



MESSENGER

Volume 35, Issue 10

November-December / Novembre-Diciembre 2020

WORSHIP

SERMON SERIES
"Practicing God's Promises"

November 22, 2020
Christ the King Sunday
Celebrate Thanksgiving
COMMUNION

"The Best Way to Thank God"

The best way to thank God is to imitate God. 10:45 a.m. Music
11 a.m. Blended Svc. Sanctuary
11 a.m. Hispanic Svc. Youth Bldg.
Scripture: Eph. 4:25-5:2
Pastor Chuck

November 29, 2020
ADVENT SERMON SERIES

"Immanuel: Our Prince of Peace"

1st Sunday of Advent
Immanuel's Personal Invitation to
Peaceful Living

11 a.m. Sanctuary & 11 a.m.
Hispanic Service Youth Bldg.
*He invites us to move from fretful
stress to peaceful.*
Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7
Matthew 1:23 Pastor Chuck

December 6, 2020
2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Fear Not

*When the personal God arrives, our
fears can be arrested.*
11 a.m. Sanctuary & 11 a.m.
Hispanic Service Youth Bldg.
Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7
Matthew 1:23 Pastor Chuck

December 13, 2020
3rd Sunday of Advent
Bluegrass Christmas Cantata

11 a.m. Sanctuary
11 a.m. Hispanic Svc. Youth Bldg.
Scripture: Eph. 4:25-5:2

December 20, 2020
4th Sunday of Advent

"Christmas with Simeon"

When We Meet Immanuel, We Meet God
11 a.m. Sanctuary & 11 a.m.
Hispanic Service Youth Bldg.
Scripture: Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 2:21-35
Pastor Chuck

From the Senior Pastor



Greetings in the Name of our Good Shepherd,

I'm honored and humbled to be your Senior Pastor, which provides me the blessing of sharing in ministry alongside such a gifted and dedicated staff. When we can put this pandemic behind us, I look forward to getting to know you better. We'll get through it together. In the meantime, let's lean on the Lord, do our best for Him, and we will emerge stronger in our faith.

How exciting it is to be on the cusp of a new Christian year. Believe it or not, we're almost there – ready to set out on a fresh journey in our walk with Christ! What an opportune time to recommit ourselves to our Lord. Together, let's rededicate ourselves to making this the best Christian year of our lives!

As we embark on this new Christian year, our worship series will highlight the meaningful and beautiful Advent/Christmas season by speaking to the needs of our hearts:

"Immanuel: Our Prince of Peace."

As the pictures above illustrate, Immanuel ("God with us") and "Prince of Peace" are two names of Jesus Christ that appear during the Advent/Christmas season. I look forward to rejoicing with you in the onset of a new Christian year full of opportunities as we worship **"Immanuel: Our Prince of Peace."** Here's a look at our upcoming worship:

Nov. 22: Thanksgiving Service ... Even though we've been through a lot of challenges this year, we still have so much for which to be thankful. Let's delve into Scripture and answer the question, **"What is the best way to thank God?"**

Advent/Christmas worship series: **"Immanuel: Our Prince of Peace"**

Nov. 29: **"Immanuel's Personal Invitations to Peaceful Living"**

Dec. 6: **"Fear Not"**

Dec. 12: **Bluegrass Christmas Cantata (3:00 p.m.)**

Dec. 13: **Bluegrass Christmas Cantata (9:30 a.m. online, 11:00 a.m. in sanctuary)**

Dec. 20: **"A Praise-Filled, Peace-Filled Christmas with Simeon"**

Dec. 24: **Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service (7:00 p.m.)**

Dec. 27: **"Carrying Immanuel, Our Prince of Peace, Into 2021"**

(Please note: we leave room for the Holy Spirit to adjust above schedule.)

Hoping and praying for a blessed new Christian year for us all,

Chuck

FOR ALL THE SAINTS - Nov. 1 2020

Each year we celebrate the lives of the saints in a service of remembrance on All Saints Sunday. We remember those who have gone before us, "who guided, nurtured, and cared for us, lived and died that we might be who we are, precious children of God in this community of believers." **Sunday November 1, 2020** we celebrated **All Saints Sunday**. Below are those who went on to the Church Eternal since last November 2019.

Robert Lee Johnson

March 10, 1929 - Dec. 7, 2019

Claude Irvine Chipley, Jr.

April 16, 1939 - Dec. 20, 2019

Azelee Baker Jackson

Dec. 29, 1928 - Dec. 26, 2019

William Frank Jarvis

Oct. 21, 1939 - Dec. 28, 2019

Emily Blackwell McClamrock

Dec. 20, 1929 - Feb. 2, 2020

James Medford Gaither

Nov. 18, 1942 - Feb. 26, 2020

Peggy Joyce Church Hulick

Nov. 2, 1946 - March 3, 2020

Joann Morrison Crawford

August 19, 1950 - May 18, 2020

Phil Norman Carter

Sept. 17, 1934 - May 24, 2020

Addria Proctor Capps

April 12, 1940 - July 3, 2020

Jo Ann Carol Kenney Billingsley

Dec. 18, 1944 - Aug. 12, 2020

Laura Elfried Shirley Armstrong

March 5, 1934 - Sept. 24, 2020

Dorothy Cook Jarvis

August 30, 1940 - Sept. 27, 2020

Bruce Michael Billingsley

Oct. 7, 1944 - Oct. 24, 2020

Congratulation

We celebrate the birth of **Sophia DeAnn Moncada** October 23, 2020 to **Hannah Reynolds** and **David Moncada**. She is the granddaughter of **Ricky** and **Yvonne Reynolds**. We also celebrate with **Rev. Thomas** and **Susan Griffis** on the birth of a grandson, **Benjamin** on October 15 in Colorado. He is the son of **Emma** and **Alex**.



Advent at Home Packets

This year we understand that much of our congregation and those from the community will not be able to

celebrate **Advent** in person. To help us stay connected this Christmas season, St. Luke's has created an **Advent At Home Packet** for each family to enjoy at home. Each packet includes: Advent instruction guide, two advent calendars, advent wreath coloring sheet, candles, nativity block, St. Luke's cup, sticky notes and other materials for activities including in the guide book.

We want each family to enjoy the packet, taking time to be present with each other experiencing advent in a whole new way in 2020. **Packets are available during in person worship Sunday's at 11 a.m., Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Church Office or by mail.** Contact the Church Office and leave a message to have your packet mailed. As you enjoy your **Advent At Home Packet** take some photos and tag them # adventathome2020. Let us all celebrate the coming of the Lord together!

IN MEMORIAM

Bruce Michael Billingsley

October 7, 1944 - October 24, 2020

"Blessed are the dead who died in the Lord for they cease from their labor and their works do follow them."

Sincere sympathy of the pastors and the congregation is extended to the family of Bruce on his homegoing.

IN MEMORIAM

William A. "Billy" Whittington

October 13, 1951 - November 1, 2020

"Blessed are the dead who died in the Lord for they cease from their labor and their works do follow them."

Sincere sympathy of the pastors and the congregation is extended to the family of Bill on his homegoing.

Christian Sympathy of the pastors and congregation to the families of: **John Young** in the death of his brother, **David Young** of Hickory; the family of **Allen Finley** in the death of his mother, **Carolina Finley** of Wilkes County on October 26, 2020.

He, who gives what he would as readily throw away, gives without generosity; for the essence of generosity is in self-sacrifice. ~ Jeremy Taylor

Have you ever thought, "when I get this bill paid off, then I can give;" or "when I get that raise, then I can give"? Most of the time, another bill will come due and the raise usually comes with an increase in "must haves". Jesus teaches us not only to give, but to do so sacrificially. If you wait for the perfect circumstances, then your gifts to the Lord may never come. Is giving to the Lord a priority in your life? We tend to put much emphasis on the spiritual practices of praying, Bible reading, fellowship and worship, but giving is a spiritual practice as well. A life lived for Christ is a disciplined life, and giving is a spiritual muscle that must be trained. If you haven't been flexing that spiritual muscle, I urge you to start now. Giving sacrificially requires dependence on the promises of God and the assurance that you would never be able to out-give God! **Lisa Lail**, Church Administrator

Year to Date Income: \$756,511

Year to Date Expense: \$796,968



Altar Guild Christmas Poinsettias

Order your Poinsettias to help decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas.

You may order yours online <http://Link to order https://stlukesumchky.wufoo.com/forms/q8wyrwa04tzn81/> or call the Church Office. Forms available at worship. Poinsettias are \$15 each. Deadline for order is Monday, December 7th.



St. Luke's
Kids Zoom
Sunday
School



Join the fun in December on
ZOOM Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Let's Go to Bethlehem!

Our Bible Memory Verse is Luke 1:46-47

Dec. 6 - Gabriel's Message - Luke 1:22-38

Dec. 13 - Mary Visits Elizabeth - Luke 1:39-66

Dec. 20 - Jesus is Born - Luke 2:1-7

Dec. 27 - Joyous News - Luke 2:8-20

Watch your mail for **Advent Packets** and other
special surprises!!!



**Join the Advent Journey
to Christmas!**

Come share in conversation together beginning
**Sunday, November 29 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom for
the four Sundays of Advent.**

A second study could be offered on Wednesday
evenings if there is enough interest.

In the study Pastor Adam Hamilton speaks to Christmas
in light of the pandemic and our world today. Below is
the promo clip for the study and the weekly topics. Our
time together would be viewing the video clip which I can
share via a new resource called Amplify and then
reflective conversation from the video and our reading
of the book. The book can be a stand alone read or used
for our conversation together. I am including the link for you to
order your book.



Study intro Link: <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/video/unitedmethodistpublishinghouse/37672-incarnation/37676-previews-and-more/117047-incarnation-promo>

Link to purchase the Book: <https://www.cokesbury.com/incarnation-1-2>

Let me know you will join us thru e-mail pmckim@slumc.org or via text to
Pat at 336-460-0994.

NO MORE VIDEO CURRICULUM NEEDED ...

Cokesbury offers new video streaming app called **Amplify** for churches
to stream ALL the video resources available, much like Netflix. St. Luke's
now has a subscription for all teachers and leaders to use in facilitating
small groups, Bible studies, and more. There is also a special children and
youth section for families to enjoy with their students at home. The videos
stream from your phone, tablet, television, and computer. Each person has
their own unique login which allows you to create a playlist and build your
own viewing history. All you have to do is visit this website: <https://my.amplifymedia.com/stlukesumchickorync>

When it asks for your code, enter this: **GPTHLZ**. Create your personal
log in information. You will use this information each time you sign in.
Please note St. Luke's is not able to see your login information so you will
need to write it down for future reference! Let Jessica Stamey or
Rev. Monica Childers if you have any questions.

Coming in December Celebrate Advent & Christmas

Sunday, December 6th—3 p.m.

**One Piano Four Hands with Marie Denig
& Greg Knight**

(In-Person & Livestreamed on Facebook)

**Saturday, December 13th—3 p.m. Special
Performance "Rhapsody in Bluegrass"**

(In-Person)

**Sunday, December 20th—6 p.m. Virtual
Las Posadas**

New Online Prayer Request - St. Luke's recognizes that there
are many prayer needs in our Church and community. We are now
offering an online platform for individuals to submit prayer requests to
the pastors, **Prayer Team** and/or the **Church Prayer List**. Visit this
link for [Online prayer tutorial](#) or visit <https://slumc.org/home/online-prayer-requests> to submit your request.

PRAYER LIST

- >All Students, Teachers and Educators
- >Law Enforcement Officers, local around the country
- >Non-violence with fair voting and elections
- >The family of Bill Whittington on his homegoing November 1, 2020
- >Allen Finley and family in the death of his mother, Carolina Finley
- >the family of John Young in the recent homegoing of his brother, David
- >homegoing of Annie Noles, sister of Mark Rash
- >Karen Knight, Paulette's cousin, passed away October 28
- >Helen Lister, Rebecca McLeod's mother has health issues
- >Scottie Sue Brittian, Toby's friend, has pneumonia
- >Cristen Cartwright, Bruce & Joann Billingsly's daughter
- >Gabriel & Guy Scronce, neice & nephew of Wade Scronce, dealing with
father's death & keeping business going
- >Phyllis Setzer & Coleman
- >Jim Pendleton
- >Polly Shook
- >Caroline Thomas
- >Kimberly Moore
- >Mike Loyd
- >Mike Denig
- >Brook Willis, Jane Bailey's great granddaughter fighting unknown illness
- >Wesley Gullett, son of Robert & Joan Gullett
- >Mary Dula from Westview
- >Donna Teague, member of Thursday Women's Bible Study
- >Ned Hudson, brother of Coy Hudson & sister-in-law
- >Terri Mull, Tina Lowman's sister
- >Sue Winnell & Steve
- >Ann Trent & Doug
- >Frank Willis
- >John Brown, Levi Canaday's adopted Grandfather
- >Katrina Swartz, friend of Jessica Stamey & Peter
- >Juanita Castillo, sister of Vicky Villanueva
- >Tim & Tammy Curtis & family, Pastor Monica's, brother & family
- >Michelle Fox & Sandy Estes, Pastor Monica's friends
- >Jose Louis Dominguez, friend of Karina Yañez
- >Melanie Vaughn, Pat McKim's friend
- >Injustices to all people
- >Victims of crazy weather issues
- >Prayers that our Congregation will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit moving in
our Ministry



52 16th Ave NW, Hickory, N.C. 28601-2592

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Dated Materials - Deliver Immediately

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 144
Hickory, NC



MESSENGER

is a monthly publication of
St. Luke's United Methodist Church
52 16th Avenue NW, Hickory, NC 28601

St. Luke's United Methodist Church Staff

- Chuck Baker, Senior Pastor
- Raymundo Villanueva, Hispanic Pastor
- Monica Childers, Associate Pastor
- Pat McKim, Director of Children's Ministry
- Charlie Brown, Director of Youth & College Ministry
- Marie Denig, Director of Music & Arts Ministry
- Jessica Stamey, Associate Director of Music & Creative Arts
- Lisa Lail, Church Administrator
- Paulette Gregory, Church & Membership Secretary
- Steve Spivey, Hospitality Coordinator
- Cindy Schonewolf, Childcare Coordinator
- Garry Hill, Building & Grounds Maintenance
- Greg Knight, Pianist
- Tom Spiggle, Organist

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone 828) 327-9837 Fax: 828-327-4043 web: slumc.org
Church Office Hours.....Church Office is currently closed to public.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.....Thursday before printing
Bulletin/ Eblast Deadline.....Wednesday, 4 p.m.



**Corinth Reformed Church will host
the 52nd Annual Community
Thanksgiving Service**
Thanksgiving Day, Thursday,
November 6 at 10 a.m.
Pastor Chuck will deliver the message.

The service will be livestreamed at corinthtoday.org/live. Those who attend in person are asked to wear masks and will be seated with social distancing.

The **Thanksgiving offering** will support the **Salvation Army's homeless Warming Station (this is the only station for this winter.)** Read more about it in the Hickory Daily Record which featured a story the Warming Station, Sunday, November 1. Opportunity to give online will be extended to livestream viewers.

