

COVENANT COVERAGE

CHURCH NEWSLETTER, VOLUME 48, NUMBER 12, DECEMBER 2018

Covenant United Methodist Church
6824 Tuckaseegee Road, Charlotte, NC 28214-2734
Church Office: (704) 392-3925 Fax: (704) 393-8900



And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12

The church office will be closed December 24, 2018 to January 2, 2019
If you should have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Elise Kennedy at 1-336-442-7708.

Staff

STAFF: Rev. Elise Kennedy, Pastor (Cell: 336-442-7708)
Wanda Vassey, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Thomas Moore, Director of Music

OTHER: Rev. Bol Sui, Pastor Crane Building Congregation

ekennedy@covenantcharlotte.com
office@covenantcharlotte.com
music@covenantcharlotte.com

WEB SITE: Covenant United Methodist Church
Lay Leader: Rhonda Smartt

www.covenantcharlotte.com
704-718-4184 (home)

METRO DISTRICT INFORMATION: District Superintendent: Rev. David C. Hockett
Physical Address: 13924 Professional Center Dr., Suite 201, Huntersville, NC 28078
Mail: P.O. Box 1504, Huntersville, NC 28070
Telephone: (Office) 704.525.3395; Ravonda Britt (Cell) 704.239.3850
Website: <http://www.metrodistrictumc.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/metroumc/>

CONFERENCE CENTER: Bishop Paul Leeland, Email: pleeland@wnccumc.org
Physical Address: 13924 Professional Center Dr., Ste 201, Huntersville, NC 28078
Mail: PO Box 1504, Huntersville, NC 28070
Telephone: 704.535.2260 Conference Center, Extension 138 - DeEtta Rivens

The United Methodist Church: www.umc.org
The Western NC Conference: <http://wnccumc.org>

**Covenant United Methodist Church
6824 Tuckaseegee Road
Charlotte, NC 28214-2734**

**Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Charlotte, NC
Permit 1760**

Return Service Requested

COVENANT PRAYER CONCERNS

Our Church & Our leaders, The Lost, America, USA Leaders, World Leaders, The World

Gayle Mull

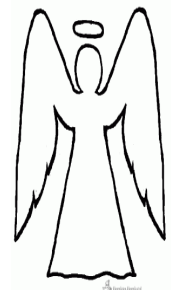
**Winnie Elliott
Gloria Navy
Katheryn Goodman
Kathy Threatt**

**Ray & Pansy DeViney
Barbara Hurley
Jim Wallace
Louise Mingus**

Jo Ann Murphy (Sister-in-law of Gayle Mull)

**Luis Osuna (Son-in-law of John Helms)
Becky Anderson (dialysis)
Nancy Blanton**

**Judy Dotson
Christine Sexton
Katheryn Goodman**



**Glenn Monteith, Aldersgate Ret. Community
Polly Wright, Brookdale Sr. Living**

**Virginia Townsend, The Haven
Buford Nance, Williams Place**

From the Pastor's Desk!

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in the name of Christ!

As we enter the month of December, we find that it is a month filled with hope, wonder and awe. We watch as children get excited with dreams of Santa and gifts under a tree. We listen to music that transports us to our childhoods and memories of families gathered for a celebration. We see lights in windows, on trees, and decorations covering everything. The temperature is brisk, maybe, and our spirits are lifted by being with friends and family and celebrating the joy of Christmas.

This year, as we think about our gatherings and our time spent shopping and preparing food, I encourage us all to take some time to think about the many for whom Christmas this year will be a bit harder to enjoy. We have many that have lost friends and loved ones this year and this will be their first Christmas without them. Think about sending them a card, maybe giving them a call, inviting them out for a cup of coffee or even inviting them to your home for Christmas. There are so many ways that we can help our folks know that they are loved and cherished, especially as a first Christmas comes to them.

It is a time of year that we think a lot about gifts, and maybe we think about gifts the wrong way. **The season of Christmas is to be a season where we remember the gift that God gave to us, his son, Jesus.** As we think of ways to give of ourselves over this month, remember we should give something each day. Your gift could be a smile to someone who is tired after working all day and trying to get something for their family to eat. Your gift could be buying a few extra groceries to go in our food pantry baskets here at church. Your gift could be simply sharing the change in your drink holder in your car with someone on the side of the road.

One of the greatest gifts that we can give to anyone this Christmas would be the gift of Christ. Consider inviting someone to join with us during the season of advent as we will hear, "The Hymns of Christmas." We will spend time reflecting on the songs of Mary and Zechariah and how they teach us how to sing even during the difficult times. We will gather on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. to celebrate a service of holy communion and candlelight as we welcome the birth of Christ. On the Sunday of Christmas, December 30th we will gather at 11:00 for a service of lessons and carols as we hear together the story of Christmas told through scripture and song.

I want to let each one of you know how loved you all are by me and my family. Thank you for being a church that wants to share the love of God not just within our walls, but everywhere that we can. We look forward to serving with you in 2019 and seeing all the blessings that God has in store for us here.

With God's Love,
Pastor Elise

DECEMBER SCRIPTURE READING



As we enter together into this season of Advent that will take us to Christmas, you will find in the scripture readings that will tell of the prophecies of the coming of Christ. There will also be readings that we are accustomed to reading during this season of the year. I invite you to take time each day and read the passages and meditate on them as they lead us all to the manger in Bethlehem.

- 1 Isaiah 9:2-7
- 2 Isaiah 61:1-11
- 3 Isaiah 52:1-5
- 4 Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- 5 II Samuel 17:12-16
- 6 Isaiah 40:1-5
- 7 Isaiah 42:1-7
- 8 Mark 1:1-8
- 9 Matthew 1:1-17
- 10 John 1:1-9
- 11 John 1:10-23
- 12 John 1:24-28
- 13 Luke 1:1-7
- 14 Luke 1:8-20
- 15 Luke 1:21-25
- 16 Luke 1:26-33
- 17 Luke 1:34-44
- 18 Luke 1:45-56
- 19 Luke 1:57-66
- 20 Luke 1:67-80
- 21 Luke 2:1-7
- 22 Luke 2:8-20
- 23 Luke 2:21-35
- 24 Matthew 1:18-25
- 25 John 1:29-34
- 26 Matthew 2:1-8
- 27 Matthew 2:9-12
- 28 Matthew 2:13-15
- 29 Luke 2:36-40
- 30 Mark 1:9-11
- 31 Matthew 2:16-23

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 24 - JANUARY 2. IF YOU HAVE A
PASTORAL EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT
PASTOR ELISE KENNEDY AT: (336) 442-7708.**



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**FROM THE STAFF OF COVENANT...
MAY YOU ALL HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!**

BODY & SOUL SENIOR FITNESS

Presents their annual

MRS. CLAUS' CANDY KITCHEN



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

9AM TO 2 PM



LOTS OF GREAT CANDIES AND HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Body & Soul Senior Fitness

Exercise Classes meet Monday, Wed., & Friday

9:30 AM to 10:30 AM.

Monthly fees are \$25.00.

No charge if you have Silver Sneakers in your insurance.

If you have any questions, please call *Kathy Joy* at 704-277-3267.

OCTOBER, 2018 - AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

9:30 AM Montagnard Service	48
9:45 AM Sunday School	42
11:00 AM Worship	48

LAST WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY FOR 2018:

DECEMBER 5 @ 5:30 PM - MEAL,

KIDZ, YOUTH & ADULT ACTIVITIES

PROGRAM PRACTICE ON WED. DECEMBER 12



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Glenda Jackson
- Wendy Mullis
- 7 Sammie Kennedy
- 8 Mark Plummer
- 10 Teresa Smith
- 11 David Joy
- Stephanie Blythe
- 12 H'Piot Bu Trang
- Y-Pho Mlo
- Gayle Mull
- 13 Lori Schlimmer
- Mykala Tate
- 15 Y-To Mlo
- Joshua Evans
- 17 Amber Stewart
- Danielle Mullis
- 19 Glenda McMurray
- 20 Khim H
- 21 Glenn Monteith
- 22 Michael Lowe
- 23 Jean Whitley
- Jeff Jackson
- David Beacham
- 27 Clay Hodge, Jr.
- 30 Chase Jones

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Y-Nghiep Ksor & H'Hue Adrong
- 14 John and Grace Hrisak



Family Christmas Sing Along

On Saturday, December 8th at 2:00 p.m.

Covenant UMC will host a Family Christmas Sing Along

This will be an opportunity for you and your family to gather and sing songs of the season and will be led by Dr. Thomas Moore. This is open to everyone in our community so feel free to invite your family and friends to come and join with us. There will be a mixture of sacred music as well as Christmas songs that are tied to the season. Know that you, your family and friends are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

MONTAGNARD CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



YOU ARE INVITED...On Sunday, December 9th, you are invited to join with our Montagnard brothers and sisters at Durham Baptist Church at 2:00 p.m. for their Christmas program. Our Montagnards will be joining with Montagnard Hope Alliance Church to share the story of Christmas. Please mark the date and make plans to attend.



DECEMBER 5 IS THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER. PLEASE TURN ALL INFORMATION FOR JANUARY BY DECEMBER 5. PLACE INFO IN OFFICE MAILBOX

OR EMAIL TO:

OFFICE@COVENANTCHARLOTTE.COM



CHRISTMAS CARDS

WE WILL AGAIN DISTRIBUTE CHRISTMAS CARDS WITHIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY. ONLY CARDS TO ACTIVE MEMBERS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AND NO CARDS WILL BE MAILED.

CARDS ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 9TH

AND WILL BE HANDED OUT AT THE CHURCHWIDE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ON DECEMBER 16TH.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SVC. 5:00 PM Monday, December 24, 2018

THANK YOU

A card from Gloria Kibler is on the bulletin board by the office. She is grateful to all and says, "Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place."

**PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED
SALTINE CRACKERS & OATMEAL
PLACE IN BASKETS NEAR OFFICE.**

NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INFORMATION DUE ON DECEMBER 5	Office Hrs: Mon.-Thurs 9AM-2 PM ALL BULLETIN INFO DUE IN OFFICE BY TUESDAY	BODY & SOUL SENIOR FITNESS EXERCISE CLASSES MONDAY, WED., & FRIDAY: 9:30 AM TO 10:30 AM.	DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVANTS Welcome: Billy Joy Head Usher: Tim Cox Church Sign: Ralph Percival Sound: Roger Smartt Security: Ray Stevanus Communion Steward: Grace Hrisak
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DECEMBER NURSERY WORKERS DECEMBER 2 Judy & Michael Lowe DECEMBER 9 Linda & Jim Smeltzer DECEMBER 16 Kandy Murphy and Kristin Lathan DECEMBER 23 Nancy Roland and Cornelia Watson DECEMBER 30 Sherry & Barry Smith	CHILDREN'S TIME WORKERS DECEMBER 2 Pastor Elise Kennedy DECEMBER 9 Kathy Joy DECEMBER 16 Linda Smeltzer DECEMBER 23 Elaine Snipes DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve - COMMUNION DECEMBER 30 Jim Smeltzer
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 9 AM until... HANGING OF THE GREENS 
1ST SUNDAY ADVENT-HOPE 2 9:30 AM Prayer Rm Open 9:30 AM Montagnard Svc 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	3 9:30 AM Exercise 7:00 PM Administrative Council	4	5 DECEMBER NEWS DUE 9:30 AM Exercise 5:30 PM WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS!	6 7:00 PM CHOIR	7 9:30 AM Exercise	8  9AM-2 PM MRS. CLAUS' CANDY KITCHEN  2:00 PM FAMILY CHRISTMAS SING ALONG
2ND SUN ADVENT LOVE 9 9:30 AM Prayer Rm Open 9:30 AM Montagnard Svc 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM MONTAGNARD SVC @ Durham Bapt CHRISTMAS CARD DEADLINE	10 9:30 AM Exercise	11 11:30 AM WOMEN'S LUNCH	12 9:30 AM Exercise 5:30 PM CHILDREN PRACTICE	13 7:00 PM CHOIR	14 9:30 AM Exercise	15
3RD SUN. ADVENT-PEACE 16 9:30 AM Prayer Rm Open 9:30 AM Montagnard Svc 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM CHURCHWIDE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM "A CHRISTMAS TO BELIEVE IN"	17 9:30 AM Exercise	18	19 9:30 AM Exercise	20 7:00 PM CHOIR	21 9:30 AM Exercise	22
4TH SUN. ADVENT- JOY 23 9:30 AM Prayer Rm Open 9:30 AM Montagnard Svc 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	24  5:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SVC. & COMMUNION Church office closed	25 CHRISTMAS DAY  Church office closed	26 Church office closed	27 7:00 PM CHOIR Church office closed	28 9:30 AM Exercise Church office closed	29
30 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 9:30 AM Prayer Rm Open 9:30 AM Montagnard Svc 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	JANUARY 1, 2019 	JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON			



"I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL."



"I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE CHRISTIAN FLAG, AND TO THE SAVIOR FOR WHOSE KINGDOM IT STANDS, ONE SAVIOR, CRUCIFIED, RISEN, AND COMING AGAIN, WITH LIFE AND LIBERTY TO ALL WHO BELIEVE."

CHURCHWIDE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



**COME FOR FUN, FELLOWSHIP,
FOOD & A SPECIAL GUEST!**



BRING FINGER FOODS TO SHARE

DECEMBER 16 @ 6:00 PM

A CHRISTMAS TO BELIEVE IN



2019 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS for You and Your Church

by Dr. James Emery White (Jan 2, 2017)

It's that time of year again.

We're going to lose weight, exercise more, get out of debt, stick to a budget, stop smoking, save for the future and spend more time with family.

We make resolutions because we want to bring change to bear on our circumstances. We want to improve ourselves and our quality of life. And the top resolutions, for most people, tend to revolve around the same three poles: money, health and family. But what would a set of New Year's resolutions look like for you and your church, your role as a leader, or simply as someone who wants to live a life of strategic Kingdom investment?

And specifically, what if they came from the [Bible](#)?

Though many more could be added, here are 15 to consider:

1. Pray more.
So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord... 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,'" says the Lord Almighty. ([Zechariah 4:6](#), NIV)
2. Invest in your spiritual gift(s).
Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. (I Timothy 4:14-15, NIV)
3. Get more intentional about evangelism.
I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. (I Corinthians 9:22, NIV)
4. Care for yourself spiritually.
Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ([Philippians 3:12](#), NIV)
5. Make the tough decisions you know are best.
And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. ([Acts 20:22-24](#), NIV)
6. Confront debilitating patterns of sin.
Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ([Hebrews 12:1](#), NIV)
7. Do the hard work needed to build community.
If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ([Matthew 18:15](#), NIV)
8. Keep in touch with contemporary culture.
From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders... All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take. (I Chronicles 12:32, NLT)
9. Quit comparing yourself to other Christians, other leaders and other churches.
Turning his head, Peter noticed the disciple Jesus loved following right behind. When Peter noticed him, he asked Jesus, "Master, what's going to happen to him?" Jesus said, "If I want him to live until I come again, what's that to you? You — follow me." That is how the rumor got out among the brothers that this disciple wouldn't die. But that is not what Jesus said. He simply said, "If I want him to live until I come again, what's that to you?" ([John 21:20-23](#), Msg)
10. Read more.
Timothy, please come as soon as you can...When you come, be sure to... bring my books.... (II Timothy 4:9, 13, NLT)
11. Prioritize your family.
A leader must be well-thought-of, committed to his wife... attentive to his own children and having their respect. For if someone is unable to handle his own affairs, how can he take care of God's church? (I Timothy 3:2-5, Msg)
12. Refuse to use ministry to satisfy your personal ambition.
Should you then seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them. ([Jeremiah 45:5](#), NIV)
13. Love people, not just crowds.
If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have [faith](#) that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love. (I Corinthians 13:1-3, Msg)
14. Be more open to change.
See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? ([Isaiah 43:19](#), NIV)
15. Stay focused on the vision.
They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. ([Acts 2:42-47](#), NIV)