

# Hampstead United Methodist Church



December 21, 2025

10:00 AM Worship Service

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15395 Hwy 17 N • Hampstead, NC 28443 • (910) 270-4648  
[www.hampsteadumc.org](http://www.hampsteadumc.org)



# Welcome to Hampstead United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Order of Worship  
10:00 in the Morning

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE & BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In this season of long nights and growing hope, God draws near.

**People: Emmanuel — God-with-us — dwells among the humble and the afraid.**

Leader: Through an unexpected mother and a reluctant father, Love enters the world.

**People: We choose love over fear, trusting God’s holy mystery in our midst.**

Leader: Come — let us open our hearts to God’s redeeming presence.

**People: We worship the God who comes to us in love!**

### \*OPENING PRAYER

God of Love,  
as we draw near to Christmas,  
we remember that your coming was not tidy or expected.  
You chose a humble family,  
a vulnerable world,  
and a love that risked everything.  
Open our hearts this morning  
to the holy courage of Joseph,  
the trusting faith of Mary,  
and the miracles you plant in the midst of uncertainty.  
Give us grace to choose love over fear,  
hope over despair,  
and compassion over judgment.  
Come to us again, Emmanuel —  
shine your light into the messiness of our world  
and into the tender places of our lives,  
that we may welcome your presence with joy.  
Amen.

### \*OPENING HYMN

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

#220

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING

### \*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

“Away in a Manger”

#217 vs. 1 & 3

\*Congregation please stand as able.

EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 4:7-12

ANTHEM

“Carols of Hope and Light”  
By Joseph M. Martin

Chancel Choir

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

“Do Not Be Afraid of the Mess”

Rev. Dr. Debbie Matthis

## WE RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

### \*HYMN

“What Child Is This”

#219 vs. 1–3

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERING

### \*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

#94

### \*AFFIRMATION FROM ROMANS 8:35, 37-39

#887

### \*GLORIA PATRI

“Glory Be to the Father”  
*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

#70

## WE DEPART TO SERVE GOD

### \*CLOSING CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

#251

### \*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE



## ~Prayer Requests~



Kathy Barnes	Bill Russell
Angie Bolin	Vicki Russell
Sally Jo Capozio	Dasha Sharp
Dot Cotman	Emily Skinner
Chris Gibson	Karen Smith
Judy Harrelson	Carolyn Southerland
John Harris	Dee Stolk
Gavin Johnson	Costas Tchouros
Laura Kiyabu	Jane Tchouros
Fred Phillips	Jean Withers
Buddy Rogers	Brian Wright
Peggy Rose	

### Online Giving Made Simple:

We're excited to offer a new way to give! You can now support our church by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone or tablet's camera. It will take you directly to our secure online giving page.



If you need help, our greeters or office staff are happy to assist you. Thank you for your generosity!

### ~ Contact Information ~

**Pastor**                      **Rev. Dr. Debbie Matthis**  
**Phone: 910-578-5905**  
**Email: [Debbie.Matthis@nccumc.org](mailto:Debbie.Matthis@nccumc.org)**

## ~Calendar of Events~

**December 21, 2025—December 28, 2025**

### Sunday—12/21

10:00 AM Worship Service

### Monday—12/22

8:30 AM ROMEOs (Library)

6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 1525 (Rm. 5/6)

### Tuesday—12/23

9:00 AM Prayer Team (Library)

7:00 PM Al-Anon (FLC)

7:00 PM Al-Ateen (FLC)

### Wednesday—12/24 (Church Office Closed)

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

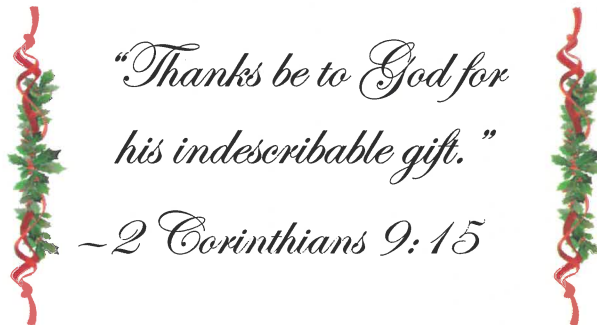
7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### Thursday—12/25

**Merry Christmas!**

### Sunday—12/28

10:00 AM Worship Service



### **Available Altar Flower Sponsorships**

**Thank you for volunteering to sponsor the beautiful flowers on the altar each Sunday!**

We are now asking for sponsors for 2026.

It is never too early to sponsor a Sunday!

*If you would like to sponsor an arrangement (\$50 ea.), contact the church office at 910-270-4648 or [office@hampsteadumc.org](mailto:office@hampsteadumc.org). Flowers are on a first come-first served basis. Thank you!*

## ~Announcements~

**First Time & Frequent Visitors, we welcome you!**

*For information about Hampstead UMC, please see our greeters in the Narthex (lobby). If this is your first worship experience here, please let the ushers or greeters know, so we can better assist you!*

**A nursery is provided for worship services, located in the main building—see an usher for assistance.**

*If you wish to receive additional weekly updates or be contacted, please print your contact information in the red attendance pew pads or you may email the church office at [office@hampsteadumc.org](mailto:office@hampsteadumc.org).*

**Staff Love Offering Last Day** We at HUMC have been blessed with a very loyal, loving and dedicated Staff. **Today is the last day** to contribute to a love offering for our staff. Place your gift in the offering plate marked "Staff Christmas" or see a member of SPRC. This love offering will be shared among all our staff members as a token of our thanks and best wishes for a Happy Holiday season. Thank you all for being such a loving, caring congregation!

**Christmas Poinsettias** A heartfelt thank you to everyone who sponsored a poinsettia. Your gift has made our sanctuary a place of warmth, beauty, and sacred remembrance throughout the Advent and Christmas season. The complete list of dedications and the names of those we honor and remember is in the worship bulletin. Poinsettias purchased can be taken after the last Christmas Eve service at 7:00 PM.

**Christmas Eve Services** We will hold two Christmas Eve services. **A candlelight service at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM.** Communion will be served at both services. A nursery will be provided.

**Staff Time Off** During the week between Christmas and New Year's, the HUMC administrative staff will be working on an "as needed" basis. Therefore, the office may not be open all day every day, but the staff will be checking email/messages. If you need to see someone during that time period, please try to make an appointment a week in advance. Thank you!

**2026 Altar Flower Sponsorships** Sign-ups to sponsor altar flowers are now available for the 2026 year. Each available Sunday has 1 arrangement at \$50 each. Payment is due at the time of your reservation. If you would like to sponsor an arrangement contact the church office at 910-270-4648 or email [office@hampsteadumc.org](mailto:office@hampsteadumc.org).

**YEAR-END REMINDER:** Please remember that if you are planning to make a charitable contribution to HUMC, the last day to place 2025 contributions in the offering plate is **December 28<sup>th</sup>**. If you are mailing your contribution and want your gift to appear on your 2025 giving statement, the envelope **MUST** be postmarked by **December 31<sup>st</sup>**. (IRS regulation). If you wish to make a donation through a gift of stock or a direct contribution from your IRA, please ensure that your bank/broker completes the transaction so that the funds are in HUMC's account by December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Stefanie Stark by email at: [financialsec@hampsteadumc.org](mailto:financialsec@hampsteadumc.org).

**Become Part of Worship!** We're looking for volunteers to serve as greeters, ushers, lay readers, or communion servers during Sunday's service. These roles are a meaningful way to connect with our congregation. **No experience needed, and no long-term commitment:** Full training is provided to ensure you feel confident in your role. **Ready to Serve?** Sign up for a Sunday by contacting the church office or speak with Pastor Debbie to learn more. Your participation helps our worship services thrive! ([office@hampsteadumc.org](mailto:office@hampsteadumc.org))