

# Union United Methodist Church

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Norma Jean Harbin, Organist

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**Bulletin – December 7, 2025**

***Signs & Stories***

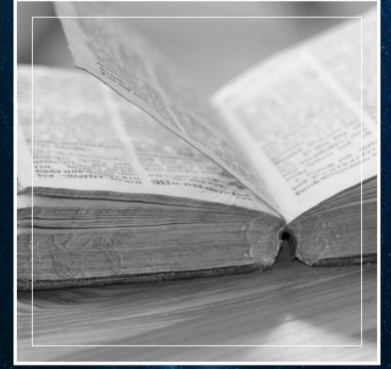
**Second Sunday of Advent 2025**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Opening Prayer**

**Advent Candle Lighting – 2nd Sunday of Advent**

**SIGNS AND STORIES**



First Reader:

Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

**All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.**

Second Reader:

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

**\*\* Light the 2<sup>nd</sup> Purple candle of the Advent wreath. \*\***

**Call to Worship**

**\*\* P – Pastor    Bold – C: Congregation responds \*\***

P: Beloved, we gather to remember who we are, not who the world tells us to be.

**C: We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.**

P: We recall the story of God's people, how God has called us to live in peace and righteousness in a world full of conflict and twisted morality.

**C: We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.**

P: We recount the story of our journey with God, the moments of God's provision, God's prodding, and God's prophetic guidance.

**C: We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.**

P: We gather to repent and return anew to God's story that guides our lives to work for peace and flourishing for all God's creation.

**C: We gather to tell the story of the day that all the earth awaits.**  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Our Statement of Faith – The Apostles Creed**

p. 881 UMH

**\*\* All to recite in unison \*\***

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

**The Gloria Patri**

p. 70 UMH

*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!*

**Opening Hymn – Open My Eyes, That I May See**

p. 454 UMH

**Sharing Our Praises & Prayers**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Offering – Ushers come forward**

**Doxology** p. 95 UMH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise him, all creatures here below;*

*Praise him above, ye heav'nly host,*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**Old Testament Reading – Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (CEB)**

**\*\* L – Leader Bold – C: Congregation responds \*\***

L: <sup>1</sup> God, give your judgments to the king. Give your righteousness to the king's son.

C: <sup>2</sup> **Let him judge your people with righteousness and your poor ones with justice.**

L: <sup>3</sup> Let the mountains bring peace to the people; let the hills bring righteousness.

C: <sup>4</sup> **Let the king bring justice to people who are poor; let him save the children of those who are needy, but let him crush oppressors!**

L: <sup>5</sup> Let the king live as long as the sun, as long as the moon, generation to generation.

C: <sup>6</sup> **Let him fall like rain upon fresh-cut grass, like showers that water the earth.**

L: <sup>7</sup> Let the righteous flourish throughout their lives and

let peace prosper until the moon is no more.

**C: <sup>18</sup> Bless the Lord God, the God of Israel - the only one who does wondrous things!**

**All: <sup>19</sup> Bless God's glorious name forever; let his glory fill all the earth! Amen and Amen!**

**Hymn** – Good Christian Friends, Rejoice p. 224 UMH

**Gospel Reading** – Matthew 3:1-12 (CEB)

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, <sup>2</sup> “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!” <sup>3</sup> He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said: *The voice of one shouting in the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.”* <sup>4</sup> John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. <sup>6</sup> As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. <sup>7</sup> Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John. He said to them, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. <sup>9</sup> And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. <sup>10</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire. <sup>11</sup> I baptize with water those of you who have changed your hearts and lives. The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I’m not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup> The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from

the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out."

## Sermon – Signs and Stories

## Holy Communion – Service of Word & Table II

\*\* Please refer to your handout or the screen \*\*

**Closing Hymn:** Angels from the Realms of Glory                      p. 220 UMH

## Benediction & Commission

Advent people, go now in the blessing and inspiration of God to live God's story wherever you go, that your lives may be an invitation to others to join in the journey to the day that all the earth awaits.

## Lectionary Readings beginning December 8th

Isaiah 35:1-10 | Psalm 146:5-10 | James 5:7-10 | Matthew 11:2-11

## Announcements

- A gift has been given to the glory of God and in memory of Frances V. Gough by Wanda Needham
- Remember, the ***Christmas with Carson Peters*** concert will be held in the sanctuary on December 14th at 4 PM. Don't miss this big event. Plan to stay for supper afterwards in the fellowship hall.
- Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, our church won a grant of \$250 from the Yadkin Valley District in recognition of our efforts to feed the hungry. The grant will be used to purchase more food for the blessing box, but of course much more will be needed. Please continue to bring food for the blessing box. If the box is empty when you come, please

place your food directly into the box. Of course monetary donations will continue to be welcomed to purchase food for the blessing box.

## **Prayer List**

### Church Family

Wayne Bumgardner

Frank Dalton

Sherry Doub

Wanda Needham

Barbara Perryman

Frances Sisk

Peggy Willard

### Church Friend / Extended Family

Tommy Bost

Tammy Seats Boyd

Jimmy & Deborah Branch

Jane Bullin

Leisha Carpenter

Joe Dean

Mack Edwards

Mary File

Garry Harbin

Kathy Harbin

Lynda Harper

Ronald Howell

David Joyner

Charles Kurfees

Kevin McBride

Kevin McDaniel

Mark Megela

Ronnie Mudd

Jay D. Pevette

Vivian Royal

Hal Seats

Phillip Seats

Mary Ellen Smith

Kim Triplette

Mark Wall

Ann Wallace

Robert and Susan Warren

Jeremy Wilson

Savannah Wooten

## **December Birthdays**

John Hogg 3

Gabriel Pitts 4

Monica Keaton 15

Ann Wallace 15

Cameron Hogg 19

Glenna Thompson 22

Nicholas Lineberry 26

Crystal Southern 28

Will Disher 29

Mike Williard 30



## **Wesley Covenant Prayer**

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee, or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen!

## **Sermon Notes**

- Where did you hear God speaking to you in today's message?
- What main thought(s) can you use this coming week?
- Did you hear anything new and/or different from the scripture or the message today?
- What reaffirmed or challenged you?
- Additional thoughts and/or ideas?