

ORDER OF WORSHIP
MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 27, 2020 11:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Broadcast over WGOS-AM 1070 and on Facebook Live

GATHERING AND GREETING

Prelude Flourish on "Joy to the World!" Robert Hobby
Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit Of the Father's Love Begotten DIVINUM MISTERIUM
Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he
of the things that are, that have been
and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.
O ye heights of heaven, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.

Welcome and Parish Notes Reverend Rodney Denton

Call to Worship
Praise the Christ-child, the newborn Prince of Peace!
We have been redeemed. We are no longer afraid.
Praise to the God who has come to us in the flesh!
We are being created. We are no longer afraid.
Praise to the Spirit who calls us together to serve!
We will be sustained. We are no longer afraid.
Come, let us worship God!

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Song of Praise Christmas Day Gustav Holst
Choral Fantasy on Old Carols
Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!
God rest ye merry gentle friends, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
Oh tidings of comfort and joy!
Come, ye lofty, come, ye lowly, Let your songs of gladness ring;
In a stable lies the Holy, In a manger rests the King;
See, in Mary's arms reposing, Christ by highest heaven adored;
Come, your circle round Him closing, Pious hearts that love the Lord.
The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

The 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.

Moment with the Children Reverend Lynda Hepler

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

Meditation In dulci júbilo Michael Praetorius
Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!
Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened the heaven's door, and ye are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!
Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Sermon Christmas Reverend Danny Leonard
"The Story Continues"
Matthew 2:13-23

SENDING FORTH

Response This Christmastide Donald Fraser
(Jessye's Carol)
Green and silver, red and gold, and a story born of old
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide

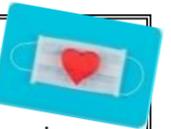
Holly, ivy, mistletoe, and the gently falling snow
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide
From a simple ox's stall came the greatest gift of all
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide
Children sing of peace and joy at the birth of one small boy
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide
Let the bells ring loud and clear, ring out now for all to hear
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide
Trumpets sound and voices raises in an endless stream of praise
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide
Green and silver, red and gold, and a story born of old
Peace and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide

Benediction Rev. Leonard

Postlude Fantasy on ANTIOCH Michael Burkhardt

What to Expect at Indoor Worship

- Some pews are blocked to maintain social distancing.
- Face masks are required for everyone.
- Out of respect for others, please refrain from shaking hands or hugging.
- Offering plates are available at the entrance and exit of the sanctuary.
- At the end of the service, the congregation will be dismissed by section.
- No nursery staff are present, but the nursery space is available.



Today's Musicians

Ardmore Brass: Luke Boudreault & Steve Sutton, trumpet
Seth Frack & Sean Devlin, trombone
Brent Harvey, tuba
Priscilla & Tara Oldaker, soloists

Today's Scripture - Matthew 2:13-23 (NRSV)

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."
¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,
¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."
¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.
¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:
¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."
¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰"Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."



Today's featured Chrismon: The Crèche

Nativity scenes, a common sight at Christmastime, have a lot of spiritual lessons if you look hard enough. St. Francis of Assisi created the first crèche in 1223, in an attempt to bring the focus of Christmas back to the birth of Christ and away from material, gift-giving customs.

United Methodist Jeanne Honeycutt has spent time researching the meaning behind variations in crèche displays, and explains some of the symbols below:

Stable: Most scholars believe that the stable referred to in the Gospels was most likely a cave built into the rocks behind, or adjacent to, the inn, which illustrates the divine truth that the Son of God came down to the very heart of the earth to dwell among humanity. Later, the cave would be revered as Christ's burial place, from which he would be resurrected.

Jesus' outstretched arms: The Christ Child's outstretched arms reflect the invitation to salvation through him.

Swaddling clothes: Swaddling clothes, as described in the New Testament, foretell Jesus' burial shroud.

The stable animals: The ox and ass illustrate that Christ is the king of all creation, both human and animal. The ox is believed to represent patience while the ass connotes humility.

Lambs: Having accompanied the shepherds, lambs are almost always present. The lamb symbolizes purity and points toward Jesus' sacrificial death upon the cross.

Palm branches: Romans acknowledged the palm branch as a symbol of victory. In a nativity, palms represent the branches waved on Christ's entry into Jerusalem and foretells his triumph over the grave.

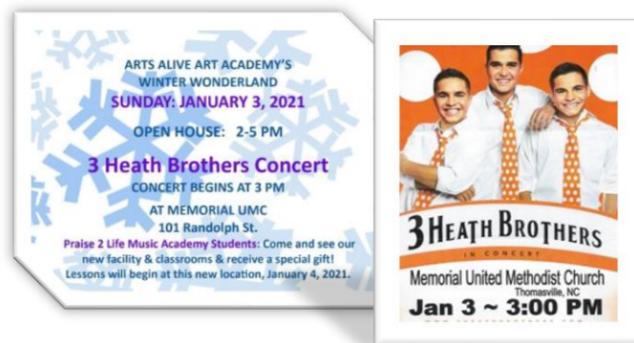
* Paraphrased from <https://www.umc.org/en/content/nativity-scenes-more-than-meets-the-eye>, 12/22/2020.

Announcements

ARTS ALIVE OPEN HOUSE 🎨 January 3, 2-5 p.m.

We welcome students and staff from Praise 2 Life Music Academy, who are joining Arts Alive!

Our open house will feature a free concert by **The 3 Heath Brothers** at 3 p.m.



NO ALTERNATIVE GIFTS, BUT...
To our wonderfully generous MUMC family: Given the COVID-19 dynamics of this particular season, the Missions Committee is not able to host our Annual Alternative Gifts Campaign. Given the in-person nature of our in-house ordering, printing, and distribution system, we feel it best to suspend the effort during Advent. The needs of our neighbors these agencies serve, however, have NOT diminished. In fact, for many organizations their outreach has expanded.

As you pray and ponder how to best come alongside those who struggle, please consider donating to ministries/agencies/organizations that have been on our lists of previous years. There are no forms or cards, but WE can still make a difference. As you make out and

mail your checks to the selected places, please confirm the proper addresses. Our gratitude for you abounds and we look forward to a better 2021!
Some options include:
Cooperative Community Ministry
Davidson Medical Ministries
Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club
Salvation Army Davidson County
Dragonfly House
UMCOR (*The church office may can help with Advance Numbers.*)
Crossnore School & Children's Home
Project Divine Interruption (PDI) (*Please make the check out to MUMC with "PDI" on memo line.*)
Lexington Housing Community Development Corporation
Meals on Wheels - Thomasville
ZOE Ministry
Project AGAPE
Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event
Again, thank you for continuing to be our neighbor's keeper. In doing so we, too, are kept.

Calendar

SUNDAY DECEMBER 27

First Sunday after Christmas

- 10 R.L. Pope Class Online: Richard Herman
- 11 Live Worship In-Person & Online No Youth

MONDAY DECEMBER 28

- 10 10@10 Devotion

TUESDAY DECEMBER 29

- 9-10 Men's Prayer Group (*Contact: Tim Lyons, tlyons00@gmail.com*)
- 10 10@10 Devotion
- No Yoga

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30

- The Weekly Update (Facebook Live)
- 6 Youth Small Groups Online

THURSDAY DECEMBER 31

- 10 10@10 Devotion

FRIDAY JANUARY 1, 2021

New Year's Day

- 10 10@10 Devotion

SUNDAY JANUARY 3

First Sunday after Christmas

- 10 R.L. Pope Class Online: Jim McGhee
- 11 Live Worship In-Person & Online
- 2-5 Arts Alive Open House
- 3 The 3 Heath Brothers Concert
- No Youth

Prayer List

If you or a loved one would like to be added to the prayer list, please contact Lorna McCullough at 336-259-5814. If you put a name on the list, please keep in touch to let us know how that person is doing, as names are removed after three weeks. During the coming week, please pray for:

*Beverly Myers
Sydney Hicks
Britt Martin Williams
Peggy Graham
Cyril Harrington
Brad Hulin
Jessie Collett
Jaime Worsham
Barbara Westmoreland
Roy Flanagan
Our country and healing for all
Jennifer Ruff
Margie Collins
Carol Kaiser
Josef Walker
Dean Sharpe-Austin
Finley Price family
Andrea Cain and family
Tim Priska
Chris Eddinger
Peace and justice in our nation, state, and city
Our first responders, medical community, and essential workers
All those affected by COVID-19
All military personnel
Our United Methodist missionaries
The United Methodist Church*

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Beth Gobble and family on the death of Beth's mother, Loretta Groome, December 18, 2020. The obituary for Loretta can be found at jcgreenandsons.com.

Church Staff

Danny B. Leonard, dleonard@mumctville.org	Senior Minister
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Lynda C. Hepler, lhepler@mumctville.org	Minister of Children & Families
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Peggy May, pmay@mumctville.org	Financial Secretary/Treasurer
Susan Frye, sfrye@mumctville.org	Executive Secretary
Jarry Oldaker, joldaker@mumctville.org	Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds



Sunday December 27, 2020 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

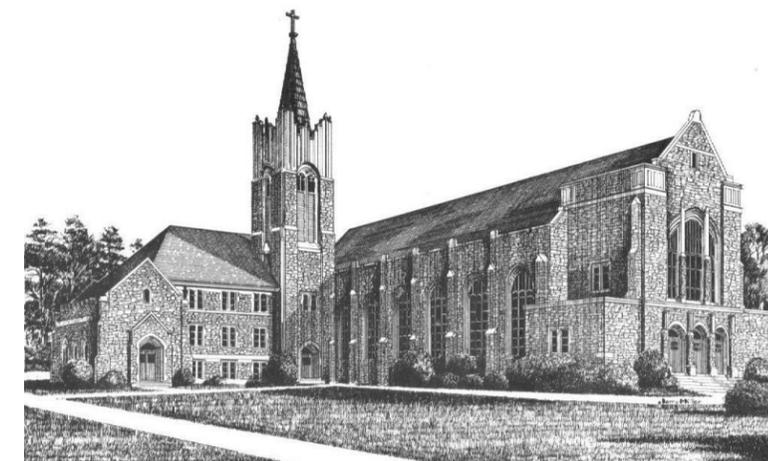
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Ministers

DANNY B. LEONARD
Senior Minister

RODNEY W. DENTON
Minister of Youth & Young Adults

LYNDA C. HEPLER
Minister of Children & Families



**We are called by Christ to Grow in Faith,
Build Relationships, and Serve All People.**