



Hawfields
Presbyterian
Church

ONLINE

POSTED BY
SAT. 5PM

IN-
PERSON

SUNDAYS @
10AM & 6PM



WAITING
WITH
MARY

Luke 1:5-25; Genesis 18:1-15
“Waiting for a Promise”

Sometimes love is a matter of trust.

Second Sunday in Advent • Love • December 7, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

CEL=Celebration Hymnal

GTG=Glory to God Hymnal

OPENING SENTENCE

Genesis 18:14 (CEB)

[God said,] "...Is anything too difficult for the LORD?"

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" GTG #82

**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.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

PRELUDE "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"
arr: Michael Larkin

WREATH LITURGY: HOPE

Jeff & Tammy Karnes, Tyler Hays, Ethan Hays

...In the world around us and within us:

**We will serve the Lord with
celebration! We will come before
God with hearts ready to love!
Let every living thing praise the
Lord!**

Jesus is coming...(second candle is lit)

Let us pray:

**Lord God, thank you for teaching
us your songs even in times of
breathless evil. Thank you for
teaching us to love in the needs
around us and within us. Thank you
for causing love to be kindled in us.
Help us take heart as the season of
Advent continues. Amen.**

SING "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"
GTG #96

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us begin with silent prayer...

Holy God, we have our work cut out for us. We have challenges before us that are vast, complicated, and spans generations. Hunger. Being unsheltered. Being at war. Greed. Apathy. Jealousy and envy. Despair and grief. Losses, so many losses. Even

waning hope. And in the face of all of that and more, your prescription is love. And even though you created everything and even though you made us, we still imagine at times that we know better than you. We are scornful, even have disdain for the idea that love really is the answer. That love should be our answer. Yet how do we ever express our thanks for the love you demonstrate to us, especially the trust in us your love represents? May we come to reflect your generosity as enthusiastically as we receive it. Thank you for listening, God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's love can change everything, even the power of our sins over us. And it is God's will that we have this power:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
The Peace of Christ be with you
And also with you.**

SING

"Gloria Patri"

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning.
It is now and ever shall be
world without end: Amen, amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

God's Word is a gift. And good gifts are meant to be opened. Our hearts and minds are gifts. And good gifts are meant to be opened. God offers to help us open our presents by God's own Spirit. Let us take God up on that offer and ask for help to understand. Let us pray...

PRAY/SING

"While We Are Waiting, Come" GTG #92

**While we are waiting, come;
While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.**

Listen closely to the Word of God to us all and our ongoing place in God's story...

READ: Luke 1:5-25 (CEB)

John's birth is foretold.

⁵ During the rule of King Herod of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ They

were both righteous before God, blameless in their observance of all the Lord's commandments and regulations.⁷ They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to become pregnant and they both were very old.⁸ One day Zechariah was serving as a priest before God because his priestly division was on duty.⁹ Following the customs of priestly service, he was chosen by lottery to go into the Lord's sanctuary and burn incense.¹⁰ All the people who gathered to worship were praying outside during this hour of incense offering.¹¹ An angel from the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense.¹² When Zechariah saw the angel, he was startled and overcome with fear.¹³ The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayers have been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to your son and you must name him John."¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many people will rejoice at his birth,¹⁵ for he will be great in the Lord's eyes. He must not drink wine and liquor. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth.¹⁶ He will bring many Israelites back to the Lord their God.¹⁷ He will go forth before the Lord, equipped with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will turn the hearts of fathers back to their children, and he will turn the disobedient to righteous patterns of thinking. He will make ready a people prepared for the Lord."¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure of this? My wife and I are very old."¹⁹ The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in God's presence. I was sent to speak to you and to bring this good news to you."²⁰ Know this: What I have spoken will come true at the proper time. But because you didn't believe, you will remain silent, unable to speak until the day when these things happen."²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they wondered why he was in the sanctuary for such a long time.²² When he came out, he was unable to speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he gestured to them and couldn't speak.²³ When he completed the days of his priestly service, he returned home.²⁴ Afterward, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant. She kept to herself for five months, saying,²⁵ "This is the Lord's doing. He has shown his favor to me by removing my disgrace among other people."

READ: Genesis 18:1-15 (CEB)

Isaac's Birth Is Announced.

¹ The LORD appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he sat at the entrance of his tent in the day's heat.² He looked up and suddenly saw three men standing near him. As

soon as he saw them, he ran from his tent entrance to greet them and bowed deeply.³ He said, "Sirs, if you would be so kind, don't just pass by your servant."⁴ Let a little water be brought so you may wash your feet and refresh yourselves under the tree.⁵ Let me offer you a little bread so you will feel stronger, and after that you may leave your servant and go on your way—since you have visited your servant." They responded, "Fine. Do just as you have said."⁶ So Abraham hurried to Sarah at his tent and said, "Hurry! Knead three seahs of the finest flour and make some baked goods!"⁷ Abraham ran to the cattle, took a healthy young calf, and gave it to a young servant, who prepared it quickly.⁸ Then Abraham took butter, milk, and the calf that had been prepared, put the food in front of them, and stood under the tree near them as they ate.⁹ They said to him, "Where's your wife Sarah?" And he said, "Right here in the tent."¹⁰ Then one of the men said, "I will definitely return to you about this time next year. Then your wife Sarah will have a son!" Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were both very old. Sarah was no longer menstruating.¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, "I'm no longer able to have children and my husband's old."¹³ The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Me give birth? At my age?'"¹⁴ Is anything too difficult for the LORD? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son."¹⁵ Sarah lied and said, "I didn't laugh," because she was frightened. But he said, "No, you laughed."

One: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us...

All: Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

"LOVE"

ANTHEM

"Christmas Is Coming" by Joel Raney
Duet: Lora and Noah Melton
Percussionist: Chason Allgood

SERMON

"Waiting for a Promise"
Rev. David Ealy

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

SING

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" GTG #88
(vs. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7)

OFFERING & OFFERTORY

"Who Would Imagine a King?"
arr. Russell Mauldin; Soloist: Lora Melton

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom
all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

BLESSING

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

I believe in God's LOVE—

That God created us for a reason,

That God chose people for a
reason

That God fought for us for a
reason

That God fought against us for a
reason

That God called us out on our sins
for a reason

That God made us partners with
God for the building of the
kingdom

That God created us for a
purpose.

That God's already called us to be
prophets, priests, teachers,
students, companions, travelers,
historians, parents, grandparents,
aunts, uncles, siblings and most
importantly children

a family worth waiting for

So now by God's grace,

God's love really does
change everything

and makes us people of God
because of Jesus Christ

Who was, who is, and is to come.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: The Lord be with you.

All: and also with you.

Let us pray...

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace" GTG #103

Come now, O Prince of Peace;

Make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus;

Reconcile all people.

...Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name. Thy
kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven. Give us
this day our daily bread. And forgive
us our debts as we forgive our
debtors. And lead us not into
temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Thank you, God, for making us your
kingdom. Help us live out that
thanks by being a refuge to all you
call us to. Thank you for including us
at your Table. Help us do the same
with ours. In the great name of Jesus
Christ we pray this together. Amen.**

SONG OF SENDING GTG #366

"Love Divine All Loves Excelling"

SENDING & BENEDICTION

Let us say together the Benediction...

Sometimes love is a matter of trust.

SING

"Prepare the Way of the Lord" GTG #95

Prepare the way of the Lord. (X2)

And all people will see

The salvation of our God.

POSTLUDE

"Pat-a-pan"

arr. Melody Bober

LOVE IS THE MOST
WONDERFUL FEELING IN THE
WORLD, WHETHER IT'S THE
LOVE YOU FEEL FOR GOD,
YOUR SPOUSE, YOUR
CHILDREN, OR YOUR
GRANDCHILDREN. THE
BEAUTY OF LOVE IS THAT IT
IS CONSTANTLY WITH YOU
AND GIVES YOU A SENSE OF
PEACE AND COMFORT
THROUGH ALL OF LIFE'S JOYS
AND SORROWS.

—Joyce Covington, theologian

PRAYER CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

The following are prayer concerns & celebrations given to us through email, Prayer Notebook at the entrance, by phone or word of mouth. Please use this list in your prayers through the week.

- Staff of the month: Randa Patterson
- Sherry Allen—suffered minor stroke (Lora Melton's aunt)
- Joe Covington—at home recovering from surgery
- James Ealy, Sr.—health concerns
- Roger Kinley—recovery from brain tumor surgery (friend of Jimmy Evans)
- Janet Lewis—out of ICU at Chapel Hill (sister of Ira Trollinger)
- John Lewis—at home under hospice care (brother-in-law of Ira Trollinger)
- Friend of Noah and Lora Melton—stage 4 pancreatic cancer diagnosis
- Elizabeth Mitchell—kidney stones
- Wilma Noel—hospitalized with heart failure (friend of Dwayne Straughan)
- Nanette Pedelty—recovering from carpal tunnel surgery
- Jane Shook—complications following appendectomy (Barbara Phillips' granddaughter)
- Helen Thomas—recovering from COVID
- Gary Trollinger—recovering at home from heart surgery
- Nancy Trollinger—recovering well from knee replacement surgery

Our prayers continue for:

Cindy Atkins, Ron & Pat Baugus, Rose Boderck (Liberty Commons, Rm #103), Emily Johnson, Susan Loy (Alamance House), Kevin Monroe (White Oak Manor, Rm #306), Betty Sykes & Carol Thompson (Compass Health Rm #A19 & #F15), Helen Thomas (Brookdale Senior Living, #67), Danny Thompson and Pat Webster

THE 2025 SESSION



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TAKE THE LEAP!

Take a chance! Take the risk! Take the leap! Phrases that all point to largely the same meaning. It's interesting that we use the verb "take" to describe them. Loving someone is that chance, that risk, that leap. Love means we're willing to let go of control, that we're willing to risk getting hurt, that we're willing to embrace a future we don't fully know or understand. That's a tall order when it comes to another person. That's a tall order when it comes to God. That's even a tall order when looking in a mirror. Loving, true loving, is a deliberate act, a decision we make (or should) every day. As you move through the week, pay attention to when you decide to love, to whom you choose to extend it, and the ways you choose to display it. And when it comes to love: take a chance, take the risk, take the leap.

QUESTIONS AS YOU WORSHIP THIS WEEK

- Do you use the word "love" seriously or casually?
- What makes something or someone worth loving?
- What do you imagine God loves about you?
- What's a question you would have for Mary this week?

DIRECTORY UPDATE

The update of our church directory is going well! You can find an update form in the vestibule, Fellowship Hall or online. *Please fill out the complete form*, including your name(s), addresses (college students too!), home and/or cell phone numbers, children or other household members, dates of birth, baptisms, and joining dates. No worries if you don't have all the dates—just fill out what you do have! Please return the completed form to the offering plate, church office, or mail. Also, we're taking photos for the directory. You can arrange to have pictures taken or even submit pictures (of your face(s)!) to the

church office. This only works with your participation!

CIRCLE #3 MEETING

Circle #3 meets this Tuesday, **Dec. 9th** at 7:00 PM in the parlor. All women are invited to join us!

OUR THEME FOR ADVENT 2025

An expectant mother isn't just a bystander or a passive observer of their pregnancy. Waiting on the child to be born means wellness visits, fulfilling cravings, bones and hormones shifting, nesting, changes in clothing, changes in priorities, changes in habits. Waiting on the child can involve self-reflection, changing relationships, periods of discovery, even illness. And hopefully the community surrounding and supporting the mother to be are going through changes as well. We have traditionally called Mary the *theotokos*, "God-bearer." And Mary's journey through Advent is instructive for us. As we anticipate what God is going to do, is *our* waiting passive or active? Are we making room, making preparations for the grace of God to arrive in our lives? May our own journeys through Advent involve self-reflection, changing relationships, periods of discovery as well. Jesus is coming!

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

An evening of joyful storytelling and song! Friday, **December 12th** at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be violin, piano, and sung music; there will be art to see; the most special story to hear and CAKE! This event is for everyone and is open to the community.

COMMUNITY CONCERT

The Hawfields Presbyterian Church Sanctuary Choir is participating in an annual community Christmas concert at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Mebane on Saturday, **December 13th**, at 7:00 PM. The concert theme is Hope of the Nations and features multiple sacred

choirs performing songs related to the Advent and Christmas seasons. The church address is 150 Ashbury Blvd. The concert is free and is expected to last 1.5 hours.

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

We're seeking some volunteers to lend a hand in our nursery! If interested, please reach out to Mandy.

Sunday, December 7th:

AM: 1 - Christy Bailey

PM: 1 - _____
2 - _____

Sunday, December 14:

AM: 1 - _____

PM: 1 - _____
2 - _____

LOVE OFFERING

"And do not neglect to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16. As we approach the Season of Giving, let us remember the Church employees. We are blessed with an awesome staff: Tom Bowden, Jennifer Vicinanza, Noah Melton, Danny Yancey, Randa Patterson as well as Mandy and David Ealy all work tirelessly throughout the year to keep our church running. Please show your appreciation by contributing to the "Love Offering". Please put your donations in the offering plate or tithing box, marked clearly for "Love Offering" by **December 14th.**

THE LONGEST NIGHT IS AN OPPORTUNITY

As we get closer to the winter solstice, the nights get longer. In a similar fashion, as we get closer to Christmas, there are many in our community for whom the date brings its own darkness. The Longest Night Service is an opportunity for us as a community to surround and support each other through the contrast of the decorations, music and brightness of the season with the losses, mourning, grieving, missing, and hurts. We do this in partnership with Crossroads Presbyterian and this year Hawfields is the host! **The service will be Tuesday,**

December 16th, at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow.

YOUTH GROUP MEALS FOR WINTER

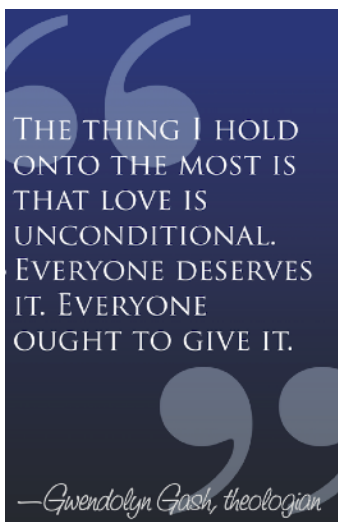
We still have availability for today Dec. 7th! If you're available to help provide meals for youth group meetings this winter, sign up by entering the link in your browser. Some of our favorite meals include chicken nuggets, pizza, Bojangles, taco bar, and subs. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D49AEA82EABFA7-58245441-winter>

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Christmas Cantata Choir will present *Mary, Did You Know?* at Compass Assisted Living on Wednesday, **December 17th** at 6:45 PM. If you are unable to attend the 10:00 AM service on December 21, you may consider joining us. The program is free and will last approximately 35 minutes.

MARY, DID YOU KNOW?

Our Christmas Cantata will be on Sunday, **December 21st** during the 10:00 AM worship service. Arranged by Russell Mauldin, it is entitled *Mary, Did You Know?* Please plan to attend and embrace the hope to our world represented in the birth of our Savior and King!



THE WEEK AHEAD:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

9:00 AMYouth Sunday School
9:15 AMCoffee & Treats (F. Hall)
10:00 AMTraditional Worship Service
11:00 AMYouth—Cookie Jar Assembly
6:00 PMFaith @ Night Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:00 PM“Johnathan & Jesus” Study (Rm 15)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

11:00 AMStaff Meeting & Prayer
11:00 AMFitness Strength Training
5:30 PMLinking Lives Prayer Chat
7:00 PMBoy Scouts Meeting (F. Hall)
7:00 PMCircle #3 Meeting (Parlor)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

10:00 AMBusy Bees Workshop
1:30 PMHawfields Dulcimers
6:30 PMChoir Rehearsal
6:30 PMNarcotics Anonymous (Fleming)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

11:00 AMFitness Chair Dance
6:30 PMAA Meeting (Fleming)
7:00 PMSpiritual Life Committee Meeting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

6:00 PMAll God's Children Christmas Program

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:30 AMBreakfast With Santa
9:00 AMWalking Group (church track)
3:00 PMBoy Scouts Christmas Party

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

9:00 AMYouth Sunday School
9:15 AMCoffee & Treats (F. Hall)
10:00 AMTraditional Worship Service
11:00 AMYouth—Christmas Party
1:30 PMCommunion @ Compass
6:00 PMFaith @ Night Service

BY THE NUMBERS 11/30/25

Giving Budget 2025\$346,202.00
Gen. Fund YTD\$203,456.23
Needed monthly\$28,850.17
G.F. Month to Date\$28,029.03
Needed weekly\$6,657.73
Gen. Fund Last Week\$2,845.00
Building Fund\$50.00
Youth\$1,210.00
Helping Hands Balance\$2,287.22

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