



Faith Harbor
A beacon of hope, anchored in Christ, sharing God's love through joyful service.



Luke 2.17-18: "When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them."

This time of year is a time of amazement and wonder. A time where we stand in awe that God would choose to take on flesh and dwell amongst us. Where we stand in amazement that God would choose a teenager to birth the savior of the world. Where we stand in wonder of the angelic announcement to lowly shepherds. And that is why we do strange things that we wouldn't do other times during the year. Things like hold candles and sing about silence at night time.

I would encourage you to slow down and to gaze upon the manger throne. Gaze with amazement and wonder – much like those lowly shepherds did. But also invite others to gaze along with you. You will find that many of your friends, family, and neighbors will be thankful for you inviting them to come along with you to our Christmas-eve services. This is a chance for us to ask questions like: Where are you going for Christmas-eve? And then allow space for them to answer. And then you can invite them with you to one of our four worship services on that day.

After the shepherds had beheld the angelic heralds – they knew exactly where they were going – they were going to the lean-too shed that held the Messiah – the Lord! Let's make a point to invite people to come along as we go and gaze upon Jesus – the God who has come in the flesh.

Sunday morning services: 8am & 9.30am

Christmas-eve Candlelight Services: 5pm & 7pm

Christmas Day at Woodbury Wellness Center: 10am

From your lay leader...

MERRY CHRISTMAS



JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME; LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING; LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM, AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING.

JOY TO THE WORLD! THE SAVIOR REIGNS; LET MEN THEIR SONGS EMPLOY; WHILE FIELDS AND FLOODS, ROCKS, HILLS, AND PLAINS, REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY.

NO MORE LET SINS AND SORROWS GROW, NOR THORNS INFEST THE GROUND; HE COMES TO MAKE HIS BLESSINGS FLOW, FAR AS THE CURSE IS FOUND. HE RULES THE WORLD WITH TRUTH AND GRACE, AND MAKES THE NATIONS PROVE, THE GLORIES OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND WONDERS, OF HIS LOVE.

O sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have gotten Him victory. The LORD has made known His victory, He has revealed His vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD! Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity. Psalm 98

Rejoice, lift your voice up to the heavens and give praise to the Lord! How often have you done just that? God deserves all our praise. So, no matter where you are, lift your voice to the heavens and praise the Lord!! God, You make all things beautiful. You bring beauty out of ugly situations, and You can turn mourning into joy. No matter what comes our way. We will choose to worship You with gladness, because You are worthy of our worship. We will view our pain as an opportunity to find fulfillment in You and our blessings as opportunities to praise You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Loving you all, your sister in Christ,
Jessica Blackburn your lay leader





Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

The walks are right around the corner. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact me so we can get you or them an application and a sponsor. Don't delay, they fill up fast. Contact: Jessica Blackburn 910-622-1193 or jmb@rayblackburn.com

If you have been qualified to be a sponsor, please get with me so we can get you set up with pilgrims needing one. Thank you. **Men's walk January 25th-28th, Women's walk February 8th-11th.**

News & Announcements

WELCOME TABLE:

December 31st: Sharon Jackson & Pat Vinson

SCRIPTURE CARD beginning Monday, December 25th

Centering Prayer: I will sing of your steadfast love. Psalm 89

M Isaiah 52.7-10, Hebrews 1.1-12, John 1.1-14

Tu Acts 6.8-10, Matthew 10.17-22

W I John 1.1-4, John 20.1-8

Th I John 1.5-2.2, Matthew 2.13-18

F I John 2.3-11, Luke 2.22-35

Sa I John 2.12-17, Luke 2.36-40

Su Isaiah 61.10-62.3, Galatians 4.4-7, Luke 2.22-40

Key scripture: Galatians 4.6: "God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"

Greetings Faith Harbor Family~

I just wanted to take a few moments to extend our sincere thanks for your condolences during the recent loss of my Grandmother, Sue Heavner. We so appreciated all the ways you reached out via phone calls, texts, cards, remembrance gifts, and personal chats. Thank you for your steadfast support and allowing me to go and be with her in her last days and support my mother during this challenging time. I know how blessed we are to have you as our Church family in our lives- in good times and hard times.

I wanted to share this with you. As I was reading today's Advent Devotional, it was explaining how the writer felt after hearing some devastating news about a beloved family member and I thought how fitting for what we are experiencing here right before Christmas time. It says, "We were working to hold our JOY and SORROW in tension, determined to still rejoice, pray, give thanks, and be attentive to the movement of the Spirit of Advent." (1 Thess. 5:16-18) My hope is this will be our prayer during this Holy Season.....

May the Peace of Christ be with you,
Jewels Swain & Sue Willis

To our Faith Harbor Friends and Family~

Not only was the Mercy Abounds challenge met, it was doubled! We are so blessed and thankful to each and every one of you!

Many Blessings for all,
Case Advocates: Jean Hawley, Sandy Taylor, and Sherri Davila



Do you have a heart for worship? Join us at 5:30pm in the sanctuary~ **Saturday, December 30th** for a contemporary Worship service!

Bring your friends and come with an open heart.

Christmas Poinsettias

The Poinsettias are dedicated to the glory of God and given by members in honor and memory of loved ones. They will remain in the Sanctuary until after the Christmas Eve Services.

The White Poinsettia is given by Bernie and Barbara Poole in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on December 28th

Given to the Glory of God by:

Gail Widholm

Doug and Sherry Mewborn

Jim, Faye and Harley

Dave and Kim McCluskey

In Honor of:

Bill Widholm

Our Mothers

Doris Douglas, Faye's Mother

Megan and Kevin Wolfe

Jacklyn and Josh Banyas

Stacie Holmes

DeAnne Chryst

Bescye Burnett

Given to the Glory of God by:

Joal and Sheila Smith

Jim, Faye and Harley

Bonnie Hunter

JoAnn Rivenbark

Deanna, Kevin, Bodie and Fisher

Owen and Alice Williams

Jean Hawley

Pat Vinson

In Memory of:

Al and Jean Smith

Tanya Strickland, Our Daughter

Bennett Hunter

Dean Rivenbark

Dean Rivenbark "PaPa"

Nawkum and Frances Williams

Joe and Lucile Cavender

Richard Hawley, Husband

Robert Hawley, Son

Danny Pearson, Son

Marianne Faith Vinson, Daughter

Doris and David English, Parents



Faith Harbor Pilots

A ministry for men, by men, for the good of all.

The Faith Harbor United Methodist Men invite all men to be a part of something special. The men of the Church are being called to serve as **“A beacon of hope, anchored in Christ, sharing God’s love through joyful service.”**

The meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of each month unless otherwise designated. We meet at 8am for breakfast and fellowship. Please join us as we begin our planning for the future. All men are eligible to join. The only requirement is the desire to become a disciple of Christ.

We hope to see you at our next monthly meeting on Saturday January 20, 2024 at 8am.

Monday Morning Men’s Group

Come as you can, if you can - This weekly men’s group will be meeting at Sears Landing every Monday beginning around 8:30am and waiting until 9:00am to order for those wishing to eat. This will be an informal gathering for all men who are interested in food and fellowship. If you have any questions, contact Roger Morton at ramorton@gmail.com.

The **Nursing Home Ministry** will join members of the Gathering Church of Surf City on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am in the Memory Care Unit at the Woodbury Wellness Center located at 2778 Country Club Dr, Hampstead. **You are welcome to join us every second Sunday for worship and visit with the residents.**

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”—John 3:16

Contact: Bescye P Burnett (678) 882-6721 or bescyep@gmail.com

“Love...Loves...Loved”

“Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced”. —James Baldwin (1924–1987)

Please join us for our 13-week Grief Share Group held by the Stephen Ministry group here at Faith Harbor. We will meet every Monday from 10am-12:00pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome! Feel free to contact Gail Robinson with any questions~ gail.robinson0694@gmail.com



Nourishing Joy Women’s Group will be taking a break in the month of December. We will let everyone know in January when we will begin meeting again. Thank you so much!

Women Rooted in Christ, Anchored in Love, Building each other up.

Connections matter...connections with God and with each other. Come and see how God creates a place for women to be encouraged & strengthened, as we learn about Jesus's love for us and how to share it with others. Regardless of what stage of life you are in, you have gifts and insights that others need, and we want you to be a part of building up God's Kingdom. If you have any questions, please call Stacie Holmes at 910-270-9465 or email: stacieaholmes@gmail.com.

When? Wednesdays from 11:30-12:30



Perhaps you have noticed that the new tax law has reduced your ability to deduct your contribution to charitable entities, including Faith Harbor. For the past couple of years, you were able to deduct at least \$600 per couple. However, that amount has now gone away. In fact, unless you can itemize your deductions for more than \$27,700 for a couple (\$13,800 for a single), you can't deduct any contribution that you make to a charity. Those of you who have paid off your home mortgage usually have a tough time getting past that. **BUT THERE IS A SOLUTION.** A Qualified Charitable Contribution can be made from your IRA, 401K, or any brokerage account directly to the charity on your behalf, and

it is not included in your income (eliminating the tax you would have paid on it) and the charity gets the benefit of your donation. And if you are over the age of 73, you may need to do an RMD (Required Minimum Distribution). This is a great way to take the distribution and avoid paying income tax on those tax-free dollars and profits that you put away years ago. As we get close to the end of the year, you may want to consider taking advantage of this. For more information, see Gail Widholm, Finance Chairperson, or your tax advisor.



Are you missing anything? Please check out our lost and found box over by the mailboxes (across from Room 6). We have several umbrellas, water bottles, glasses, and many other items.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS...



Hello Faith Harbor Families,
Please take a minute to look over our schedule below and mark your calendars.
Lots going on in the next two months!

December

24th: Christmas Eve Services are as follows...8:00am, 9:30am, 5:00pm & 7pm.

A look ahead:

January

Jan 14th: Jr. Basic. Pick up at 12:30pm

Jan. 21st: Safe Sanctuary Training after church. This is required for anyone working with our children or youth.
This presentation will take no longer than 30 minutes.

Jan. 28th: Jr. Basic. Pick up at 12:30pm.

Jan 28th: Children's Counsel meeting after church in classroom 1.

Blessings,

Melissa Schleinkofer, Children's Ministry Director

mxcook8@yahoo.com or <http://www.faithharborumc.org>



***Sun., Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve~** Morning services at 8am and 9:30am. Candlelight Services at 5pm and 7pm.
Please plan to come and enjoy any of these beautiful services. No Regular youth group meetings that evening.

***Sun. Dec. 31st~** Covenant Renewal Morning services at 8am and 9:30am. Happy New Year's Eve! No Regular youth group meetings that evening due to the holiday break. Regular youth group meetings to resume on Sunday, Jan. 7th.

***Other Info./Missions~**

Thank you to all that participated in the Coat Drive with CWS (Church World Services) for refugees coming into the local area during the Winter months. If you wanted to donate coats but didn't get the chance- please let me know. ***We will be starting a NEW Drive for bedding.** They can only accept NEW bedding, in particular Twin sheet sets, then next is Queen sheet sets. We will be placing a marked bin in the Narthex soon.

***Save the Date/Mark your Calendar for the New Year~**

Sun., Jan. 7th~ Regular youth group meetings to resume at normal times

Sun., Jan. 21st~ Safe Sanctuary Training to be held right after church in the sanctuary. *Anyone volunteering, chaperoning or working with Children and/or Youth should attend this training as it is required by the Conference. It should only last about 30 minutes. Thanks!

If you need further information or details about any of these events or the Fhumc's bAsiC (brothers And sisters in Christ) youth group, please reach out to me. Thank you for allowing us to serve you and your youth!

Peace of Christ be with you,

Jewels Swain, Fhumc Youth Coordinator

(910)232-9844 or julietswain@hotmail.com

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

As a follower of Christ, I can be a light to the world.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

~Isaiah 60:1 (NIV)



Members: Joyce Arnette; Ray Blackburn; Nancy Buckman; Doris & Mike Davis; David Decatur; Patty Feige; Judy & Ken Hoopes; Janet Hughes; Janice Long; Doug & Sandi Lowery; Martha Marlow; Tony Merlino; Larry & Becki Modlin; Judy Pratt; Rachel Shade; Steve Wells; Jim Wygant

Military: Joe Fraley, Alex Harris, Andy Harrison, Ryan Hermance; Greg Holmes; Sgt. Joey Horne; Abbie Kizer, John Modlin, Branden Mooney, Tyler Ray, David Ritz, Michael Roberson, Charlotte Taylor

Family and Friends: Johnsie's great niece Rebekah and family; Kelly Bonnell's Husband; MK Clewis's daughter, Harper, and family; Eileen Eifert (John Pratt's sister); Parker Fox; Linda Holt (Mike Hopper's Sister); Rick Hughes; Catherine McDowell; Tommy Mears; Jenny Merritt; the family of Rachael Meyer; Todd Rice (Colin's brother); Barbara & Neil Schilling; Julie Scott (Hank & Jan Maser); Sue Thomas (Janet Hughes Sister); Brenda (Harriet Rice's friend); *Betty Ann (friend of Diane Secary)*

And all unnamed persons needing God's peace, comfort, and healing. Heavenly Father, I am praying for complete healing and good health. Please take away my worries & grant me inner peace and strength. AMEN



December

21st: Robert Barnes; Sonya Burgess

22nd: Marlaine Hopper; Caroline Hinkle

25th: Alex Harris

26th: Ann Cassler; Alexis Medlin Passingham

29th: Jill Strohpaal

31st: Perry Chase Smith; Stephen Cosner; Gerry Colman

JANUARY

1st: Becki Modlin

2nd: Carole Justice

3rd: Tom Bradford

4th: Kellie Henry

8th: Lyla Passingham

10th: Hana Arnold

13th: Gail Hargett-Lilly

15th: Bradley Bizzell; Alexander Hornthal

17th: Wendy Mooney

18th: Diane Geary

19th: Cam Barnes

22nd: William Brazill; Gail Widholm; Vicki Wygant

23rd: Brittany Audet

25th: Karlie Holmes

26th: Judd Schleinkofer

27th: Jeanette Mason

29th: Bodie Taylor; Ken Hoopes

30th: Jimmy Canady; Porter Olmstead

31st: Stacy Menzies

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT FAITH HARBOR UMC

Sunday, 12/24 Christmas Eve

8:00 & 9:30 Communion Services
5:00 & 7:00p Candlelight Services

Monday, 12/25 Christmas Day

OFFICE CLOSED
10:00 Visit to Woodbury Wellness

Tuesday, 12/26

OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, 12/27

OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, 12/28

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, 12/29

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, 12/30

5:30p Praise Service

Sunday, 12/31

8:00 Covenant Renewal Service
9:30 Covenant Renewal Service

Monday, 1/01

Office Closed