

The Weekly Update

NOVEMBER 21 2025

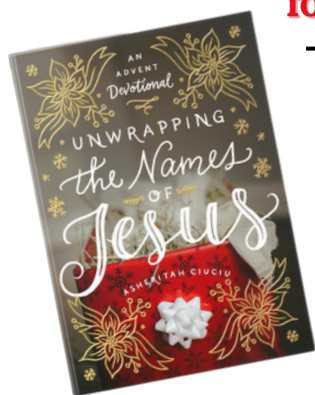


HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE

Join us for our **Hanging of the Greens** service on Sunday, November 23rd at 4:00 PM, followed by a meal. The main dish will be provided so bring a dessert to share! **PARENTS: Please have your children at church by 3:45 pm so they can prepare for the Christmas play.**

After the meal, each household is invited to stay and make their own Advent wreath. Please bring garden gloves and handheld trimmers. The church will provide foil pans, wet oasis, plastic candle holders, candles, and an assortment of fresh-cut greens, pinecones, and berries.

Come and help us prepare our hearts and our space for this special season of anticipation!

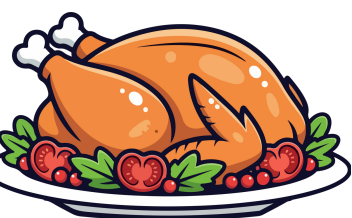
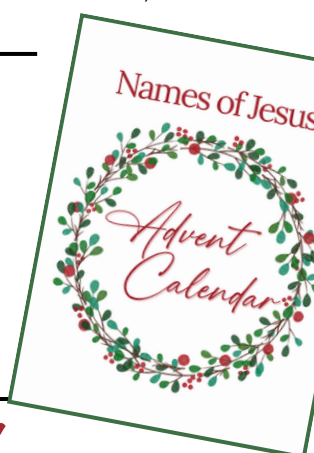


Advent Devotional Books Available!

Join us this Advent season as we journey through *Unwrapping the Names of Jesus*, a devotional that invites us to reflect on who Christ is and the hope He brings. Our midweek services will begin on December 3rd at 6:45 pm. Books can be purchased on Amazon, or you can pick up one in the Narthex. Copies can also be purchased on Amazon. Coordinating advent calendars are available in the Narthex, too!

Advent Calendars Available!

This set of 25 Advent cards includes one card for each day of December leading up to Christmas. Each card features one of the names of Jesus on the back, along with a Bible verse that highlights its meaning and significance. The set coordinates with our Advent devotional book, but you're welcome to take a set even if you're not following along with the book! **Choose from either an easel display or a garland format.**



No Thanksgiving Plans? You're Invited!

If you don't have Thanksgiving plans this year, we'd love for you to spend time with your church family! Join us at Cross & Crown for a Thanksgiving meal filled with good food, warm fellowship, and grateful hearts. Contact Terry McClure, Vivian Farland, or Julie Rutkowski if you plan to attend and we will set a place for you! **All are welcome!**

Flowers for Christmas

We invite you to help beautify our sanctuary this Christmas by ordering flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. Your generous contribution will add to the festive atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. To participate, please complete the flower order form using the insert in the bulletin. **Orders are due by November 30th.** Thank you for helping us make our Christmas services even more special! Donations can be made to Common Heart in lieu of flowers.



EVENING BOOK CLUB DECEMBER SELECTION

The evening book club will be discussing *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan at their December 4th meeting. We meet in the Common Room at 7 pm. Questions? Contact Jill Jurgensen (jjphoto2009@gmail.com).



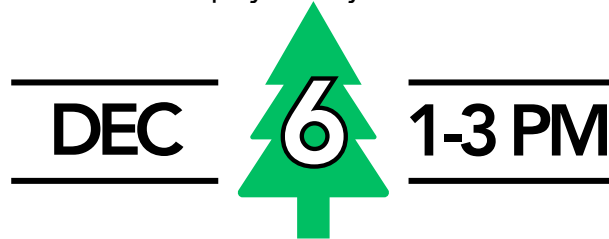
It's a Women & Wine Cookie Swap!



Ladies! You are invited to a cookie swap! Bring a batch of your favorite homemade treats to share, and go home with a delicious assortment from others. It's the perfect way to kick off the season with fun & fellowship! Come for the cookies... stay for the smiles! We will have mulled wine, hot cider, and other beverages. Once we have a final headcount, we will let you know how many cookies to bring. Bonus points if you include the recipe! The fun starts on Dec. 6, 1-3 pm at Laura Van Landingham's home. Hope you can join us!



Laura Van Landingham's Home
5150 Blackberry Lane
Matthews, NC 28104



RSVP using the link below!

TOY DRIVE FOR MATTHEWS HELP CENTER!



The Matthews HELP Center, in partnership with Matthews Gives Back, is hosting a holiday shopping event where eligible families can use vouchers to select gifts for their children. Our Community Care team is collecting new, unwrapped toys through **Sunday, December 7th**. Please drop donations in the Narthex bin. Suggested gifts: blocks, dolls, culturally diverse dolls & toys, LEGO, art or science kits, board or card games, books, and more for ages 0-12. Gift cards to Target or Walmart are also welcome for teens (13+).

We are excited to share our mission theme for 2026:



HANDS & HEARTS IN SERVICE



"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."
Colossians 3:23

This reminds us that true service flows from more than our efforts—it begins in the heart. ❤️



ROOTED SUNDAYS
11:30-2:30 DEC. 14

Our next Rooted Sunday is coming up on December 14th! Rooted Sundays are interactive experiences led by members of our congregation who share their gifts with the younger generation. Each month, our children explore biblical foundations through hands-on, engaging activities. On December 14th, we'll be celebrating the rich cultural heritages within our church family. We invite members of the congregation to share their heritage—through music, language, food, traditions, or any other expression you'd like! If you're interested in participating, please contact Pastor Melody.



ROADSIDE CLEANUP- DEC. 5

Looking for a way to serve at Cross & Crown? Join our next Roadside Cleanup on Saturday, Dec. 5th! We'll meet at the church at 8:45 am. (donuts provided!) go over safety rules, and begin cleanup at 9 am. Most teams finish in about two hours. No experience needed—volunteers ages 12+ welcome! Use the link below to sign up or contact Stuart and Julie Moffat at 704-517-0272 for details. Thanks for helping keep Matthews clean!



PRAYER list

MEMBERS:

JEANETTE ABBOTT	LINDA FARIES
SUSAN ARCURI	KATHI & FRANK MACARINE
JENNY BOOTH	LORI MEATH
JUNE BROOKS	CATHY RUDOLPH
JIM BURNS	JOE & CRISS UCMAN
DENNIS DOWNEY	JD WINFREY

FAMILY & FRIENDS:

Kenneth Ackerman, Larry Pool's brother-in-law
Kristi Alary, Julie Moffat's sister
Sidney Ames, Susan Arcuri's sister
Scott Anderson, friend of the Ucmans
Sue Azukas, friend of Jerry Putnam
John Bailey, Russ Bailey's father
Andrew Bernauer, son of Wayne & Rosemary Bernauer
Jim Carty, Suzy Wlezniak's brother
Joann Church, Behzad Vaqar's mother
Drude Corbet, Angelina Corbet's brother
Ruth Deal
Rick, Debbie & Jason Eldridge, friends of Vivian Farland
Reid Evans, friend of Barbara Maillet
Brad Faries, Barry & Linda Faries' son
Owen Farr, Julie Wright's grandson
Lily Ferrulli, Joann Ferrulli's granddaughter
Jarmo Forsblom, Jouni Forsblom's brother
Dorothy Henke, Lisa Roth's mother
Portia Hutchinson, friend of Felicia Eybl
Will Jacobs, friend of the Macarines being deployed
Jim Kozlinski, Cathy Kozlinski's husband
Mark & Ellen Kramm, friends of Jill Jurgensen
Helen Laatz, sister-in-law of Leslie Laatz
Randy LaMere, Jennifer LaMere's father
Madsen family, friends of Joe & Criss Ucmans
Jeanne Maylor, Denise Bratschie's friend
Ted Meiss, Christine Meiss' husband
Alice Louise (Lou) Miller, Criss Ucmans' cousin
Gary Mintz, friend of David & Debra Cox & Felicia Eybl
Fred Olafson, friend of the congregation
Brian Orton
Nga Pace, Yen Forsblom's sister
Olivia Reardon, daughter of Barry & Linda Faries' friends
Sameer Saproo, Teri Strom's nephew-in-law
Nancy Scholhammer, friend of Susan Arcuri
Derek & Smith & family, Roger & Debbie Black's daughter & son-in-law
Sherrill & Patricia Tucker, Donna Tucker's parents
Joanne Varnum, friend of Joe & Criss Ucmans
Haley White, Barbara Maillet's granddaughter
Lucas White, Barbara Maillet's grandson

Want to check on your giving progress? Contribution statements are always available—just reach out to Garry Rudolph, our treasurer, and he'll be happy to provide one for you.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 8:30 am - 2 pm	Thursday: 8:30 am - 2 pm
Tuesday: 8:30 am - 2 pm	Friday: 8:30 am - 2 pm

Wednesday: Church Office closed, phone lines & office email is open & replied to between 8:30 am - 5 pm.

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jeff Bratschie- President	Lori Meath
Jill Jurgensen- Vice President	Chris Frisina
Felicia Eybl- Secretary	Jerry Putnam
	Kati Goode

Happy Birthday

Audrey Ansel	NOV. 21
Molly Ansel	NOV. 21
Linda Faries	NOV. 26
Coury O'Donoghue	NOV. 26
Julie Moffat	NOV. 28



Wednesday Night Happenings

No WNH Thanksgiving Week.
We will gather again on Dec. 3rd.

MIRIAM CIRCLE 2025 DONATIONS

Remember all the donations and hard work that made the Miriam Circle Yard Sale such a success last summer? Your generosity is already making a difference in our community!

In October, we were able to donate \$1,000 to Changed Choices, and in November, we gave \$1,000 to Common Heart

Food Pantry. We also sent 10 care packages to our congregation's college students and one to a military member—a project made even more special thanks to support from a Thrivent Action Card. None of this would have been possible without your participation and support of the yard sale. Thank you!

The Miriam Circle

COMMON HEART DONATION UPDATE



Thanks to your incredible generosity, our recent food collection was a tremendous success! As a congregation, we were able to donate **2,136 pounds** of non-perishable food to Common Heart—enough to make a meaningful impact for families in our community who are facing food insecurity.

In addition to the food donations, we also presented Common Heart with a \$1,000 check designated specifically for fresh meat and other perishable items.

Coming up this week...

Sunday, Nov. 23- 8:15 am- Traditional Worship
9 am- Coffee Hour
9:15 am- Adult Bible Study on the book of Psalm
10:15 am- Contemporary Worship
11:30 am- Council Meeting
4 pm- Hanging of the Greens Service
Monday, Nov. 24-7:30 pm- Women's Bible Study
Tuesday, Nov. 25- 6:30 pm- Table Talk
Wednesday, Nov. 26- No Evening Activities
Thursday, Nov. 27- Happy Thanksgiving! Church Office Closed
Friday, Nov. 28- Church Office Closed