

THIS WEEK AT GLANCE



Sunday, December 18

8:45 am Worship Service
 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship Service

Monday, December 19

10:00 am UMW Circle #7
 5:30 pm College & Career Dinner

Tuesday, December 20

6:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 21

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 23

Church Office Closed/Christmas

Saturday, December 24

5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25

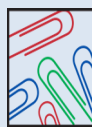
10:30 am Combined Service

EFUMC Staff

Pastor: Rev. Michael Hood,
 pastormichael@easleyfumc.org
 Cell: (803) 571-9234

Minister of Children, Youth & Families:
 Rev. Deana Gentry; deana@easleyfumc.org
Office Manager: Lisa Jenkins,
 lisa@easleyfumc.org

Director Traditional Music: Dr. Ralph Boggess
Director Contemporary Music: Sara Bowden
Nursery Worker: Sharon Sheriff



Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

8:30 am - noon
 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Friday

8:30 am - noon



EFUMC Financial Report

As of December 14, 2022

YTD Tithes & Offerings	475,187
YTD Expenses	459,781
Giving over expenses	15,405
Weekly Offering (12/11/2022)	6,537
Weekly Goal	11,359

Prayer Requests

Herman & Doris Jackson
 Markley Hidde
 Jerry Vickery
 Chuck Ouvry
 Kim Cannon
 Kendrick Baxter's father, Doug Baxter
 Nancy Pace's friends Gordon & Pat Bailey
 Char Fetterly's nephew Josh Weinstein
 Jean Wilson's son-in-law, Jeff Childress
 Robert & Lori Bradley's daughter, Sam Moore
 Joe & Phyllis Venable's son, Eric
 John & Ruby Spearman's daughter Ruth
 Family of Pat Wilkins, Betty Woodham's brother
 Kathie Cannon's brother & wife, Roger & Bettie Sidwell
 People of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, & US



Sunday, December 18, 2022



Easley First United Methodist Church

Sanctuary: 115 W. 1st Avenue, Easley, SC 29640
 Mailing: P.O. Box 589, Easley, SC 29641-0589
 Offices: 204 S. Pendleton St., Easley, SC 29640
 (864) 859-4584
www.easleyfumc.org

Grow in Christ. Reach out to others.

Providing families and individuals a Christ-centered option
 in an increasingly complex and changing world through:

Welcoming well
 Meaningful worship
 Encouraging small groups
 Training teachers and leaders

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

December 18, 2022

*Opening Song

“Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)” Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, George Frideric Handel,
Isaac Watts, Matt Gilder Praise Team

Welcome and Announcements

Heidi Mathis

Opening Prayer

Pastor Michael

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Isaiah 9:6-7

Steve & Polly Swindoll

We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace.
May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God,
Make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.
O come, O come, Emmanuel.

*Song of Praise

“The First Noel” Mark Crowder, Jack Parker, Jeremy Bush, Mark Waldrop,
Mike Dodson, Mike Hogan Praise Team

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16 Gary Mathis

*Song of Praise

“Midnight Clear (Love Song)” Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jonas Myrin

Children’s Moments

Rev. Deana

*Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

Offering

Song of Reflection

“Light of the World” Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan, Paul Mabury Praise Team

A Service of Holy Communion

The Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Michael

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.

*Closing Song

“What Child Is This” William Chatterton Dix, Chris Tomlin Praise Team

*Blessing

*Those who are able may stand

Pastor Michael

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2022 Contributions

All 2022 contributions need to be turned in to the church office by 12:00 noon on Thursday, December 29. Please keep in mind that online giving also must be deposited into the church’s bank account by noon on Thursday, December 29. This gives time for the offerings to be counted and deposited at the bank before the church office closes for the New Year’s holiday.

Buford and Sudie McKelvey Scholarship

This scholarship is for High School Seniors from Pickens County who have a need for financial assistance to pursue a degree at a four-year accredited college or university. The deadline for applications and supporting documentation to be received at Easley First United Methodist Church is February 28, 2023. Visit the church website (easleyfumc.org) for an application.

Advent Services at EFUMC

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve Service (5:30 pm)
Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day Combined Service (10:30 am)
Sunday, January 1 New Year’s Day Combined Service (10:30 am)

Curiosity Shoppe

Christmas items are on display in the Curiosity Shoppe. Come by, visit, and shop for special Christmas gifts!

Narthex Nativity

The beautiful nativity in the Narthex was given in memory of JoLynn McFadden.

The Angels and Lambs Program

Some of our church members are homebound or live in assisted living or nursing homes. They appreciate a monthly thinking-of-you contact from their church. We have members called **Angels** who volunteer to contact a person called a **Lamb** each month. Greeting cards or other small tokens are things Angels send by mail to their lambs. Angels may sign their own names from the beginning or write “Your angel from church” and then reveal their identity to their lamb in December.

Lambs sign up for the program with their name, mailing address and birthday (month and day only) and any other information such as special interests (dogs, cardinals, chocolate, etc.). They will get a greeting from their angel each month for a year.

Please contact Anne Gray 864-630-0479 or amg121@aol.com if you would like to be an angel or a lamb for 2023. If you were an angel or a lamb for 2022 and want to participate again for another year, you do not have to sign up unless your contact information has changed. If you can no longer participate in this program, please let Anne know. New pairings of angels/lambs will be announced after the holidays.

December 18

Greeters: Bill Baker (8:45) Joan Buffington (11:00)
Ushers: Jay and Ryan Lusk (11:00)
Lay Readers: Gary Mathis (8:45)
Advent Wreath Lighters: Steve & Polly Swindoll (8:45)
Ed Johnston Family (11:00)

Lay Welcomer: Heidi Mathis (8:45)
Nursery: Joan Buffington (8:45) Judy Daughtridge (11:00)
A/V: Dale Dangler, Jeff Knox (8:45)
Dale Dangler, Ross Gentry (11:00)

December 25—One Service at 10:30 am

Greeter: Joan Buffington
Ushers: Jay and Ryan Lusk
Lay Reader: Hood family
A/V: Dale Dangler, Ross Gentry

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE
December 18, 2022

Are you looking for unique Christmas gifts for your loved ones? The Easley FUMC Memorial Committee has recently used memorial gifts to purchase **new Bibles for our sanctuary**. The Bibles are the *New Revised Standard Version* which is the version we normally use in our services. Following along with our Scripture readings will now be very easy. While we are not asking for donations, we invite you to take this opportunity to make a gift in honor of or in memory of a loved one. If you choose to give a Bible, a bookplate with your name and the name of your loved one will be placed inside the front cover. Your gift will be a lasting one to our church. Each Bible is \$15.00. Because these gifts will not be combined with regular tithes and offerings, **please write a separate check** made payable to "Easley First United Methodist Church" with "Bible Donation" on the memo line. You may also use cash for your gift. A gift form with information is available in the narthex, in the church office, or on the EFUMC website.

Memorial Gifts

In Memory Of
Larry McFadden
Derek Edwards
In Honor of
Jim & Beverly Fogle

Given By
Banks & Lynn Griffith
Jim & Beverly Fogle

Walt & Lynn Corbin



Pre-Service Music

"All Through the Night"
"O Holy Night!"

Welch Carol/Arr. Larry Shackley
French Carol/Adolphe Adam/Arr. J. C. Hess

Ralph Boggess, Piano

Ringling of the Bell Tower Bell

Ushers

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Michael

Congregational Hymn TFWS #2090, Stanza 4

"Advent Song" ADVENT CAROL SONG

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Isaiah 9:6-7

Ed Johnston family

We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace.
May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God,
Make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.
O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Prelude

"What Child Is This?"

English Carol/Arr. Shlomo Carlebach

Claire Stam, Harp

Call to Worship

"Gloria in Excelsis Deo"

Chancel Choir; Instrumental Ensemble
Louis Claude d'Aquin/Arr. Noel Goemanne

***Congregational Hymn #246**

"Joy to the World" ANTIOCH

Children's Moments

Rev. Deana

Pastoral Prayer with the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Michael

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.

Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Pastor Michael

Sermon

Offertory

"Meditation on 'Go, Tell It on the Mountain'"

American Carol/Arr. David Lasky

Ralph Boggess, Organ

***Doxology**

Hymn #95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Lessons and Carols for Readers, Chancel Choir, and Instrumental Ensemble (See list of musicians below.)

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-19

Rev. Deana

Anthem

"And the Glory of the Lord"

G. F. Handel

And the glory, the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
And all flesh shall see it together;
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (Isaiah 40:5)

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

Buddy Jordan

Anthem

"Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming" German Carol/Arr. Michael Praetorius & K. Lee Scott

Lo, how a rose e're blooming from tender stem have sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as prophets long have sung.
It came a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.
Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior
When half spent was the night.

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Anthem

“People, Look East”

French Carol/Arr. K. Lee Scott

Teresa Nash

1. People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
 Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
 People, look East, and sing today: Love the Guest is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
 Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish.
 People, look East, and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way.

3. Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
 Even the hour when wings are frozen, He for fledging time has chosen.
 People, look East, and sing today: Love the Bird is on the way.

4. Stars, keep the watch, when night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
 Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
 People, look East, and sing today: Love the Star is on the way.

5. Angels, announce to man and beast, Him who cometh from the East.
 Set ev'ry peak and valley humming, with the Word, the Lord is coming.
 People, look East, and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

Anthem

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Sy Miller & Jill Jackson/Arr. Hawley Ades

Lynne Clem

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
 Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was mean to be.
 With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
 Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.
 Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now;
 With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
 To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally
 Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Anthem

“Breath of Heaven” (Mary’s Song)

Chris Eaton & Amy Grant/Arr. Lloyd Larson

Gary Goudelock

Meg Edwards, Soprano Soloist; Chancel Choir

I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a babe inside,
 And I wonder what I’ve done, Holy Father, You have come
 And chosen me now to carry your Son.
 I am waiting in a silent prayer; I am frightened by the load I bear.
 In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone?
 Be with me now, be with me now.
 Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven
 Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me Your holiness
 For You are holy, Breath of Heaven.
 Do You wonder as You watch my face, if a wiser one should have had my place?
 But I offer all I am, for the mercy of Your plan; help me be strong, help me.

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Anthem

“Once in Royal David’s City”

English Carol/Henry Gauntlett

Marilyn Haislip

Mary Boggess, Soprano Soloist; Chancel Choir

1. Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed;
 Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
 2. He came down to earth from heaven. Who is God and Lord of all,
 And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall.
 With the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

Anthem

“Ding Dong! Merrily on High/Good King Wenceslas”

French Carol/English Carol/Arr. Ed Lojeski

Claire Stam

Ding Dong! Merrily on high, the Christmas bells are ringing!
 Ding Dong! Heav’n and earth reply with angel voices singing!
 Gloria! Sing glory to the highest!
 Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,
 When the snow lay 'roundabout, deep and crisp and even.
 Brightly shone the moon that night though the frost was cruel,
 When a poor man came in sight gath'ring winter fuel.

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

Anthem

“In the Silence”

Appalachian Carol/Arr. Craig Courtney

Mike Lawson

1. Have you ever, in the silence, wondered at His birth,
 Of how the Son of God was born, a child upon the earth?
 Have you ever thought of Him at rest upon the hay,
 Smiling at the faces of the creatures that He made?
 2. Have you ever, in the silence, wondered at the sight
 Of shepherds watching in the fields upon a starlit night?
 Have you ever thought it strange they left their sheep and ran
 To a stall in Bethlehem to kneel before a Lamb?
 3. Have you ever, in the silence, wondered at the thought
 Of how it came to pass, the Wise Men chose the gifts they brought?
 Frankincense for holy ones, and gold for kings, but myrrh?
 Why a gift for tombs they brought, on this, the Savior’s birth?

*Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-14

*Congregational Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” MENDELSSOHN Felix Mendelssohn/Arr. David Willcocks

Pastor Michael

1. 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.
 2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb;
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th'incarnate Deity!
 Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
 Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King
 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings;
 Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
 Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
 Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.

*Benediction

*Postlude

“Christians, Be Joyful” from Christmas Oratorio

J. S. Bach/Arr. Franklin Ritter

Pastor Michael

Ralph Boggess, Organ

Instrumental Ensemble: Martha Kitterman, Flute; Brandon Dean, Oboe; Katie Hamilton, Cello;
 Claire Stam, Harp; Ralph Boggess, Piano and Organ

*Those who are able may stand