

# *Covenant Connection*



COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, GASTONIA, NC

*December 2025*



*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*  
*December 24, 7:30 pm*

*Women's Christmas Fellowship*  
*December 1, 11:30 am*  
*Meet at Longhorn Steakhouse*

*Gaston Symphonic Band*  
*Christmas Concert*  
*December 12, 7:00 pm*  
*First Assembly Church, Gastonia*



*Church Family Christmas Party*  
*December 14, 6:00 pm*  
*More details inside.*



*Community Christmas Dinner*  
*December 18, 5:00 pm*



*May the glory of our Savior's birth fill your heart with peace and love this Christmas.*  
*Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!*



# *Covenant Prayer Corner*

## New/Updated Prayer Concerns

**Buddy Johnson** - scheduling an MRI and other tests, will be having cataract surgery early this month

**Harvey & Laura McDonald** - they are both home! Health care coming in weekly, and their family are caring for them, thankful to recently be in church!

**Pastor Larry Taylor** - having kidney stone surgery on Dec. 8, cataract surgery scheduled as well

## Ongoing Prayer for Health

**Beverly Cole      Mildred McElveen      Linda Raxter      Elaine Mason\***

**Lisa Casey\*      Pat Leigh      Ann Myers\***

*\*Friends/family of members*

**Beverly Cole** - Carolina Care Health, 111 Harrelson Rd, Cherryville NC 28021

**Linda Raxter** has recently moved to a new facility. Her new address is: Spring Oak at York, 1020 N. Congress St., York SC 29745

## *A Message from Pastor Melanie*

As we begin preparing for Christmas, let's prepare our hearts for Jesus' return. During this time it is easy to get caught up in decorating and cooking and buying and receiving presents. Let's take a moment or two or three or more each day to remember what we are actually preparing for -- the return of Jesus.

This is an advent prayer written by Father Henry JM Nouwen. I challenge you to pray this prayer at least once a day.

"Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send Your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear Your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things, look forward to Your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of Your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of Your presence. We are Your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To You we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

*Pastor Melanie*





### *Happy Birthday!*

- 1 Zack McElveen
- 2 Joan Turner
- 4 Amon Choate
- 5 Harold Swanson
- 15 Mandi Merritt
- 15 Hunter Raxter
- 16 Faith Yelton
- 19 Mike McElveen
- 21 McKenzie McMillan
- 23 Savannah Kaylor
- 27 Chris Lowe

### *Happy Anniversary!*

- 15 Malcum & Libby Meek
- 19 Caleb & Allison Smithers



*Megan Wilson  
and  
Jerry Yelton, III  
were united in marriage  
on November 1, 2025*

*Congratulations  
Mr. & Mrs. Yelton!*



United  
Women  
in Faith

**The United Methodist Women nut sale has begun! Proceeds go to benefit local Mission Projects through the UMW.**

**The nuts have arrived, you can call the church office or stop on by!**

**Pick up will be at the church; 11 am-4 pm in the choir room. All are 1 lb. bags with the exception of Chocolate Pecans which are 12 oz.**

**Pecan Halves. .... \$13.00**  
**Pecan Pieces .... \$12.00**  
**Choc. Covered Pecans .. \$13.00**  
**Black Walnuts .... \$10.00**  
**Whole Almonds .... \$ 8.00**

**Thank you in advance for your support!**

### **November Worship Attendance & Giving**

November 2	20	\$2,755
November 9	23	\$1,415
November 16	29	\$1,776
November 23	19	\$1,096

**\$2,528 is needed weekly to  
meet our 2025 budget.**

# Church Family Christmas Party

December 14 ~ 6:00 PM



**Bring hors d'oeuvres (pick-ups) to share. If you would like to join in on the fun gift exchange, bring a wrapped or bagged gift (\$10 limit) Join us for Fun, Food & Fellowship!**

**Merry Christmas!**

## *~ December Devotion ~*

*Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified but the angel assured them "Don't be afraid!" he said, "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior, yes the Messiah, the Lord has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David." ~ Luke 2: 9-11*

Christmas is not a myth, not a tradition and not a dream. It is a glorious reality. It is a time of joy. Bethlehem's manger crib became the link that bound a lost world to a loving God. From that manger came a Man who not only taught us a new way of life but brought us into a new relationship with our Creator. Christmas means that God is interested in the affairs of people, that God loves us so much that He was willing to give His Son. Lord Jesus as we remember Your birth in such a lowly stable, cleanse our hearts, that it might be a sanctified gift for You! ~ Day By Day with Billy Graham

*Happy Birthday Jesus! Merry Christmas my friends! ~ Rebecca Brooks*

## DAILY WISDOM FOR WOMEN



**TAKE FIVE!**

*"The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life." Genesis 2:7*

Pause from whatever you are doing for just a few moments and breathe deeply. Ask God for a sense of calm and clarity of mind to deal properly with your next assignment. Sometimes the most active thing we can do is rest, even if for only a short time!

*"Father, help me not to push myself so hard.  
Help me to remember to take five and breathe." Amen.*



# December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 7 2nd Advent Sunday 10:30 Worship	1 11:30 Women's Christmas Fellowship at Longhorn's	2 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	3 	4 	5 	6 
14 3rd Advent Sunday 10:30 Worship 6:00 Church Family Christmas Party	8 	9 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	10 	11 	12 7:00 Gaston Symphonic Band Christmas Concert, at 1st Assembly	13 
21 4th Advent Sunday 10:30 Worship Free day of winter	22 No regular scheduled activities this week	23 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	24  7:30 Christmas Eve Candlelight Svc	25 Christ is born! 	26 	27 
28  10:30 Worship Christmas Carols Hymn Sing	29 No regular scheduled activities this week	30 	31 Last day of 2025! 	January 1, 2026	January 14 5:30 Council Meeting "Moving forward"	





**Covenant United  
Methodist Church**

**801 W. Franklin Blvd  
Gastonia, NC 28052**

**Melanie Whaley, Pastor  
828.217.3173  
mwhaley1@wnccumc.net**

**Church Office**

**704.865.5055**

9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Monday - Thursday

**Administrative Assistant**

Tammy Bassett  
covenantgastonia@gmail.com

**Music Director**

Rebecca Brooks

**Church Website**

covenantumcgastonia.com

***December 2025***



**Weekly Scheduled Activities**

**Sunday**

**10:30 am Join us for worship, held in the sanctuary**

9:00 am Promised Land Worship, held in the fellowship hall

9:00 am Haitian Worship, held in the chapel

**Tuesday**

10:00 am Covenant Praise Team

6:00 pm Joyful Noise Ringers

**COME  
WORSHIP**  
*with us!*

**Monthly Activities**

**First Monday**

10:30 am Covenant Women in Faith Circle Meeting

**Fourth Saturday**

11:00 am - 12:30 pm Community Lunch