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Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be leveled.

The crooked will be made straight and the rough places made smooth.

All humanity will see God's salvation. (Luke 3:4b-6)

FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

Best of All God Is With Us

Sometimes I need to remember to believe something that others see as unbelievable. Believing the seemingly unbelievable keeps me filled with wonder and expectancy. We are entering a time of the year that helps me to remember the fantastic and amazing.

We are about to enter the most special time of the year. We are about to make our journey through Advent to the Twelve Days of Christmas and then Epiphany. These days on the Christian calendar remind us that at a specific point in history, God visited the earth in the person of Jesus Christ. We believe in the Incarnation, God taking flesh and dwelling among us. We listen to Jesus Christ because of who he is. His life and death brought deliverance to us because of who he is. We follow Jesus Christ because of who he is. We worship Jesus Christ because of who he is. Holding to this audacious claim defines us as Christians. The



holiday season ("holiday" comes from the Old English for "holy day" so it is very much a religious term) will be different this year because of the COVID pandemic. But, nothing can stop Christmas from happening. It is foremost an event in our hearts that happens to create outward signs and symbols. This edition of our newsletter offers you many ways to keep this season infused with supernatural joy. This season reminds us that our God is the One who visits and redeems us and keeps visiting us. God visited earth in the past and remains with us today through the amazing power of his Spirit. So, we can always joyfully proclaim to the world around us, "Best of All

God is With Us in This" and every experience of life even the life-altering experience of a pandemic.

Happy holidays,

Pastor Jeff

Registration Required for Christmas Eve In-Person Worship

For safety reasons and to comply with our Bishop's & Cabinet's guidelines, we are limiting our Christmas Eve worship attendance to 100-150 persons per worship space.

Please Register Today! www.wesleymemorial.org



The Reverend Dr.
Jeff Patterson
Senior Pastor

jpatterson@wesleymemorial.org 336.812.4808

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, November 29, 2020 - The First Sunday of Advent

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

7:30 am - Televised on FOX Channel 8

8:30 am - Traditional Service in Sanctuary

9:45 am - Contemporary Service in Dining Hall

11:00 am - Traditional Service in Sanctuary

Sunday, December 6, 2020 - The Second Sunday of Advent

Prepare the way of the Lord.

7:30 am - Televised on FOX Channel 8

8:30 am - Traditional Service in Sanctuary

9:45 am - Contemporary Service in Dining Hall

11:00 am - Traditional Service in Sanctuary

Sunday, December 13, 2020 - The Third Sunday of Advent

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world".

7:30 am - Televised on FOX Channel 8

8:30 am - Traditional Service in Sanctuary

9:45 am - Contemporary Service in Dining Hall

11:00 am - Traditional Service in Sanctuary

Sunday, December 20, 2020 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places.

7:30 am - Televised on FOX Channel 8

8:30 am - Traditional Service in Sanctuary

9:45 am - Contemporary Service in Dining Hall

11:00 am - Traditional Service in Sanctuary

Thursday, December 24, 2020 - Christmas Eve

O Come Let Us Adore Him.

3:00 pm - Contemporary Candlelight Service and Holy Communion in Dining Hall

5:00 pm - Traditional Candlelight Service and Holy Communion in Sanctuary

(Musical Prelude begins at 4:45 pm)

7:00 pm - Televised "Christmas from Wesley Memorial" on the CW Channel (A service of Lessons and Carols)

11:00 pm - Traditional Candlelight Service and Holy Communion in Sanctuary (Musical Prelude begins at 10:45 pm)

Due to challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be **NO LOVEFEAST SERVICE** this year.

Friday, December 25, 2020 - Christmas Day

7:00 am - Televised "Christmas from Wesley Memorial" on the CW Channel

Sunday, December 27, 2020 - Christmas Sunday

Jesus is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.

7:30 am - Televised on FOX Channel 8

10:00 am - Contemporary Service in Dining Hall

10:00 am - Traditional Christmas Service in Sanctuary

Sunday, January 6, 2021 - Epiphany of Our Lord

God's promise shines bright as Magi follow a star to honor a new king.

7:30 am - Televised on FOX Channel 8

8:30 am - Traditional Service in Sanctuary

9:45 am - Contemporary Service in Dining Hall

11:00 am - Traditional Service in Sanctuary

Limited Seating Available at ALL Christmas Eve, In-Person Services • Registration Required!

www. wesleymemorial.org

Our 7:30 am Traditional service is posted each Sunday at 11:00am on Facebook/Youtube/Vimeo
Our 9:45 am Contemporary service is Live Streamed each Sunday on Facebook/Youtube/Vimeo
You can also "Worship by Phone" by dialing 1-336-245-1276 and listen to the most recent Traditional Service

DECEMBER EVANGELISM EVENTS

Hello friends and a happy

Advent season to each of you!



From the age of a child and into my adolescence, I was always manically excited for Christmas. I loved the candles. I loved the mystery and the wonder of Christmas morning. I loved the smell of a Frasier fir. I loved Christmas movies. I loved the spirit of goodwill, generosity and remembering the birth of Christ. I would regularly play with our family's nativity set. I would pass out candy canes to friends at school.

I remember when the movie
"Elf" came out a friend
commented that I reminded him
of Buddy the Elf.

I still have that excitement about
Advent leading up to the
Christmas season (but I don't

think I can pull off the tights, nor should I).

But in the midst of the chaos of our world, the Advent season has always felt like one of those "thin" times when heaven and earth are even closer than they usually are. It is a time of light. A time of grace. A time of hope. It is almost as if the veil that separates the two dimensions of heaven and earth is slowly raised, if only for a season and we get a foretaste of the glory and splendor that awaits those that are in Christ.

Let us not forget the moment that the angel announced to the shepherds about the birth of Jesus in Luke 2:13. It is another one of those "thin" moments when heaven was revealed.

Suddenly, the angel was joined
by a vast host of others
— the armies of heaven—
praising God and saying,
"Glory to God in highest heaven
and peace on earth to those 'with whom
God is pleased."

Friends, Christ is here and heaven rejoices. Let us join with the host of heaven this Advent season, for even greater things are yet to come. If you don't know Christ as your Savior, contact me today so our church can help you on your faith journey.

Consider inviting a friend or neighbor to one of these Advent events below and help spread the Good News of Jesus!

Congregational Care Poinsettia Pick-up

Friday, December 4 4:00-7:00 pm - Porte Cochère

Christmas Tree Lighting & Drive-In Movie Night

Friday, December 4

Christmas Tree Lighting 6:00 pm - Front Circle

Drive-In Movie
7:00 pm - "The Star"

Christmas Drive Thru Nativity Experience

Sunday, December 20 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Contemporary Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24 3:00 pm - Dining Hall

Limited Seating • Registration Required www. wesleymemorial.org



The Reverend Clark Chilton

Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Contemporary Worship

'cchilton@wesleymemorial.org 336.812.4813

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

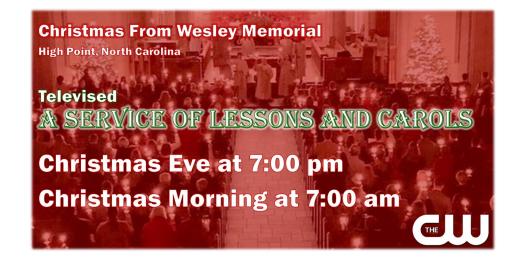
Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas Offering
will focus on needs within Wesley
Memorial and our local
community. Your gifts will be
divided between the Wesley
Memorial United Methodist Women
(UMW) and the Wesley Memorial
Good Shepherd Fund.

Our **UMW** uses funds raised at the annual Christmas Bazaar to support a number of programs and organizations within our church and the local community (19 in 2019). With no Bazaar this year, these outreaches that provide critical support at many levels will lose an essential source of funding. A portion of the Christmas Offering will be used to replace these funds, allowing the **UMW** to continue providing relief to many challenged areas of our community.

The **Good Shepherd Fund** is a source off aid for members of our congregation who are experiencing a financial crisis. This gives our clergy the ability to assist our members when there may be nowhere else to turn.

Despite the numerous challenges



of the past year, your generous

Christmas gift can help ensure that
struggling and vulnerable members of
our church and community will find
essential relief and services. Thank you
for your generosity!

Please make your check payable to
"Wesley Memorial UMC" and write
"2020 Christmas Offering" in the memo
line. Mail your check to the church or
place in the offering plate on Sunday
morning. You may also give on-line at:

www.wesleymemorial.org/Give

Congregational Care Poinsettia Pickup and Delivery

Let's spread the joy of Christmas with one another! Come out early to the Christmas Tree Lighting & Christmas Drive-in Movie Night on December 4th between 5-6:15p.m. and pick up a poinsettia(s) to deliver to those who are sick,

homes. Each poinsettia will be labeled with the address and contact information of the person for whom it is to be delivered within our church family. Contact the individual, take it and drop it off at their home in the upcoming week to share the love of Christ this Christmas!

Melissa





END OF YEAR GIVING

From the Lyon's Den

'Tis the season for decorations, Christmas music and email boxes filled with Christmas sale bargains. There's lots of messaging going on this time of year. May I offer you a biblical one? It is the season of generosity. The birthing cry from the ancient stable of Bethlehem heralded the greatest gift ever given to humanity. His name is Jesus. He grew to live a generous life of self giving for all who would receive him even to the ultimate act of laying down his life so ours could be made secure for eternity.



That's amazing generosity that models for us a way of life as we follow him. Not many of us will be asked to lay down our lives for another but as followers of Jesus we follow his lead and sharing our

lives and resources with others along the way.

During this season you may have the opportunity to bless someone you don't even know through your generosity. We have many really fine organizations in our High Point community who are serving under resourced families and individuals. Maybe this year you pick one or two of them and bless them with a financial gift. Even with the pandemic some of us have been blessed financially this year and could make an impact for good with a year-end gift.

Your Wesley Memorial Church family is also serving the larger High Point community in substantial ways and would use your generous year end gifts in God honoring ways.

There are lots of ways to give through direct contributions, appreciated assets (stocks, real estate etc.), life insurance policies and other ways that can benefit you as well as the recipients of your gifts. If you are interested in learning more about alternative gifts I will be glad to share some resources with you about that.

My great wish and hope for you this season is that you and those God has given you to love experience the fullness of God's generosity in the gift of Jesus.

Joyful Christmas Friends,

Pastor Ken

2020 Giving Deadlines

In order for your tax-deductible contributions to appear on your 2020 giving record, here are some options and important deadlines:

- Give at one of the remaining Sunday worship services
- Mail your check postmarked by **12/31**
- Contribute on line at www.wesleymemorial.org/ Give by **12/15**
- Use your bank's bill pay system by **12/15**
- If giving stock, ask for the transfer to be completed by **12/15**
- Bring your gift to the church office by Wednesday **12/30** before 12 noon.

Thank you for making a difference in countless lives in this community and around the world.



The Reverend Dr.
Ken Lvon

Associate Pastor for Generosity & Congregational Vitality

klyon@wesleymemorial.org 336.812.4811

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT, CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS, HONOR CARDS & WHITE CHRISTMAS



The Administrative Team invites the congregation to bless our staff with a financial gift at Christmas. To participate, please make a check out to WMUMC and mark "Staff Bonus" in the memo line. You may place your check in a Sunday offering plate, mail to the church, OR drop off at the Front Desk. You can also contribute on-line.

Thank you for helping us express gratitude to our wonderful staff. Please make your contribution on or before **Sunday**, **December 6**.

Questions? Please contact Tom Smothers at tdsmothers@me.com.

You may also reach out to our 2020/21 Administrative Team which includes: Mary Sansing, Jim Holcomb, Samantha Klemme, Harvey Lowd, Lore Fariss, David Pruette, Henry McMullan, Don Shaw, Tom Smothers, Iris Sunshine, Alisha Boger, Dan Smoak, Jerry Cornwell, Kyle Brown, and George McLarty.

Thank you, in advance, for your generous consideration!

2020 Administrative Team



We will decorate the church for Christmas this year! If you would like to order your Christmas Memorials in honor or memory of a loved one, please call Sue Schoch at 336.812.4806. You may order wreaths or poinsettias to decorate the church. We will not be decorating the Chapel this year due to COVID, but we will decorate the Sanctuary and the Contemporary Service in the Dining Hall. Please place your order now!

The **Open Door Ministries Honor Card** is a marvelous way to recognize a client, employee, friend, or family member, while at the same time giving a meaningful gift to someone in need.

With a minimum gift of \$5 per card, you receive an Honor Card for your business or family allowing you to show your support for the community while acknowledging others during the holidays.



Visit their events page to request your cards or learn more: www.opendoorministrieshp.org/events

WESLEY MEMORIAL SCHOOL

(Some Favorite Pictures from the Fall)











WE REMEMBER OUR LOVED ONES

In Memory Of

Gifts Received July 2020

Robert Blue (Bob): Mike & Susan Samuel

George Clark: Bill & Caroline McGuinn

Kitty Coble: Dianne & Hoyt Hackney

Howard & Kitty Coble: John, Wendy, Davis &

Patrick Millard

Allene Compton (mother of Laney Morris):

Lucille Duncan, Ivey & Richard Orr

Willodean Hoskins: Jim & Sandra Marsh, Harold & Betty Martin, Linda & David McCoy, Ivey &

Richard Orr, Royster & Donna Tucker

Marion Ingram: Liz Jones

Frances McGee: Dorothy Huff, Jim & Sandra

Marsh

Cheryl Riggs Rice: Mary Ann Bohi

Carole Norman Willmott: David & Eugenia

Pruette, Ray & Liz Rogers

Meryle Wilson: Harold & Betty Martin, John

Peeler, Cynthia Story Tobin

Gifts Received August 2020

Dorothy Adams (mother of David Adams): Jim

& Marti Holcomb

Margaret Amos (Peggy): Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Pat Anderson: Bill Anderson

Robert Blue (Bob): Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Eugene Bohi (Gene): Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Jean Bowman: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Pete Brewer: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Kitty & Howard Coble: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Geneva Craig: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Robert Culp, III (Rob): Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Frances Cushwa: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Michael Delgaudio: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Doris & David Dowdy, Jr.: Beverly & Kurt

Koontz

Bernard Fitzgerald: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Susan Hines Gurley: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Willodean Hoskins: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Orion Hutchinson: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

W. Edwin James: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Strupe Lackey: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Wanna McAnally: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Frances McGee: Jordan & Ann Reece

Wade & Marion McInnis (on their anniversary):

Steve McInnis

Elizabeth & Bill Mewborne: Beverly & Kurt

Koontz

Ellen Rives Millis: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Patricia Morakis (Pat): Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Bill Osborne (brother of Barry Osborne):

Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Bettye Packer: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Wayne Patterson (father of Jeff Patterson):

Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Joseph Charles Shackleford: Beverly & Kurt

Koontz

Jean Stockton: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Doug Susong: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Jack M. Swinney: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Juanita Thomas (mother of Judi Osborne):

Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Rob Walden: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Geneva Crowder Warren: Beverly & Kurt

Koontz

Pat McMullen Warth: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Meryle Wilson: Jim & Marti Holcomb, Mary

Lyon, Helen Lyon Tinsley

Louise Zimmerman: Beverly & Kurt Koontz

Gifts Received September 2020

Doris Byles (mother of Michael Byles): Debbie & Tom Smothers

Allene Compton (mother of Laney Morris): Charlotte Amos & Jim Anthony, Barbara & Paul Coughlin, Mary & Tom Mason

Sandra Federico: Bank of America Private Bank, Mary & Michael Drummond, Broadus Embler, II, Jonathan Feczko, Mr. & Mrs. Russell Federico, Irene Honbarrier, Ed & Mary Horton, Mary Kebrdle, Richard Kebrdle, Bill & Caroline McGuinn, Bobby & Fran Howell Miller, Timothy Plaut, Sentinel Services, Inc., Trotter Sewing Co., Judy, Carroll & Susan Turner, Barbara Williamson, John Woolsey

Willodean Hoskins: Libby & Charlie Cheek, Jeanette & Tommy Langley

Harold Martin: Charlotte Amos & Jim Anthony, Anne & Norman Andrews, Jerry Bain, Janie & Bob Bass, Martha & Edwin Bass, Barbara & James Beck, Barbara Berrier, Gene & Lou Bouldin, Tom & Bonnie Broadwater, Dwight & Jean Bumgarner, Century Study Club, Libby & Charlie Cheek, "Chics Who Read" Book Club, Jennifer & David Covington, Ned & Katherine Covington, Gerald Crowder, Sue & Ron Crowder, Bobby & Elaine Davis, Fredericka & Robert Davis, Friends & Associates at Davis-Martin-Powell, Donald & Annie Douglass, Lucille Duncan, Dorsay & Keith Eichhorn, Alice Ervin, Butch & Suzie Farabow, Barbara Frye, Ken Geddie, Jean Gooding, Karen & Jim Gooding, Jean Herring, Joe & Olivia Humble, Betsy Hunt, Gayle Kearns, Nan & Buck Kester, Joni & Warren Lackey, Jeanette & Tommy Langley, Bart Lassiter Family, Lois & Wade Markham, Jane Martin, Judith Martin & Anna Brown, Melinda & Eddie Martin, Mary & Tom Mason, Kay & Dusty Maynard, Bill & Caroline McGuinn, George & Patty McLarty, Judy Mendenhall, Bill & Cindy Milliken, Joe & Judy Needham, Mr. & Mrs. H. Stuart Nunn, Jr., Karen Odom, Richard & Ivey Orr and Joann McCuiston, John Peeler, Vivian Penry, Kathryn Powell, Julie & Dickie Price, Floyd & Dixie Pugh, Nido & Mariana Qubein, Bobbie Rasmussen, Ann & Jordan Reece, Mike & Susan Samuel, Erin Sanders, Debbie & Tom Smothers, Jupy Stout & family, Charles & Vanessa Surles, Charlie & Patsy Surles, Peter & Jo Thompson, Bootsy Tucker, Royster & Donna Tucker, Elizabeth Tuttle, Dr. & Mrs. Ed Weller

Kitsy Tennant (morther of Chris, Braden & Tyler Covington): Jeanette & Tommy Langley, Nido & Mariana Qubein, Ryves, Liz & Ray Rogers, Mike & Susan Samuel

Gifts Received October 2020

Jerry Lovelace Bain: Janie & Bob Bass, Harriet Bennett, Courtney & Fred Best, Suzanne Bland, Gene & Lou Bouldin, Linda Chafin, Elizabeth & Bill Davis, Dorsay & Keith Eichhorn, Kay English, Ken Geddie, Martha Hayworth, Jean Herring, Peggy Honeycutt, Sarah Kemm, Betty Martin, Bill & Caroline McGuin, Katherine Montgomery, Gloria & Dan Odom, John Peeler, Kay & Dave Phillips, James & Helen Runyan, Jupy Stout, Charlie & Patsy Surles, Gene Wasmer, Gloria Wilson

Sandra Federico: James & Helen Runyan

Willodean Hoskins: Dr. & Mrs. Bill Stewart

Harold Martin: Peggy Honeycutt, Judy & Corky Hustrulid, Bobby & Debbie Irvin, Sarah Kemm, Patricia Sloan, Nancy & Mark Warburton

Jane Young (wife of Garland Young): Charlie & Patsy Surles

In Honor Of

Gifts Received July 2020

David & Jennifer Covington: Tina Thomasson

Stephanie & John Edwards: David & Beth Breece

Gifts Received September 2020

Scott Howell: Susanna Wesley SS Class

Cynthia Reddick: Barbara Frye

Gifts Received October 2020

Ann Marie Chilton: Libby & Charlie Cheek

Jeff Patterson: Jackie Shackelford, Dr. & Mrs.

Bill Stewart

Vivian and Gaston Penry: Lois & Wade

Markham

Angel Tree Christmas Outreach



Take part this year in a Wesley Memorial outreach that has been a Christmas tradition for over 10 years! Experience the joy of sharing God's love with a child in High Point whose parent(s) are incarcerated. Each child has shared their Christmas gift desires, name, and age with us.

Starting December 1, you can go online to select the child that you would like to purchase gifts for this Christmas. (*Look for information about the link in the Wesley Weekly and on the website*). Go

shopping for the listed items, wrap them in Christmas paper, and place them in a large plastic bag with the child's name clearly labeled on it.

Bring the bag of wrapped gifts to the church by Sunday, December 13.

- 1. Leave your bag(s) of gifts on the benches outside the administrative building between 9:00 am-2:00 pm Monday Friday.
- 2. Bring your bag of gifts with you to worship on **December 6 and 13** and leave in designated space.
- 3. Drive-thru Drop-off, Sunday December 13 between 8:00 am -1:00 pm (Sanctuary Porte Cochère)

The bags of gifts will be distributed to the children at our community wide Christmas Drive Thru Nativity Experience on December 20. Thank you for being a blessing to these children!

Calling All Audio-Visual Volunteers

As many of you know, Wesley Memorial has been undergoing state of the art audio visual upgrades across our campus. With the exciting new possibilities this technology offers also comes a need for more volunteers, and that's where you come in!

Please consider serving one Sunday a month (*or more*) in 2021:

- Sanctuary: operating audio, camera operation or livestream
- Fellowship Hall: operate theatrical lighting, slides/media, camera operation, livestream
- Any experience level and any age (15+) is welcome to serve!
- Work with state of the art equipment and help hundreds worship with us online!

Contact Clark at **cchilton@wesleymemorial.org** with any questions and to take part in a thorough training process.

Due to challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be **NO LOVEFEAST SERVICE** this year.

IN-PERSON

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT AND HOLY COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICES

LIMITED SEATING • REGISTRATION REQUIRED www.wesleymemorial.org

3:00 PM CONTEMPORARY
Dining Hall

5:00 PM TRADITIONAL Sanctuary

11:00 PM TRADITIONAL Sanctuary

Capacity: 100-150 persons per worship space Reserve your space today!

www.wesleymemorial.org