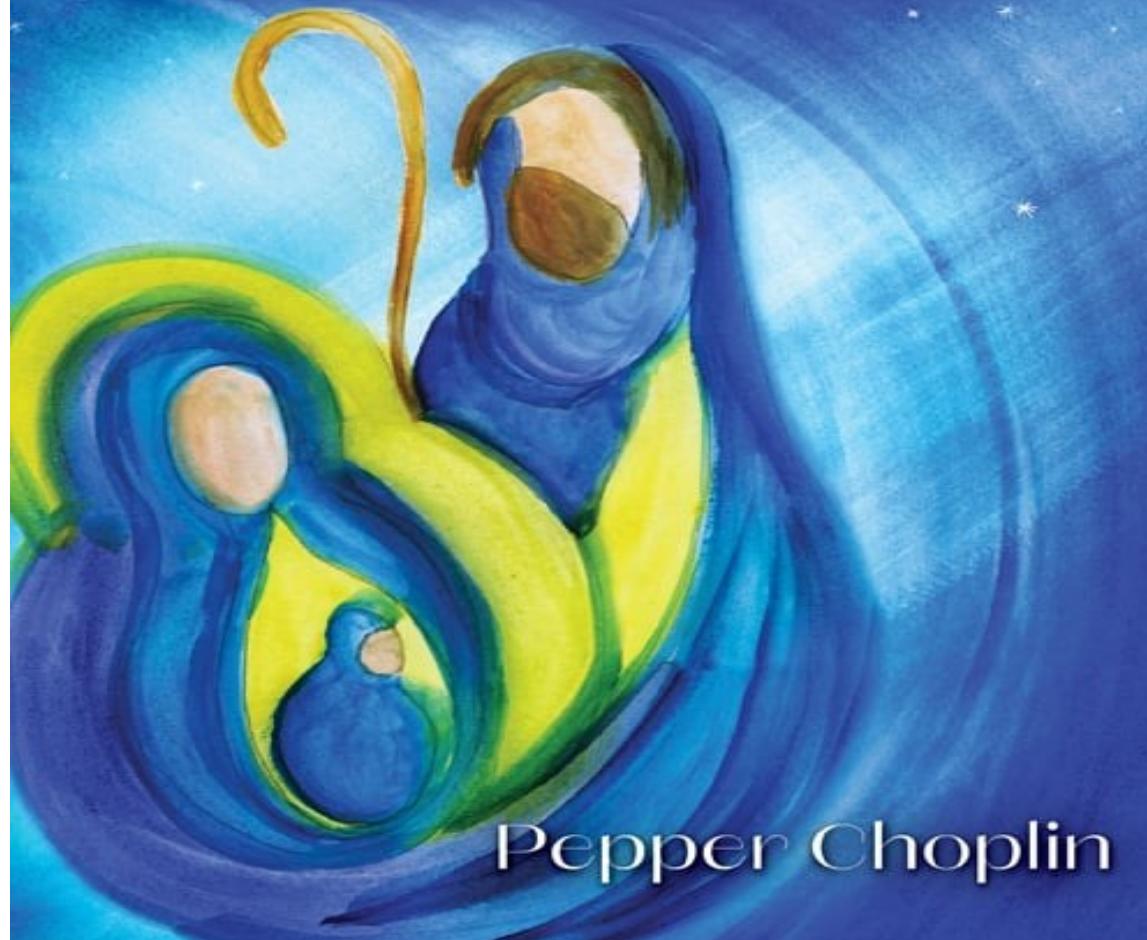


Southern Pines United Methodist Church

The Ballad of Bethlehem

A TIMELESS STORY OF GOD'S LOVE



In-Person ~ Live Stream ~ Worship Services

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 9:00 | Sunday School (all ages) |
| 10:00 am | Cantata: The Ballad of Bethlehem |
| 11:00 pm | Fellowship Time, Fellowship Hall
Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal |
| 4:00 pm | Youth & Children's Christmas Party |
| 5:00 pm | Youth & Children Caroling @ Penick Village |
| Mon - Dec 16 | Food Pantry, 10am
Susanna Wesley Circle, RH-5, 12 noon |
| Tue - Dec 17 | Exercise Class, narthex, 9 ³⁰ am
Senior Adult Fellowship, Table on the Green, 11:30am
(special guest speaker will be from the Sandhills Coalition)
Holy Communion, Chapel, 12 noon
Staff Meeting, 10 ³⁰ am
Evergreen (AA) Group, 7pm |
| Wed - Dec 18 | Women's Life Group, Ezra Room, 10 ³⁰ am |
| Sun - Dec 22 | Children's Christmas Pageant |
| Tue - Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5pm |
| Wed - Dec 25 | Merry Christmas |

During the month of December, we will have one 10 o'clock worship service.

Mission Statement: "Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by connecting people to God, to others, and to the world."

Pastor John Michael McAllister: jmcallister@nccumc.org

Pastor Elias Ballew: eballew@nccumc.org

Director of Children's Ministries: Rachel Rosellini, Rrosellini@sopinesumc

Director of Instrumental Music: Alan Daubenspeck, daubenspeck.alan@gmail.com

Director of Choirs: Taylor Hickey, taylormhickey@gmail.com

Church Office/Nanette Martin: (910) 692-3518, spumc@nc.rr.com

Social Media/Communications: Laura Southerland, sopinesumc@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.southernpinesumc.org>

Welcome**Opening Reading**

Luke 1:26-38

Opening Hymn*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

UMH #203

Passing of the Peace**Advent Candle**

Ralph and Shirley Shank

Lighting (Joy)**Reading and Prayer****Congregational Prayer**

Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live with joy because God has chosen to dwell with us. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

Children's Moment

This week, no Kids Own Worship (we want kids to enjoy the Cantata too!)

Prayers of the People**Pastoral Prayer****Lord's Prayer****Invitation to Offering**

***Doxology** (to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

***Offertory Prayer**

The Christmas Cantata (see insert) Please hold your applause to the very end.

Song of ResponseJoy to the World*

UMH #246

Benediction**Benediction Response*****Postlude****Stephen Ministry**

John 14:27- "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid". In the words of Methodist pastor Sam McGlothlin, "I just listen." It is a gift when we have someone to listen. The retelling of our stories, particularly ones of anger, pain, and grief, help us to release, to accept, and to move forward. Those situations that deeply trouble us will one day feel much lighter from our retelling.

As Stephen Minister care givers, we listen to help sustain our care receivers until their strength and hope is restored. God provides the cure. We provide the care. If you have questions or are in need of a Stephen Minister, please reach out to John Michael or Amy Cooper (Stephen Leader).

**Winter 2025 — GriefShare — 13 week session — Saturdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
January 4-March 29, 2025**

GriefShare is a 13 week seminar/support of "help and encouragement" for those who have experienced the death of a loved one and includes a video featuring an array of speakers, followed by a discussion, and a personal workbook.

The next 13 week cycle of GriefShare is being held at Southern Pines United Methodist Church, 175 Midland Road, in the Reeves Hall Building.

If you have experienced the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend we will all walk together through this path, using the recently updated weekly video, personal workbook, and group discussion.

The 13 weeks will take place on Saturdays, January 4-March 29th, 2025 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. You are welcome to begin attending the GriefShare group at any point. Each session is "self contained", so you do not have to attend in sequence. You will be able to pick up any session you missed in the next 13 week cycle.

Please check out www.griefshare.org and please contact Bill and Doris at 910-690-5234 or 910-690-1511 for more information or to sign up.

Sanctuary Flowers

Altar flowers are a part of our worship service to glorify God and beautify His house of worship. If you would like to donate flowers the cost is \$65 per arrangement. Two arrangements are available each Sunday. Select a date and contact Mikey Delle at mikeydelle@nc.rr.com or 910-725-0367. You will receive a letter of instruction and postcard to return to the church office with the information you want to be included in the Sunday bulletin. Flowers may be given in honor or memory of someone or you can praise God, give thanks or celebrate a special occasion. Flowers can be picked up after the 11:00 service or on Monday in the church office.

Share the Warmth

Share the warmth of gently used winter clothing during the months of November—February. We're collecting coats, jackets, hats, vests, sweaters, heavy socks, gloves, scarves and boots for some of our community neighbors. Items will be collected weekly and delivered to the Coalition by Judy Miller or Jill Bingham.

Angel Tree

It has become a tradition to have an Angel Tree where members may choose a needy family to provide Christmas gifts. This year the program has been changed so it was decided to offer this Christmas help for our community. You may participate by providing bags with these items to Fellowship Hall, December 8th & 15th:

10 to 12 pound turkey *gravy packets*
Mac and cheese *sweet potatoes*
Cake mix for a dessert (for recipient to make)
Cans of green beans, corn, and cranberry sauce

Medical Transportation

Please contact Norma Morrison emorrison@nccumc.org or (910-585-0990) to schedule a ride if you are a SPUMC member who may occasionally need transportation to local medical appointments.

Thanking Deborah Lambert

After 17 years of caring for children in SPUMC's nursery, Ms. Deborah will start a new job at a church far closer to her home in January. We want to thank her for service and care. If you or your children would like to write a thank you note to Ms. Deborah, please place it in the Memory Box in the lobby or return it to the church office by Dec. 20.

The Jesse Tree

In the days of old, before people had access to written texts, the stories of faith were passed in an oral tradition. The Jesse Tree is one of those traditions that developed before medieval times, as the story was spoken. Then the great cathedrals were built along with monasteries and small chapels. It was there that the stories were carved into wood, or painted as frescoes, or shaped in stained glass. The stories were told each year as families went to the church to hear the story of the coming Messiah. The Jesse Tree has continued into this time as it presents the glorious story of the Holy Presence of Jesus, the Messiah from the beginning of Creation to His Divine Birth.

The Jesse Tree encourages us to examine the Presence of Jesus long before His Name appears in the New Testament and provides us an opportunity to embrace the entire Old and New Testaments as ONE LOVE STORY of God for HIS CHILDREN.

Each week, 7 new ornaments will appear on our Jesse Tree at Southern Pines Narthex. The list of scriptures and a guide will be provided for you next to the tree each week. Come and enjoy the Advent Journey as you guide your heart into a deeper understanding of the precious love God has always had since the beginning of time for His children.

Susanna Wesley Circle

Come and enjoy seasonal fellowship and a warming soup-n-sandwich lunch, Monday, December 16 at 12 noon in RH-5, followed by Christmas treats. Mikey Delle will share a program of readings about the meaning of our Christmas symbols. We will end with a \$5 gift exchange, a wrapped toy for a homeless child and a hat for the homeless. Please contact Elaine Questell for additional details (elainequestell@gmail.com).

Home:

Jim Borrell, Karen Croucher, Becky McKenzie, Libby Staples, Sue Harris, Dianne Greene, Lin Heimrick, Donna Dickson, Nancy Libertini, family of Kitzy Bundy, Whitfield Wannamaker

Fox Hollow: 190 Fox Hollow Road, Pinehurst, 28374

Nancy Scaggs -#234 Doug Burns #236

Gracious Retirement Living: 205 SE Service Rd, So Pines

Bill Dillon

Penick Village: 500 E. Rhode Island Ave., So. Pines

Betty Dorsett, Marion Evans, Larry & Lynda Newsome Nancy Peterson-#235, Kay Rhoades-#239 Don & Joyce Tickle, Decatur & Betty Richardson, Chuck Kersey and Karla Peabody (Robin Glenn)

Memory Care: Jane MacDougall

Pinehurst Healthcare & Rehab. Ctr: 300 Blake Blvd.

Nancy Smith, #410 (Hospice Care)

Quail Haven: 155 Blake Blvd., Pinehurst, 28374

Jean Hicks

St. Joseph of the Pines: 103 Gossman Drive, SP 28387

Louise Laningham

Active/Deployed:

2nd LT Wills Burns, CPT Benjamin Harvey, CPT Brian Harvey, Gold Star & Military Families

Missionary: ZOE Empowerment & UMCOR: Ukraine &

Western NC

Prayer List

If you or others you know have an upcoming medical procedure, are sick, or are experiencing a significant life event, please let our pastoral staff know by contacting the church directly at spumc@nc.rr.com or calling 910-692-3518. You may also fill out the Pastoral Visit or Prayer Request card located on the back of each pew and place it in the collection plate.

Extended Family & Friends

Theodore Harold Bonham
Blake Boothe (nephew of Dottie Boothe)
Carol Brimer (sister of Phyllis Arnold)
Sonny Crabbs (brother of Shirley Shank)
Georgia Davenport (mother, Francy Thompson)
Phil Davenport (father of Francy Thompson)
Myra Doggett (mother of Michelle Aubrey)
Earehart Family (Nancy Scaggs)
Donnie Funderburk (B I L of Gwen Funderburk)
Joy Goforth (Caroline Carlson)
Barbara Harris (S-I-L Betty Richardson)
Allison Huff (sister of Drew (Karen) Croucher)
Claudia Jordan (Dorothy Womack)
Holly Jeffries (sister of Carmen Wondergem)
Jesse Joyce (cousin of Cassie Lehr)
Debbie Darby-Knight
Hannah Lindsey & family (Danny/Martha Borrell)
Judy Malecki (S-I-L of Bob Rich)
Mary Marhol (mother of John Marhol)
Jo Marshal (niece of Don Hill)
Mac Maclain (husband of Sue Maclain)
John McCurdy (Matt Grafenberg)
Mae McGougan
Tom McVey (cousin of Nicki Pribich)
Joy Mitchener (niece of Sue Harris)
Mark Moore (son of Nancy Manar)
Jackson Powitchko (Jack & Kathy Powitchko)
Ella Rich (Larry & Lynda Newsome)
Jerry Riggins (brother of Katherine Stafford)
Tommy Riggins (brother of Katherine Stafford)
Robyn Schultz & family (cousin of Gloria Moore)
Katelyn Semales (online request)
Miranda Shepherd (Katie Humber)
Carolyn Stevenson
Ben Sutton (father of Jason Sutton)
Judy Turnage (Barbara Richardson)
Susan Walker
Jean Williams (aunt of Katie Humber)

Deadline for End-of-Year Contributions

The deadline for end-of-year contributions is Tuesday, December 31. All items must be postmarked and dated by December 31, 2024.

2024 Year-to-Date Contributions and Expenditures (thru Nov 30)

Operating Contributions YTD	\$509,490
Church Preservation Contribution YTD	\$ 12,455
Operating Expenditures YTD	\$580,192

Honorariums

In honor of Virginia Gray Sutton by Frank and Lynne Thigpen

Memorials

In memory of Geneva Hicks, mother of Sharon Nichols, by Larry and Lynda Newsome

In memory of Neil Wolfe by Frank and Lynne Thigpen

Giving Made Easy: Electronic gifts are fast and secure. Give anytime, anywhere to your favorite funds. Schedule donations or set up an account and make donations whenever you'd like throughout the year. Go to the Southern Pines UMC website: www.southernpinesumc.org and click "Give" at the top of the page to get started. **TEXT YOUR OFFERING:** 910-390-1703 (These donations will go to the operating budget.) If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Aubrey: Shelliesnc@gmail.com.

Stock Donations: If you are planning or need procedural information regarding stock donations, we ask that you contact Laura Parker, 910-246-0835 or (lparker@fbwealthmanagement.com), at First Bank Wealth Management.

Attendance for Sunday, December 8, 2024

(10am) 206 Tuesday Communion (5) Sunday School (30)