



An excerpt from Justin Martyr (ca. 153) – First Apology, 67.

*“On the day called Sunday there is a gathering together in the same place of all who live in a given city or rural district. The memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits. Then when the reader ceases, the president in a discourse admonishes and urges the imitation of these good things. Next we all rise together and send up prayers.*

*“When we cease from our prayer, bread is presented and wine and water. The president in the same manner sends up prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people sing out their assent, saying the “Amen.” A distribution and participation of the elements for which thanks have been given is made to each person, and to those who are not present they are sent by the deacons.*

*“Those who have means and are willing, each according to his own choice, gives what he wills, and what is collected is deposited with the president. He provides for the orphans and widows, those who are in need on account of sickness or some other cause, those who are in bonds, strangers who are sojourning, and in a word he becomes the protector of all who are in need.*

*“We all make our assembly in common on Sunday, since it is the first day, on which God changed the darkness and matter and made the world, and Jesus Christ our Savior arose from the dead on the same day. For they crucified him on the day before Saturn’s day, and on the day after (which is the day of the Sun) he appeared to his apostles and disciples and taught these things, which we have offered for your consideration.”*

Here is the layout of the worship service that Justin Martyr highlighted around ca. 153:

- 1 – Gathering for worship on Sunday
- 2 – Reading of Apostles & Prophets
- 3 – Sermon
- 4 – Prayers of the People
- 5 – Presentation of communion elements
- 6 – Prayers & Thanksgiving over Lord's Supper
- 7 – The great “Amen”.
- 8 – Distribution of Elements
- 9 – Giving

Take note that this order is the first ever written down. Pay attention to his observation: there is the Word of God read, prayed, and preached – and then the response of the people through prayers, giving, Lord's Supper, and distribution of the elements. We can find from this a pattern of Call & Response.

As we have been studying worship for the last month – we have learned about the sacraments, the prayers, and the singing. We now are going to explore how God reveals himself to us through scripture, prayers, singing, and sermons – and how we get a chance to respond to God's self revelation. I would encourage you to continue to learn more about this pattern – and allow this godly pattern of call & response to affect the entirety of our way of being.

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



*Staff Christmas party with the very crafty Sherri Davila and her hot glue gun!*





## Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias 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 51<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on December 28<sup>th</sup>

### Given to the Glory of God by:

Sabrina & Zander Guy

Dave & Kim McCluskey

John & Sherri Weaver

### Given to the Glory of God by:

Bonnie Hunter

Rick & Sharon Love

John & Tracy Shakespeare

Jessica & Ray Blackburn

Jean Hawley

Pat Vinson

### In Honor of:

Their Grandchildren

DeAnne Chryst

Connie Carroll

Bescye Burnett

Amber Faulhaber

Kim MacDougall

Jim & Mary Ellen Weaver

Fred & Martha Halsell

### In Memory of:

Bennett Hunter

Doris & Royce Dickerson

Doris & Leon Love

Shirley Shakespeare

Ray & Zona Blackburn

Chimer & Joyce Clark

Richard Hawley

Bob Hawley

Dan Pearson

Marianne Faith Vinson

Doris and David English



# News & Announcements

## A Message from SPRC...

*"Advent is a time of happiness for all Christians and is the perfect time for us to recognize our great, dedicated staff members. We have had some turnover this year and, rather than requesting a Love Offering, we will provide a Holiday Bonus to Bescye Burnett (Assistant Pastor), Allison Stowers (Minister of Music), and Kim MacDougall (Church Secretary) for their continued service to the Members of Faith Harbor. These funds are available in the Church's staff account."*

A graphic for a Blue Christmas Worship Service. The background is light blue with white snowflakes and several Christmas ornaments (blue, silver, and gold) hanging from the top. The text is in white and dark blue.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE**

THIS SERVICE IS FOR THOSE WHO MAY NOT BE EXPERIENCING THE "JOY OF THE SEASON" FOR WHATEVER REASON BUT WISH TO HAVE SPACE FOR COMFORT, PEACE, PRAYER, AND SUPPORT.

**DEC 21 @ 5:30**  
**JOIN US**  
FAITH HARBOR UMC

## Blue Christmas Service

**Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup>**

**5:30pm ~ Faith Harbor Sanctuary**

For many people, Christmas is a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation, sadness. **Blue Christmas**, also known as "The Longest Night," 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, please call or text Susan Holden #702-354-9317.

Services for Tamara Nance Jones will be held at Faith Harbor United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 22nd. The viewing will take place at 1:00pm, followed by the funeral service at 2:00pm. The family will receive friends for a Celebration of Life following the funeral service at Faith Harbor United Methodist Church.

**Greeters:**

December 22<sup>nd</sup>: Jeanette Mason & Sherri Davila

*Please join the Hopper family after the 9:30 service on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, to wish Marlaine a happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday! (It will be a surprise; we hope to sing as she comes out into the narthex!)*



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 28<sup>th</sup>

January 11 & January 25<sup>th</sup>

February 8<sup>th</sup> & February 22<sup>nd</sup>

April 12<sup>th</sup> & April 26<sup>th</sup>

May 10<sup>th</sup> & May 24<sup>th</sup>

June 14<sup>th</sup> & June 28<sup>th</sup>



As has been done in the past, the offering collected during the Christmas Eve services will go to the work of Mercy Abounds. This ministry of Faith Harbor provides financial assistance to local families in need. Mercy Abounds is volunteer based, so all the money you give goes directly to those in need. Thank you!

**We are still in need of volunteers for the following:**

**Offertory Prayer-** 7pm Christmas Eve; 9:30am January 12<sup>th</sup>

**Child/Youth to carry Baby Jesus-** 7pm Christmas Eve

\*If you are interested, please let me know @ [faithharborumc.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:faithharborumc.secretary@gmail.com)

*Thank you!*





***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](mailto: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)





## Middle School Youth Calendar for January 2025:

It is the New Year! Welcome 2025!

The following is a list of what is happening during the month of January. Mark your calendars and let's kick off the new year with God at the center!

**January 1:** Dolphin Dip: Let's do this thing together! The dip will happen at noon with meet ups starting at 11:00. Faith Harbor folks are invited to look for the FISH flying high in the sky and meet under it! We will all go to the ocean together at noon!

**January 4:** Time to get back into Faith Harbor Youth! Gavin Robinson will be leaving us so let's send him off and enjoy the new year together! A taco bar dinner will be served at the church at 5:30 followed by a trip to Axe Throwing. Youth are asked to bring \$10 for axe throwing and arcade games. Evening ends at 8:30.

**January 5:** Middle School Basic includes lunch, play and bible study. Immediately following church ending at 12:30.

**January 19:** The Middle School will go out to lunch together for Middle School Basic. Let's head to Burrito Shak in Surf City.

**January 26:** The Middle School will head out together to the Wilmington Polar Icehouse. We will grab a fast-food lunch prior to visiting the rink. Bring money for lunch and to spend at the rink. We'll leave the church lot at 11:30. The skating session is 12:30-2:45. Remember to dress accordingly. Wear pants, jackets and gloves. It is cold!!

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## Senior High Youth Calendar for January 2025

**January 1:** Dolphin Dip: Let's do this thing together! The dip will happen at noon with meet ups starting at 11:00. Faith Harbor folks are invited to look for the FISH flying high in the sky and meet under it! We will all go to the ocean together at noon!

**January 4:** Time to get back into Faith Harbor Youth! Gavin Robinson will be leaving us so let's send him off and enjoy the new year together! A taco bar dinner will be served at the church at 5:30 followed by a trip to Axe Throwing. Youth are asked to bring \$10 for axe throwing and arcade games. Evening ends at 8:30

**January 5 and January 12:** High School Youth resumes on Sunday evenings at 5:00 pm.

NO YOUTH due to MLK Jr Holiday

**January 24-26:** High School Ski Trip

**Where:** Lake Junaluska Conference Center & Cataloochee Ski Mountain

**Price per student:** \$175.

**Payment Deadlines:** by Dec 31st, please pay a \$75 deposit. Remaining balance due of \$100 by Jan. 13th. You can either turn a check into the church office or pay on-line. Please indicate in the memo line- youth ski trip.



**Members:** Joyce Arnette; Ray Blackburn; Doris & Mike Davis; David Decatur; Patty Feige; Parker Fox; Diane Geary; Gail Hargett-Lilly; Janet Hughes; the family of Tamara Jones; Janice Long; Martha Marlow; Tony Merlino; Larry & Becki Modlin; Sean Mooney; 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:** *JP Antunez (Liz & Jordan Albertson family friend)*; 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 23<sup>rd</sup>

Centering Prayer: Stir up your might, and come to save us! Psalm 80

M Malachi 3.1-4, Luke 1.57-66

Tu II Samuel 7.1-16, Luke 1.67-79

W Isaiah 62.11-12, Luke 2.1-20

Th Acts 6.8-10, Matthew 10.17-22

F I John 1.1-4, John 20.1-8

Sa I John 1.5-2.2, Matthew 2.13-18

Su I Samuel 2.18-26, Colossians 3.12-17, Luke 2.41-52

Key scripture Malachi 3.1: "See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me."



## DECEMBER

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 Strohpaol

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

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>st</sup>: Becki Modlin

2<sup>nd</sup>: Carole Justice

3<sup>rd</sup>: Tom Bradford

4<sup>th</sup>: Kellie Henry

8<sup>th</sup>: Lyla Passingham

10<sup>th</sup>: Hana Arnold

13<sup>th</sup>: Gail Hargett-Lilly

14<sup>th</sup>: Cathey Barber

15<sup>th</sup>: Bradley Bizzell; Alexander Hornthal

17<sup>th</sup>: Wendy Mooney

18<sup>th</sup>: Ryan Clark; Diane Geary

19<sup>th</sup>: Cam Barnes

22<sup>nd</sup>: William Brazill; Gail Widholm; Vicki Wygant

23<sup>rd</sup>: Brittany Audet; Mary Margaret Cosner

25<sup>th</sup>: Karlie Holmes

26<sup>th</sup>: Judd Schleinkofer

27<sup>th</sup>: Jeanette Mason

29<sup>th</sup>: Bodie Taylor

30<sup>th</sup>: Porter Olmstead; Jimmy Canady

31<sup>st</sup>: Beth Johanson

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## HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT FAITH HARBOR UMC

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### **Sunday, 12/22**

8:00 Communion Service  
9:30 Communion Service  
10:45 Adult Bible Study  
3:00p Celebrate Recovery, Rm. 6

### **Monday, 12/23**

7:30 Open Prayer  
6:30p Cub Scouts

### **Tuesday, 12/24**

7:30 Open Prayer  
5:00p Christmas Eve Service  
7:00p Christmas Eve Service  
11:00p Christmas Eve Service

### **Wednesday, 12/25 Christmas Day**

9:30 Communion Service  
10:00 Visit to Woodbury Wellness Center  
OFFICE CLOSED

### **Thursday, 12/26**

12:00p AA Group, Rm. 6  
OFFICE CLOSED

### **Friday, 12/27**

8:30 Women's Breakfast Group

### **Saturday, 12/28**

5:30p Praise Service

### **Sunday, 12/29**

8:00 Communion Service  
9:30 Communion Service  
10:45 Adult Bible Study  
3:00p Celebrate Recovery Group, Rm. 6