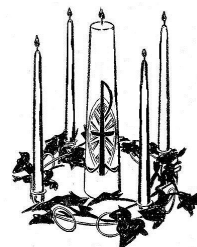




**DECEMBER 5, 2021**  
**2nd Sunday in Advent**



**Hello Skyland Family,**

**WORSHIP TODAY**

**Scripture:** Malachi 3:1-4

**9:00 A.M.**

Musicians: Ben Austin - Praise Team

**11:00 A.M.**

Musicians: Chancel Choir - Bob Wrhen, trombone -  
Janet Jennings, cello - Linda Jones

**December Communion Rail Offerings** benefit Trauma Intervention Program of WNC.



**FROM DAN'S DESK:**

- Joy and I are using the same sermon title throughout the season of Advent, "Making Room For The Impossible." The idea is that the people of first century Palestine were in a bad situation. They lived in an occupied homeland controlled by pagan Rome. They had no political or military solution to their plight. Their religious history was in many ways a mixed bag, and they had been waiting on God to make some progress on past promises for about 500 years.  
Yes, people still had faith. Yes, people like Simeon in Luke 2 had hope. But, there was no conceivable way in the minds of people how any aspect of their situation was going to be remedied. It all seemed impossible. Into this milieu, Jesus was born.  
If Jesus could be born into such a time and place, what possibilities exist in our lives for something new to break through? Come worship with us this Advent and find out.


**REMINDERS:**

- ♦ **Serving On Sunday: December 5**  
Bus Driver - Shelley Stone  
Greeter **11:00 a.m.** - Alice Houston, Ned Fowler, Frank Poetzsch  
Lay Reader **11:00 a.m.** - TBA  
Ushers: **9:00 a.m.** - Tammy Deaver, Frank Poetzsch **11:00 a.m.** - Alice Houston, Ned Fowler, Frank Poetzsch
- ♦ **Blog** by Pastor Dan - [parsondan.com](http://parsondan.com)
- ♦ **For Livestreams & Staff/Ministry videos** see SUMC YouTube channel & our SUMC Facebook page.
- ♦ **Going Forward Quick Reference:** Worship Guidelines **beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>**
  - ◇ Masks are required indoors. This includes worship, all classes, meetings, and small groups.
  - ◇ Practice excellent hand hygiene
  - ◇ If you are experiencing fever, cough, aches, or other significant health symptoms, please remain at home
  - ◇ Maintain distance between households or pods

**POINSETTIAS & BUILDING FUND - IN HONOR & IN MEMORY** You may order Poinsettias for \$10 each and/or give to the Building Fund in honor or in memory of someone. **Deadline is today Sunday, December 5, 2021.** Pink Poinsettia/Building Fund forms & envelopes are located in Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary, Colonnade, and church office. Please fill out the form completely. Place your check/cash & form in the envelope, and place it in the offering collected during worship services or bring it to the church office.



**STAFF LOVE OFFERING:** We are blessed at Skyland UMC with a dedicated staff. Following tradition, we will again honor them with a token of appreciation during this Advent and Christmas Season. If you would like to contribute toward this love offering, please mark your gift "Staff Appreciation" and place it in the offering plate or mail or bring it to the church office **by Sunday, December 19**. Thank you for your support and prayers.  
 -- Ned Fowler, Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair

**NEEDS AND CONCERNS** (*New in bold italics; call office to add/remove*) Lee Babcock, Lance Craig & family, Sherry & Harry Crane, Margaret Grace Crawford, Molly Franken, Marian Gass, Jay Joslin, Jennifer Martin, Nancy Martin, Patrick Matthews, Mike Shope, May Shuford, Linda Smith, Frank Szymanski, Claudia York  
 Those who work in Health Care: Lisa & Sunil Abraham, Kevin Blanton, Christy Brookshire, David Brookshire, Clair Turman Brouwer, Will Corcoran, Aaron & Sheena Davis, Marshall Dobbins, Leigh Dodson, Laura Gravley, Art Hutson, Sarah Sainsbury, Suzy & Drew Killian, Genevieve Kopp, Olivia Kopp, Kent & Sarah Lawson, Jennifer McFadden, Leslie Milner, Teri Prestridge, Jason Roberts, Chan Turman, Carter Wood, John & Kelly Wood, Scott Wooten Those who work in Public Safety: Noland Brown, Ned Fowler, Scott Jones, Jared Sutton, Christian McLemore

**DECEMBER COMMUNION RAIL OFFERINGS** benefit **Trauma Intervention Program of WNC**, a non-profit, volunteer organization providing immediate emotional & practical support to victims & their families. A TIP volunteer is available 24/7/365 to be called into a situation by emergency services personnel.

\* \* \* \* \*

**FINANCIALS & ATTENDANCE — NOVEMBER 28, 2021**

**\* TEXT TO GIVE \***

- ◇ **1. Get Started:** Enter your 10-digit GivePlus Text Number (844-262-9627) and amount you wish to donate (*example, 50*), then press send.
- ◇ **2. Register:** You will receive a registration link; click the link & enter your contact and payment information. Tap "Process \$50.00 (*example*)". Then go to [unique web link] to complete your donation.
- ◇ **3. Give:** After registration is complete, you will receive a verification text as well as a receipt via email.
- ◇ **4. Repeat:** For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically.
- ◇ **Receive** a quarterly & year-end statement of your contributions.

**\* ONLINE GIVING \* on our website: skylandumc.com**

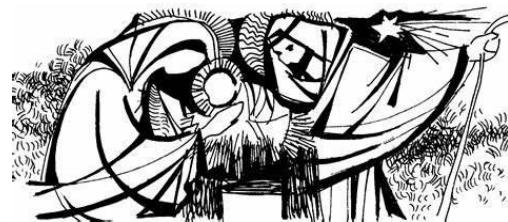
- ⇒ **Give online** in a safe and secure manner using your debit or credit card. Make a quick, one-time donation or set up recurring payments.
- ⇒ **Receive** a quarterly & year-end statement of your contributions.

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>NET INCOME</u>		<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
WKLY Actual	\$ 4,932.38	\$ 1,421.74	\$ 3,510.64		<b>November 22-28</b>
WKLY Budget	\$ 9,876.52	\$ 11,408.52	\$ (1,532.00)		Attendance
Jan.-Dec. Actual	\$ 489,078.28	\$ 463,369.19	\$ 25,709.09		<b>Worship: 161</b>
Jan.-Dec. Budgeted	\$ 474,072.96	\$ 548,008.96	\$ (73,936.00)		<b>Small Groups: 32</b>
	<b>2021 Pledges</b>		<b>\$ 481,712</b>	-	<b>107 pledges</b>
	<b>+ Projected Non-pledge Income</b>		<b>+ 48,171</b>	-	<b>10%</b>
	<b>= Total Projected 2021 Income</b>		<b>\$ 529,883</b>		
	<b>Income budgeted for January-December</b>				<b>\$ 508,802</b>
	<b>Approved 2021 Budget January-December</b>				<b>\$ 581,835</b>

**OFFERING EXTRAS:**

ATSP Lamb Scholarship	\$ 300.00	Building Fund	\$ 35.00
Children's Ministry	\$ 1.05	Christmas Special Offering	\$ 975.00
Memorial - Moery	\$ 200.00	Sunday School Offering	\$ 21.00
Special Offerings	\$ 200.00	(Angel Tree \$200)	

# Advent & Christmas at Skyland UMC



## Sunday, December 5 - 2nd Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship
- Angel Tree Donations for Estes Elementary families due today (see details on next page).

## Saturday, December 11

- UPDATE on "Journey to Bethlehem"  
Journey to Bethlehem will take the "year off" since so many of us are on literal Journeys\*\* this Advent season. We look forward to celebrating the season with each other at a variety of events. Be sure to mark your calendar for the wonderful opportunities on this list of Advent & Christmas at Skyland UMC.  
\*\*baby shower, cousin's birthday, basketball game, Quinceañera, out of town, family Christmas gathering, etc.

## Sunday, December 12 - 3rd Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship

## Sunday, December 19 - 4th Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 3:00-5:00 p.m. Caroling with the Confirmation Class  
All are welcome to join in this outdoor event.

## Monday, December 20

- 9:00-11:00 a.m. Cookies & Card Making  
All children, youth, and adults are welcome to join us in Fellowship Hall.

## Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

- 3:00 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight & Communion in Fellowship Hall  
Experience the Christmas story retold for the young and the young-at-heart using a Godly Play approach. Rev. Joy Moss, Ben Austin, and the Praise Team will lead this service.
- 5:00 p.m. Moravian Lovefeast in the Sanctuary  
Enjoy the brass instrumentalists, coffee and sweet bun, beeswax candles, and holiday message in this traditional service.
- 8:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight & Communion in the Sanctuary  
Pastor Dan Hester will lead this celebration of the birth of our Savior with special music, a holiday message, candles, and communion.

## Sunday, December 26

- 10:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols One Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
Rev. Joy Moss, Pastor Dan Hester, Linda Jones, and Ben Austin will lead this celebration of scripture and music. Join together in one worship with your Skyland family.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ALTAR FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY:** The **2022 Altar Flower Calendar** is on the bulletin board in the rear of the sanctuary. To provide flowers (In Memory, In Honor, or In Celebration) in 2023:



**Turn in** your payment of \$30 **with** your fully completed "Altar Flower" form, **placing both** in offering plate or in the Church Office; **AND also write** your name beside your chosen date on the Flower Calendar so no one else can take it.

**ANGEL TREE** donations begin this Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> - Our Angel Tree gifts provide Christmas assistance for children in need at our adopted school, Estes Elementary. The school will provide each child with a \$100 gift card from Target or Walmart and a \$20 gift card from Ingles. Thank you for giving in one of the following ways:



- Gift card to Walmart, Target, or Ingles - in increments of \$20.
- Check made out to Skyland UMC with memo: Angel Tree
- Cash in \$20 increments.

Take an angel from the tree and sign your name to your corresponding angel's number on the writing pad beside the tree. Securely place Walmart/Target/Ingles card, cash, or check in the gift card pocket attached to your angel. Return the angel to the church office or in the offering box **by Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**. Kim Gaines, Guidance Counselor at Estes, has a whopping 144 children needing assistance this year. Thank you for helping make that possible through our Angel Tree gifts!

\*If you are unable to pick up an angel from our tree at church, but would like to contribute, you may do so by designating your gift for our Angel Tree and mailing to the church. Thank you for helping bring joy to a child this Christmas! Any questions? Please contact Rev. Joy or Pat at the church office.

### SOME HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK @ SUMC

#### 12/5 Sunday

- 9:00 am Nursery (birth-4yrs.)
- 9:00 am Contemporary Worship
- 10:00 am Small Groups (birth - Adults)
- 11:00 am Nursery (birth-4yrs.)
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship

#### 12/6 Monday

Various Small Groups

#### 12/7 Tuesday

- Various Small Groups
- 2:45 pm Bridges REP

#### 12/8 Wednesday

- Various Small Groups
- 5:30 pm Joy Bells / 7th-12th
- 6:15 pm Skyland Ringers / Adults
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir / Adults

#### 12/9 Thursday

- 2:45 pm Bridges REP

#### 12/10 Friday

#### 12/11 Saturday

### UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

**UMC SPECIAL OFFERING  
WAS LAST SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 28**

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

**TOGETHER**  
OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways

YOUR DONATION CHANGES THE WORLD ONE LIFE AT A TIME

**GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH:**  
Make checks payable to your local church or donate online via credit/debit card at [ResourceUMC.org/SSGive](http://ResourceUMC.org/SSGive)

TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church\*

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

**TOGETHER**  
OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE

**WHY DO WE CELEBRATE SPECIAL SUNDAYS?**  
United Methodists celebrate on specific days to unite and make clear the commitment of the church as the people of God, and to give everyone the opportunity to contribute to special programs approved and supported by the Church. For stories on how you make a difference visit [UMC.org/yourimpact](http://UMC.org/yourimpact)

**HOW DO YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY?**  
United Methodists have been investing in our students for more than 100 years. United Methodist Student Day invites the church to support United Methodist students in achieving their educational goals. The funds received award United Methodist scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students. Your gifts help young people achieve their educational calling with more financial freedom.

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church\*


**AROUND THE SON PRESCHOOL (ATSP)** During the month of December our preschoolers are learning about the true meaning of Christmas. The focus is on the words spoken from an angel. A message of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy! If you are experiencing a shortage of these, you will find Him lying in a manger. Our preschoolers will share this message with their families and friends through songs and a live nativity December 2, 3, 9, & 10. Let our hearts be powerfully reminded of the good news we have in a Savior. Luke 2: 9-20. Merry Christmas!! *Blessings ~ Dana McGraw, Director*



**ALL ARE WELCOME** Seven members of Skyland UMC have agreed to take part in a 10-month program from the Western North Carolina UMC Conference to explore the topic of racial healing and reconciliation. This learning cohort meets with other churches across WNC by zoom to recognize and resist personal and systemic racism in our churches and communities and to provide ways to acknowledge and respond as Christians to the current issues. We hope to get the congregation's input in developing an equity statement for our church as well as collaborating with community organizations and networks. We have been commanded to love our neighbors; this program is a strong resource for our church.



\* \* \* \* \*

 **MISSIONS @ SKYLAND: Can you be a helper?** Hebrews 10:24 - Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

**DECEMBER Local Mission Highlight** (1 of our 16 local missions supported by your giving to our SUMC Budget): **UNCA Wesley Student Ministry:** This ministry on the UNCA campus is a safe place where every student is accepted and loved as a child of God. Under the leadership of Rev. Jeff McCumber, this Christian community seeking to explore faith together and how it impacts our lives, our community, and our world.

**FAITH-IN-ACTION FOOD DISTRIBUTION WITH MANNA FOODBANK @ WELLINGTON PARK & SWEETEN CREEK** Upcoming Friday dates: **January 7 & 31; February 21.** Wellington Park location: shifts 1:00-2:30 p.m. & 2:30-5:00 p.m.; to volunteer contact Joy Moss (revjoy@skylandumc.com or 828-777-5007). Sweeten Creek Trailer Park location: shift 2:30-4:30 p.m.; to volunteer contact Bob Jette (2bobjette@gmail.com / 941-623-8642).



**BLESSING BOX IN THE TIME OF ADVENT:**

Joy's sermon last week focused on hope and how the simplest of gestures can be a "sprig of hope" in someone's life. A can of chicken, a few diapers, some black beans found in our Blessing Boxes can be that small item that brings a bit of hope to someone in need. What "sprig of hope" will you offer to someone this week?

