

**Alexander Chapel United Methodist Church**  
**Celebration of Worship**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

<b>Prelude</b>	Steve Hawkins
<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>	Gina Elrod
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gary Seiler
<b>Call to Worship</b>	Carole Morelock

**Leader:** In this season of Advent, God calls us to wakefulness—to open our eyes, our hearts, and our lives to His coming.

**People:** We come, ready to watch and ready to listen.  
We come seeking the light that shines in the darkness.

**Leader:** Not in fear, but in hope—  
for Christ comes to meet us in our ordinary days and unexpected moments.

**People:** We wait for the Lord with trust and courage.  
Even in the dark, we believe God is near.

**Leader:** So let us stay awake to mercy, to grace, to the quiet ways  
God moves among us.

**People:** We lift our hearts in expectation.  
Come, Lord Jesus—make us ready.

**Leader:** Come, people of God. Let us worship the One who comes  
and is coming again.

**All:** Amen.

**Advent Wreath Lighting**  
Phillip and Elizabeth Hawkins

Phillip Hawkins: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God’s reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God “shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4).

**All: Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God’s reign has come and is coming among us.**

Phillip Hawkins: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God’s call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

Elizabeth Hawkins: Lights the first candle of the Advent wreath.

<b>Opening Hymn</b>	Steve Hawkins
TFWS 385, Soon and Very Soon	
We are Going to See the King	

**Scripture Reading**  
Matthew 24:36–44

<b>Special Music</b>	Steve Hawkins
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<b>Message</b>	“Living Awake”
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<b>Apostles Creed</b>	Sheri King
United Methodist Hymnal 881	

**Glory Be to the Father**  
United Methodist Hymnal 71

<b>Prayers of the People</b>	Phillip Gibson
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**Offertory Music** Steve Hawkins

**Offertory Prayer** Phillip Gibson

**Doxology** Steve Hawkins  
United Methodist Hymnal 94

**Closing Hymn** Steve Hawkins  
UMH 251 Go Tell it on the Mountain

**Benediction** Phillip Gibson

**Postlude** Steve Hawkins

**Upcoming Events:**

**Saturday, December 6th, from 5 to 6 p.m.**, we are honored to welcome the **Asheville Vocal Ensemble** for a **Service of Lessons and Carols**. If you've ever heard this incredible professional group perform, you know just how breathtaking they are — their harmonies are rich, moving, and absolutely angelic. As their voices fill the sanctuary, we'll journey through Scripture and song, telling the story of God's love coming into the world. It's an hour of music and meaning that will lift your spirit and open your heart to the beauty of Christmas.

**Sunday, December 21st, from 5 to 6 p.m.**, we invite you to our **Candlelight Christmas Service**. This is one of our most beloved traditions — a quiet, sacred evening filled with Scripture, carols, and the soft glow of candlelight. It's a time to breathe deeply, reflect, and remember that the light of Christ still shines bright — even in the darkest nights.

**Wednesday, April 22, 2026, from 6:30 to 7:30**, we are honored to welcome Murphy Campbell to help us celebrate God's Creation and the work of MountainTrue. An Appalachian and Old Time singer, Western North Carolina is a place Murphy's family settled five centuries ago. Born in the foothills and coming from a long lineage of mountain folk - she seeks to draw up the remnants of a forgotten modal sound.



# Alexander Chapel

**United Methodist Church**

*A Church for Everyone*

**Sunday Worship, 11:00 am**

**November 30, 2025**

**Physical address:**

880 Aiken Road  
Asheville, NC 28804  
828-658-3015

**Mailing address:**

5 Sawyer Cove Rd  
Weaverville, NC 28787

**Pastor: Phillip Gibson**

**Lay Leader: Phillip Hawkins**

**Pianist: Steve Hawkins**

**Praise Leader: Pam Williams**

[www.alexanderchapel.org](http://www.alexanderchapel.org)