

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

Matthew 1:18-25

Carole Morelock

Special Music

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

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

Benediction

Postlude

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