

✝ SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

SERMON

“You know, Lord”

Rev. Howard James

✝ HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

UMH 431

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

✝ COMMUNION

✝ CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

✝ BENEDICTION

✝ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Just as God’s Word was sent into the world to heal and redeem, so God sends us into the world this day to be the light for the world! May we bring healing and hope to those whose lives feel dry and brittle. And may the grace and peace of God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer be with us this day and remain with us always. Amen.

✝ POSTLUDE

“Hark, the Glad Sound!” setting by P. Manz

Nan Leggett, Organist

✝ Please stand if you are able.

*The lovely flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and
in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. W. B. Hobbs and Mr. & Mrs. Clyde H. Hobbs.*

Given by: Sharonne Dutton, and Sabra Allen.

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 7, 2025
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 “Veni, Emmanuel” 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: Across the universe creation waits for the prophets to speak their words of expectation and their vision of renewal

People: May we gather round them today once more and let their longing grip us and lead us into birth and blessing.

Leader: So come now my friends, this is the meeting place of promise and prophecy.

People: Let us listen through the ancient words that we might be ready to hear a baby’s cry.

✝ HYMN OF PRAISE “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” UMC 213

✝ ADVENT READING

✝ UNISON OPENING PRAYER

Compassionate God, the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life for all who long for you. One breath from you and we are rescued from the arid valley of dry bones, given muscles and sinews and joy with which to praise you, and filled with the holy hope you grant to all your faithful children. Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit, that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom, and what looks to us to be death may be revealed as but sleep before the emergence of new life. 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: You call us to be your voices in this world and we stay silent. You call us to be your hands in this world and we keep them hidden. You call us to be your feet in this world and we go our own way. When we meet those who are doubting and say nothing, forgive us. When we meet those who need your touch and do nothing, forgive us. When we are called to take up your cross and carry nothing, forgive us.

People: Holy Father, you breathe life into these bones and bring freedom to these lives, so that we might declare with heart and soul and voice that you are our Lord and our God! Thanks be to God! Amen.

✝ THE PASSING OF CHRISTIAN PEACE

Piano Selection

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

“Carol of Prophecy” by Shirley McRae
Chancel Choir

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

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

✝ HYMN OF PREPARATION “Breath on Me, Breath of God” UMC 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 presents “The Many Moods of Christmas” in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church on Monday, December 8th at 7:30. Come and hear beautiful sacred and secular songs of the season accompanied by guest instrumentalists – always a wonderful way to get into the Christmas spirit.

The WUMC Preschool will host a small Christmas showcase Thursday, December 18. Times are 9:15 for our 3-year-olds and 10:00 for our 4-year-olds, in our fellowship hall. Church members are welcome to drop in and enjoy either or both of those performances.

Christmas Eve Service will be in the church sanctuary beginning at 5:30.

Handbells will take a break from rehearsals until January 21st.

All Poinsettias have been claimed. If you were unable to purchase a poinsettia and would like your loved one listed in the program please see Morgan in the office. Thank you to everyone who was able to purchase one this season!

Prayer Concerns: The Family of Bill Ball, 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)

<i>2025 Church Budget</i>	<i>\$302,140.00</i>
<i>As of 11/30, Needed</i>	<i>\$273,070.00</i>
<i>As of 11/30, Received</i>	<i>\$209,213.00</i>
<i>Needed Each Sunday</i>	<i>\$5,810.00</i>
<i>Received on 11/30</i>	<i>\$3,186.00</i>
<i>Attendance 11/30</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Online Views</i>	<i>40</i>