

# Union United Methodist Church

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Rev. Randy Perdue

Norma Jean Harbin, Organist

**Bulletin – December 8, 2024**  
***Passion***  
**Come, Let Us Adore Him Worship Series**  
**Advent – Week 2**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Opening Prayer**

**Advent Candle Lighting (Peace) – Week 2**

Reader: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God’s coming salvation.

“For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness”.

**Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God’s peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God’s grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God’s love throughout the earth.**

Reader: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God’s kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

**Call to Worship**

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



P: Children of God, prepare the way! The Word of God is coming!

**C: We come to listen and receive God's Word among us.**

P: Children of God, the prophets call to us now and from generations past, urging us to prepare and refine our hearts for the coming of the Word of God. Are you listening?

**C: We come to listen and prepare to receive God's Word among us.**

P: Children of God, this is the mark of our preparation: that passion for God's Word would burn within us, cleansing us and renewing us to reflect God's love throughout the world.

**C: May God ignite our passion for God's Word that has come among us as we listen, prepare, and receive all that God has for us today. 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** – Oh Come All Ye Faithful - p. 234 UMH vv. 1,3,4

## **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 Lesson** – Malachi 3:1-4 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight--indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem

will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years.

**Congregational Hymn** – While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks  
p. 236 UMH vv. 1,2,3,6

**New Testament Reading** – Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

**Sermon** – Passion

**Holy Communion** – Service of Word & Table II

**Closing Hymn** – The First Noel p. 245 UMH vv. 1,2,4,5

**Benediction & Commission**

Go, now, blessed with a passion that refines, molds, and shapes each of our hearts to reflect God's glorious love that transforms

despair into hope, violence into peace, and distress into flourishing. Amen!

## Lectionary Readings for the week beginning December 9th:

- **Isaiah 12:2-6**
- **Zephaniah 3:14-20**
- **Philippians 4:4-7**
- **Luke 3:7-18**



## Announcements

- Thanks go out to Mike and Judy Williard for the six beautiful wreathes they provided and placed on our 3 external doors. It has been a tradition for many years that they place the wreathes on our doors for Christmas. Thanks, Mike and Judy.
- Union United Methodist Church will, again this year, present *A Classical Christmas*. On December 15, 2024 at 4 PM, Elegant Ensembles will bring its string quartet to Union to perform Christmas music favorites. We are accepting canned good donations to benefit those in need in our community. This will be another great program. Please invite your neighbors, friends, and acquaintances to hear this beautiful music and showcase our great church.
- The link to donate to the relief fund efforts provided by and supported by UMCOR and the Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC is <https://wnc-reg.brtaapp.com/br/HurricaneReliefDonations2018>.

If you prefer to pay by check, you can make the check payable To **WNCC Treasurer**, note Disaster Response in the memo line and mail to: Western North Carolina Conference

P.O. Box 2757

Huntersville, NC 28070-2757

Attn: Carol Bateman

# Prayer List

## Military / Missionary

Steve and Lena Gough

All who are serving our country at home and abroad

## Church Family

Wayne Bumgardner

Frank Dalton

Sherry Doub

Frances V. Gough

Wanda Needham

Barbara Perryman

Frances Sisk

## Church Friend / Extended Family

Tommy Bost

Tammy Seats Boyd

Jimmy & Deborah Branch

Jane Bullin

Leisha Carpenter

Glenna Culler

Joe Dean

Amanda Doub

Ruby Driver

Mack Edwards

Joanne Everhart

Mary File

Eddie Haire

Garry Harbin

Kathy Harbin

Lynda Harper

Ronald Howell

Amber Lambert

Jeannette Lanier

Kevin McBride

Kevin McDaniel

Mark Megela

Dawn Proctor

Jay D. Prevetie

Vivian Royal

Mary Ellen Smith

Kim Triplette

Mark Wall

Ann Wallace

Robert and Susan Warren

## December Birthdays

John Hogg	3	Nicholas Lineberry	26
Gabriel Pitts	4	Glenna Culler	28
Monica Keaton	15	Glenna Culler	28
Cameron Hogg	19	Will Disher	29
Glenna Thompson	22	Michael 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!