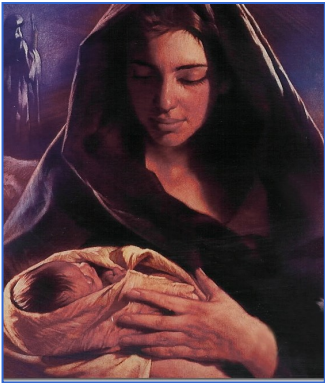


The Communicator Volume XXXVI Issue 12
FRANCIS ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
725 ASBURY ROAD
PO BOX 67
CANDLER, NC 28715
828.667.3950
office@faumc.com
www.FAUMC.com



The FAUMC Choir & Ensemble
will present the Christmas Cantata
“Child of Mystery”



on Sunday,
December 10
at 11am
during morning
worship.

Composed and
Arranged by
Jess T. Mills IV,
Music Director
of FAUMC.

Rich with musical blends, scripture &
a touch of mystery. Get ready for a
unique and amazing musical journey!
*Thank you, Jess Mills, for sharing your
many musical talents with us!*

**The Children’s
Christmas Program**



will be presented on
Sunday, December 17
at 11am during morning
worship. A Church Lunch &
visit from Santa will follow.



FRANCIS ASBURY UMC

PRAISING GOD • GROWING SPIRITUALLY • REACHING NEIGHBORS

THE COMMUNICATOR

Volume XXXVI Issue 12

DECEMBER 2023

Welcome
to Our Church

Sunday
Worship
at
11 am

IN MINISTRY

Ministers & Missionaries-
ALL MEMBERS

Pastor	Avery White
Lay Leader	Charlie Kooles
Music Director	Jess Mills
Administrator	Danya Sellers
Custodian	Glenda Shook
C&FM Director	Megan Serzan
Nursery	Amy Dayton
Faith C. Nurse	Dora Brown, RN



Ladies Advent Tea
on Sunday,
December 3rd
at 3pm in the
Fellowship Hall.
The FAB Women
are excited to host

this annual Ladies Advent Tea.
Delicious Russian tea, beautifully
decorated tables, sweet & savory
finger foods, Jess Mills providing
our accompaniment, special music
and a message for Advent will make
for a delightful afternoon for all who
have reserved a spot. Our Guest Speaker
is Tonya Garrison (niece of Rosie Kooles).



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:2, 6

The bible gives us many **names for Jesus**. From the prophets in the Old Testament foretelling the **Promised One**, to the annunciation by the angel Gabriel in Luke, to the **“I Am”** statements made by **Jesus** himself in the Gospels, each name helps us to grasp the identity of the second person in the Trinity. In this season of Advent, we will consider some of these names and come to understand them better. Beginning on the last Sunday of the Christian year with **“King,”** we will then consider **“Emmanuel,” “Son of God,”** and **“Messiah.”** In your personal devotion time, you might consider, and study, other **names** such as: **Redeemer, Good Shepherd, Bread of Life, Lamb of God, the Word, Alpha and Omega, the Way, the Truth, the Life,** and others you find in scripture.

As we worship and study during this season, we will also participate in a book study together, reading and conversing about *Light of the World*, by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. We will worship through music and drama, with the presentation of Child of Mystery, a cantata composed and directed by our own Jess Mills, and a Christmas play presented by our FAUMC young disciples. We will even experience Bethlehem as it might have been on the night when Jesus was born, as we visit ABCCM’s Return to Bethlehem at Groce UMC. As always, we will continue to worship together, pray with and for one another, and reach neighbors through acts of friendship, generosity, and service.

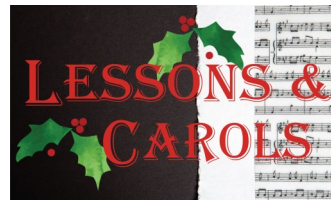
I am grateful to be on the journey with you, as we worship and celebrate the gift of Love born in Bethlehem.

In Christ’s Love, *Pastor Avery*



**Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Service at 5pm**
in the Sanctuary.
Please join us for this
Meaningful Service.
*What a great way
to spend your
Christmas Eve!*

**Join us
for**



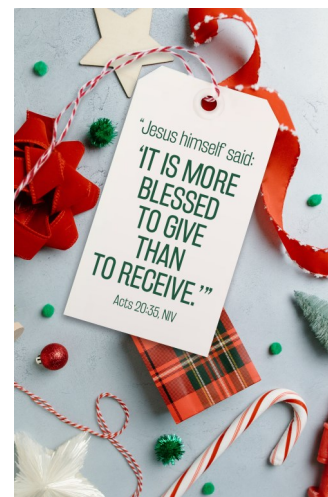
on Sunday, Dec. 31 at 11am.

This is a very casual service.
Sign-up in the Penley Room to take part
in the service by being a Lay Reader.



CHRISTMAS SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES at ENKA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Through Sunday,
December 10, we are
collecting
Gift Cards in
amounts of
\$25 or less.



We are also
accepting
Monetary
donations
(marked
**“EMS
Christmas”**)
to purchase
additional
gift cards.

*Please contact Vanessa Champlin
(EMS Coordinator) or Danya Sellers
with questions.*

EMS Prayer Partners Ministry

Prayer partners commit to pray daily for a staff member, send an encouraging card or note monthly, and send a small gift on their staff member’s birthday and at Christmas.

**4 Prayer Partners are still needed to
accommodate the 10 EMS Staff re-
quests for prayer.** If you are interested,
please sign up in the Penley Room or
contact Jean Jones at 512-745-7125
or jgjanc@gmail.com.

**Thank you for your continuing
support to students and staff
at Enka Middle School!**



Christmas
Blessings &
love from the
Church Staff!

*Pastor Avery,
Danya, Jess,
Glenda Faye,
Megan & Amy*



FAUMC Christmas Card Delivery Service

Bring your Christmas
cards for church family
to the Penley Room
to be distributed by
adorable kids & youth with beautiful
smiles. Cards will be delivered
December 17. Donations appreciated.
Children’s Ministry Fundraiser.



Family Fun Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 10 at 1pm

We’ll share a **soup lunch** in the Fellowship
Hall. Soup provided. **Bring a simple side dish**
to share. Then, we’ll go visit FAUMC Family
and bring lots of **Christmas cheer** for all
to hear. Followed by an outing to
ABCCM’s “Return to Bethlehem” at 4pm
hosted by Groce UMC. All are invited!

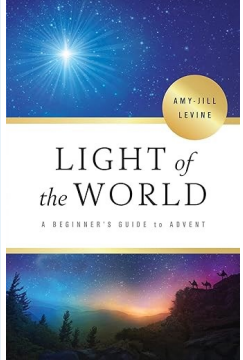
 **Friday, December 1st** starting at **6pm** at the Home of Veronica Crook (1114 Perch Fly Ct in Biltmore Lake). Join us for **Appetizers** followed by a **Christmas Devotion (Ho-ho-flippin' ho)**, **Supper** and **Christmas Ornament Exchange**. Please bring a tasty dish to share and a wrapped Christmas ornament. **Tacky Christmas Attire & Christmas PJs welcome!** **All ladies are invited for a FABulous time!**

Prepare Him Room-A Virtual Event with Kristi McLelland on Tuesday, December 5 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.




This is an invitation to intentionally make space to seek Jesus amid the season. Discover that the Christmas story is better than we've ever known as we dive into its historical and cultural context. All ladies are welcome! Bring an appetizer or dish to share.

 **Angel Breakfast** **Sunday, December 24** during **Children's Church time for Ages 3-12.**

 **Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent**, by Amy-Jill Levine **Advent Study** **Remaining Mondays- Dec. 4, 11 & 18** at **6:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Led by Pastor Avery. Bring the "Light of the World" book and your bible to the study. **Men & Women welcome!**

 **JOY Meeting** on **Tuesday, Dec. 19** at **10:30am**. **Cathy Zuber** will share the Devotional. **All are Ladies are welcome!**

 **First Step Farm for Women Dessert & Christmas Treats Delivery on Monday, Dec. 18 at 5:30pm.** Attention FAB Ladies: Please have your **15 Christmas Treats** for the First Step Farm Women in FAB room **by Sunday, Dec. 17.**

 **2024 FAUMC Directories** to be printed soon. Do we have your correct address, phone number, email address, birthday, etc? Please see Danya Sellers ASAP with any updates, place in wood box in Narthex, offering plate or email updates to office@faumc.com. Thank you for helping us maintain accurate records.

YOUTH, COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY




Tuesday, December 26 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall & Gym. Lots of fun, games, pizza, dessert & a gift swap. Please bring a \$10 gift for the swap. **RSVP to Melanie Hudson (273-2656) by Friday, Dec. 22** so she'll know how much pizza to order. **Bring a friend & join us for an evening that's drip!**

 **FREE FOOD PANTRY & MARKET**

Our next FREE Food Pantry & Market is Thursday, December 21 from 3-5pm in the Gym. Please see Vanessa Champlin or Danya Sellers to volunteer.

UNITED METHODIST MEN **Hominy Valley UMM 5th Sunday MEETING & BREAKFAST on Sunday, Dec. 31 at 7:30am.** All men are invited!

A Little Advice from Nurse Dora  **FAUMC NURSE THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL CONNECTIONS**

Friendships become more important as we age, yet social connections for seniors can be more difficult to create and maintain. Many older adults find it difficult to make new friends after retirement, which can lead to feelings of loneliness and social isolation. It's not because seniors lack the social skills to make and maintain new friendships, rather they don't have access to regular opportunities or social engagement with their peers.

Studies show social isolation is associated with decreased cognitive function and increased symptoms of anxiety and depression. Social activities and events for seniors that promote autonomy, support mastering a familiar or new subject, and enhance friendships between others are especially likely to improve the well-being of those who participate. Along with improving symptoms of anxiety and depression and increasing cognitive function, healthy social connections may promote more self-confidence, better sleep and enhanced mood. Studies also show strong social connections significantly reduce the rate of cognitive decline and dementia while also having positive physical effects on the body such as improving cardiovascular health. Overall, staying socially active can create a positive impact on both our mental and physical health as we age.

Health & Happiness- **Dora Brown, RN, Faith Community Nurse**



DECEMBER

2023



**Francis Asbury
United Methodist
Church**
(828) 667-3950
www.faumc.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																
PEW PRAYERS 3-FAB Women 10-Ladies Class 17-Men's Class 24-Young Adult Class 31-DOP	LAY READERS 3-Megan Serzan 10-Pam Hall 17-Glen Champlin 24-C. Rice 31-Inez Clark	YD MOMENT 3-Danya Sellers 10-Jean Jones 17-Kid's Play 24-Megan Serzan 31-Pastor Avery	<table><tr><td colspan="7">January 2024</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	January 2024							S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					1 Office Closed 6 pm Ladies Christmas Gathering at the Home of Veronica Crook	2 Fellowship Hall Reserved for Advent Tea Prep
January 2024																																																							
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3 Advent 1 10 Sunday School 10 Kid's Cantata Practice 11 Worship & Holy Communion 3 pm Advent Tea	4 3:30-4:30 Gym Reserved: FDNSC 6-8pm: Gym Reserved: BVA 6:30 pm Light of the World Advent Study	5 6pm Prepare Him Room Virtual Event in the Fellowship Hall 6:30-7:30 pm Gym: Cub Scouts	6 4:45-5:45pm Cantata Ensemble Practice 6-7:30 pm Choir Practice 6-8pm: Gym Reserved: BVA		7 5-7pm: Gym Reserved: Futsal 7-9pm: Gym Reserved: BVA	8 Office Closed	9 1-3pm Choir Final Cantata Rehearsal 5-9:30pm Gym: Smoky Mountain Dance Club																																																
10 Advent 2 10 Sunday School 10 Cantata Run Through 11 Worship & "Child of Mystery" Cantata 12 Soup Lunch 1-3:30pm Caroling 4 pm Return to Bethlehem	11 3:30-4:30 Gym Reserved: FDNSC 6-8pm: Gym Reserved: BVA 6:30 pm Light of the World Advent Study	12 11:15 am Parkinson's CarePartner Group 3:30-5:30 Gym Reserved: FDNSC 6:30-7:30 pm Gym: Cub Scouts	13 6-8pm: Gym Reserved: BVA		14 5-7pm: Gym Reserved: Futsal 7-9pm: Gym Reserved: BVA	15 Office Closed	16 10am-4pm Fellowship Hall Reserved: Rudisill 5pm Gym Reserved: Cub Scouts Lock-in																																																
17 Advent 3 10 Sunday School 10 Kid's Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal 11 Worship & Kid's Christmas Play 12 Church Lunch & A Visit from Santa	18 5:15 pm Meet to Carpool 5:30 pm Christmas Treats to FSF 6-8pm: Gym: BVA 6:30 pm Light of the World Advent Study	19 10:30am Joy Group 5-7pm: Gym Reserved: Futsal	20 6-8pm: Gym Reserved: BVA		21 3-5 pm in Gym  7-9pm: BVA	22 Office Closed RSVP Deadline for Young Adult Christmas Party Melanie Hudson (828-273-2656)	23																																																
24 Advent 4 10 Sunday School 11 Worship 11 Angel Breakfast 5 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service in the Sanctuary	25 Christmas Day 	26 Office Closed 6pm Young Adult Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall & Gym	27 6-7:30 pm Choir Practice		28	29 Office Closed	30																																																
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- 1 Glenda Faye Shook
1 Calix Larimer
2 Peggy Milroy
4 Patti Minzer
15 Wilson Serzan
17 Gordon Ponder
25 Gwen Rand
26 Bob Massie



- 28 Dick & Connie Greene
30 Walt & Arlyn Martin

