

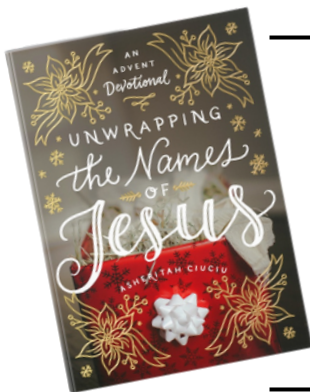


The Weekly Update

NOVEMBER 28, 2025

LAST SUNDAY TO ORDER FLOWERS!

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.

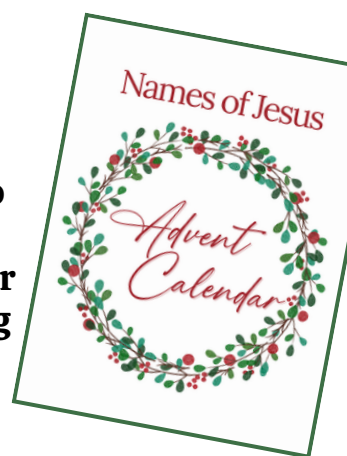


Advent Devotional Books Available!

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.**



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

DEC



1-3 PM

RSVP using
the link
below!

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 (jjjphoto2009@gmail.com).



Christmas Gift Sign-Up for Changed Choices Families

This year we are sponsoring two families from Changed Choices, and we invite you to help make their Christmas bright! Please sign up to purchase a gift for a specific family member. Once purchased, please wrap the gift and clearly label it with the family number and the recipient's name.

All gifts are due back to the church by Saturday, December 14th.

Thank you for sharing Christ's love and joy this Christmas season!
Sign up 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+).

LADIES! YOU'RE INVITED TO THE BREAKFAST CLUB!

Good food, good friends, and great conversation!

Collective Café
(1031 Matthews-Mint Hill Rd.)
Wednesday Dec. 3, @ 7 am
Please RSVP to Heidi Rhyne.



HANDS & HEARTS IN SERVICE

Join your fellow Cross & Crown members for our 2026 Congregational Mission Retreat, January 16–18! This is a chance to renew your spirit, deepen friendships, and serve together as God calls us into mission.

Our 2026 Theme: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord." – Colossians 3:23

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



Retreat Schedule:

Check-in: Friday, January 16
Depart: Sunday, January 18
All participants will receive four meals during the retreat:

- Saturday: breakfast, lunch & dinner
- Sunday: breakfast

Optional Add-On Day:

For those who want to stay longer, an additional night is available:
Depart: Monday, January 19
Meals included: Sunday dinner & Monday breakfast (Sunday lunch on your own.)

Saturday Only Option:

A day-rate is also available for those who want to participate on Saturday only.



ROADSIDE CLEANUP- DEC. 6

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
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
Matt Moulton, Tom & Janis Dorsey's nephew
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

Christine Meiss
Deanna Herlong
Ron Hancharik
Amanda Hayes

NOV. 29
DEC. 1
DEC. 3
DEC. 4



Wednesday Night Happenings

12-3-25



6 pm

Vegetable Beef Soup, Sandwiches, Fresh Garden Salad, Rolls, & Dessert

THANK YOU

CHARLOTTE RESCUE MISSION THANKSGIVING BOXES & TURKEYS

What a blessing!!

We provided 30 boxes of Thanksgiving foods and 41 turkeys. A special thank you to Bill & Heidi Rhyne, Keith & Ann Whitener and Criss Ucmans for transporting the goods while navigating safely through Charlotte during the race.

A NOTE FROM COMMON HEART

WE DID IT!!! Thanks to our amazingly generous community 1,550 families (and counting!) facing food insecurity will know the joy of enjoying a Thanksgiving feast this year! That's a staggering 9,434 people ... so far! We still have frozen turkeys to give away at our evening food pantries tonight and tomorrow thanks to your generosity!

Coming up this week...

Sunday, Nov. 30- 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
Monday, Dec. -7:30 pm- Women's Bible Study
Tuesday, Dec. 2- 12 pm- Staff Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 3- 6 pm- Wednesday Night Happenings Dinner
6:45 pm- Midweek Advent Service
7:10 pm- Handbell Choir
7:45 pm- Choir
Thursday, Dec. 4- 7:45 am- Men's Bible Study
7 pm- Evening Book Club
Friday, Dec. 5- 4:25 pm- Walking Club
Saturday, Dec. 6- 8 am- Men's Fitness Group
8:45 am- Roadside Clean Up
1 pm- Women & Wine Cookie Swap