

The Wrightsboro Connection



Thoughts from Pastor David...

It's hard to believe that the season of Advent is here. According to the The United Methodist Book of Worship, the word advent is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." The four weeks of Advent are a season that proclaims the comings of the Christ - whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again at Christmas, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate.

Each of the four Sundays in Advent has a distinctive theme, and these are addressed when we light the candles of the Advent wreath. The first is Christ's coming in final victory, and represents the Hope we share; the second is that Christ is the Way, as announced by John the Baptist; the third is that Christ is our Joy; and the fourth reminds us that He is the Prince of Peace. Listen to the readings as each of the candles is lit in the coming weeks, and you will hear these themes.

This is a joyful and special time of year for Christians, but it can also be a very hectic, stressful time. There are so many things going on, and so much to be done. With all the emphasis being placed on the commercial and social aspects of Christmas, we can easily get distracted from what this blessed time of year is really about - the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Attending and participating in the services and activities we will be having at WUMC will help us keep our focus on the birth of Jesus, along with reading the booklet of Advent devotions daily that you will be offered this coming Sunday.

Let's make a conscious effort to truly prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to stay focused on Him throughout this busy, hectic and sometimes frustrating time of year. Remember - He's the reason for the season!

Grace & peace,

Pastor David

Advent Devotion Books

On Sunday, December 3, we will hand out a devotion book for the the season of Advent. This book will give you a scripture and a devotion each day. If you will not be at church on December 3rd stop by the church office to pick one up.

December Anniversaries

11 Mike & Christi Tate
15 Jerry & Alma Allard
18 Jim & Lucy Lee

Facebook



Yes, Wrightsboro United Methodist Church has a facebook page! Some of you have already liked our page and we thank you. If you have not already done so, please take time to go and "like" our page. Also, you can really help us get the word out about what we are doing here at Wrightsboro UMC by not only liking the posts but also by sharing the posts. This will increase the number of people exponentially who see our posts. Another way you can help is when a question is posted, answer the question. This will help open up the communication. Lastly, if you have some time on your hands and would like to help keep our social media current, please contact the church office.

I bring
you tidings
of great
Joy

Luke 2:9



As the year draws to a close, so does my time as the president for the women's organization of our church. A need was presented when I arrived and I jumped in with both feet, and now it is time I share this leadership with someone else as the new year dawns. I am not sad to let go, I have other areas of interest to serve that I am excited about. I am pleased to announce that Eva Czepiel has been elected the new president for the United Methodist Women and she will be a great supporter of this group of women bringing many new and exciting ideas to this group of ladies of this church.

For our last meeting of the year, on December 12th at 6:30pm, we would like to extend an invitation to all ladies to bring your favorite Christmas cookie and the recipe to our next meeting for a cookie and recipe exchange as we have our installation of officers for the next year. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,
Janice Littlejohn
President, Wrightsboro UMW

December Birthdays

December Birthdays

2 Laurie Kelly
3 Nina Noble
4 Victoria Santiago
7 Lena Paulter
10 Ellen Parker
13 Herman Moeller
15 Dean McFarland
15 Viola Oswandel
15 Leigh Parker
19 Pat Everett
22 Sandi Bardwell
22 James Hamm
22 Joseph Lee
24 Dick Jones
24 Brigitte Roberts
29 Cindy Shoaf
29 Frank Campese
30 Frankie Wilson

Glory
to God on the
highest
Luke 2:14

Prayer Chain

Have a prayer concern?
Who do you contact?

Email Aileen Jennings, at aileen928@gmail.com, who will email it out to the prayer chain. If you would like to receive the prayer chain email contact the church office. Just remember that you are committing to pray for the members of our church and their family and friends.

In Case of Emergency

The defibrillator is now located in the cabinet marked AED on the wall in the hallway beside the sanctuary.

Also, we have consolidated all our first aid supplies - first aid kit, blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, glucose meter, glucose tablets and Propel or something similar for sudden blood sugar drops. All these items are now located in the cabinet in the Welcome Center, behind the door with the "First Aid" sign.



The 2018 Altar Flowers chart is posted in the hallway across from the restrooms. Please sign up if you would like to provide

flowers in the Sanctuary on a Sunday during 2018.

The cost of flowers is \$49.00. You can mark your check or envelope "flowers" and place it in the offering plate or drop it by the church office. If you have any questions or special requests, please contact the church office.

DVD Ministry

Each week, John Fuller records our 10:50am Worship Service. If you missed worship or would like to share the service with a friend or family member, copies are available. A sign-up sheet is in the lobby; put your name and date of the service and we will get a copy to you. A donation of \$5.00 is appreciated to cover the cost of supplies



Widows of Wrightsboro

WOWS are having
their

Christmas Luncheon
December 7, 2017.

Time:

11:30 Place: Osteria Cicchetti "O.C."
1125 Military Cutoff Rd. (The
Forum)

Come join us for good food and
fellowship. Reservations are suggested
so watch for a call from Marlene Dexter,
if we have you on our list, or call Pat
Everett 910-686-2637 by Tuesday,
Dec. 5th. Hope to see everyone there!

Did you know that when you
make a purchase on
Amazon.com that you can
support Wrightsboro UMC?
www.smile.amazon.com

Bible on CD

Joyce Wardrip has graciously donated
the entire King James version of the
Bible on CDs. She tells how much they
meant to her late husband, Jerry, as he
spent time in the hospital and was not
able to read his Bible.

They are being kept in the Welcome
Center, on the back lower shelf. If you
or someone you know would find
comfort in listening to one or more of
the CDs, feel free to come and borrow.
We would just ask that when you are
finished listening that you return them
so they will be available for others to
borrow and enjoy.



A Christmas Party

The Classic Club will gather
for a Christmas luncheon on
December 12th at
the Allards' home at
11:30am. Please bring a
side dish and a \$5 gift to
exchange. Join us for a lot of fun and
fellowship. Sign up in the lobby.



CRAFTY FRIDAY

The Crafty
Friday ladies have been
hard at work making
decorations for our church this Christmas
season. We have made Chrismons for the
tree in the sanctuary to supplement those
that were made by the ladies years ago. We
have also made Angel ornaments and small
nativities for our Angel tree.
Homemade Rudolphins will be on the
children's tree in the fellowship hall. In the
next week we will begin making treats for
the teachers at Wrightsboro Elementary for
our Hand-in-Hand ministry. If you like to do
crafts and drink coffee, please join us at
9:30 Friday mornings.

Youth Ministry

The youth had a blessed fall! Our attendance has risen and we have seen new faces. Also, the relationships between the youth are strengthening. Most importantly, the youth have continued to grow in their faith with our time in Sunday School, fellowship and study on Wednesday nights, as well as the activities we have participated in, especially Pilgrimage.

The theme of Pilgrimage this year was "A Place at the Table". What a wonderful message for our youth to hear: "We are all welcome at our Lord's table!" But, first we must accept the invitation and show up hungry. Hungry for the banquet that only He can provide. Pilgrimage is always an opportunity for bonding, fellowship, worship and fun. This year's Pilgrimage was all of this and more. Our youth grew closer together and the first time attenders were welcomed with open arms. For some, this will be their last Pilgrimage they attend as youth. Many of us were reflective and moved spiritually, realizing life is full of seasons.

We pray that our youth will continue to find their place at His table. Pilgrimage was a great precursor to Thanksgiving. Since we are just saying good-bye to the Thanksgiving holidays, I want to remember all of you who have given to the youth in some way. Thank you to Pastor David who not only assisted with getting Pilgrimage arranged, but also attended Pilgrimage with the youth. Thank you to Amanda, our choir director, and Courtney Hodges, our Children's Coordinator, for attending Pilgrimage as well. It was great for you and the kids to have this opportunity together. Thank you to Mrs. Stacy who helped (a lot!) with making the banner for the youth (and many other things!) You know we could not have done it without you. Thank you to Wendy Donovan for investing her time and talents into helping brighten the youth room up with curtains. Thank you to Mrs. Pam who works with all the youth in the Christmas play. Thank you to Mark Hollifield for taking the youth group on a few canoe trips! Thank you to all who invite the youth over to be a part of your lives whether it's through jobs around your house, inviting them to help with service projects, just spending time

Youth Cont.

with them and ask them how they are, or loving on them. They need lots of love. Thank you for those of you who support the youth leaders. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who always support us and the youth. Thank you to the parents who attended Pilgrimage- Barbara Hodges, Brian Kivett and Chris Crowder. Thank you to all of you who give to the youth whether seen or not seen.

Thank you to all who pray for the youth and their families. The church of the next generation will be on their shoulders. Thank you for being a part of their lives so that we may help build a foundation through them.



UMM Second
Sunday Breakfast
December 10th at 7:30am

All men are invited.

Bring a friend!

Christmas Extravaganza

Saturday

December 9, 2017

10:00am to 2:00pm

Breakfast with Santa

FREE

Kids and Adult Gift Market with Gift Wrap

Wrightsboro United Methodist Church

3300 N Kerr Ave • Wilmington NC • 762-2583



Scouting at Wrightsboro United Methodist Church

Both Pack 220 and Troop 257 hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving. We here at the Pack and Troop all know and share in the fact that we are so grateful to be a part of the Church Family here at Wrightsboro United Methodist Church. Looking ahead we would also like to wish everyone a joyous and safe Christmas.

This past month the Troop repeated a trip that we did last November called "Thanksgiving in the Woods". Troop and family members went to the Cliffs of the Neuse State Park in Seven Springs, NC (near Goldsboro). This is pretty much a standard camping trip with hiking, exploring, rank advancements and lots of fun until Saturday afternoon when everyone come together and we prepare a Thanksgiving meal in the woods mostly in Dutch ovens over charcoal. This is truly a feast that includes, roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, green bean casserole, sweet potato casserole, macaroni and cheese, and cranberry sauce. It is really nice when over twenty people all come together and make such a lovely meal and the good thing about is that the boys are having a good time and not even realizing that they are learning. Great weekend.

Next up for the Boy Scouts is a Canoe Trip on December the 9th to collect Mistletoe for a fundraiser, the annual Christmas Party which will be held on December 17th in unison with the Cub Scout Christmas Party. There is a possibility that we will be doing a service/conservation project at Lake Waccamaw State Park.

The Pack is in the middle of their fall season and pushing forward with their Den activities toward earning their next rank. Next on the list for the Cubs is Christmas Caroling at some of the local assisted living facilities. After that we will have the annual Christmas Party on December 17th.

Popcorn sales are over and both the Pack and the Troop increased our sales over last year. With that said if you bought popcorn or donated to the Military Popcorn we would like to pass along our gratitude for supporting not only Scouting at Wrightsboro but also the Cape Fear Council.

Last month was also Scouting for food which was led by a very enthusiastic Samuel Crowder. Over the two Saturdays we netted over 600 pounds of food that all went to the food pantry here at Wrightsboro. Blessings to All.

Finance Committee Update:

Dear Church Family: Week-by-week, through your generosity with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness, the church educates young and old; provides space for prayer, faith development, and personal transformation; assists the poor, visits the sick, and supports people in times of trial; conducts worship; assists with other needs through the greater Methodist connection; and, in general, helps people to experience and live Christ's life and to work for a more just, loving, and peaceful world.

Be sure to keep your email address updated with the church office by adding/updating it in the attendance pad on Sunday morning or notifying the church secretary of changes. We communicate a great number of items via email, so it is a wonderful way to stay connected.

For the month of October 2017:

Current Mortgage Payout:	\$760,082.27
Total funds taken in:	\$ 40,965.27

Of note, this figure includes the following amounts collected:

Missions/Outreach	\$1,452.50
Food Pantry	\$761.09
Family Night	\$735.00
Bright Lights	\$225.00

Total funds spent paying bills: \$61,822.03

Deficit for month, October 2017 \$20,856.76

Please keep in mind that these are MONTHLY specific numbers. This means that expenses include such items as materials and labor on the Fellowship Hall Renovations, which were paid for in October. The funds for material and labor were received in previous months, and therefore are not part of the "Total funds taken in" amount listed above. Instead, those funds are being held for the FH Renovations, which is why the bank balance was sufficient to cover the October 2017 deficit.

I understand that math is not everyone's strong suit; and I also recognize that FINANCE is NOT the same as MATH. Do not ever be ashamed of not understanding how these numbers work. Never be afraid to call and ask questions. You are always welcome to review the financial statements and you are encouraged to understand and lend voice to how the tithes and gifts you turn back over to God are being used.

Blessings,

Kristine Chandler

Finance Committee Chair



Wrightsboro Walkers

What a beautiful landscape our loving God provides to us each day. It is an excellent time of year to walk among all He has created. The Wrightsboro Walkers meet at Smith Creek Park under the pavilion each Tuesday and Thursday morning and walk from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m.

The walking trail is paved and measures 1.3 miles around. It takes about an hour to walk around twice (2.6 miles). Walking is great cardiovascular exercise; however, there are benches along the way if there is a need to pause.

You can walk at your own pace and come on either or both days. Please join us! We will see you at the pavilion! If you need more information, please contact Gail Nunn at (910) 742-4412.

GIVING MADE EASY

Do you find yourself wanting to praise the Lord by giving back to Him a portion of the many blessings He has so generously showered upon you? Have you been sitting in the pew when the collection plate is being passed and you realize you have little or no cash and you don't carry a checkbook? Have you been out of town or sick on Sunday and not sure how to handle your weekly tithe in those instances? We have all been there.

The church office will provide you a self-addressed envelope upon request, if you wish to mail a check. But why not utilize the online giving option? Online giving is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It can be accessed by going to the church website, www.wrightsboroumc.org, and choosing "click & pledge" in the upper right corner, or by clicking the link, "click here to give online", in the weekly announcement email.

Simply pick the amount of your tithe or offering and where you wish the funds to be applied, check out and you are done. You can even elect to set it up as a recurring payment to ensure the funds are sent each week without any extra work on your part.

What an easy way to ensure the missions of WUMC are able to continue and grow. I am proud that we offer multiple options for our congregation, and I encourage you to at least check it out to see if it would be a good fit for you.

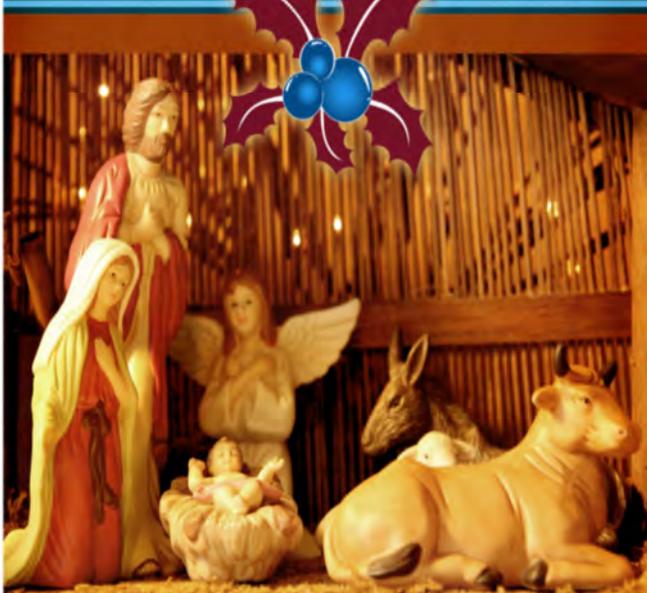
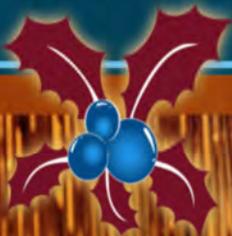
Youth & Children Present

All I Want For Christmas is Jesus

December 10, 5:00pm

Wrightsboro United Methodist Church

3300 N Kerr Ave
Wilmington, NC



Family Night

Thank you again to everybody who helped me in November. I do appreciate that a lot. I am really in need of volunteers for cooks and cleaners since a few people are going to have surgeries. Please come see me.

December menus:

6th Pizza

13th Collards & Cornbread

20th Ham, Green Bean Casserole, Stuffing

27th Chicken Cacciatore, Pasta, Vegetables

Wrightsboro United Methodist Church
3300 N Kerr Ave
Wilmington NC 28405
www.wrightsboroumc.org

Mission Statement

To reach out and to serve all people with
Christ's love and acceptance through
faith, study, and action

WRIGHTSBORO UMC CHOIR
PRESENTS
FOREVER
God Is with Us
Finding Our Way Home For Christmas

SUNDAY, December 17
10:00AM

Join us for a message of hope, joy
and peace found in the glorious
truth that God is with us.

Wrightsboro United Methodist Church
3300 N Kerr Ave
Wilmington, NC

An illustration at the bottom of the poster depicts the Three Kings following the Star of Bethlehem. One king is kneeling in prayer, while the others lead a camel and a donkey. The scene is set against a dark blue background with white stars.