 Today's altar flower arrangement is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Betty Yeager Powell, by Tom and Elizabeth Powell.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Cathy Covington 12/27
Elizabeth Lewis 12/28
Carolina Holmes 12/29
Sarah Martin 12/30

Serving in Worship Today

Greeters: Tom Powell
Ushers: Hunt Johnson, Jack Lynch,
Jim McCauley,
George Troxler
Acolyte: Madison Keeney
Advent Family: The Stimpson Family
Deacon on Call: Bev Orwig

GIVING

Received Last Week: \$21,126.00
Received to Date: \$482,559.78
Expenses to Date: \$499,757.39
NBF Last Week: \$10,825.00
NBF Loan Balance: \$612,907.00

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
Eloncommunitychurch.org
Look us up on Facebook,
Twitter and Instagram!

Elon Community Church Staff

Senior Pastor
Rev. Randy Orwig
Associate Pastor
Rev. Sharon Wheeler
Office Manager
Monica F. Nicholson
Finance Director
Lori Watson
Organist and Choir Director
Dr. Mark Rumley
Bell Choirs Director
Eden Brown
Nursery Care Director
Elizabeth Lewis
Custodian
Delinda Anderson



Office Hours and Contact Information

Hours: Monday—Friday
9:00 am—4:00 pm
Address: 271 N. Williamson Ave.
PO Box 625
Elon, NC 27244
Phone: (336)584-0391
Fax: (336)584-7963
E-mail: eccucc@att.net

Rev. Randy Orwig's contact information:

Cell: (336)214-1304
E-mail: RevRandyECC@att.net

THIS WEEK AT ELON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday 12/24—Christmas Eve
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship Service
4:45 pm Christmas Eve Service

Monday 12/25—Office Closed

Tuesday 12/26
6:00 pm Happiness Seminar
6:45 pm Chancel Ringers

Wednesday 12/27
2:00 pm Come Share
5:15 pm QiGong
8:00 pm AA

Thursday 12/28
8:00 pm NAR-ANON

Friday 12/29
6:30 pm NA

Sunday 12/31
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship Service

CHRISTMAS EVE: At 5:00 pm we will have our annual Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service. A special Prelude from the youth and children of the church will start at 4:45 pm. This service will offer a special "Worship Ways" time for any child to be with Pastor Sharon during the sermon time to have special activities for them to tell the story of Christmas. The children will rejoin their families in time to share in the beautiful candlelight experience with their families. Please let others know about this special service!

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE AND WITNESS FELLOWSHIP will not meet in December. Please keep an eye out for an announcement about next month's meeting.

ONLINE GIVING IS NOW AVAILABLE! Click or scan the QR Code on the top right of our website, eloncommunitychurch.org. Or look for the QR Code in the bulletin and Torch! From here you can use a credit card to fulfill pledge obligations or donate to various other funds. You can also go to the Finance Tab on our website to set up an account for regular giving!

HONOR CARDS AVAILABLE: As a fund raiser for Allied Churches Homeless Shelter, honor cards will be available again this year for \$5.00 each. You can purchase them in Monica's office during office hours. Please consider using one of these for that person on your Christmas list who already has everything!

People Persons Needed: Your Evangelism Ministry Team is seeking "people persons" who would be willing to act as greeters at the parking lot entrances. Responsibilities would include opening the outside doors as folks enter, helping those who would need a friendly arm for stability from their car to the door, and during rainy weather, provide an umbrella from the car to the portico. We would like to start this welcoming ministry soon. Questions or interest? Please contact Ellen Martin at (336)395-8622 or sign up on the insert.

COME SHARE: 2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH AT 2:00 PM, 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00 PM IN THE LIBRARY. We have had many loved ones pass from our midst and we need a safe place to share the feelings and maybe just stories of what we are experiencing. Pastor Randy will lead this group and you are invited to attend no matter how long or who it is.



Green Church Suggestion: Wrapping a water heater with insulation can keep as many as 1,000 pounds of global-warming CO2 a year out of the upper atmosphere.

Prayer List

Mike Pittinger	Stuart Hoyle	Howard Welborn
Estelle Willard	Don and Shirley Judd	Bill Franklin
Victoria Hughes	Brittany Rogers	Dominick Lawrence
Sandy Emerson	Dan Buchanan	Judy Buchanan
Terry Mitchell	Terry Merced	Bud Lippard
Beverly Huntington	Jennifer Price	Vicki Price
Myra Mayse	Flo Brown	Bill Price
Jerry Godwin	Hope Lackey	Michael Neal
E.J. Emerson	Marianne Hart	Anita Davis
Scott Dixon	Ponise Youngblood	Cathy Rose
Steven Brown	Curtis Foster	Bob Hatte
Lee Emily	Margaret Harrington & Family	Bill Hambright
Diane Halliday	Emma Brooks	Barbara Seigler
Nita Skillman	Helmut and Linda Vogg	Heather Rodney
Craven Ford	Ken Caldwell	Sue Wilson
Mike and Linda Smith	Phil and Melanie Del Gaizo	Jonathan Clifton
Donna Glass		

**Elon Community Church
United Church of Christ**

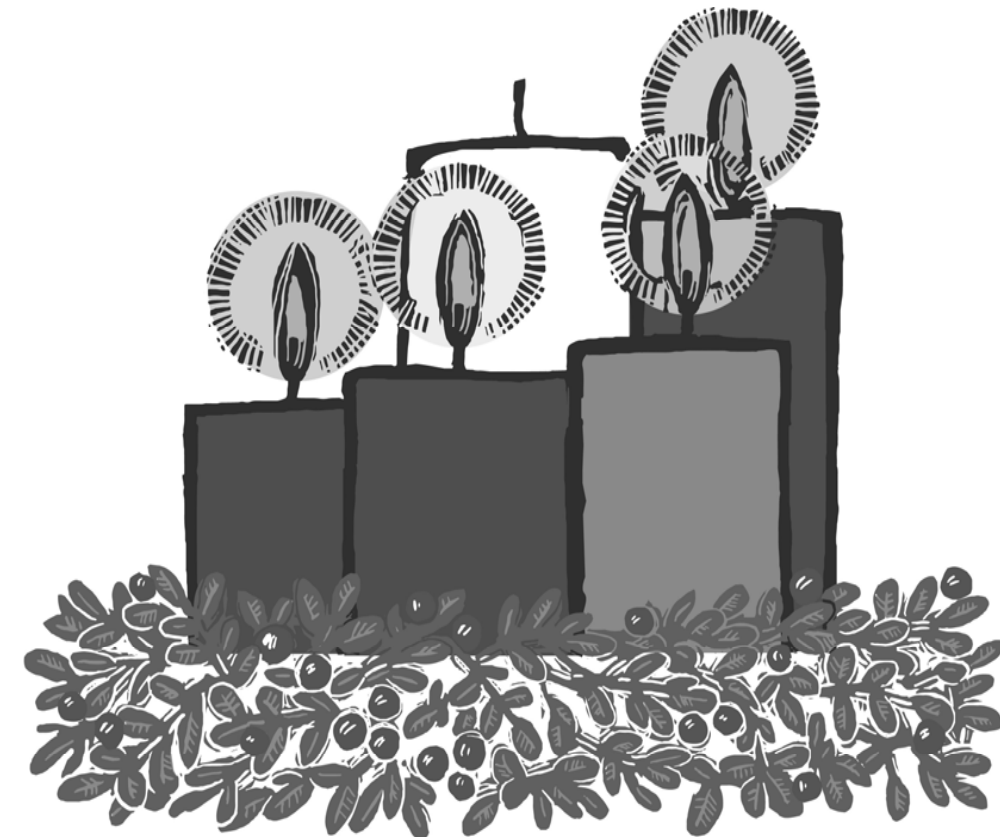
Dedicated to spiritual renewal, we strive to be an accepting, thinking, and serving community of faith.

December 24, 2017

10:30 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

We welcome all guests and members who worship with us this morning. If you are a visitor, please take time to sign the visitor portion of the insert. Join us after worship for snacks and refreshments!



— FOURTH SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT

*Large Print and Children's Bulletins are available.
If you would prefer to have one of these, please ask an Usher.*

Gathering God's People in Love

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP—Please Sign In

PRELUDE	Alleluia (from Cantata 142)	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
	In Dulci Jubilo	Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

The Call of Love

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come to witness a miracle.
All: We sing the miracle of God's steadfast love.
Leader: New life bursts forth in unexpected ways.
All: We shout the good news: God's covenant endures forever!
Leader: The desert blooms; what was barren is fertile!
All: With our mouths we proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations: God is the Rock of our Salvation! Amen.

† HYMN 131 It Came Upon A Midnight Clear CAROL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Page 534 (OT)

LITANY FOR LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Leader: Love is of God. God is Love.
All: God sent Christ into the world to bring restoration to all creation.
Leader: Christ's gospel of reconciliation turned the tables on Rome's systems of oppression.
All: Christ overturned tables of greed and corruption and sets a table of grace, where all have a place.
Leader: Christ brings healing and redemption to a world that longs for wholeness.
All: We rejoice that we have been whole in Christ's love!
Leader: Christ calls us together to be a community of love and justice.
All: We will be shepherds of God's love and light to the world ready to be illumined with the wonder of God.
All Sing: One Candle Is Lit CRADLE SONG
**Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,
where evil is banished and faith takes the day,
a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.**
Leader: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, We pray today that hope, peace, joy and love encircle the world, These candles are lit today for us to remember what has already happened: Christ has come to dwell among us. Through Christ we are redeemed and reconciled to the world. Love wins! Amen.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of God Be with you.
All: And also with you.
Leader: Let us joyously offer to one another this sign of Christ's peace.

† GLORIA GLORIA
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Encountering the Sacred Word of Love

ANTHEM Mary's Magnificat Andrew Carter
Gretchen Bruesehoff Wiles, soprano (b. 1939)

Softly the light is stealing,
Sweetly a maiden sings
Ever wakeful, ever wistful
Watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly her King of kings.

My soul doth magnify, doth magnify the Lord,
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Mary sang to Jesus, softly the lady sings,
I will love you; I will serve you;
Make my lullaby glorify, magnify
The King of kings.

Lullaby, lullaby, lullaby.

CHILDREN'S TIME Little Children Come Unto Me SILER
**Little children come unto me, Little children come unto me.
You are made in God's image so perfectly.
Little children come unto me.**

GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38 Page 55 (NT)

Leaders: Through this scripture God is still speaking.
All: And we are listening!

SERMON Do Not Be Afraid Sharon Wheeler

SERMON RESPONSE The Sussex Carol Attributed to
Luke Weddings
(1628-1691)

Responding to the Word of Love

SHARING OF JOY AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison. "Forgive us our **trespasses...**")
**Please address God in the way that is most comfortable to you:
"Our Father," "Our Father and Mother," "Our God," etc.**

PRESENTING TO GOD OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

The Call to Give

The Giving of Tithes and Offerings

OFFERTORY Ave Maria Giulio Caccini
Jennifer M. Gibbons, alto (1551-1618)
Gretchen Bruesehoff Wiles, soprano

† THE ADVENT DOXOLOGY CRANHAM
**What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
But what can I offer: all my heart.**

† OFFERTORY PRAYER

Sending God's People in Love

† HYMN 127 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ER IST EIN'ROS

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE Fanfare on "Joy to the World" Ken White

† *You are invited to stand as able at these moments.*

*Today we welcome The Cathedral Brass with members Eddie Rogers, trumpet;
Luis Rodriguez, trumpet; our own Sandy Griffin, trombone;
and Ken White, euphonium. The postlude selection today was written by
Ken White. This group often performs at Elon Community Church and enhances
our worship experiences. Our own soloists, Jennifer Gibbons and
Gretchen Bruesehoff Wiles, will sing two selections that highlight the emphasis on
Mary today: Andrew Carter's "Mary's Magnificat," which uses some of the
traditional language of the many Magnificat settings often found by British
composers, and a beautiful Italian setting of Ave Maria.*