

Camp UMC

December Circuit Rider



Advent Season

Pastoral Report

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.”-Isaiah 9:6-7 (NRSVUE)

“The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.”-Henri Nouwen

The season of Advent is upon us. For some of you, this is an invitation to jump right into the merriment of the Christmas season, and that’s ok! But it is important to remember that Advent is a season, and not just one day. Rev. Ryan Dunn, an ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church, puts it this way: “It is a time of heavy anticipation. It focuses on waiting for a big occurrence. But the anticipated occurrence or event is not actually fully realized on Christmas. During Advent, we are anticipating the full realization of something that began at the first Christmas (when Jesus Christ was born) but is not yet fully realized.

Technically, Christmas begins on December 25. Everything leading up to that date is Advent. And it is important to note that distinction so we can be fully mindful of the hope that faith speaks into our human experience.” The theme for this year’s season of Advent at Camp United Methodist Church is “The Will to Dream.” What are your dreams for Camp United Methodist Church? What are your dreams for the community of Shallotte?

Throughout the 4 weeks of Advent, culminating on Christmas Eve, we will hopefully, peacefully, joyfully, and lovingly rediscover the will to dream God sized dreams for our community and beyond. As the beautiful Advent hymn reminds us, “Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.” I invite you during this season of Advent to find your rest in Christ and let Christ release you from the bondage of fear and sin. May we expectantly await our Savior together, giving thanks that all the while, He is already in our midst.

Shalom, Pastor Clay



Music



The Marvelous Miracle Christmas Cantata is December 7 @ 10 am

The majesty of the miracle nativity was God's gift to all who believe. What can we give in return? Join us during worship on December 7 as we celebrate the gift of the Christ Child. The choir will be joined by Pastor Clay, narrator, and accompanied by piano, trumpet and percussion.



Contact Wes & Betsy Ward for more info.

ADULT MINISTRY UPDATES

SALT will have a singalong with Phil G. on Monday, December 15 @ 5 pm in the YFC. Please bring an appetizer to share. Bring a friend as we break bread and sing Christmas praises to our Lord.

Ladies Night Out will be Thursday, December 18 @ 5:30 pm at Wing & Fish Company in Shallotte. Bring a \$10 gift to share as we play White Elephant. Ladies of all ages are welcome. Bring a friend!

Contact Tamy Munns for more information on upcoming events.



At our November UMM & SALT Meeting, David Inman discussed the importance of church safety. Adults of all ages, join us each month for our SALT events.



Join us and bring a friend for **Wonderful Wednesday!** All are invited and there is something for everyone! Book study begins at 4 pm each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be reading **The Christmas Letters** study during this Advent season. First session is Tuesday, November 25 due to Thanksgiving.

(Contact Tamy Munns for a book.)

- Dinner & Camp Kids take place at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- Chancel Choir Practice begins at 5:55 pm in the Salmon Room.

What is Advent?

Advent is a season observed in many Christian churches as a time of preparation and expectant waiting for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The term Advent in Latin means coming or arrival. Advent is the beginning of the church calendar year. You will see the colors blue and/or purple displayed throughout churches during Advent.



Length of Advent: 21 to 28 days (depending on when December 25 falls).

The start of Advent is symbolized in our church with the Hanging of the Greens Service. Advent includes the four Sundays leading up to Christmas.

Our church celebrates with the Crismon tree and the Advent Wreath.

The four candles lit during Advent represent: peace, hope, love, joy.

Please give a warm welcome to our newest Camp members!



Parker Reilley-Hyman

Shelley Reilley-Hyman

Barbara Jedrey

Kendra & Kevin Knoernschild

Diane Lare

Ben Smith

Shawanna Smith-Parker

Denise & Lewis Siegel

Cathy & Peter Varvaris

Chad, Meghan, & Marley Wilson

Children

On Sunday, December 7th the Chancel Choir will present their cantata, and we would like the children to remain in the sanctuary. There will be no Children's Church.

However, there will be a nursery provided for ages 2 and under.

December will be a busy month for our church children. They have already begun their rehearsals for **True North Christmas**, which will be presented on Sunday, December 14th, immediately after the regular church service. This will take place in the Youth and Family Center. Our cast is a mix of Sunday School and Camp Kids attendees. They are so excited to share their message, and would love to see you there. Please join us.

Wednesday, December 17th will be an evening of food, fun and fellowship, and our last meeting of 2025. Camp Kids will reconvene on January 7th, 2026.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored our meals this Fall. We are looking for **sponsors for our Spring meals**. There will be a sign up sheet will be in the narthex after Christmas for those who would like to sign up to sponsor.

Contact [Thommi Hendricks](#) for additional information.



Camp will host a **Live Nativity** on December 9 & 11 from 6-7 pm in front of the Sanctuary. We need 8-10 volunteers to assist with this. Invite your friends to come check out this spiritual event.

For more details, contact [Tamy Munns](#).



Youth

The youth attended Pilgrimage, a Christian youth conference in Rocky Mount, NC November 7th through 9th. Dean Anderson took 9 youth to this weekend of worship event and met up with some familiar faces while there. Kara Martin met the group to chaperone; she was a youth and children's leader here last year but moved away to complete an internship for school. Pastor Clay and Shawna met us there as Shawna was on the design team this year. Pastor Clay has been attending this event since 2013 and he thinks this was Shawna's 16th time attending so you can tell how special this event is. We even got to spend some time with Pastor Alex Parker, our previous associate pastor. The youth were able to worship with youth from around North Carolina, hear great speakers, experience the Holy Spirit, and even got some energy out at a trampoline park. Thank you for your prayers and support taking this special group to such an important event.

The youth will be having a Christmas lock-in the night of December 5th ending the morning of December 6th. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with this event we would love the help. We will be watching a movie, doing an escape room at the church, playing games, maybe a field trip and hopefully sleeping some before having breakfast. Please feel free to invite any youth to this event even if they can come for a few hours.

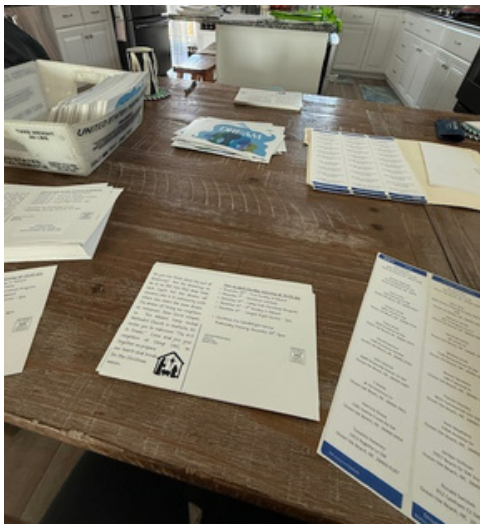
We continue to meet Sunday nights from 5:30-7.

Contact [Anna Anderson](#) for additional information.



Susanna Wesley ~ Women in Faith meets December 9 at 10:00 a.m.
in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Third Annual Souper Sunday a great success. We raised \$1782.00 and the Joy Circle is making a donation to bring our total up to \$2000. This will give us the \$1000 donation to the Methodist Home For Children and \$1000 for local missions. Thank you to all the soup makers and soup eaters.



As we have done in the past, the **Evangelism Committee** is sending a postcard mailer to 1500 new homeowners within 15 miles of Camp UMC. The postcard will announce the Advent Sermon series and invite all to come to worship at Camp UMC in December. We have ordered 500 extra postcards with the idea it will be an easy way for members of the congregation invite neighbors to our church. Please commit to inviting at least two families to join you for a worship service. The Cantata and Christmas Eve services will be extra special.

Adopt A Highway crew will pickup trash on December 13. Contact Hart Merriam for more info.

Wish to add something to the newsletter?

Please send your submissions to Hart Merriam by the 20th of each month.

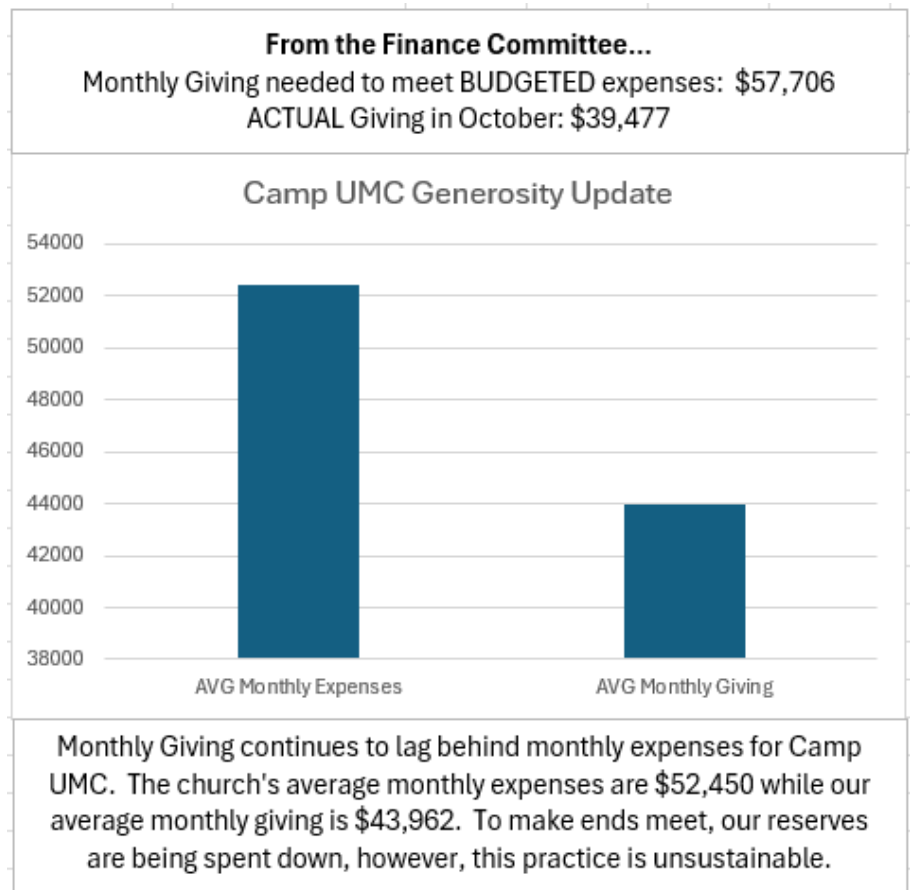
****All underlined names provide you a direct link to their contact info.****



Next Church Council Meeting:
 December 9 @ 6:30 pm
Tom Evans- Chair of the Church Council



Baskets and Bible Study meets Tuesdays from 2:00p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All crafters are welcome to attend. Contact Eileen Markum or Margaret Hardin for more info.



Dream Big for Camp

We have recently embraced the quote “We Serve a Generous God” as a worship theme. We are an amazingly generous church with a heartwarming response for every outreach project that we sponsor. We might be a slightly smaller church than we used to be, but our heart for mission is larger than ever.

During this holiday season, we invite you to “Dream Big with Camp for Christmas.” Sharing generosity can be a challenge, so we have come up with a way to help you, your family, and our church! This year, we humbly ask you to consider sharing a monetary donation in honor or memory of a loved one. This gift is a thoughtful way to honor the life of a special someone while simultaneously aiding the ongoing and ever-growing ministries of Camp United Methodist Church.

For the next three weeks, there will be envelopes in the bulletin for you. If you feel led, you can return the envelope to our offering basket with the requested information. The names being honored and/or remembered, as well as the name of the giver, will be listed in our bulletins on December 21st and Christmas Eve. If a donation is made to the church in honor of someone that is not a member of Camp, a note will be sent to the recipient to tell them a special gift has been given in their name.

Let us always be reminded of the most glorious gift we have ever received: Jesus! Christmas began with a child. The baby who was born into a mean and disbelieving world and who lived to change all of that. His love is still transforming lives. His was a gentle love powerful enough to inspire generations. Our faith makes us want to integrate that glimpse of eternal goodness into how we live our lives. It is up to us, believers in Jesus Christ, to pass on His message.

In Christ’s peace,
Tom Evans- Chair of the Church Council





Save the Date: The Agape Ministry will host their annual **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Interfaith Prayer Luncheon** on January 19 @ noon in the Sanctuary, followed by lunch in the YFC @ 1 pm. All are invited to participate in this special time with local churches and guest speaker, Captain Timothy T. Daniels.

Thank you Camp UMC for your generous donation of \$275 for the Crop Walk. The Crop Walk helps the Lord's Food Pantry fight hunger in Shallotte, NC!

Thank you everyone for their love, support and prayers. It is awesome to be part of such a loving church family! Thank you!

-Kim Williamson

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Interfaith Prayer Luncheon**
January 19, 2026
@ Noon
Camp UMC
4807 Main St.
Shallotte, NC



Join us for an afternoon of fellowship and worship with special guest speaker
Captain Timothy T. Daniels- NC Highway Patrolman
Lunch is provided.

Outreach/ The Lord's Food Pantry:

Thanks to your generosity, Camp UMC donated \$1470 towards **Thanksgiving dinners** in Brunswick County. That's over 70 families being fed in our area.

Also, all of our shoes from the **shoe tree** have been claimed. Thanks be to God for such a generous church!

Our next food distribution is December 6. Contact Joey Galloway to learn how to volunteer.

Barbara, Howard, and Ray McKinnon



End of Year Giving

The Christmas season is a wonderful and holy time of the year. It annually allows us the opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior. This is often described as the “most wonderful time of the year!” As our calendar rolls forward, 2025 will soon end. As you prepare for any end of year donations, please be aware that there could be financial benefits if you donate directly to our church from your Qualified IRA’s or investment accounts. Giving directly to any qualified charity (like Camp UMC) from an IRA will allow you to bypass yourself and receive a significant tax benefit on your gift. It’s my understanding that there is an age requirement of 70 1/2 to take full advantage of this. If you are of this age and are considering end of year giving, please consult your financial advisor! Likewise, you can give appreciated stocks directly to our church as well. We have an account at Edward Jones Financial Advisors in Ocean Isle Beach. Please contact Hart Merriam or Harold Beaty if you would like any additional info.

May you experience the joy and love of the birth of Christ again during this Christmas. “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders. And his name shall be called: Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6



Mother's Morning Out

You can already feel the excitement as we begin moving through this holiday season! We started early in the year creating ornaments for our tree at the Museum of Coastal Carolina, in Ocean Isle Beach. The tree is part of their **Festival of Trees**, and ours is located in the lecture hall. Our theme is, "O Holy Night." All of the trees are being auctioned off to the top bidders. The winner of our tree will also receive gift cards for local businesses that total over \$500.00.

Fun events this month include our **Grinch Afternoon**, class parties, and Christmas Spirit week, which concludes on Thursday, December 18th with our **Christmas program** in the Sanctuary at 11 am. Doors open at 10:30.

We will be out for our Christmas break from December 19th until Monday, January 5th.

We wish everyone and holiday season filled with joy and blessings.

Contact [Thommi Hendricks](#) for more information.

Save the Date:

This Month:

- December 2:** Finance Meeting @ 7 pm
- December 4:** Trustees Meeting @ 6 pm
- December 5:** Youth Christmas Party @ 5:30 pm
- December 6:** Shallotte Christmas Parade @ 10 am
- December 6:** Camp's Food Distribution Day @ 10 am
- December 7:** Christmas Cantata @ 10 am
- December 9:** Women in Faith Meets @ 10 am
- December 9:** Church Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- December 14:** Children's Christmas Program @ 11 am
- December 14:** Final Youth Meeting of 2025 @ 5:30 pm
- December 15:** SALT Christmas Sing-a-Long @ 5:30 pm
- December 18:** MMOM Christmas Program @ 11 am
- December 18:** Ladies Night Out @ Wing & Fish at 5:30 pm
- December 18:** SPRC Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- December 18:** Comfort & Compassion Ministry @ 6:30 pm
- December 21:** Flight 345 Meeting during service
- December 21:** Agape Ministry Meeting @ 11 am
- December 21:** The Longest Night of the Year Service @ 7 pm
- December 22:** United Methodist Men @ 6 pm
- December 24:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 5 pm

Upcoming:

- Camp Kids Spring Kickoff: January 7 @ 5:30 pm
- Wonderful Wednesday resume: January 7 @ 4 pm
- Youth Group resume: January 11 @ 5:30 pm
- Choir resume: January 7 @ 5:55 pm

Weekly Gatherings:

(subject to change with the holidays)

- Camp Kids/Wonderful Wednesday/ Choir:** Wed nights from 5-8pm
- Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Tuesday's @ 9:30 am at Virginia Winfree's
- Youth Group:** Sunday nights @ 5:30 pm
- Sunday School:** Sunday mornings @ 9 am
- Sunday Morning Worship:** Sunday mornings @ 10 am