

A Special Thank you to those serving in our 3 & 5 Children's Services:  
3pm: Readers - Jesse Johnson, Lily Oakes, Kailyn Boyd .  
Mary/Joseph/Jesus – Sarah, Tyler, & Kate Payne. Advent Wreath –  
Will and Darby Whitehurst.

5pm: Readers – Lucy Dickinson James Parker, Latham Everhart,  
Mary/Joseph/Jesus – Robbie, Meghan, and Eliza Baker, Advent Wreath  
- Caleb, Cameron, Eliza Carr & Sadie Thornton. Acolytes – Elizabeth  
Parker, Ashlyn Everhart.

Special Thanks to Tilton Smith and the children for sharing their  
musical talents!



### REVEALED!

This Epiphany, join us as we explore some of the parables of Jesus. Jesus used parables to reveal truths about the kingdom of God. Come...with “ears to hear” and see what Jesus reveals!



### AB Penguin Plunge

Join us on 1/1/2024 in Atlantic Beach to experience an exhilarating start to the New Year! Bring your family, friends & coworkers to register as First Methodist Morehead City (largest group wins!) and wear a costume (best costume wins!) and support a local Carteret County Charity: the ECHS Marching Mariners. Help us win the award for the largest civic organization. You can register online at <https://penguin-plunge.org>.



### First Methodist Mobile and TV App

We are glad that you have joined us for our Christmas Eve worship service. We would love for you to connect with us through our mobile app for you to access online services, events, small groups, volunteer opportunities, the Bible, and digital giving. Worship services, Kid's Sunday school resources, and sermon podcasts are also available on our Roku TV app.

# FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

A GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH



## CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2023

5:00 PM

[www.firstmethodist.life](http://www.firstmethodist.life)

## ORGAN PRELUDE

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

### †CAROLS “O, Come All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

*Refrain:*

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

### “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

### WORDS OF INVITATION

Let us hear anew the age-old Christmas story, as recounted in  
Scripture and song. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### FIRST LESSON **Lucy Dickinson** (Luke 2:1-7; Jesus is born in Bethlehem)

### CAROLS “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;  
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

### “Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

### SECOND LESSON **James Parker** (Luke 2:8-16; The angels tell the shepherds of the birth of Jesus)

### SPECIAL MUSIC “Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven” **Tilton Smith, soloist**

### THIRD LESSON **Latham Everhart** (Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11; The Magi are led by the Star to Bethlehem)

### CAROLS “The First Noel”

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.  
[Refrain]

### “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE “The Christmas Candle” **Pastor Powell**

### CAROLS “There’s a Song in the Air”

There's a song in the air !There's a star in the sky!  
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!  
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song  
that comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.  
Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,  
and we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!

### “Go, Tell It On the Mountain”

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain:  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

### GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*Jesus is God’s gift for all people. Tonight we celebrate the fact that a Savior is born for each of us. Therefore all are welcome to come and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Jesus calls and welcomes you to this sacred meal. The ushers will guide the congregation to the chancel rail in two lines. As you arrive, you will be given a piece of bread, which you can dip in the chalice. Please return to your seats by the side aisles.*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (In Unison)

Loving God, we rejoice that through the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, you entered this world and dwelt among us. We give thanks, as well, that on this night, through the mystery of Holy Communion, we have experienced your presence anew. For your grace that feeds our souls and nourishes our lives we are grateful. Help us now to become vessels of mercy that we might share the good news of your presence and your love to others. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

### CAROL “Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star,  
lend thy light; with the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King,  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

## BENEDICTION

## ORGAN POSTLUDE