



The Steeple ■ December 15, 2019

8:30 AM | Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

9:30-9:45 AM | Holy Communion, Chapel

9:45 AM | Sunday School

11:00 AM | Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

11:00 AM | Anew Contemporary Worship, Wesley Worship Ctr

Third Sunday of Advent Candle of Joy



Ministers and Ministry Directors

Rev. Dr. George K. Howle

Senior Pastor

Rev. Meredith M. Dark

Associate Pastor

Rev. Thomas Brittain

Pastor Emeritus

Jennifer Hupko

Director of Educational, Youth,
and Congregational Care Ministries

Cindy Johnson

Director of Children's Ministries

Norman McQueen

Director of Music

D. Scott Ferguson

Pianist/Organist

Philip Keilen

Director of Coastal Samaritan
Counseling Center

Welcome

Thank you for being with us in worship this Sunday! Our mission at First Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are inspired by the words of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, who encouraged believers to "do all the good you can, in all the ways you can."

Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00AM - 5:00PM; CLOSED FRIDAY

Main Campus, 901 N. Kings Hwy, Myrtle Beach SC 29577 ■ 843-448-7164

North Campus, Thomas N. Brittain Center (TNBC), 905 65th Ave N, Myrtle Beach SC 29572

FUMC Centennial Moments for December: **Shepherd's Child**

Christmas! The BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST! A joyous time spent with families and friends in fellowship, sharing meals, gift giving and Church services with amazing music and sermons that keep us Christ-centered in a season in which we can easily become distracted.



BUT, what if you didn't have all of that? What if, as a child, you feel like Christmas is a financial burden on your family? Even worse, you didn't truly know the reason for the season because you had not heard the story of Jesus' birth or attended some of the amazing Church services?



Shepherds Child was born out of an adult Sunday School class more than 20 years ago who realized the need **to bring the love of Christmas to children in our neighborhoods** through financial assistance **and to share and show the true Christmas Story.**



Shepherd's Child quickly grew to a multi-generational event in our Church. Adults assist with driving, shopping and contributing financially while our Youth shop to fill HUGE stockings and spend the day with each of our Shepherd's children. All involved show the love of Christ through fellowship, a meal, gift giving and, more importantly, we share the Story of Christ's birth! All involved go home at the end of the day either having heard the Christmas Story for the first time OR living the Christmas story for a day!





Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight and Holy Communion

Traditional Worship

Sanctuary

NOON | 7PM* & 11PM

**Nursery available*

Family Contemporary Worship

Wesley Worship Center

4PM



Can you provide a ride or do you need a ride to church for a Christmas Eve service? Please call Rev. Meredith Dark, 843-448-7164, to notify us of your ride needs.

First Church Weekly Reading:

December 16	1 Peter 3:13-17
December 17	Acts 4:8-20
December 18	Isaiah 7:10-17
December 19	Isaiah 9:2-7
December 20	Matthew 1:1-8
December 21	Matthew 1:9-17
December 22	Matthew 1:18-25

First Church invites you to follow this weekly Scripture reading plan if you don't already have one.

** Indicates: Uniform Series
International Lesson Series: Isaiah 42:1-9
"Hope for New Things"*

Sunday School Classes

Children's Classes

0-2 year-olds	Nursery
3 and 4 year-old preschool	Wesley 102
Kindergarten/First Grade	Wesley 201
2nd and 3rd Grades	Wesley 201
4th and 5th Grades	Wesley 201

Youth Classes

6th - 12th Grades	Sonshine House
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Adult Classes

Ark	Wesley 103
Brittain Fellowship	Asbury 101
Faith Foundations	Asbury 203
M.D. Moore *	Wesley 105
New Horizons	Asbury 201
New Ventures	The 925
Open Doors *	Wesley 104
Open Fellowship *	Music Center 101

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Monthly Mission in Motion—DECEMBER



The journey out of poverty all starts with hope; equipping orphans in Kenya with tools and training to overcome life-threatening poverty for good.

Monetary donations may be made **payable to First UMC, note "Zoe"**, and may be placed in the offering plate or dropped by the church office.

Our Christmas Eve offering will also go toward this world mission.

Condolences

The pastors, staff and church family extend Christian sympathy to **Susan Baxter** on the recent death of her mother, Evelyn Forkin, on December 9, 2019 in Jackson, Mississippi; and to **Laura Bowden** on the death of her father, Gordon Colby, on December 10, 2019 in Connecticut.

Shepherds Child Program

Shepherds Child Program happens **TODAY, December 15th, at Noon** in the **Wesley Fellowship Hall** starting with children's fellowship time immediately following worship services culminating with a lunch celebration at Johnny Rockets with members of First Church youth.



TODAY!! Festive Brass of Myrtle Beach presents "Christmas Around the World" **Dec 15th, at 3:00PM** in the Sanctuary. **Free Admission!**



LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP, Thursday, December 19th, at 5:00PM in the Chapel. For many people, the approaching Christmas holiday does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised on television or in greeting cards. They may be facing a holiday after the death of a loved one or after a divorce. Perhaps they have been unable to have a child or have suffered through an emotional trauma; or perhaps they feel pressured and overwhelmed by holiday preparations. This service will provide a quiet, somber tone with scripture, music and a meditation on the comfort God offers during dark times. The longest night of the year falls on or about December 21st, the Winter Solstice. An interesting convergence occurs this day as it is also the traditional feast day for Saint Thomas the Apostle, a time of Thomas' struggle to believe the story of Jesus' resurrection and to deal with the struggles of darkness and grief faced by those living with loss.



UMW Annual Oak Tree Lighting—Donate a **string of lights for \$20** to help light the Big Oak this Christmas in memory or in honor of a loved one to the "Christmas Light Memorial Fund". Proceeds benefit Hope House (giving aid to homeless students at Myrtle Beach High School). Forms are in the church office and are **due by December 17th**. The UMW thanks you.



UM Youth Fellowship News: Youth activities...

Coming Up:

- Dec 15th:** Shepherd's Child Celebration
- Dec 15th:** Youth Christmas Party @ The 925
- Dec 17th:** High School Breakfast & Devo @ Chick Fil-a, Mr. Joe White Ave
- Dec 19th:** Middle School Breakfast & Devo @ Bojangles, International Dr

Make sure to **sign up** for **Revolution!** Cost is **\$63 PLUS 3 meals.** **RSVP by Dec 18th.** Trip dates are firm for **Jan 24-26.** We will also need your **T-shirt size.**



HOLY COMMUNION—every **Sunday from 9:30-9:45AM** in the **Chapel.** All are welcome to come to the Chapel at 9:30AM (or following 8:30 worship) to receive the elements.

Assistance needed! A couple of families in our church community are in need during the holidays. Anyone interested in providing help may **contact Cindy Johnson at CDM,** 843-692-9272, **or Kenny Lidard** in the church office, 843-448-7164.



Please **return commitment cards** for our Stewardship program **as soon as possible.** Anyone who does not have a card may **request one** from Kay in the church office, kay@fumcmb.org or 843-448-7164.



Thank you!

A **special thanks** for all the **volunteers** that assisted with the **Community Kitchen** during this busy Holiday Season. We could not have done it without you!

~Lesa Jones

YEAR END GIVING

Please include First Church in year-end planned giving. All receipts post-marked or received in person by 12/31 will be credited to the 2019 fiscal year. Kenny Lidard will be in the church office on 12/31 from 8AM to 2PM. Thank you.

The **Lautrelle Merchant Circle** thanks everyone who purchased pecans and RADA cutlery. All funds raised benefit local missions, particularly the youth of Myrtle Beach through Hope House and the Family Justice Center.

Financials and Attendance



Thank you to all those who helped with the **Stewardship Work Sessions** during the campaign. Many hands made light work, and the fellowship made it enjoyable! Your time and commitment is appreciated!



Gifts (includes online giving)

Week of December 8, 2019:	\$ 37,039
Giving to-date:	\$ 1,158,476
Expenses to-date:	\$ 1,287,422
Difference:	- \$ 128,946

Expenses include weekly apportionments & direct billing.

Presence—December 8, 2019

♦ Worship	394
♦ Social Media	923
♦ Sunday School	n/a

Happening This Week

SUNDAY, December 15, 2019

- 8:15-12:00 **Nursery Provided** WESLEY BLDG
8:30AM **Traditional Worship** SANCTUARY
9:30AM **Holy Communion** CHAPEL
9:45AM **Sunday School** MAIN CAMPUS
11:00AM **Traditional Worship** SANCTUARY
11:00AM **Anew Contemporary**
WESLEY WORSHIP CENTER
12:00PM **Shepherd's Child**
WESLEY FELLOWSHIP HALL
3:00PM **Festive Brass** SANCTUARY

MONDAY, December 16

- 9:00AM **Thrift Store** MAIN CAMPUS
3:00PM **Knit One Ministry** PARLOR
5:30PM **Adult Handbell Rehearsal**
HANDBELL ROOM
6:30PM **Festive Brass Rehearsal**
TNBC-NORTH CAMPUS

TUESDAY, December 17

- 9:00AM **Staff Meeting** OFFICE/2nd FLR
11:00AM **Advent Study "Faithful"**
CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY, December 18

- 7:15AM **Women's Prayer Group**
PRAYER ROOM
7:30AM **Men's Prayer Group** LIBRARY
5:30PM **Adult Handbell Rehearsal**
SANCTUARY
5:45PM **Wesley Chancel Choir**
SANCTUARY

THURSDAY, December 19

- 5:30AM **F3 Bible Study**
TNBC-NORTH CAMPUS
10:00AM **Caregivers Group** PARLOR
1:00PM **Thrift Store** MAIN CAMPUS
5:00PM **Longest Night Service**
CHAPEL

"TURNING IT UP IN 2020"
Monday Night Worship
starting January 13th
6PM | Chapel
Details coming soon!

Big Tom's "A Quote"

"Wiping away someone else's tears is sometimes necessary to help us dispel our own."

~ Jimmy Carter, President