

Alexander Chapel United Methodist Church
Celebration of Worship
4th Sunday of Advent

Prelude Steve Hawkins
Welcome and Announcements Gina Elrod
Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

Leader: When our plans are shaken and the path ahead is unclear,

People: God is still with us.

Leader: When faith requires courage and obedience costs us something,

People: God is still with us.

Leader: When love calls us to choose mercy over fear,

People: God is still with us.

Leader: God comes to us not in power and certainty, but in humility and trust,

People: Emmanuel—God with us.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who enters our lives and stays,

People: We come to worship the God who is with us, now and always.

All: Amen

Advent Wreath Lighting Connie West & Judy Buchanan

Judy: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.

Connie: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

Opening Hymn UMH 234
O' Come All Ye Faithful

Scripture Reading Carole Morelock
Matthew 1:18-25

Special Music Steve Hawkins

Message: God with us; When Life Doesn't Go As Planned

Apostles Creed Sheri King
United Methodist Hymnal 881
Glory Be to the Father United Methodist Hymnal 71

Congregational Hymn
Mary's Boy-Child (*see bulletin insert*)

Prayers of the People
"Lord in your mercy" ... *please respond: "Hear our prayer"*

Offertory Music Steve Hawkins

Offertory Prayer
Doxology
United Methodist Hymnal 94

Closing Hymn UMH 240
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Benediction

Postlude Steve Hawkins

Upcoming Events:

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

December 21, 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