

# THE MESSENGER

WORSHIP AND NEWS FROM  Christ United Methodist Church

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**Sunday, December 31, 2017**

Traditional Worship, 8:30am and 11am, Sanctuary

Contemporary Worship, 9am and 11:15am, Fellowship Center

## | Love. Grow. Serve.

Welcome to Christ Church! We are a church that embraces people, the community, and the world with the boundless love of God. Our core values are to love God, humanity, and all creation; grow intentionally together in Christlikeness; and serve together in our church, community, and the world. We are so glad to have you with us today and hope you'll feel welcomed at Christ Church and be inspired through worship here.

### Guest Information

If this is your first time worshipping with us, please visit the Connection Point Desk, located between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Center. Our volunteers will be happy to help you learn more about the missions and ministries at Christ Church.

### Sunday School

We offer Sunday School classes for all ages each Sunday, 9:50am–10:50am. Visit the Connection Point Desk to find a class that's right for you.

### Children

All children are welcome to stay during our worship services; worship bags for ages 3–12 are available at the entrances to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Center.

- **0–24 months:** During all services, a nursery is provided for infants through toddlers in Rooms 111 and 113, and is staffed by trained, professional childcare workers and parent helpers.
- **Ages 2–4:** Children ages 2 through 4 are welcome in the nursery during our early services. During our late services, in room 302, Worship Care provides a short lesson, snack, and playtime.
- **Grades K–5:** During our late worship services, GO! Children's Worship includes drama, storytelling, group competitions, prayer, reflection, and live music. Drop off and pick up your children in the Chapel.

### Youth

Our youth group for grades 7–12 meets regularly on Sunday evenings throughout the school year. We also have small groups that meet Wednesday and Thursday evenings. See page 9 for announcements, and visit [christgreensboro.org/youth](http://christgreensboro.org/youth) for more information.

### Prayer Chain

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please email [prayer@christgreensboro.org](mailto:prayer@christgreensboro.org). You may also call the church at 336-299-1571 and ask to speak to Susan Pabon.

### Accessibility

The congregation offers large print hymnals and Bibles, a magnifying sheet for use with our bulletins, and hearing assistance devices for our traditional services. Additionally, the 9am Awakening service features American Sign Language and Vietnamese translation. Please speak to an usher if you need assistance. In addition, we broadcast our 11am traditional service live every Sunday on WDFC-FM 101.7.

## Traditional Worship

8:30am and 11am, Sanctuary

\* *Those who are able, please stand.*

*Gathering*  
We invite you to enter into a spirit of reverence as we prepare for worship through our opening voluntary. To help preserve the sanctity of the service, please silence all electronic devices and refrain from flash photography

*Passing of the Peace*  
Passing the peace is a tradition rooted in Scripture that embodies our identity as peacemakers using the words Christ spoke to his disciples of "Peace be with you." We offer this greeting to symbolize our unity and to practice God's call to encourage the bonds of peace in our world.

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### WE GATHER

HYMN REQUESTS (8:30am)

TRINITY CHIMES (11am)

GREETING

VOLUNTARY

*In dulci jubilo* (8:30am)

arr. Marcel Dupre

*Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella* (11am)

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

It is still Christmas. Joy is still loose in the world,

**Love is lodged in hearts, and peace is still our fervent hope.**

It's still Christmas, though presents are all unwrapped.

**The batteries have run down, and family members have returned home.**

It's still Christmas, for God begins anew,

**giving us a baby to care for and calling us to live with tender compassion, gentle care and overflowing love.**

\* OPENING HYMN

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

220

REGENT SQUARE

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

\* SUNG RESPONSE

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today, Christ is born today.**

### WE PROCLAIM

\* SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SERMON

Pastor Virginia Reynolds

*Carols of Christmas Part 6: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

### WE RESPOND

\* HYMN OF RESPONSE 224  
*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (stanzas 2 & 3) IN DULCI JUBILO

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881

### \* RESPONSE

**Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners  
reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of  
the skies; with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in  
Bethlehem!” Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the  
newborn King!”**

## CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

### CALL TO PRAYER

*Love Came Down at Christmas*

*Trad. Irish Melody*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

LORD’S PRAYER 895

### OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Carol Medley*

John Purifoy

*(congregation to remain seated and join in singing as directed)*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye O  
come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold Him, born the  
King of angels! O come let us adore Him, O come, let us  
adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor  
shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay  
keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so  
deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the  
plains; and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous  
strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

### *Offering Cards*

For those who give electronically or by mail but would like to participate in this act of worship, cards for the offering plates are available in the pew pockets.

### *Ways to Give*

You may also give online at christgreensboro.org/giving or by texting CUMC to 73256.

\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

**We bring our tithes and offerings, come one and all to adore Him, whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping. This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We offer ourselves to you this day, trusting in your grace. May these gifts honor you, as they continue your work of offering the world a living hope. Amen.**

**WE GO FORTH**

\* HYMN OF DEPARTURE

251

*Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

\* BENEDICTION

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere: go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

\* TRINITY CHIMES (11am)

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella* (8:30am) arr. Douglas E. Wagner  
*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (11am) arr. Johann Sebastian Bach

*Closing Voluntary*  
Traditionally, in classical worship, the service is not considered to be over until the voluntary has concluded. Those who wish to hear the closing voluntary are invited to remain in their pews; those who need to exit are asked to do so quietly.

**Ministry of Worship**

Participating Pastors: Virginia Reynolds, Alice Kunka

Ushers: Randy Ferguson, Alan Woodlief, David Woodlief (8:30am)  
Doug Fairburn, Bill Fraley, Tom Lynch, Roland Maddrey, Randy McGraw,  
Rebecca Ryckman, Rodney Sink, Mike Solomon, Charlie Tedder,  
Dale Williams, Janet Williams (11am)

Musicians: New Covenant Choir (8:30am); Evan Thee, oboist; Chancel Choir (11am)

Senior Director of Worship and Arts: Cathy West

Organist and Director of Children's Music: Chris Dederer

Director of Handbell Ministries: Jared Gordon

# Contemporary Worship

9am and 11:15am Fellowship Center

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## **WE GATHER AS A COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

We're so glad you're here! Please feel free to grab a cup of coffee as you gather.

## **WE SING AND PRAISE GOD TOGETHER**

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*  
*Old Church Choir (11:15am)*

## **WE GREET ONE ANOTHER**

RESPONSE SONG

## **WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS**

*Garden*

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

## **WE PRACTICE GENEROSITY**

OFFERING

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD AND APPLY IT TO OUR LIVES**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:22-40

SERMON

Pastor Virginia Reynolds

*Carols of Christmas Part 6: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

## **WE SING TOGETHER THEN GO TO SERVE THE WORLD**

BLESSING

*Ways to Give*  
You may also give  
online at  
christgreensboro.  
org/giving or by  
texting CUMC to  
73256.

### **Ministry of Worship**

Participating Pastor: Virginia Reynolds  
Director of Contemporary Worship: Matt Gravely

## | This Sunday at Christ Church

***Faithful Adult Advent Study:*** This Sunday, December 31, we conclude our four-week study of Adam Hamilton's *Faithful: Christmas Through The Eyes of Joseph*. You do not have to have attended the other services to join us at 9:50am in the Parlor and Disciple Room.

**Birthday Party for Baby Jesus:** All ChristKids (ages 2 and older) are invited to join us this Sunday, December 31, at 9:50am for a craft, story time, and birthday cake for Baby Jesus! ChristKids are encouraged to bring a food donation for Out of the Garden as a birthday present for Baby Jesus.

## | This Week at Christ Church

*View the full calendar at [christgreensboro.org/calendar](http://christgreensboro.org/calendar).*

**The Church Office** will be closed Monday, January 1. For pastoral emergencies, please call 336-337-5633. Happy New Year!

There will be **no Welcome Wednesday** this week. Welcome Wednesday will resume January 10.

**Adult Fellowship Trip to High Point University:** Join us for a fun and educational day as we tour High Point University, one of our United Methodist Higher Education communities. The beautiful campus is ranked one of the top five in our nation. We will learn about innovative programming and courses of study. Following our tour, we will enjoy lunch in High Point. Cost is \$5 for travel expenses. Lunch will be paid for by each individual. Register by Tuesday, January 2, online at [christgreensboro.org/events](http://christgreensboro.org/events) or by completing the form, available at the Connection Point Desk.

## | General Announcements

**Light Up Sunday:** On Sunday, January 7, we're kicking off a new season of discipleship at Christ Church with Light Up Sunday.

- **For adults:** After a short presentation in the Sanctuary at 9:50am, where Pastor Morris will share about the importance of small groups and Sunday school as we go deeper in our spiritual formation, learn about all of the opportunities to connect with a small group at our Small Group Exhibit in the Gathering Space.
- **For kids:** Come celebrate the Epiphany with us in Sunday school! All children will start in their classrooms before accompanying the wise men on a journey to follow the star to Baby Jesus.
- **For youth:** Meet us in the Youth Building Lobby at 9:50am for breakfast, then stick around for a full-group Light Up the Darkness event with a video and a lesson surrounding Matthew 5:14-16.

**January Worship Series: iResolve:** What do you hope to change in 2018? Have you made your new year's resolutions yet? In our first worship series of 2018, we will look at some scripturally based resolutions that we can make to have a positive impact on our spiritual lives.

**Discovery Sunday:** Interested in learning more about what we have to offer, meeting our pastors and some of our staff, and seeing what it means to be a part of Christ United Methodist Church? Whether it's your first time coming to Christ Church or you've been attending for a while now, we'd love to get to know you better. On January 28, join us at 9:50am in the Parlor and Disciple Room for an informal session about what Christ Church is all about. Coffee and breakfast are included!

## | Prayer Ministry and Congregational Care

**Our deepest sympathies** go to Linda and Lisa Johnson, on the death of husband and father Lloyd “Mike” Johnson, December 20; and to Jeter Wilkins, his children and grandchildren, on the death of Ann Wilkins, December 26.

## | ChristKids (Infants-Grade 6)

**Mother-Son Date Night:** Laser tag, games, and more—mothers and sons (grades K-6), join us for a fun-filled evening on Saturday, January 27, from 4pm-6pm in the Youth Building! Cost is \$10/family. Learn more and register at [christgreensboro.org/mother-son-date-night](http://christgreensboro.org/mother-son-date-night).

**Summer 2018 Children’s Ministry Dates:** We know that many families plan early, so please mark your calendar for our 2018 summer ministry dates. Questions? Contact Kara Harvey ([kharvey@christgreensboro.org](mailto:kharvey@christgreensboro.org)).

- June 25–28: Vacation Bible School
- July 9–12: Day Camp (Kindergarten-Grade 3)
- July 29–August 1: Mini Camp Option at Camp Tekoa (grades 3 and 4)
- July 29–August 4: Resident Camp at Camp Tekoa (Grades 3 and up)

## | ChristYouth (Grades 7-12)

**Youth Sunday School** will take a break until January 7, when we will return for a Light Up the Darkness Event for grades 7-12 in the main room of the Youth Building at 9:50am.

**Youth Group** will take a break until January 7, when we will make up our Progressive Dinner and Christmas Party! Hold on to your Dirty Santa gifts! Text @srhiyouth or @jrhiyouth to 81010 for more updates!

**Confirmation** will take a break until January 6-7, when we will go on our retreat! Look for more information via email. Text @cofnirm32 to 81010 for more updates.

**Small Group** will take a break until January 10 and 11. Text @youthsg to 81010 for more updates!

## | Missions and Outreach

**First Food Sunday:** First Food Sunday is Sunday, January 7. Please bring donations of non-perishable food items to the Holy Grounds by that date for delivery to Greensboro Urban Ministry.

**Weaver House Winter Shelter:** The Weaver House winter shelter at West Market Church (formerly West Market Street UMC) has begun, and volunteers are needed to provide meals to the homeless guests each Friday through March 11. Male volunteers are also needed to stay overnight each Friday evening. Contact Beth Taylor ([b76taylor@gmail.com](mailto:b76taylor@gmail.com); 336-202-8726) to volunteer.

## Ministry Spotlights

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### New Church-Wide Missional Opportunity

Christmas is a time for giving, and our District Superintendent has recently given Christ Church an incredible missional opportunity in the new year: She has requested that we consider merging with Glenwood UMC, a struggling church in the Glenwood community of Greensboro, which is an area with tremendous missions potential. If we were to accept, the merger would be effective July 1, 2018. Upon receiving this offer, your Church Council appointed a Task Force to research and report back on the possibilities and considerations. But, we need your input before we can move forward. We invite you to join us for one of two listening sessions, during which you will be able to learn about the possibilities, ask questions, and share your thoughts. These will be held on Sunday, January 21 (12pm, Fellowship Center) and on Sunday, January 28 (9:50am, Parlor). On Sunday, February 25, we will hold a Church Conference, where the entire congregation will have the opportunity to vote on our final decision.

We feel that this call we received concerning a merger with Glenwood UMC was not only a call from our District Superintendent, but a call from God offering CUMC an opportunity to LOVE, GROW, and SERVE, through embracing people in that community with the boundless love of God. It would provide a Methodist center for mission and ministry in a wonderful community with some significant needs. As we discuss the opportunities and challenges, we are invited to discern how this impacts our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world right here in Greensboro. As we work through this process toward the final decision on February 25, please be in prayer about this exciting opportunity to live out our mission and share the good news of Jesus Christ in new ways.

### Birthday Party for Baby Jesus

We celebrate Jesus coming to earth not just on Christmas day, but every day. On this first Sunday after Christmas, we invite all ChristKids (ages 2 and older) to join us for a birthday party celebrating the birth of our Savior—the true reason for all of our Christmas celebrations—with special crafts, a story, and birthday cake for Baby Jesus! The Birthday Party will be held on Sunday, December 31, from 9:50am-10:50am in the Gym. Children are encouraged to bring a donation of a 15-oz. jar of peanut butter for Out of the Garden Backpack Ministry as a birthday present for Baby Jesus.

Christ United Methodist Church  
410 North Holden Road  
Greensboro, NC 27410

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## **Christ United Methodist Church**

410 North Holden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410  
christgreensboro.org | Facebook.com/ChristGreensboro

Christ Church on the Radio: 101.7 WDFC-FM (*11am service broadcast live on Sundays*)

Interested in joining the church? Please contact Susan Pabon, Clergy Administrative Assistant (spabon@christgreensboro.org), in the Church Office for more information.

**Office Hours** 9am–4pm, Monday – Friday

**Church Phone** (336) 299-1571 | **Church Fax** (336) 299-7866

**Reservation Line** (336) 299-1571 ext. 333

**Pastoral Care Emergency Line (After office hours and weekends)**

(336) 337-5633

### **Pastoral Staff**

Morris Brown, Senior Pastor

Louis Timberlake, Executive Pastor

Virginia Reynolds, Associate Pastor

Alice Kunka, Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation

Mark Vickers, Associate Pastor and Lead Pastor at St. Timothy's UMC