

A Service of Word and Table

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

A new world is coming. The scripture lessons for today each carry a theme of promise and hope. In Isaiah a healthy shoot emerges from the people who were seemingly cut dry by political upheaval, and there is hope of a new ruler to come. Psalm 72 calls upon the King to care for the weak, the poor, and the needy. In this way he will execute justice throughout the land.

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Ring the Church bell

Greeting

Prelude

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Leslie Orlovsky

Choral Praise

“Light the Advent Candle”

† **Call to Worship**

“All Praise to Thee” by Elaine Hagenburg

All praise to Thee, eternal God, Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,

Dost take a manger for Thy throne, While worlds on worlds are Thine alone.

Alleluia and Amen!

Thou comest in the darksome night, to make us children of the light,

To make us in the realms divine, like Thine own angels, round Thee shine.

Alleluia and Amen!

A little Child, Thou art our Guest, that weary ones in Thee may rest;

Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth that we may rise to heav'n from earth.

Alleluia and Amen!

† **Prayer of Confession**

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom. We live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgement. We accept lies as truth. We let the marketplace tell us what's important for us to focus on. We refuse your way of justice and peace. In your great mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon and Peace

words of comfort are spoken by the minister

Lighting the Advent Candles

Advent means coming. We remember Jesus coming into our world as the Messiah, the anointed one, the one to save us. We recognize our need for Jesus to come and save us again.

Advent is a time for repentance. As we watch, wait, and prepare, we remember John the Baptist calling the people to a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins and proclaiming: “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matthew 3:11)

We remember, too, the promises of God proclaimed by Isaiah as the people waited for God's deliverance, “A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. (Isaiah 11:1-2)

We light the first candle again with expectation that the Messiah is coming and in preparation for the Messiah to come lead us.

The first candle is lit

We light the second candle with an offering of repentance and a renewed commitment to turn toward the Messiah, the one who saves us.

The second candle is lit.

† **Hymn**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

UMH No. 211

(verses 4 & 7)

**O come, thou root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

WELCOME TO MORRIS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
~ I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" ~

This week at Morris Chapel

Sunday – Worship service @ 930 AM; Fellowship @ 10:30; Sunday School at 11; Christmas Party 5 – 7 PM.
Tuesday – Pastor’s Bible Study, 10 AM.
Wednesday –Choir rehearsal, 630 PM.

For the good of the church

As we come to the close of 2025, I ask you to prayerfully consider a year-end gift to Morris Chapel. Your generosity supports worship, missions, discipleship, children & youth ministries, pastoral care, and the daily work of sharing the love of Christ in our community and around the world. – *Pastor Kevin.*

THANK YOU to all who gave a helping hand to decorate the sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall for Advent. Under the leadership of Peggy Baker and Marcia Garcia, you have truly *prepared the way of the Lord!*

Angel Tree – Wrapped gifts are due in the Fellowship Hall today.

El Refugio will be here to receive their donated gifts this Friday, Dec. 12.

Please come and meet the families you have so generously supported in the Fellowship Hall from 6 – 8 PM.

Questions? Karen Rosser (910-705-2766) or Linda Stack (724-831-8740).

Christmas Party this afternoon. All the church is invited to come together from 5 – 7 PM for games, snacks, and fellowship. Bring a wrapped Christmas present (\$5- \$10 value) and a snack to share.

See Karen Rosser.

Methodist Men tomorrow night. The planning meeting for this month will be on December 8 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Card Post Office. The Media SS Class invites you to drop off your Christmas cards for others in the church in the Fellowship Hall today through Dec. 21.

Please alphabetize your cards and they’ll be placed in mailboxes for pickup.

Breakfast will be served next Sunday from 8 – 9 AM by the Methodist Men.

Bring a toy to share with Toys for Tots.

Christmas Cantata --- “Good News from Home” will be presented during our worship service next Sunday by The Morris Chapel Choir. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

Christmas Eve worship with Holy Communion will be at 4pm.

Missions

Coat Drive --for children at local elementary schools. New coats only -- sizes small (6) to XL (16) boys and girls.

Toys for Tots– Bring a toy to share with a child for Christmas no later than December 14.

Local charities—Morris Chapel provides annual financial support to the following: The Breadbasket, Christians United Outreach Center, El Refugio, Family Promise of Lee Co., Haven House, Outreach Mission of Sanford, and the Helping Hand Clinic.

Keep these in your prayers

New this week: Kevin Klumpp, Landon Massa.

Morgan Baker B. Chapman Jeff Cummings Mandy Dalrymple Peggy Danielsen Warren Edwards Bill Farwick Katie Garcia Hinson Baby Samson Hinson	Casey Goldberg Crystal Hall Elva Hall Dennis Hartman Lewis Hartman Bryant Hickman Edith Howard Nancy Johnson	Jared Lett Dano Linehan Maude Maloney Nancy McDuffie Linda McNeill Rhonda McNeill Robert Mudd Kathy Pembroke Susie Pierce	Ron & Peggy Scott Donna Sloan Phil Spivey Shelby Truelove Louise Walker Dave Whitney Bob Woolston Sandy Woolston Betty Zann
--	---	---	---

Send prayer requests & to Pastor Kevin @ 919-802-8286, kseymour@nccumc.org,
or use the yellow prayer card request found in your pew pocket.

Weekly Attendance, Tithes & Offerings

Attendance last Sunday: 55

Tithes & Offerings as of: 11/30/2025	
2025 Budget - Needed to Date:	\$ 187,472.23
2025 Budget - Received to Date:	\$ 191,393.56
Running Surplus /(Deficit)	\$ 3,921.33

Given to each of us is the opportunity to fully participate in God's good work by supporting the ministries of Morris Chapel in the most generous manner that you can.

Do good, be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share. 1 Timothy 6:18

Serving in Worship

	Acolytes	Children's Lesson	Lay Readers	Ushers	Greeters	Communion Servers
Dec. 7	Jase Burris Cole Burris	Stacey Burris	Steve Huepper	Ron Mercer George Orlovsky	Linda Dilley	Rylee Ray Calleigh Baker
Dec. 14	Calleigh Baker Rylee Ray	Krystle Ray	Leslie Orlovsky	Daniel Baker Bryson Baker	George Orlovsky	
Dec. 21	Paisley Kilmer Teagan Kilmer	Stacey Burris	Rylee Ray	Drew Burris Gary Rosser	Danny Baker	
Dec. 28	Rylee Ray Callen Morris	Krystle Ray	Jason Kilmer	Donnie Carter Ian Carter	Marian Huepper	

You are respectfully asked to arrange for a substitute in the event that you cannot fill your assigned slot.
If you have changes, let Pastor Kevin or Peggy Baker know.
Thank you for serving the good of God's church.