



Christmas and Advent Events

- 1. December 21: Longest Night**
Service at 7:00 pm.
- 2. December 24: Christmas Eve**
Service at 6:30 pm.

Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son,
our Lord: Who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.*

*The third day He arose again from
the dead; He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy
catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of
the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Welcome!

We are grateful that you joined us today and would love to keep in touch. We have a nursery for infants and toddlers. After the Passing of the Peace, Pre-K through 2nd grade continue to worship upstairs. **After worship, please join us downstairs for refreshments provided by Arbor Dale's Kindness Group.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Refreshments for next Sunday: Goodness Group.
Contact Karen Rominger 828-963-7732

Feeding Avery Families Update: FAF has expanded its distribution program by adding free-standing community pantries! Five pantries are located at Avery High School, Newland Elementary, Banner Elk Elementary, Cranberry / Freedom Trail and Riverside Elementary. There are no eligibility requirements. Take what you need; give what you can. As we grow, we also need more volunteers! See Patty for more info.

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHURCH OFFICE:

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SHEPHERD FOR DECEMBER

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ELDER ON CALL FOR DECEMBER 15 - 31

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December 15, 2019



* Congregation Stands

GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with You.

All: And also with you.

* THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

All: Its light reminds us of Jesus, the light of the world. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Leader: Jesus said, "Everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness."

All: We celebrate that we too have found favor with God, the one who promises that he will be with us always!

Leader: So come let us worship in the Light of grace through the Spirit of truth.

* **OPENING HYMN** #245 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord God, our eyes are full of your light but our lives are full of darkness. We forget your faithfulness. And we forget our neighbor's needs.

We do not love you above all else. We do not love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We need a savior. We need the light of the world to shine on us again and again.

Forgive us Father. And help us by the power of your Spirit to see the light and point to the light. O come, O come, Savior of the world. Come and save us. Come and change us. Come and give us hope that your light is stronger than sin, death and the devil.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 John 1: 8-9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

* THE GLORIA PATRI and PASSING THE PEACE

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, amen.

* HYMN OF PREPARATION #265 The First Noel

SCRIPTURE AND SERMON

Matthew 2:1-12
The Magi

* CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes In the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

* THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The Apostles' Creed

* **HYMN OF DEDICATION** #290 As With Gladness Amen of Old

* BENEDICTION

After the service, please join us downstairs for refreshments and fellowship, followed by Sunday School for both children and adults.