



# MONTHLY

December 2025

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## From the Pastor

Dear ones,

Advent is almost here. The First Sunday of Advent is just 5 short days away as I write this. I feel rushed already.

How can Christmas be so close, so soon?

It causes me to think about what I value most about these holy seasons that are fast approaching. I love the anticipation of Advent. And then I also dislike the steady reminder that the time left for crafting the perfect Christmas Eve sermon is rapidly declining! I like the ramping up of energy for celebration and the growing hope of seeing people that I only get to see a few times each year. And then, I bemoan the fact that I have no clue what to get some of them for Christmas gifts.

There are other things that I love about Christmas, but the thing I love most is the deep reminder of how much God loves us, all of us, the best and the worst of us. On Christmas Eve we will gather in the sweet gift of being able to praise God for the gift of God's self to us. The mystery of the incarnation is so very staggering. God the Father sent God the Son to take on our flesh and become one of us, to walk among us, to teach us, to draw us to himself, and to take away the sin of the world. The Second Person of the Holy Trinity comes to us to offer himself as a sacrifice for our sin, to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. My sin. Your sin.

I wonder, how could I let anything about the business of the Advent and Christmas season distract me from the sheer wonder of God becoming like me, for me. And yet, just today, I have already felt frustrated that I have let this blessed season sneak up on me, yet again. How can we all avoid that? In November of 2021, I took up that question in the newsletter article for December. I wrote the following:

I have a suggestion. When you find yourself on the edge of giving in to the hurry, remember the "why" of the season. We celebrate Christmas to remind us that God came to us, as one of us. My favorite reflection on the incarnation (a word used to describe the eternal Son of God, the Word, becoming flesh and dwelling among us) is a treatise by Saint Athanasius who died in 373 AD. It is entitled "On the Incarnation." I want to share a quote from it that stuck with me and gave me a new appreciation for Christmas. Athanasius writes:

...it was our sorry case that caused the Word to come down, our transgression that called out His love for us, so that He made haste to help us and to appear among us. It is we who were the cause of His taking human form, and for our salvation that **in his great love He was both born and manifested in a human body.**<sup>1</sup>

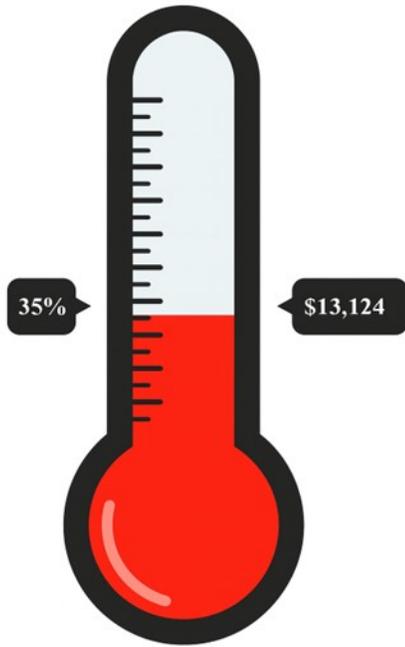
When you feel the onset of hurry as you prepare for Christmas, guard your heart by remembering the why of the season, the one thing necessary to be at peace... God loved us enough to become one of us and die the death that sin requires, in our place, so that we can live in peace. "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" (Luke 2:14 )

**Remember Christ!**



<sup>1</sup> St. Athanasius, *On the Incarnation* (Crestwood, New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1996), 41.

**GOAL: \$38,000**



In addition to your regular giving, would you consider making a gift to offset the purchase of a new-to-us organ? If so, please mark your gift with the word "organ."



Flower Calendar for 2026  
The yellow days are available for Sign-up!

Jan.	4	11	18	25	
Feb.	1	8	15	22	
Mar.	1	8	15	22	29
Apr.	5	12	19	26	
May	3	10	17	24	31
Jun.	7	14	21	28	
Jul.	5	12	19	26	
Aug.	2	9	16	23	30
Sept.	6	13	20	27	
Oct.	4	11	18	25	
Nov.	1	8	15	22	29
Dec.	6	13	20	27	

Thank you to everyone who has been in nursery these babes apricate and love you!



# Epworth

Serving Children & Families

**EPWORTH MOMENT:** Beth Williams, President, CEO, says "I want you to know how grateful we are for your gifts that have made it possible for Epworth to continue protecting children and teens from abuse and neglect. Madison, 17, and Ashton, 15, were placed at Epworth two years after their mom died of Cancer and the father who deeply resented having to care for them alone was abusive to them. Both are thriving at Epworth. Ashton made the school JV Basketball team. Madison is applying to colleges, hoping to become an oncology nurse in memory of her mom. These beautiful children, whose inner lights could have been extinguished by grief, trauma, and abuse, are safe, secure, and becoming who they were meant to be. YOU MADE THAT POSSIBLE THROUGH YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY. I am grateful for your continued support of Epworth, and I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas."

# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Nov. 30th</b> <b>1st Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:30 pm Robotics <b>4:30 Christmas Parade of Lights</b>	1 8-12 MUMC Day School 11:00 am Prayer Team	2 8-12 MUMC Day School <b>8:30 am Seniors Crèche Trip</b>	3 8-12 MUMC Day School 3:00 pm CIA 6:30 pm Choir	4 8-12 MUMC Day School Pilot Club (UR)	5 8-12 MUMC Day School <b>Last Day to order Poinsettias</b>	6
7 <b>2nd Advent Sunday</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:30 pm Robotics 4:30 pm Youth 7:00 pm Young Adult, Christmas Caroling	8 8-12 MUMC Day School 11:00 am Prayer Team 6:30 pm United Methodist Men's Ladies Christmas Banquet	9 8-12 MUMC Day School	10 8-12 MUMC Day School 3:00 pm CIA <b>6pm-Trustee Meeting (L)</b> 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary	11 8-12 MUMC Day School	12 8-12 MUMC Day School	13 <b>Robotics Comp. Sanctuary &amp; Fellowship Hall reserved</b>
14 <b>3rd Advent Sunday</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:30 pm Robotics 4:30 pm Youth 7:00 pm Young Adult	15 8-12 MUMC Day School 11:00 am Prayer Team 5:30 pm Myrtle Strange Circle @ Stephanie Lochner's home	16 8-12 MUMC Day School	17 8-12 MUMC Day School 3:00 pm CIA <b>6pm Finance Com.</b>	18 8-12 MUMC Day School	19 8-12 MUMC Day School	20
21 <b>4th Advent Sunday</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:30 pm Robotics 4:30 pm Youth 7:00 pm Young Adult	22	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service</b>	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	26 <b>Church Office Closed</b>	27
28 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:30 pm Robotics 4:30 pm Youth	29	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>	<b>January 1</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>January 2</b>	<b>January 3</b>

**December Birthday's**

12/01-Glenn Wells  
12/03-Louis Griffith  
12/04-Francis Brown King  
12/07-Elaine Buddin, Neal Mahoney, Julien Weinberg  
12/08-Woody Haynes, Len Mathis  
12/11-Cona Tyson, Joan Barber  
12/12-Katherine Fickling  
12/15- Isabelle Brown  
12/16-Kewpie Sprott, John Mathis  
12/18-Carolyn Meistrell, Sandra Brewer  
12/19-Carolyn Coffey, Terry McCabe  
12/27-Betty Coffey, Susan Elmore, Kim Jordan, Jay Weinberg  
12/29- Deedee Clark

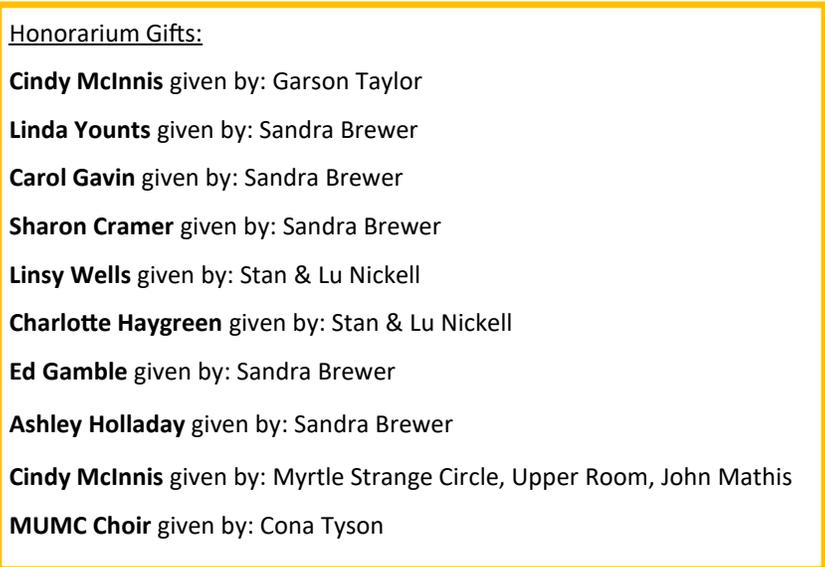
**December Anniversaries**

12/12 Rock and Vicki Ouzts  
12/30- Joe and Katherine Coffey



**Memorial Gifts:**

**Jerry Robertson** given by: Cona Tyson  
**Brenda Brewer** given by: Sandra Brewer, Garson Taylor, Myrtle Strange Circle, Upper Room  
**Debra Quilling Smith** given by: AB & Sue Jordan, The Chancel Choir, Rock & Vicki Ouzts, Jim Black, Billy & Betty Coffey  
**Spencer Jordan** given by: Stan & Lu Nickell  
**Howard King** given by: Stan & Lu Nickell, Cona Tyson  
**Tom Glans** given by: Annette Browder, Rock & Vicki Ouzts, Jane & Tommy Benton, Scott & Anne Wannamaker, Jim Black  
**Bruce Gottheiner** given by: AB & Sue Jordan, Annette Browder, Sharon Cramer, Sandra Brewer, Rock & Vicki Ouzts, Jane & Tommy Benton, Scott & Anne Wannamaker, Jim Black  
**Lindy Brunson** given by: Mitch & Cathy Gardner  
**Brant Brown** given by: Mitch & Cathy Gardner  
**Betty Loadholt** given by: Annette Browder  
**Margaret Jackson** given by: Annette Browder



**Honorarium Gifts:**

**Cindy McInnis** given by: Garson Taylor  
**Linda Younts** given by: Sandra Brewer  
**Carol Gavin** given by: Sandra Brewer  
**Sharon Cramer** given by: Sandra Brewer  
**Linsy Wells** given by: Stan & Lu Nickell  
**Charlotte Haygreen** given by: Stan & Lu Nickell  
**Ed Gamble** given by: Sandra Brewer  
**Ashley Holladay** given by: Sandra Brewer  
**Cindy McInnis** given by: Myrtle Strange Circle, Upper Room, John Mathis  
**MUMC Choir** given by: Cona Tyson

**Our Prayer List** Please remember the people below in your prayers. **This list is in continuous rotation, if you do not see your loved one on this list please call the church office and update us on their health.**

Carl Alewine	Larry Cramer	Lisa Gibbons	Tommy Lowder	Carrie Anna Strange
Karen Barfield	Ann Cutter	Family of Bruce Gottheiner	Wally Maynard	Ken Vickery
Tyson Bradshaw	Jim Daniel, Jr.	Brandon Herlong	Sandra Murdough	Barbara Schade
Virginia Brewer	Carol Gavin	Mary Howard	Mark Newman	Hallie Williamson Smith
Jake Buddin	Artie Felder	Jaden Johnson	Warner Newman	Hollis Wilson
Paul Butler	Ed Gamble	Julie & Gerald Lockhart	Linda Rogers	Rod Wilson
			Sandy Saxton	

**Please remember to Pray for our members who are living away from home, in the **military**, or who have limited mobility:**

Betty Black	Liz Denny	Margaret Lee
Joe Brewer	Cameron Dodge	Neal Mahoney
Isabelle Brown	William (Artie) Gamble	Joan Odom
Brenda (Dedee) & George Clark	Woody Haynes	Helene Patnode
Rosella Daniels	Bo King	Margaret Robertson
June Davis	Wilson Lepp	Cliff Toner



**2025 Tithes & Offering**

Needed Each Week	\$ 9,932.62	
	Received Weekly	
Oct. 26	\$ 11,740.86	
Nov. 2	\$ 8,954.00	
Nov. 9	\$	
Nov. 16	\$ 8,231.38	
Total Received	\$ 28,926.24	
Needed Year to Date		\$ 330,108.32
Total Received YTD		\$ 456,900.60
Overage or (Deficit)		\$(126,792.28)

Date	Worship Attendance
Oct. 26	9:30 am Sunday School— 45 Worship 10:30 am — 94
Nov. 2	9:30 am Sunday School— 56 Worship 10:30 am — 115
Nov. 9	9:30 am Sunday School— 60 Worship 10:30 am — 125
Nov. 16	9:30 am Sunday School— 42 Worship 10:30 am — 93
Nov. 23	9:30 am Sunday School— 48 Worship 10:30 am — 97



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