



Second Sunday of Advent

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Avenue.
Greensboro, NC 27403
December 8, 2024

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor Anita Trumpler-Rich, Music Director

Welcome friends, family, and visitors. May your hearts be touched by the Holy Spirit as we join in worship with devotion, songs, and prayer.
Our Mission: To experience God's life-changing love and take God's love into the world.
Our Vision: To be a church where everyone is involved in ministry.

Gathering Music

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Hymn

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Response to Wreath Lighting *We Lift the Light of Peace* (vs. 2)

We lift the light of peace, O God, The Lord of truth and right. In your domain let justice reign and bring us peace in Christ. In your domain let justice reign and bring us peace in Christ.

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Pastoral prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Anthem

Scripture: Luke 3: 1-6

Sermon: John: The Bad Boy of the Bible Rev. Kelley Groce

Affirmation of Faith for Advent

We believe in God,
creator and lover of the earth,
origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ—
God coming to us
in the fragile promise
of a baby yet unborn—
who emerges as the herald of hope,
God's laughter in the face of despair.
Plunged into death and hell,
he broke free the captives,
and is leading the way
to the land of promise
where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who implants the seed of truth,
brings us to birth
as the body of Christ,
and empowers us

to confront and transform
all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God.
Announced by the Baptist,
it has drawn near to us in Jesus,
and will be consummated
in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven,
when all who have passed through
the world's deep sorrow
will be raised from the waters,
robed in righteousness,
and gathered into the joyous fulfilment
of God's desire.

For the coming of that day on this day,
we work and pray:

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

— written by [Nathan Nettleton](#), and posted on his [Laughingbird](#) website.

Glori Patri

Hymn

We Worship with God's Tithes and our Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

*Hymn

*Benediction

†Please stand as you are able in body or in spirit and silence your cell phones†

We were saddened to hear that Polly Bowman passed away yesterday, November 30. The arrangements are incomplete at this time. Please keep her son Gary and her family in your prayers.

Announcements for Mission and Ministry

December Birthdays: 1st Dona Pickett. 5th Nina Stowe. 6th Charles Gordan. 7th Grant Sillmon. 10th Carol Burklin, Betty Durham & Alvin Eaton. 12th David Sillmon. 15th Bobby Burklin. 17th Haley Saunders. 18th Clara Ellis, Mark Schlueter & Geoff Horn. 19th Nancy Carrick. 22nd Harrison Stout. 30th May Jo Baugh. 31st Travis John.

As you engage your ‘Prayer Life’ this week, please remember these prayer concerns: If you have a prayer concern or praise, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643, or call Kelley at the parsonage 336-285-5081. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Lenora Reese. Ann Atchison, Friends Home Guilford. Bob Lyon (Mike Crabtree’s son-in-law). Kristy Stout. Win and Lin Johnson. Doris Pruitt. Andy McFarland-health issues (Milton McFarland’s brother). Andrew Gibbons. Michael Santowaso-cancer (Becky’s husband, David Sillmon’s son-in-law). Pray for our church during this time of transition. Joann Martin. Carol & Bobby Burklin. Margaret & Patrick Miller. Martha Nell Rives. Gretchen Crabtree. Dave & Barbara Blackman. Susan Carrick. Sheridian. Lee & Jane Norman. Al & Lori Eaton. Peggy Harris. Diane & Jim Stanley. Aly Saunders. Hazel Perritt. Debra Kirkman (Jean Greene, Kelley’s Mom, friend). Carolyn Crabtree (Mike Crabtree’s aunt). Joe (Susan Shuping’s brother). Continue to be in prayer for the victims of Hurricane Helene and all the First Responders. Cheyenne Thomas (Betty Durham’s granddaughter).

December Mondays 9th and 16th – 6pm - Advent Bible Study in Conference Room.

December 12th 6:30pm – Starlight Book Club at Café Pasta on State St.

You can continue to make donations to UMCOR. Make your checks out to Centenary UMC with **UMCOR on the memo line** or you can make your donation online at the link below:
<https://wnc-reg.brtaapp.com/br/HurricaneReliefDonations2018>.