

Wesley United Methodist Church

December 5, 2021



Second Sunday *of* Advent

Gretchen Nelson, Pastor
Sylvia Krisnow, Secretary

Jerry Sowers, Minister of Music
Cynthia Campbell, Accompanist

Members of Wesley, Ministers

**The Vision of Wesley United Methodist Church is to serve
all people with the love of Jesus Christ.**

Order of Worship – 10:00 A.M. Service

Preparing Your Home & Heart for Worship

Create a space that brings reminders of God's presence. Candles. seasonal flowers. Pictures. Fill your space with Advent adorations. Before the gathering time: play music, turn off devices not used for worship, start to pay attention to your breath as a gift from God. Pray.

Gather and Spend Time with God Together

Welcome and Orientation

Centering our attention on God's Holy Presence

Gathering Centering Music

Let the music fill your hearts and spirits becoming aware of God welcoming you in love.

Call to Worship

Canticle of Zechariah

UMH 208

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who has come to set the chosen people free.

The Lord has raised up for us
a mighty Savior from the house of David.

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us;

to show mercy to our forebears
and to remember the holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship without fear,
holy and righteous in the Lord's sight,
all the days of our life. R

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. R

Opening Hymn "Blessed Be the God of Israel" UMH 209

1 Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.

The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

2 Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

3 On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Advent Wreath Lighting

Reader One: We dream God's dream, of a world at peace.
Where enemies are reconciled, and children play in safety;
where the poor and powerless find justice.

Reader Two: We remember God's promise of a Ruler of Peace,
filled with the Spirit of God, of wisdom and understanding,
of counsel and might, of justice and faithfulness.

Reader One: We light this Advent candle, and we pray:

ALL: Come Lord Jesus!

**Open our lives to the Peace which you bring;
let us turn to you, and get ready!**

Glory Sightings

Witness to God's faithfulness and love in the world. You are invited to share where have you witnessed good news. Raise a hand, write in the Facebook Comments, add into Zoom Chat.

Proclamation and Response

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-6

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, 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, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" "

Special Music

Epistle Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Meditation

Fear into Peace – Furrowed to Fruitful

Pastor Gretchen Nelson

Faith Response

ALL: God in this season suspended between hope and fulfillment, let us never forget what you have done.

May we be overwhelmed by your mercy, which flows in wave after wave. May we be honest about the darkness within us, and perceptive of the light around us.

May we make straight the path for the Lord, that together we may see God's glory revealed.

Offering

Giving is a spiritual practice of our faith. Sharing God's Good News through mission and ministry together through your covenant tithe, pledge, and offering with God. Consider healthy ways to be in service with your gifts and skills.

Musical Offering

During this musical act of praise, you are encouraged to praise God with your gifts.

Doxology “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Break Open Our Hearts with Prayer

As we share in prayer today you are encouraged to pray aloud your joys and concerns. Complete your prayer with "Lord, in your mercy" and all the people respond "Hear our prayer". Write your prayers in the Chat or Comment feed. Also please email them to the church office so the Prayer Team may continue to pray with you during the week.

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.**

Sharing Christ's Peace

This is your opportunity to practice witnessing God's shalom. Cross your arms or press hands together at your heart, bow to one another while keeping eye contact. Offer this or similar greeting: "The Christ in me greets the Christ in you. Abundant peace." Use your social media and texts to send Christ's peace out into the world.

Thanksgiving and Communion

Invitation to Christ's Table

Confession and Assurance

ALL: Loving God, be to us as a bulldozer of the spirit.
Clear your road in us; clear a path through the detritus of
possessions and obsessions. Thrust aside our divide aims
and devious games. Topple the ramparts of pride and the
doubts that deride. Make a highway on which Christ may
come and take possession of the whole territory of our
being, To the glory of your name, we pray. Amen!

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away. Your own Son came among us as a servant to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Praise God

Hymn of Praise

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

UMH 203

1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

3 He shall come down like
showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains,
shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.

2 He comes with succor speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and
dying, are precious in his sight.

4 To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end. The tide
of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever;
that name to us is love.

Blessing and Commission

One: Can you be a voice crying in the wilderness?
Can you proclaim that God is active in the world?

Many: Maybe?

One: The time is near, of the crowning of the year.

Many: We sing with angels, setting the roadways and the buildings humming.

One: As people who are being changed, we go into a world that is being changed.

Many: Ready to share the Good News that the long-expected Jesus is coming, that we are being freed from whatever binds us.

One: Glory be to God!

Who walks with us, sings with us, and struggles with us,

ALL: each and every day. Amen

Announcements/Action Steps

How shall we live as disciples this week? Highlights from the bulletin, newsletter, website, and emails. Please take time to read them all throughout the week for discipleship opportunities.

www.hamptonwesley.org

Sent Forth Singing

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Fellowship - Online, Fellowship Hall, and Outdoors.

Prayers and liturgies today: Rev. Susan A. Blain, "Dream God's Dream: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent".

<http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-a/ace/advent-service-prayers.html>

Advent reflections by Mark Pierson, <http://adventinart.org>.

Rev Gord, Worship Offerings, <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca>.

Bruce Prewer, <http://www.bruceprewer.com>.

United Methodist Book of Worship

All music used within CCLI#752546

Remember in our Prayers

Concerns: Dave McKinney, Jeff and Laura Moore, Barbie Holland, Jacob Levy, John M, Nancy Companion, Jeff Birdsall, Sheree Yoder, Joseph Gilday, Bridget Norris, Joe Brookman, Margaret Cooper, Ed Robertson, Michael McPhail, Lucy Stowe, Betsy Pinder, Mason Allen, Kath, Kenny Crocker, Eli Sweeney, Don and Pat Brookman, Mike Mee, Patty Bumgarner, Crystal Radford, Joann Walsh, Grace Burnell, Freta Lamb, Joella, Abby, Bill Mee, Zach Perkins, Caleb Coates, Zeb Cope, Pete Stone, Karen Bowers, Kevin Lykins, Joe Ames, Nina Winfree, Ben Stanley, Susan Nichols, Buddy Carlisle.

Other Concerns: The Coronavirus; the tragedies occurring in our country and around the world; police officers and first responders; all who are grieving; our seniors; our church and the entire United Methodist Church; recovery from addiction; young adults needing a closer walk with Christ; those awaiting test results; healing for those in pain.

Nation and World: Our nation, leaders, military, deployed troops and their families.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Myanmar, Thailand

Birthdays/Anniversaries: **12/05** Ray Krisnow;
12/06 Jack Rezabek, Mary Saylor



The flowers are given to the Glory of God by Sylvia Krisnow to celebrate Ray's 70th birthday.

Announcements

Offering Envelopes for the 2022 calendar year will be on the Information Counter during the month of December. Please pick up your box by December 26th so you will have them to use starting in January, or let me know if you would like me to bring them to you. If you do not have a box and want one, just let me know. Please note: I was able to reduce the number of boxes ordered for next year since many people are using bill pay and no longer need them, so your envelope number will be different in 2022. Let me know if you have any questions. Kathann Montague, Financial Secretary, 757-722-8744 or kdm8989@cox.net.

The Peninsula Community Theatre, 10251 Warwick Blvd, Newport News, will present “The Harmony Baptist Church Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Jubilee” TODAY, 5 December, 2:30 PM.

Mary Levin Bible Study/United Methodist Women Christmas Party at Carol Hale’s home: Wednesday, 8 December, 6:30 PM. Please bring a finger food and/or dessert to share. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift. \$10.00 (approximate) limit. All are welcome!

Combined Christmas Cantata, ‘The First Noel’, Sunday, 12 December, 3:00 PM, at Central UMC, 227 Chapel Street, Hampton. Choirs from First Methodist, Phoebus UMC, Central UMC and Wesley UMC will perform. **Note:** Please arrive by 2:30 PM if you are signed up to bring sandwiches or cookies. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Contact person: Jerry Sowers

The Salvation Army Angels have all been “adopted”. Thank you! Unwrapped gifts are due to the church by Monday, December 13th. Please be sure to write the child’s name and assigned number on each gift purchased. Gift bags are welcome. Contact person: Sylvia Krisnow

Christmas Poinsettias: There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to purchase Christmas Poinsettias. Please indicate how many white and/or red that you would like. The cost is \$13.00 each. Please sign-up, email the church office or call: 757-838-3044 The Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on 12 December and will remain until Christmas Eve. **Please sign up by Sunday, December 5th**. Contact person: Sylvia Krisnow

Christmas Cards: Each year there is an opportunity to write Christmas cards to anyone in the congregation. Please write the name of the individual or family on the envelope. No addresses needed. **Please bring cards by Sunday, December 12th**. The cost is 10 cents per card. The money raised will be used where it is most needed. There will be a collection box on the cabinet in the hall outside the sanctuary. **Please mark your checks or cash: “Christmas Cards”**. The cards will be sorted for delivery on Sunday, December 12th, during fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall and they will be ready for delivery the following Sunday. **Please stay during fellowship time to help sort the cards.** Contact person: Nancy Gumbert

HELP Food Pantry Update: Food Pantry needs:

Dried beans, juice, powdered milk, canned vegetables (please no green beans or corn—there is an abundance of both), cereal, pork and beans, Ramen, instant potatoes, jelly, canned fruit, canned meats (like Spam and Vienna Sausages), canned pasta meals, crackers, rice, spaghetti noodles, spaghetti sauce, snack items (single-serve snack packs), bottled water, toilet paper, soap. The donations are delivered monthly. Contact person: Sherry Moore

Church Directories: Updated directories are available in the church office. One copy per family please.

Scriptures for December 12: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

As of 5 December 2021

Sun.	05	9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service – In-Person, Zoom or Facebook
Mon.	06	5:00 PM Prayer Time on Facebook
Tues.	07	9:30 AM Chair Yoga – *FH 5:00 PM Prayer Time on Facebook 6:30 PM NA Meeting – *FH 6:00-7:30 PM Advent Bible Study on Zoom
Wed.	08	5:00 PM Prayer Time on Facebook 6:30 PM MLBS/UMW Christmas Party – Carol Hale’s home
Thurs.	09	7:00 PM Choir Practice at Central UMC
Fri.	10	
Sat.	11	
Sun.	12	9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service – In-Person, Zoom or Facebook 11:00 AM Sort Christmas Cards in the Fellowship Hall 3:00 PM Combined Christmas Cantata, Central UMC

*FH=Fellowship Hall

Worship Support

Laity	5 December 10:00	12 December 10:00
Fellowship	Donna Turley and Joyce D’Bene	Seeker Class
Ushers	Vicky Moyer and Pat Fitzgerald	Marsha Ames and Debbie Andersen
Counters	Pat Fitzgerald/Zach Eitzen	Pat Fitzgerald/Renee Arnold
Flowers	Sylvia Krisnow	Poinsettias/The Gumbert’s
CHURCH ATTENDANCE	Nov 21 39 In-Person/ 1 Zoom 29 Facebook	
OFFERING	Received: \$1,194.00	Needed each week: \$4,878.00

Secretary Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.

Phone: 757-838-3044; **Address:** 2510 N. Armistead Avenue, Hampton VA 23666-1506;

Pastor Gretchen Nelson: Cell Phone 804-896 -6785; email: gretchennelson@vaumc.org