



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



## **The Longest Night, Saturday December 21, 5:30p.m. Faith Harbor Sanctuary**

For many people, Christmas is a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation, sadness. **The Longest Night**, also known as “Blue Christmas,” provides a safe space for people to acknowledge and process difficult feelings during the holiday season. Even if you aren’t feeling blue this season, extend an offer to bring a friend or neighbor who could use an extra bit of comfort this year. If you have a heart for ministering to those who are hurting and would like to help with the service, contact Susan Holden at 702-354-9317 (texts are fine).

12/08/24	James 5.13-20
12/15/24	Ephesians 5.15-20
12/22/24	Luke 1.26-38
12/24/24	Luke 2.1-20
12/29/24	Ephesians 1.1-14
1/05/25	Ephesians 2.1-10
1/12/25	Ephesians 2.11-22
1/19/25	Ephesians 3.1-13
1/26/25	Ephesians 3.14-21
2/02/25	Ephesians 4.1-16
2/09/25	Ephesians 4.17-24
2/16/25	Ephesians 4.25-5.2
2/23/25	Ephesians 5.3-14
3/02/25	Ephesians 5.15-20
3/05/25	Ephesians 6.10-20
4/14/25	Luke 23.34
4/15/25	Luke 23.43
4/16/25	John 19.26-27
4/17/25	Matthew 27.46 & John 19.28
4/18/25	John 19.30 & Luke 23.46



# News & Announcements

## Greeters:

December 8<sup>th</sup>: Youth, Sandy Wise, Debbie S.

COMMUNION SERVERS: Youth



The 2024 Advent Devotionals are available in the Narthex.

Stop by this Saturday!



**ITS CRAFT FAIR TIME! Come one come all, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am - 2pm. Over 20 local vendors, United Women in Faith will have their frozen entrees. Harbor Thrift Store will be hosting the Christmas store. Invite your friends and neighbors to come out.**

**\*After the craft fair we need lots of helpers to help vendors pack and load up their vehicles and then get all the chairs back in the sanctuary.**

**The more the better. Vendors start packing at 2. Thank you in advance for all your amazing help.**

**Jessica Blackburn**

## **CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!!**

The Harbor Thrift Store Annual Christmas Shop will be held in the Harbor Warehouse on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM-3:00PM (CASH ONLY). We'll have toys, greenery, trees, wreaths & more! \*Donations for this sale can be made at the store or the warehouse. Please contact Ms. Jean or one of the volunteers with any questions.

## **ALL FAITH HARBOR MEMBERS!**

In response to your concerns, we have arranged and scheduled a “congregational listening session” for Monday evening, December 9, beginning at 6:30, in the Narthex. The listening session will be facilitated by Rev. David Hollowell, former director of the Conflict Transformation Ministries of the NC Conference of the United Methodist Church. The purpose of this listening session is to have a full and frank discussion about the vitality of Faith Harbor UMC, and how it might become even more fruitful. ALL members of the Faith Harbor family are invited to participate. Please mark this event on your calendars, and plan to take part as we work together through God’s grace to help Faith Harbor UMC grow stronger and make disciples of Jesus Christ!



**CHAP (Community Holiday Assistance Program) will be collecting new, unwrapped toys and gift cards for children of families in need. Donations can be dropped off at Faith Harbor (Gift Ideas can be found in the Narthex – grab a list or a tag off the tree). The toy drop-off and set up will be December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> at Blakes Chapel with distribution on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**Families with children are paired with volunteers and invited to “shop” for new toys/gifts for their children in a special Christmas shop where everything is offered free of charge including wrapping materials. Each individual/family also receives a Christmas card, along with a list of all participating organizations in the area. Volunteers are needed. For information, please contact Faye Strickland. [fayestr46@gmail.com](mailto:fayestr46@gmail.com) or 910-264-6151. Thank you!**

**We are blessed to be a blessing to others!**



*Do you have a heart for worship? We would love you to join us in the Sanctuary at 5:30pm for a contemporary Worship service. Mark your calendars-bring your friends!*

December 14<sup>th</sup>

December 28<sup>th</sup>



## **SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

Date: **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

Time: **10:00a.m.**

Be sure to invite your friends, family, and neighbors to enjoy the beautiful music. All are welcome!

Please join us following the Cantata (around 11:00a.m.) as the Hospitality Team and the Congregation will honor the Faith Harbor Choir with a reception. A sign-up sheet for attendees and selected finger foods, fruit and desserts will be posted by the kitchen window on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup>. We request that attendees bring only the type of foods on the list, as the Hospitality Team will provide chicken roll-ups, ham biscuits and beverages. We appreciate your assistance! Hope to see you all there!!



*Let us respond with worship and adoration to Jesus' birth*

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: 5pm, 7pm & 11pm  
Christmas Day: Visit to Woodbury Wellness Center – 10:00a.m.



**The Hospitality Team is looking for sponsors for the January and February Family Night Supper.**

Please contact Jean Hawley if interested- (910) 330.0760 or [jeanhawley11@gmail.com](mailto:jeanhawley11@gmail.com)

# Faith Harbor Pilots

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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 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 gathering on Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 8 AM**

**The Faith Harbor Pilots will NOT meet in December, the Planning Team wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!** Please join us in January 2025 for our regularly scheduled meeting which will include a hearty breakfast followed by our guest speaker, the former Mayor of Holly Ridge. Afterwards we will participate in a Church wide cleanup as our first quarter service project.

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## Tuesday Morning Men’s Group

**Come as you can, if you can** – Unless otherwise stated, the men’s breakfast group meets at Sear’s Landing every Tuesday at 8:30, ordering around 9:00am for those wishing to eat. Roger Morton, our Devotional leader and Biblical Scholar, provides an inspirational devotion each week. Please join us anytime if you wish to start your day in an uplifting and inspirational way. For more information contact Roger at [rramorton@gmail.com](mailto:rramorton@gmail.com).

## THRIFT STORE



## Harbor Thrift Store Hours

Tuesday - Friday

10:00AM - 4:00PM

Closed: Saturday, Sunday and Monday

The Thrift Store is looking for household items and furniture in good condition. No adult clothing, electronics, broken or damaged items.

**Harbor Thrift Store can no longer accept donations without an appointment.** Please contact someone from the list below to schedule donation drop offs.

Sandy Taylor (540) 420-6713

Beth Walker (252) 213-2240

Sylvia Bowman (910) 284-3131

Gloria Richardson (704) 804-4909

Sabrina Guy (910) 526-4183

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**Women Rooted in Christ, Anchored in Love, Building each other up.  
When? Wednesdays from 11:15-12:30p.m.**

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](mailto:stacieaholmes@gmail.com).



*From Pastor Bescye...*

**\*NEW online course from Wesley Pathways for Ministry**

**Lord, Teach Us to Pray- Learn and experience new ways to pray.**

**Introductory offer: \$25 \$5 through December 31, 2024.** This six-unit course is intended for laity who do not currently have a prayer practice or who desire to go deeper in their relationship with God through prayer (clergy are also welcome). The course is experiential, inviting students to practice different forms of prayer and to discover what approaches work for them. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of prayer practices, including prayers from the African American tradition. Different practitioners share various forms of prayer.

**Course learning objectives:**

- Students will be exposed to at least ten different prayer practices, including silence, Lectio Divina (praying using scripture), awe practices, nature walks, the Psalms of lament and new orientation, using visual images for prayer, prayers for peace and justice, icons, and Christian mindfulness.
- Students will practice at least six different prayer practices and will reflect on their prayer experiences by journaling in words or images.

**[Learn more and enroll now at wesleypathways.com.](http://wesleypathways.com)**



I would like to take a minute to share that ALL our women at Faith Harbor are a part of the United Women in Faith. While you may not be an enrolled member, each of you have something you can contribute. God has given us all talents and blessed us with a loving church family. If you would like to find out ways that you might be able to participate in this awesome women's group, reach out to me or any of our members. Our unit president is Bonnie Hunter. You will be met with open arms!!

Let's be a beacon of hope and light into the world!  
*Sherri Davila*, Harbor District UWF President



The Nursing Home Ministry of Faith Harbor join members of the Gathering Church on Sunday mornings at 11:00 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)

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Volunteers needed. We are always looking for people to help, whether as a Sunday School teacher, nursery helper or many other roles.

### Jr Basic Dates

December 15



**Middle school** – b.A.s.i.C. Calling all Middle Schoolers! Check out all the ways to get involved with other Middle Schoolers...lots to do and lots of fun to have!

Dec 8: Band performs at 9:30 service





**Members:** Joyce Arnette; Ray Blackburn; Doris & Mike Davis; David Decatur; Patty Feige; Parker Fox; Diane Geary; Gail Hargett-Lilly; Janet Hughes; Janice Long; Martha Marlow; Tony Merlino; Larry & Becki Modlin; Sean Mooney; Vance Penny and family; Judy Pratt; Ron Voli; Sherrie Weaver; Owen Williams

**Military:** Joe Fraley, Andy Harrison, Ryan Hermance; Greg Holmes; Joey Horne; Abbie Kizer, John Modlin, Branden Mooney, Tyler Ray, Charlotte Taylor; Craig (family friend of Deanna Beard)

**Family and Friends:** Robin Allison; Kelly Bonnell's Husband; Pat Bower (Sandy Sly's friend); Diane Brown; Jeanne Brown (Glenda Brooks); Matt Campbell (Tammy & Chris Campbell); Laurin Chaucer; Judy Grubbs Cordts (Sandy Sly's friend); Paulita Cousins (Kim McCluskey's friend); Olivia Drudge; Eileen Eifert (John Pratt's sister); Chelsea Groves (friend of Sherrie Weaver); Patrick Henry and George Hartner (LaNier S); *Kevin Kesterson and family*; Jerry Klofonda (Sherrie Weaver); Rondale Miller (Cousin of Sherrie Weaver); Martha Olarte and family; Joey Osborn (Colin Rice); Marie Palmer (Sandy Sly); Sue Penny; Janice Robbins and family; Aric Roberts; Jennifer Sawyer and family; Noble Sellars & family; Jennie Smith (Lee Jernigan); Brenda (Harriet Rice's friend); Betty Ann (friend of Diane Secary); Pam Ulrich (friend of Sherrie Weaver); *Chris Widholm*

*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*

SCRIPTURE CARD ~Week of December 9<sup>th</sup>

Centering Prayer: The Lord has done great things for us. Psalm 126

M Isaiah 35.1-10, Matthew 18.10-11

Tu Isaiah 40.1-11, Matthew 18.12-14

W Isaiah 40.25-31, Matthew 11.28-30

Th Isaiah 41.1-10, Matthew 11.7-15

F Isaiah 48.17-19, Matthew 11.16-19

Sa Isaiah 48.20-22, Matthew 17.9-13

Su Zephaniah 3.14-20, Philippians 4.4-7, Luke 3.7-18

Key scripture Philippians 4.4: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice."





## DECEMBER

1<sup>ST</sup>: Kelly Byrd

3<sup>rd</sup>: Marion Shade

4<sup>th</sup>: Katherine Alexander; Hayden Arnold; Karl Johanson; Leslie Jones; Neal McHenry

8<sup>th</sup>: JoAnn Rivenbark

9<sup>th</sup>: Bill Widholm

10<sup>th</sup>: Laura Alexander; Melanie Greene

11<sup>th</sup>: Danielle Shepard; Reagan Shepard

13<sup>th</sup>: Donald Mizelle

14<sup>th</sup>: Doug Mewborn; Sandi Lowry

15<sup>th</sup>: Harriet Rice

16<sup>th</sup>: Kenny Burgess; Madison Fox; Judy Paliotti

17<sup>th</sup>: Charlie Clark; David Henry

21<sup>st</sup>: Robert Barnes; Sonya Burgess

22<sup>nd</sup>: Caroline Hinkle; Marlaine Hopper

25<sup>th</sup>: Alex Harris

26<sup>th</sup>: Ann Cassler; Alexis Passingham

29<sup>th</sup>: Jill Strohpaul

31<sup>st</sup>: Gerry Colman; Stephen Cosner; Perry Chase Smith



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## HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT FAITH HARBOR UMC

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### **Sunday, 12/08- Youth Sunday**

8:00 Communion Service  
9:30 Communion Service  
10:45 Adult Bible Study, Rm. 6  
2:00p Allison's student recital  
3:00p Celebrate Recovery, Rm. 6  
5 – 7p Youth Group Christmas Party

### **Monday, 12/09**

7:30 Open Prayer  
9:00 Quilters, Rm. 6  
1:00p Monday Bible Study, Rm. 6  
6:30p Listening Session (Narthex)  
6:30p Cub Scouts

### **Tuesday, 12/10**

7:30 Open Prayer  
8:30 Men's Breakfast Group @ Sears Landing  
9:00 Quilters, Rm. 6  
10:00 UWIF Christmas Brunch  
6:00p Praise Band Practice  
7:00p Women's AA/Reef

### **Wednesday, 12/11**

9:30 Communion Service  
10:00 Rainbow Circle, Rm. 6  
11:15 Rooted & Anchored Women's Group  
7:00p Boy Scouts/Reef  
7:00p Cantata Practice/ 7:45p Choir Practice

### **Thursday, 12/12**

9:30 Centering Prayer  
12:00 AA Group, Rm. 6  
5:30p Girl Scout Troop #4242  
6:00p MDT  
6:00p Love Thyself Training

### **Friday, 12/13**

8:30 Women's Breakfast Group

### **Saturday, 12/14**

9 – 11 Cantata Dress Rehearsal  
5:30p Praise Service

### **Sunday, 12/15**

8:00 Communion Service  
**10:00 Cantata**  
11:30 Reception  
3:00p Celebrate Recovery, Rm. 6