

CORNERSTONE

GOOD SAMARITAN HOUSE *Final Days*

Our long, slow close finally reached its final days on November 21st and 22nd as we celebrated the 32 years that The Good Samaritan House has been open. As a thank you to all who had supported this ministry—through volunteering, donating, shopping, maintaining the house, and praying—all clothing and household items were free during these final two days. The house was bustling with energy, conversations, and emotions that ranged from joy to sorrow as those who came filled bags with clothing and household items, enjoyed the refreshments, shared their memories and thoughts about Good Sam verbally and with written notes. Our goal was to empty the house of as much merchandise as possible during these last two days and to let those who had supported us be the recipients of our abundance. As we closed our doors for the last time and looked around the rooms, I would say we were successful.

"Thank you" does not seem to be enough, but we do THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts.



DECEMBER EVENTS

- 1 UMM Christmas Dinner
- 6 K-5 Christmas Program Rehearsal 9am
- 7 K-5 Christmas Program at 8:30 and 11am
- 8 CHAP Toy Sorting 9am  LIFT 7pm
- 9 Stephen Ministry Meeting 10am 
- 13 Christmas Canata Rehearsal 10am
- 14 Pennies for Hunger  Christmas Cantata 4pm
- 15 Our New Normal Christmas Brunch 10am
- 16 JOY Group Christmas BINGO 10am 
- 22-31 Preschool Christmas Break 
- 24 Christmas Eve  Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion 5pm
- 25 Christmas Day 
- 28 Lessons and Carols 8:30 and 11am 
- 31 New Year's Eve 

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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| 8:30 am | Casual Worship |
| 9:30 am | Breakfast |
| 9:45 am | Sunday School |
| 11:00 am | Traditional Worship & Children's Church |

Mondays: Boy Scouts 7pm

Tuesdays: Pickleball 1pm

Cub Scouts 6pm

Gamblers Anonymous 7pm

Wednesdays: Adult Bible Study 9:30am
Worship at PNV 10:30am

K-5 Alive 4:30pm

Handbells & Choir 6:15pm

Thursdays: Buddy Backpacks 9am

*For the complete, up-to-date church calendar,
please go online to wesleyanchapel.org*





DEC ANNIVERSARIES

Vance & Brenda Moore	4
Katherine & J Horst	12
Ken & Betty Barnes	17
Chris & Natalie Thorn	17
Whitney & Travis Strong	20
Rena & Rod Gyorke	21

DEC BIRTHDAYS



Nancy Patterson	1
Martin Guderian	3
Hayden Troutman	4
Eddie Morrison	5
Susanne Priddy	5
Cathy Bailey	7
Bethel Paris	8
Dail Ballard	9
Carl Ward	10
Roma Walker	14
Rosie Christian	16
Laney West	17
Steve Swain	18
Paul Miller	21
Sue Wolle	23
Bob Wszalek	23
Alicia Boaz	29
Katherine Howard	30
Pete Larson	30

enjoyed the first month of our new Advent study. While it may seem early to begin Advent, this year's shorter season allows us to spend two weeks on each lesson. Alternate weeks include a video that adds depth and sparkle to our discussions. Our group of 10 welcomes new members! Beyond the study, we share conversation on topics ranging from travel to home and car repairs, exchanging helpful resources and advice. Join us for study, fellowship, and fun.

HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

We are delighted to welcome Lisa Hadden, who joined Wesleyan Chapel as a professing member on November 23. Lisa attends the 8:30 a.m. service and is eager to become more involved in the life of the church. We give thanks for her presence among us and look forward to the many ways she will share her gifts and ministry within our fellowship.



Congratulations to Becky Kassell and Les Duncan, who were married by Pastor Susanne following worship on November 2. We give thanks for their covenant of love with one another and with God.

Women's Bible Study

Our Women's Bible Study has



Refugee Assistance Team



First and foremost, the team extends heartfelt thanks to the Wesleyan Chapel family for your generous response to the recent call in support of the Refugee Assistance Program. Your contributions totaled more than \$12,000—an incredible blessing to the families we serve.

One of the most exciting developments this past month is that Halima's sewing and handcrafted items are now on display and available for purchase at **The Village, 5935 Carolina Beach Road in Wilmington**. On November 15, the team helped Halima set up her display. She continues to accept custom orders, including quilts, knitted baby blankets, layette sets, sweaters, and custom dresses. Growing this alternative source of income is vital as the family works toward self-sufficiency.

The Zazai family's apartment lease expires in December, and their current rent of more than \$1,850 per month is no longer sustainable.

While rent is now current through November, the family has been operating at a deficit. The team has identified a smaller, more affordable apartment closer to the children's schools and with a manageable commute for Islam, saving approximately \$300 per month. The team anticipates help will be needed with both the move and related paperwork—more details to come.

Financial contributions may continue to be made through the church's giving page by selecting the Refugee Assistance Program option. Most importantly, we ask for your continued prayers for the Zazai family as they navigate challenges they never expected to face. Thank you for your generosity, compassion, and faithful support.

ALL SAINTS SERVICE AT PORTERS NECK VILLAGE

The All Saints Service held at Porters Neck Village on November 5 was a meaningful time of worship that glorified God and touched the hearts of 64 attendees. During the service, the names of 21 Porters Neck Village residents who passed away in the past year were lovingly remembered and honored.

Thanks be to God for this important ministry, and for all who lead, support, and participate in it. Weekly worship is held every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in Cypress Hall. If you know residents of Porters Neck Village, please help spread the word and invite them to join us.



JOY Group Christmas Bingo

The JOY (Just Older Youth) Group invites all “older than youth” friends to our annual Christmas Bingo! Join us Tuesday, December 16, at 10:00 AM in Lee Hall for fun, fellowship, and festive prizes. Bring regifted items wrapped or in a gift bag for the prize table—winners choose a gift, but beware, it might be “stolen” by the next player!

We'll conclude with a shared meal at church, so please bring a favorite dish or hors d'oeuvre to contribute.

Lydia Abbey Craft Circle Bazaar: A Festive Success!

On Saturday, November 1, early shoppers eagerly lined up outside Lee Hall at 9:00 a.m., many returning year after year for this much-anticipated event. Inside, the Lydia Abbey Craft Circle joined hands in a prayer of gratitude for another year of fellowship and the hundreds of hours devoted to preparing for the day.

The Hall sparkled with Christmas cheer, featuring 1,800 handcrafted items beautifully displayed on decorated tables. First-time shoppers were dazzled by the variety, while the Country Store tempted visitors with homemade cakes, cookies, pies, breads, candies, jams, and pickles—thanks to the generosity of our congregation. The popular “Attic Treasure” rooms drew frenzied crowds hunting for bargains, and the Methodist Men kept everyone fueled with breakfast and lunch in the Corner Café. RADA Cutlery was also available for purchase throughout the year. Thanks to the generosity and support of our church family, this year’s Bazaar grossed over \$15,600, one of our best ever! Beyond the financial blessing, the event fostered treasured friendships and fellowship among all involved.

As the holiday season approaches, we welcome your ideas for future projects—items that could be duplicated, missed favorites, or new craft suggestions. Contributions can be left on the back pew of the Chapel with your name attached if you'd like them returned.

We also extend an open invitation to anyone interested in handcrafting; start-up dates for the new year will be announced in the Church Bulletin. Wishing everyone a joyful and blessed holiday season!

ONN Grief Support

Our most recent Grief Support Group meeting welcomed 10 participants as we explored ways to navigate grief through choosing, connecting, and communicating:

- Choose how to walk through your grief.
- Connect with someone to walk beside you.
- Communicate honestly about how you are feeling.

We also discussed strategies for managing the “hard days” and shared encouragement with one another. Each person's presence is truly a blessing to the group.

Our next meeting will be a Christmas brunch on December 15, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please bring a dish to share.

God bless everyone,
Gladys Booz

LIFT: Fellowship, Fun, and Service

Ladies in Fellowship Together (LIFT) gathered this past month to make sandwiches for the Good Shepherd House. The meeting was filled with laughter, meaningful conversation, and the sharing of prayers and concerns.

If you're a woman seeking a small group of sisters in Christ, join us on the second Monday of each month. Our December gathering will be a Christmas dinner at Amy Lusk's home—a perfect way to celebrate the season together!



Music Ministry

- And There Was Light – Join us for a special Christmas presentation on Sunday, December 14, at 4:00 PM.
- Christmas Dessert Buffet – Immediately following the program at 5:15 PM in Lee Hall, enjoy a festive buffet of Christmas treats. Contributions of desserts are welcome—please bring them to the church on Sunday morning. A sign-up sheet is also available in the foyer by the choir room.
- Handbell Ministry – Our handbells will share in worship on Sunday, December 21, 2025.

Visitor Retention: Our Welcome Is Making a Difference!

Our handshakes, smiles, and friendly conversations are helping visitors feel truly welcome at our worship services! Each week, bright yellow visitor cards provide information so that new guests can receive a follow-up email thanking them for attending. Many respond, noting the warmth of our congregation and the memorable worship experience in our beautiful sanctuary.

During this Christmas season, we will welcome many new visitors who may only have one chance to experience God's love through our church. Take the opportunity to greet them with your smiles, handshakes, and kind words. As Scripture reminds us, "When you welcomed a stranger, you welcomed Me."



UMM November Update: *Fellowship, Service, and Support*

Seventeen men gathered on November 3, 2025, in Lee Hall for chili, salad, and dessert (graciously provided by church ladies for the Bazaar) before holding their monthly meeting. Jimmy Schiff presented the final financial report, followed by guest speaker Wes Magruder, Director of Church World Services. Wes shared that with reduced federal funding and fewer new refugees arriving, the program now focuses on ongoing support for existing refugees. He thanked WCUMC for our assistance to the Afghan family and encouraged continued volunteer efforts and outreach in the community.

At the November Bazaar, UMM prepared and sold breakfast sandwiches, coffee, hot dogs, chili, and chips, raising over \$700 for church missions. Special thanks to the ladies who provided chili and to Carl Ward for organizing the effort.

Looking ahead, the UMM Christmas Dinner for members and their significant others will be held on December 1 at 6:00 PM, catered by Victoria Hoover.



PENNIES FOR HUNGER:

Making a Difference

Next Collection: Sunday, December 14



November Collection: \$593.71

2025 Total: \$4,491.43

We've matched last year's giving, providing \$400 donations to 11 ministries, and with one month to go, we may even add a 13th ministry! Thank you to everyone who has supported this ministry.

2025 Beneficiaries:

Mother Hubbard Cupboard, Four C's Food Pantry, Rise Against Hunger, Pender County Meals on Wheels, Living Hope, Share the Table, CHAP Thanksgiving Meals, Food Bank of Eastern North Carolina, CHAP Christmas Food, Good Shepherd, and First Fruits.

Collections accept pennies, other coins, cash, checks, and online contributions.

Pennies Fact: Lincoln pennies from 1909–1958 were designed by Victor David Brenner. Some 1909 pennies included his initials "V.D.B." along the rim—a highly sought-after collectible!



What a beautiful beginning to the Advent season with Hanging of the Greens!



Join us as we honor the birth of our Savior on this holy evening as we hold a traditional Christmas Eve service with Communion.



WESLEYAN CHAPEL HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Wesleyan Chapel is participating in the **Community Holiday Assistance Program (CHAP)** to provide gifts for children and grocery gift cards for families in need. Last year, we served **1,620 people**—713 children and 907 adults. We are also supporting the **Methodist Home for Children (MHC)** by providing Christmas gifts for 14 children.

Gifts for infants through high school are welcome, as well as grocery gift cards in \$25 increments. If you did not pick up a gift slip, any appropriate gift or gift card is appreciated.

Important Dates & Volunteer Opportunities:

December 7: Gifts and grocery cards due; place in mission bins at the sanctuary or Lee Hall entrances. CHAP gifts should have the slip attached; MHC gifts can be in an unwrapped box, gift bag, or store bag with slip attached.

December 8, 9:00 AM: Sort and bag toys in the Chapel for delivery to Blake's Chapel.

December 11: Volunteers needed to transport gifts to Blake's Chapel.

December 11–12: Holiday Mart setup at Blake's Chapel; volunteers help with tables, receiving, sorting, and arranging toys.

December 13: Holiday Mart opens for parents; volunteers needed for parking, check-in, shopping assistance (great for youth), bicycle shop, gift card distribution, check-out, and clean-up.

To volunteer, contact **Beth Sanders** at 910-470-2725 or efsanders@charter.net. Check the weekly Vine for updates on activity times.



Welcome Our New Sexton, Drew Papio

Wesleyan Chapel UMC is pleased to welcome Drew Papio as our new Sexton, who joined the staff on November 17.

Drew brings a rich professional background as a retired aerospace elevator industry executive and elevator constructor. His career took him through New Jersey, Maryland, and Connecticut before he and his wife, Lorri, made Hampstead their home five years ago. He is a proud husband, father of three, and grandfather of seven.

Drew shares that he is grateful for the opportunity to serve Wesleyan Chapel, and we are equally thankful for the gifts and experience he brings to our church family. Please join us in extending a warm Wesleyan Chapel welcome to Drew as he begins his ministry among us.

MYF : A Month of Faith, Service, and Fun

Our youth have been busy exploring moral dilemmas and what it truly means to love our neighbor. Highlights included carving pumpkins and attending Pilgrimage, a youth conference with 1,200 participants from 60 UMC churches, where we worshipped, played games, and packed 1,100 kits for the MERCI Center.

We also joined Be the Light, a Wilmington-area youth event where over 200 young people packed baskets for Family Promise. It's been a month full of faith, service, and fun!

MYF meets Sundays, 5:00–6:30 PM. All middle and high school youth are welcome—bring a friend!



CHILDREN'S

CHURCH



Children's Church offers a kid-friendly worship experience during the 11:00 AM service each week (except December 7). Children hear and participate in an age-appropriate version of the day's scripture and sermon. Attendance varies from 2 to 8 children, and all—wiggly, curious, and joyful—are welcome, just as Jesus said, *"Let the children come unto me."*

Ms. Karen looks forward to sharing God's love each Sunday in a meaningful and fun way.



Children's Program Update

Our children's program remains active and engaging! Sunday School classes are going well, and the children recently enjoyed a guest speaker who taught them about wisdom. All children Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us upstairs in Lee Hall at 10:00 AM. K-5 Alive is wrapping up its weekly meetings with meaningful activities, including packing care boxes for our college students filled with notes and treats to share the love of Jesus. The children have also been working hard learning the Christmas story—practicing scripts, advent calendars, and music—as they prepare to lead worship on December 7 at both services. Don't miss this special opportunity to see our children share their talents and the true meaning of Christmas!



November at Preschool

November has been a fun and exciting month at preschool! The children enjoyed learning and exploring together, including sharing their creative (and often hilarious) ideas about how to cook a turkey.

During chapel, the children expressed what they are thankful for—from family and friends to pets and favorite toys—reminding us of the true meaning of the season.

A special thank you to Mrs. Jamie for leading chapel this month and making it such a meaningful and enjoyable experience!



One of our college students, Summer Cuderian, was delighted to receive her care package from the K-5 Alive children.

 Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10255 US Highway 17 N

Wilmington, NC 28411

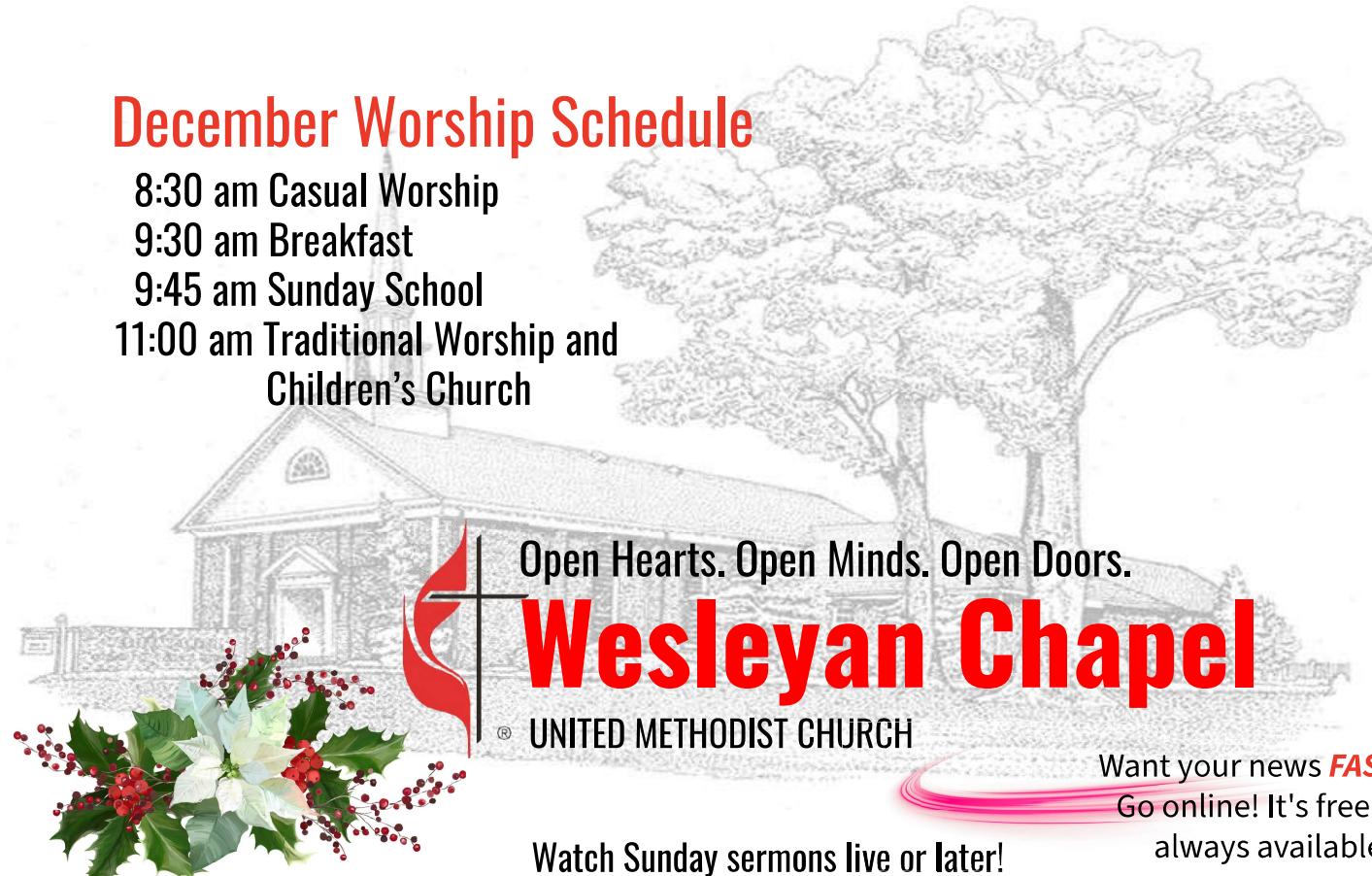
Change Service Requested

Merry Christmas



December Worship Schedule

- 8:30 am Casual Worship
- 9:30 am Breakfast
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship and Children's Church



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

Wesleyan Chapel

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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