

✝ SCRIPTURE READING

*Daniel 6:6-27*

SERMON

“God’s Lion Tamer”

Rev. Howard James

✝ HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

UMH 577

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

✝ CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

✝ BENEDICTION

✝ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

May the God of Daniel, who is faithful even in the face of adversity, bless you with unwavering strength, steadfast loyalty, and the courage to always stand by your convictions, even when the world tries to sway you; may His protection be with you always, Amen.

✝ POSTLUDE

“People, Look East” R. Law

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 1, 2024



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**

“The Angel Gabriel Come” R. Law

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: In God my soul takes refuge, my soul takes refuge and comfort, God is my hope.

**People: God will send forth steadfast love and faithfulness.**

Leader: Even if I lie down among lions, with teeth as sharp as spears, and tongues like sharp spears, my heart is steadfast, and I will sing and make melody.

**People: I know I will awake with God.**

Leader: My hope is in God, for your steadfast love is high as the heavens, and your faithfulness extends to the clouds

**People: Come let us awaken our souls to God in song.**

**✠ HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

UMH 196

**✠ UNISON OPENING PRAYER**

God of deliverance, You rescued Daniel from the mouths of the lions when he was punished for worshiping you. Liberate all who are endangered for the sake of their faith and rescue us from anything that separates us from worshiping only you, for the sake of the one who made your name known to all people, across land and seas, Jesus Christ, our redeemer. 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: God, we confess that we do not always understand hope. Is it meant to inspire us? Or to comfort us? Awaken us to the condition of the world? Too often we feel too surrounded by Lions to hope in these apocalyptic times. Teach us how to understand hope as promise that you give, balanced against our responsibility to act and give us the tools we need to walk with Jesus along the way we pray.

**People: Hear the Good news, Jesus is our Hope, so we do not have to hope alone. So, know the Good news and proclaim it to one another: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**

**✠ THE PASSING OF CHRISTIAN PEACE**

Piano Selection

**PASTORAL CONCERNS AND PRAYER**

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

Chancel Choir

“Carol of Prophecy” by Shirley McRae

**✠ PRESENTING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

“Praise God”

UMH 95

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

**✠ HYMN OF PREPARATION**

“Hail to the Lord's Anointed”

UMH 203

## 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.

**Poinsettia Order!** Today is the final day to turn in poinsettia order forms.

**Hanging of the Greens** today, December 1. Everyone is invited to stay after worship service to help decorate the sanctuary and then enjoy lunch in the fellowship hall.

**The United Women in Faith** will meet Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 6:00 in the parlor.

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

**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](mailto: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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month @ 1:00 p.m. in the parlor

**Reaching Out:** 4<sup>th</sup> 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 11/24, Needed</i>	<i>\$242,160.00</i>
<i>As of 11/24, Received</i>	<i>\$220,516.00</i>
<i>Needed Each Sunday</i>	<i>\$5,045.00</i>
<i>Received on 11/24</i>	<i>\$3,032.00</i>
<i>Attendance 11/24</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>Online Views</i>	<i>29</i>

## **First Sunday of Advent**

December 1 – [Daniel 6:6-27](#)

One: Sometime we pray, facing an unknown fate.

**Many: Sometimes we pray, facing an uncertain world.**

One: Although he would soon be thrown to the lions, Daniel trusted in God.

**Many: We hold that hope.**

One: When life takes us to the dangerous edge, we face our own lions.

**Many: We stay awake through the night, trying to tame depression, debt, job loss, addiction, broken relationships.**

One: We draw our hope from God.

**Many: And at dawn, the light comes again.**

(Light the first candle.)

One: “God is rescuer and savior; God performs signs and miracles in heaven and on earth.” (Daniel 6:27a, CEB)

**Many: Our living God gives hope.**

