



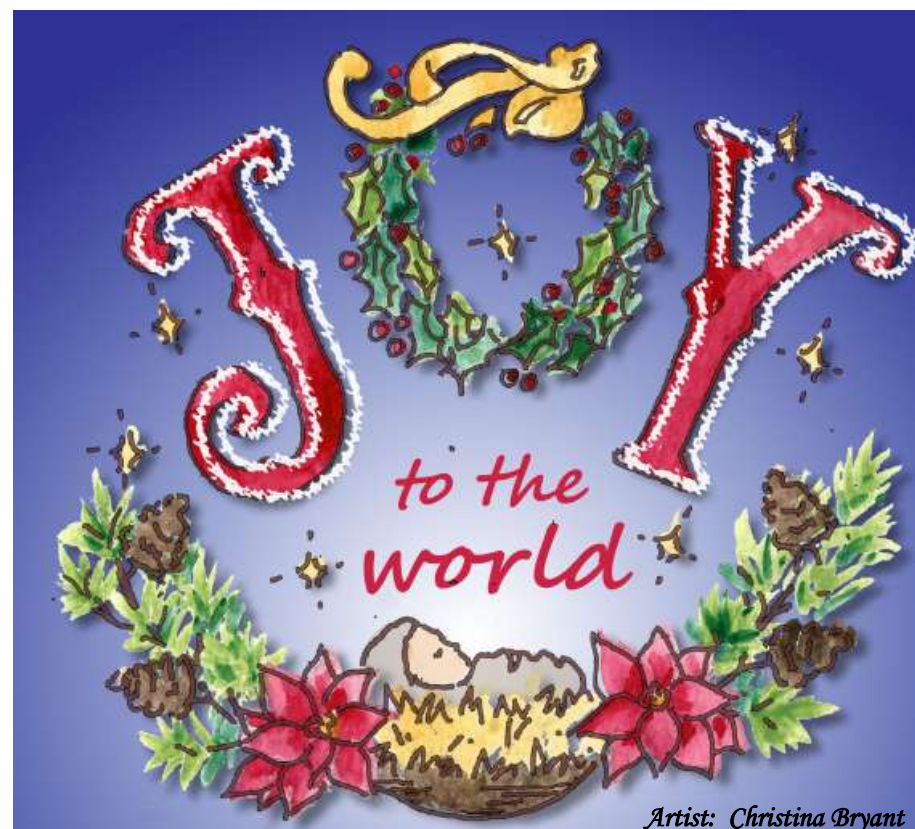
# Bluffton United Methodist Church

1853-2025, 172 years

"The Mission of BUMC is to make disciples for Jesus Christ by sharing our loving relationship with Him through all our actions in worship, nurture, education, evangelism and outreach."

December 14, 2025 – purple

## Third Sunday of Advent



Joy is a type of happiness that comes from within and is not dependent on our current circumstances. We can experience Joy knowing that God loves us – that is why He sent Jesus. And nothing can ever take away that love. May you experience Joy this season and always!

Sunday Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Adult Sunday School: 9:45 AM

Nursery care for ages 6 weeks through 5 years available during each service.

Rev. Scarlett Hester, Pastor - [pastor@blufftonumc.org](mailto:pastor@blufftonumc.org)

Sally LeSage, Director of Christian Education -

[blufftonumc.education@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonumc.education@gmail.com)

Josh Wall, Director of Music Ministry [musicministry@blufftonumc.org](mailto:musicministry@blufftonumc.org)

Michael Cole, Organist – [organist@blufftonumc.org](mailto:organist@blufftonumc.org)

Laurie Palmer, Administrative Assistant - [blufftonumc@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonumc@gmail.com)

Joann Garner, Bookkeeper - [financeatbumc@gmail.com](mailto:financeatbumc@gmail.com)

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

*O Come, Little Children*

Edward Broughton

Michael Cole, organist

INVOCATION

The prophet foretold it, the psalmist longed for it,  
Joseph dreamed of it, Paul proclaimed it.  
God is come to us, to be with us, to restore us, to save us.  
**Let us come in awe and wonder,  
to worship the God who makes it all so.**

O Holy One who speaks in Visions, Dreams, a Still Small Voice and  
the Wildness of the Wind,  
**Welcome us, revive us, and Give us Hope, Peace, Joy and Love we  
pray. AMEN.**

\*OPENING HYMN

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

UMH No. 213

ADVENT WREATH

Wehner Family (8:30) / Kids Praise Club (11:00)

In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again,  
we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. With  
Hope and Peace.  
So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the  
Joy of the truth of God's salvation.

**We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the  
LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be  
upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing  
shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:10).**

We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as  
we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH/THE APOSTLES' CREED

UMH No. 881

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy  
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,  
dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of  
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life  
everlasting. Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father

UMH No. 70

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

Albert Malotte

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

*Song of the Wanderer*

Josh Wall, solo

Craig Courtney

\*DOXOLOGY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sally LeSage

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

Sally Mattingly (8:30)

Pew Bible Page 1501

Judy Hardie (11:00)

SERMON

Pastor Scarlett Hester

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

UMH No. 229

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Fantasia on "Adeste Fidelis"*

arr. Lani Smith

\*Please stand if able.



The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by  
**Jen Smith in memory of Bill & Marnie Baker**

✠ ✠ Prayers are with the Fay family after the  
recent passing of Chuck Fay. ✠ ✠

**General Budget** – Plate offering goal each week \$11,546.15:  
December 7<sup>th</sup> offering – TOTAL - **\$14,039.**

**Attendance:** December 7<sup>th</sup> 8:30 AM – **111**; 11:00 AM – **150** – TOTAL **261**

Adult SS – **17**; Nursery - **1**

November 30<sup>th</sup> on-line reviews: **14**

**WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED**

Join us for worship service on Sundays in person or on-line

<https://www.youtube.com/c/BlufftonUnitedMethodistChurch/x0000/>



**THIS WEEK AT BUMC**

- Sunday, December 14: Sunday Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 AM (Sanctuary)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Fellowship between services (F.H.)  
Women’s Sunday School 9:45 AM (Conf. Rm. 1)  
Men’s Sunday School 9:45 AM (Conf. Rm. 2)  
Live Nativity Rehearsal 4:00 PM (Music Suite)
- Monday, December 15: Prayer Meeting 8:30 AM (Zoom)  
Wesley Ringers 11:00 AM (Sanctuary)
- Tuesday, December 16: BUMC Staff Meeting 10:00 AM (Conf. Rm. 2)  
Back Pack Buddies Delivery 11:30 AM (F.H.)  
**Live Nativity 6:00 & 8:00 PM**
- Wednesday, December 17: Back Pack Buddies 8:00 AM (Fellowship Hall)  
Disciple IV 11:00 AM (Conf. Rm. 2)  
GriefShare 1:30 PM (Music Suite)
- Thursday, December 18: Busy Bees 9:00 AM
- Friday, December 19: Disciple III 10:00 AM (Music Suite)
- Saturday, December 20: Carols & Croissants 10:30 AM (Sanctuary)
- Sunday, December 21: Sunday Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 AM (Sanctuary)  
Women’s Sunday School 9:45 AM (Conf. Rm. 1)  
Men’s Sunday School 9:45 AM (Conf. Rm. 2)  
Quiet Christmas 5:00 PM (Sanctuary)



**This is the last Sunday** to collect toys for the **Toys for Tots**. The program seeks “to provide comfort, emotional relief and hope to families by distributing toys to their children.”

Let’s make a difference in the lives of children by bringing new, unwrapped toys. Let’s fill up several boxes with toys for babies, toddlers, and older children.



- |                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 12/15 – Kay Atkinson      | 12/18 – Carl & Eleanor Greenway |
| 12/15 – Lolly Copeland    |                                 |
| 12/17 – Lyrach Atkins     |                                 |
| 12/19 – Esther Sexson     |                                 |
| 12/19 – Adaline D’Antonio |                                 |



**MIRACLE JAR** donations in December will go to our **PASTOR’S DISCRETIONARY BENEVOLENCE FUND**. This is a reserve fund kept with the purpose of caring and providing for members of the community in need. This fund helps people pay for living expenses such as rent and utilities. Checks may be made to the church with “miracle jar” on the memo line. If you give online, The Miracle Jar is listed under Designated Funds/Local Missions. Thank you in advance for your giving heart.

**DECEMBER FOOD DONATIONS/REVERSE ADVENT**

**CALENDAR** During the Season of Advent, please remember the Magi who brought gifts to baby Jesus and consider helping your church provide the gift of nourishment to people in our community. In the pews, you will find the **REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR** which lists specific foods requested by local aid agencies. We will collect those items during the month of December and deliver them to the agencies after Christmas. Your donations will help stock their pantries after the busy Christmas season. Thank you for giving!



**REMINDER – Donations received for 2025** must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2025. Thank you! Joann Garner, Financial Secretary 843-757-3351



**Carols and Croissants**  
**December 20, 2025**  
**10:30 AM**  
**Sanctuary**

Experience the joy of Christmas with a morning treat and some good old-fashioned carol singing

**Quiet Christmas**  
**December 21, 2025**  
**5:00 PM**  
**Music Suite**



Spend some peaceful time with God and let God’s Word and Music speak to your heart

**PRAYER CONCERNS. Call the church office (843) 757-3351 to update.**

- |                          |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Rebecca Adler & Family   | Janet Fay & Family       | Mike Parrot         |
| Daniel Alba              | Jane Grim                | Michael Patterson   |
| Helen & George Anderson  | Sue Hand                 | April Pinderski     |
| Jennifer Anthony         | Vic Herbert              | Evelyn Reddish      |
| Rocky Austin             | Jane Johnson             | Edgar Rickard       |
| Bob & Jenny Brannen      | Jerry & Paula Johnson    | Tori Rinehart       |
| Dave Brown               | Vera Jones               | Joanne Rymer        |
| Jason Brown              | Sam Kenyon               | Ruth Schneid        |
| Sharon Chilson           | Barbara Klekner          | Drinda Sipprell     |
| Diane Ciba               | Paul Laughlin            | Linda Allen Smith   |
| Lynn Cleveland           | Ron McAbee               | Jay & Cindy Sprouse |
| Pat Cleveland            | Doug McGill              | Sara Torres         |
| Heidi Clevenger          | Jennie Margaret McMurray | Kris Wichmann       |
| Greg & Pat Crews         | James Morgan             |                     |
| David De Paolis          | Marilyn Moore            |                     |
| Elizabeth & Larry Duncan | Michelle O’Connor        |                     |
| Richard Falon            | Mackenzie Orth           |                     |

**Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:30 – 2:30 PM**

Contact Us:

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Bluffton, SC. 29910-0368

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