a joint Christmas Eve service. 5:00 p.m. at Whiteville First Baptist.

**The Whiteville United Methodist Preschool** will be having a small Christmas program Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:00 in the church fellowship hall. All are welcome to attend.

**Prayer Concerns:** Phyllis Merritt, Dial Gray, The family of Rev. CB Owens, Betty Jane Baumhower (Sister of Ann Simmons), Prayers for Ukraine, Wayne Overcash, Jan Avant, Jim Hill, Sara Brooks, Thetus Sessions, Ann Worthington, Grant Smith, Bob Deans, John and Louise Barkley, Clara Hunsucker, Marty Ward.

**Prayer Requests:** Via email to the Church Office at [wumc@whitevilleumc.org](mailto:wumc@whitevilleumc.org).

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

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

**Christians Under Construction Sunday School:** Meeting @ 9:00 a.m. in the Parlor in person or via Zoom. (Receive a link to join by emailing Carolyn Hankins at [carolynjhankins@msn.com](mailto:carolynjhankins@msn.com))

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** Wednesday mornings @ 9:30 a.m. in the parlor.

**Choir Rehearsals on Wednesdays:** Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the choir room.

**Handbell Rehearsals on Wednesdays:** Wednesdays @ 6:15 p.m. in the handbell room.

**Food Bank:** 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month 9:30-11:00 a.m.

**Cub Scouts: [ages 6-10]** Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall

**Boy Scouts: [ages 11-18]** Mondays @ 7:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall

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

**Communion Service:** Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m. in the parlor

<i>2022 Church Budget</i>	<i>\$288,883.00</i>
<i>As of 12/04, Needed</i>	<i>\$272,202.00</i>
<i>As of 12/04, Received</i>	<i>\$237,470.00</i>
<i>Needed Each Sunday</i>	<i>\$5,555.00</i>
<i>Received on 12/04</i>	<i>\$4,270.00</i>
<i>Attendance 12/04</i>	<i>62 In-person</i>

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