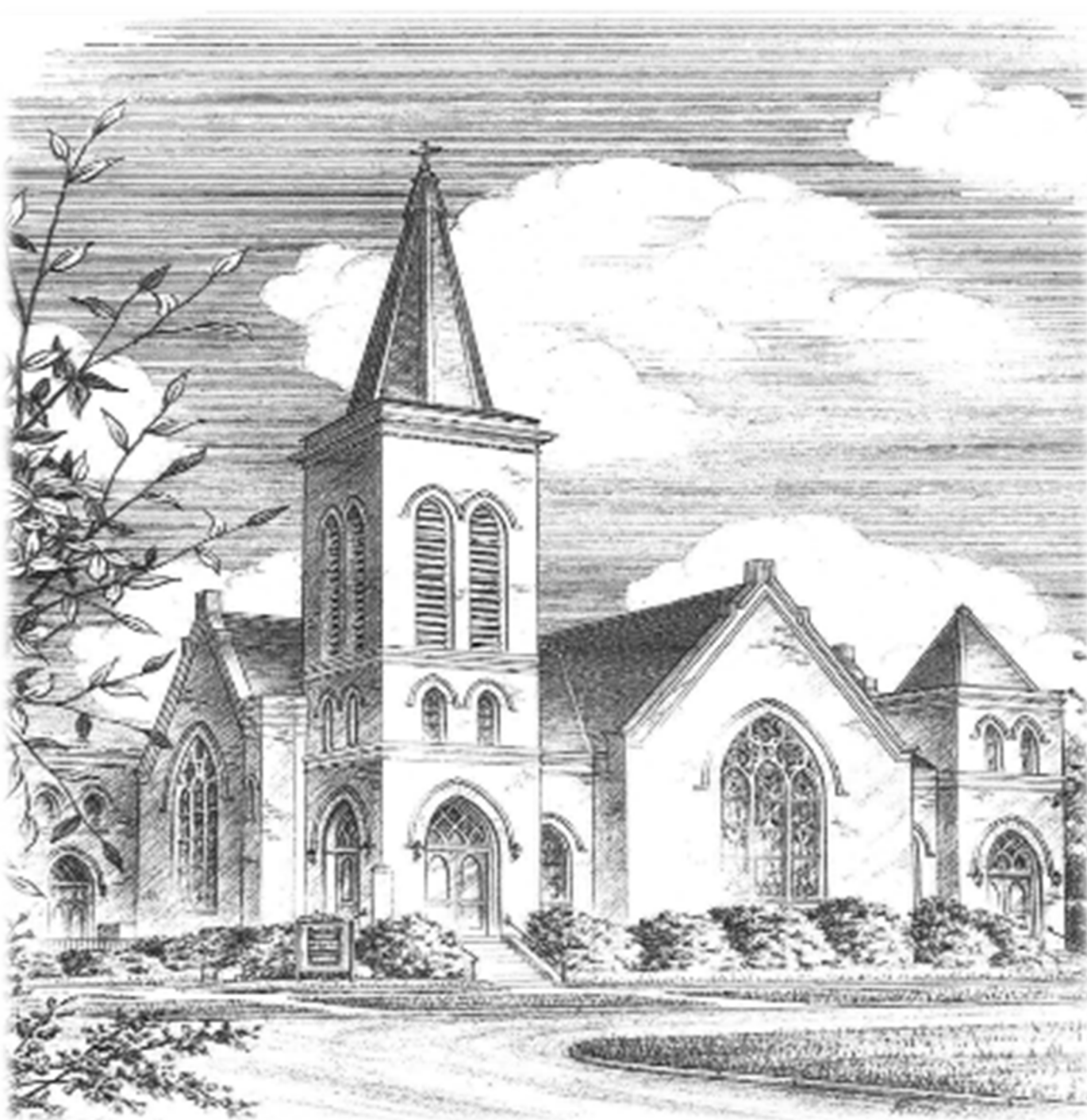


Duncan Memorial Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 21, 2025

“Character In A Name”

Reverend William “Ted” Ragsdale

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025**

+Congregation standing, if able. Congregation responses in **BOLD**.

GATHERING

Quiet conversation among congregants is encouraged.

PRELUDE

“I Wonder as I Wander”

D. Wagner

*Please observe a moment of prayerful silence as we enter our worship time.
Please take a moment to sign the Red Pew Pad.*

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

KassiJo Lloyd

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Ragsdale

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

People: **Let the redeemed of the LORD say this--those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.**

+OPENING HYMN

“Joy To The World”

Hymnal Pg. 246

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Hymnal Pg. 881

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day, he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

+GLORIA PATRI

“Glory Be To The Father”

Hymnal Pg. 70

*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.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE		Duncan's Children and Youth
CHURCH CONCERNS		Rev. Ragsdale
PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER		Rev. Ragsdale
THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS		
OFFERTORY	"He is Lord with O Come Let Us Adore Him"	M. Hayes
+DOXOLOGY	"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"	Hymnal Pg. 95
	<i>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;</i>	
	<i>Praise Him, all creatures here below;</i>	
	<i>Praise Him above, Ye heavenly host;</i>	
	<i>Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.</i>	
ANTHEM	"Mary Did You Know"	Allie Graham, <i>solo</i>
SCRIPTURE READING	Isaiah 9:6-7	Pew Bible OT Pg. 638
SERMON	"Character In A Name"	Rev. Ragsdale
+CLOSING HYMN	"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"	Hymnal Pg. 229
+DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING		Rev. Ragsdale
POSTLUDE	"Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella"	T. Birchwood

*The altar flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory and honor of God
and in thanksgiving of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

Weekly Calendar

Dec. 21

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
5:00pm MYF Fun Nuts - Christmas Party

Dec. 22 Counter – Lee Scarborough

9:00am

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service

5:00pm

This Sunday's Greeters & Ushers

Greeters: Connie Fallon, Paula Ford, Millie Roberts, Lori Beard

Ushers/Offering: Dwight Ford, Gerry Harmon, Glenn Roberts, Jamey Walters

We are glad you are here!

Welcome to Duncan Memorial Methodist Church. May this time of worship renew your spirit, draw you closer to God, and remind you that you are deeply loved and never alone.

Church Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 4:30pm
Friday 9:00am – 12:00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Please join us for Christmas Eve Service, Wednesday, December 24, 2025 from 5-6pm. We will enjoy hearing the Christmas story through scripture readings and song, along with communion.

This service will be family friendly and all are welcome to come and celebrate the birth of our Savior. If you have any questions, please see Katie Damon.

CHURCH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 Altar Flowers – If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday Worship, please reach out to Linda Harmon at 843-995-3563 or call the church office at 843-546-5647.

2026 Giving Envelopes: We are doing giving envelopes a little different this year. Instead of pre-printing envelopes for everyone, please call the church office at 843-546-5647 to request your envelopes or fill out the giving envelope card in the bulletin and place it in the offering plate.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Are you interested in joining Duncan's choir? If so, they would be happy to have you join them! If you would like more information, please call the church office at 843-546-5647.

Our Faithfulness for December 14, 2025

Weekly Collection: \$9,280.00

Attendance: 95

Christmas: Character Born In A Name

Isaiah 9:6-7

If Dan Rather had been living in 1809, his evening news broadcast would have concentrated on Austria...not Britain or America.

Isaiah 9:6 *For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

His Name will be Wonderful Counselor Psa. 32:8, Psa. 119:24, Prov. 3:5-6

His Name Will Be Mighty God In his title as “Counselor” we see the **plan** of God being declared by the son. In his title “*the Mighty God*” we see the **power** of God displayed as the Son powerfully accomplished the plans of God.

1. **He is "the mighty One" as apparent by the works he did, prior to his incarnation**
2. **He is “the mighty one” as apparent by the works he did in his earthly life.**
 - 1) Authoritative teaching. Matt. 7:28-29
 - 2) Authority over Sickness Matt 8:1-17
 - 3) Authority over Nature Matt. 8:23
 - 4) Authority over Demons Matt 8:28
 - 5) Authority to forgive Sin
 - 6) Power to delegate Authority 10:1-4
3. **He appears as the mighty One by what he does now,**
4. **He appears as the mighty One by what he will do hereafter**

Jesus Is A Father Like In His Care For His Church

He is the “Counselor”, establishing his **plan** for all eternity, He is the “Mighty God”, able because of his majesty, dominion and **power** to execute his plan. And now in the third name “*Father forever*” we see the **paternal** care He exercises over his saints.

His Rule Is Marked By Peace.

Death of Glenn Chambers Feb. 15, 1947

He is too wise to make a mistake
He is too powerful to be thwarted
He is too kind to do anything cruel
He will make all things new, correcting all evils,
healing all wounds and bring peace to my troubled soul.

Psa. 32:8 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. “

Psa. 119:24 “Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors.”

Prov. 3:5-6. “*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths.*”

Psalm 103:13 As a **father** has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children--

Henry F Lyte, the author of the hymn, “*Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven*” puts to song the central part of 103 Psalm.

*Father like, He tends and spares us: well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes;
Alleluia, Alleluia, Praise Him, widely as His mercy goes.*

In the hymn, *Day by Day*, Carolina Berg captures his titles as Counselor and Mighty God and the paternal care he has for his own people. She writes:

*Every day the Lord himself is near me with a special mercy for each hour;
All my care He fain would bear and cheer me, He whose name is Counselor
and Pow’r.
The protection of His Child and treasure is a charge that on Himself He laid;
“as your days, your strength shall be in measure,” this the pledge to me He made.*