



THE SEAGULL

Doug Lain

Pastor

Julia Crone

Pastor

David Haley

Pastor

Julia Walker Jewell

Dir. of Music Ministries

Carey Avant

4:12 Praise Band Director

Courtney Rickert

Dir. of Children's Music

Donna Pinckney

Dir. of Spiritual Formation

Mikki Perry

Dir. of Congregational Care

Susan Fieldstein

Communications

Madison Pleasants

Marketing/Communications

Assistant

Carla Whitlow

Dir. of Operations

Jamie Borum

Asst. Financial Administrator

Christina Norvell

Dir. of Children & Youth

Ministries

Pam Hutsell

Asst. Director of Children & Youth Ministries

Joseph Hughes

Asst. Choir Director &

Accompanist

Kelly Jewell *Morning Worship Musician*

Ryan Mansbery

Sound Technician

Kathleen Crowley

Nursery Coordinator

Mac Wallace

Building Superintendent

Phone 910-256-4471 wrightsvilleumc.org Office Hours Mon-Thurs 8-4 / Fri 8-12

Waiting and Wanting

One of the things that I've noticed as I've gotten older is how much faster time seems to go by. When I was a kid it seemed like an hour was a long time, the weekend always felt like a long ways off, and Christmas felt like forever from now. Nowadays, I wish there were more hours in the day, the weeks fly by, and I'm never ready when Christmas comes around. I know that time hasn't actually sped up; but sometimes it feels like it moves a lot faster nowadays.

I don't wait like I did when I was a kid. I'm always busy, or I'm busy not being busy, which is to say that I'm intentionally doing something, even in my spare time. My mind is moving. If I'm driving I'm listening to Spotify or a podcast. If I'm literally waiting for something to happen, I pull out my phone and let it entertain me for a few minutes as I scroll through facebook, tik tok, the news, or sports websites.

I go to great lengths not to have to wait. I have my pizza delivered so I can do other things while the pizza is being made and brought to my home. I go to restaurants that take reservations or have "call-ahead" seating because I don't want to have to wait for a table. I'd like to say that I've become more patient as I've grown older; but I think the opposite may be true.

I guess there are some things I am still waiting on happening. This doggone pandemic, for one. When is it finally gonna be over? I'm hopeful. Signs are moving in the right direction. But, can it be done already? I'm waiting on that. And the impending split in the United Methodist Church. You might think I don't ever want it to happen; but I don't like living with the knowledge that it is coming. I think I'd rather be on the other side of it already. I know we'll get through it, and there's no need to worry. I just don't like the waiting.

The above examples are anxiety producing. We can also wait for things with eager anticipation. For instance, my middle daughter, Emily, is a high school senior so I wonder what schools she will get into this year, and where she will eventually decide to go to college next fall. It has also been really cool seeing a few more people in worship each Sunday this fall. Every week has a few more people than the last. If this trend continues I can't wait to see what 2022 will be like!

On November 28th, the entire Christian Church entered the season of waiting. We even have a name for it. Advent. Advent is about waiting for Christ to come. But waiting for Christ takes us to two different places in time. One is Christ's first coming as a babe born in Bethlehem. The other is Christ's second coming that will take place sometime in the future. We live in between those times. But Advent should take us to both times and places. Israel had long waited for its Messiah that was born on Christmas Day long ago. And now the world waits in anticipation for Jesus' triumphal return.

(continued on page 2)

How should we live as we wait? What should we do? The Apostle Paul would encourage us to keep doing the holy and right things. Even Jesus himself said we should "Keep Watch!" because we do not know when the Master (the Lord) is coming back. But I believe the biggest key is our attitude while waiting... Are we waiting with fear and anxiety, or are we waiting with eager anticipation? Remember, John 3:16-17 says that Christ came to save the world, not to condemn the world. So, take a deep breath, Christ's coming is never something to worry about. Instead, it is something to celebrate! Let us wait together with faith, hope, and love in the name of the one who gives us all things. And may you have a joyous Advent this year.

May the Peace of Christ be with you, Pastor Doug

Haley's Comment

Dear Wrightsville UMC family and friends,

As you are reading this, my plan is to be in Sierra Leone, West Africa. I will be a part of the mission team visiting the Rotifunk Hospital which our church supports. Though I have previously traveled some in West Africa, this will be my first visited to Sierra Leone and to Rotifunk. I am excited that our church plays such an important role in this hospital, touching the lives of thousands of people in Jesus' name. We will have many stories to share from our visit there. Please pray for our team for safe travels, for effective ministry there, and for a truly spiritual journey.

The Christmas holidays are rapidly approaching. Many of us will be busy with preparations, shopping, preparing to travel, etc. In all our busy-ness, let's be careful to remember that we are actually celebrating the birthday of Jesus. Sunday worship during Advent and the Christmas Eve Services can help us to be continually reminded that Jesus is the reason for the season!

Binky and I are so blessed to be a part of the great church family at Wrightsville UMC. We join with the rest of your staff in wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas!

Blessings,

Pastor David Haley

January Newsletter

Due to the Christmas Holidays, the deadline for the January newsletter will be on Friday, December 10. Please contact Susan at susan@wrightsvilleumc.org or at 910-256-4471 with any questions or to submit articles.





According to IRS regulations, in order for your contribution to be credited to 2021, you must have it into the church office (or postmarked) no later than December 31, 2021.

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THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to Street Turkeys!



Stuff the Stockings for LINC!

As part of our Racial Unity Committee's outreach, we will again this Advent and Christmas be sharing Christ's love with residents and staff at LINC (Leading Into New Communities) through stuffing Christmas stockings with gift cards to Walmart and collecting warm hats.

You are invited to write a card with encouragement to a staff member or resident and buy a \$25 gift card to Walmart. You can also give through the church by donating online or through the app (mark your donation "Racial Unity" or write a check with "Racial Unity" on the memo line.

To learn more about LINC's mission of empowering men and women to re-enter the community after incarceration, check out their website at:

www.linenc.org.

Please drop off your donations in the church office by Monday, December 13.

The Wrightsville United Methodist Church Outreach Committee supports and nurtures individuals and organizations who are in need in our community, nation and world.

We also seek to provide members of our congregation opportunities to define their own ministry in service of Christ.



Methodist Home for Children Angel Tree



Angel Tree - We are continuing our tradition of providing gifts for children and families in need. You can look at all available Angels by going to our Sign Up Genius page:

www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084cada829a6fe3 -methodist1.

Please return all unwrapped gifts, clearly marked with the child or family name and the initials of the Social Worker (such as HS or SB or Janl) to the church no later than Sunday, December 5.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 910-256-4471.



The Christmas Eve Offering - 2021

"Let the little children come unto me..." Matthew 19:14

The charities that will benefit from the Christmas Eve offerings this year are the Methodist Home for Children and Mission of Hope: Rotifunk Hospital. Methodist Home for Children supports programs that prepare children in crisis to reach their full, God-given potential, working so that all in their care, both children and families, have the hope and skills they need to build healthy, self-sufficient and productive lives. Meanwhile, across the ocean in Sierra Leone, Mission of Hope supports the Rotifunk Hospital, the "champion" for children's health needs in the region, conducting weekly outreach clinics to remote villages, testing for malaria, malnutrition and addressing other medical issues, while providing emergency care, medical treatment and surgical services at the Rotifunk Hospital to the beautiful children of God living in the surrounding villages.

Come join us on Saturday, December 18! Sign up below:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084cada829a6fe 3-willowdale





A HUGE THANK YOU to all the volunteers, donors and shoppers at the 4th Annual Yard Sale. Our proceeds exceeded \$10,000 - a new record! The Rotifunk Hospital staff in Sierra Leone and the mothers and babies in the region are singing "Tank Ye, Papa God and Wrightsville UMC!!!"





Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Nourish NC Thanksgiving Dinner program!





Poinsettias With a Purpose!

This year, all donations given to Poinsettias With a Purpose in honor or memory of a friend or loved one, will go to Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospitality), a 501©(3) organization that gives support to unsheltered families with children. Thank you to all who donated!



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Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

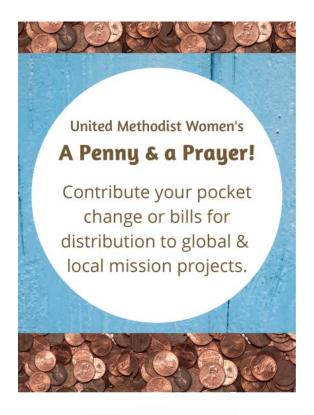
Food needs for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard are canned meat, healthy soups, whole grain cereal, canned vegetables, canned legume beans (black, navy, pork-n-beans, kidney), side starches (macn-cheese, rice-a-roni, hamburger helper, stuffing), rice, peanut butter and juice (individual and family sized). Thank You for your support!



Circle Meeting

Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 14, at 10 am in the church parlor. For more information please contact Marie Cooke at 910-620-4241.









Congratulations from your Wrightsville UMC Family!



Congratulations to
Courtney & Chris
Rickert on the birth
of their twins,
Arthur George and
Wesley Carter, who
were born on
November 13th.

Congratulations to
Caroline & Jonathan
Weeks on the birth of their
daughter, Claire Asbury,
who was born on October
30th. Claire's grandmother
is Cindi Semken and her
great grandparents are
Deb & John Shulse.

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Advent schedule.

- Advent Study with Rev. David Goehring
 Wednesdays at 10 am: December 1, 8, 15 & 22
 (Offered both online and on-site.)
- Sunday, December 19: 6-8 pm
 Journey to the Manger-Drive by
- Tuesday, December 21
 "Blue Christmas" online service
- Friday, December 24: Christmas Eve
 11 am & 2 pm Children's Services
 3:30, 5 & 7:30 pm Candlelight Communion Services
- Sunday, December 26: One Worship Service at 10 am, No Sunday School

Watch for details in the Wednesday eblast and the Sunday announcement insert.

Advent STUDY

Rev. David Goehring
will be teaching on the
following Wednesdays at 10 am,
both on-site and online:
December 1, 8, 15 and 22.

Register on the deep roots bulletin board or donna@wrightsvilleumc.org.



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Blue CHRISTMAS

Many people might not feel all that jolly this year. We might be mourning the loss of a loved one, or the loss of a job, or a divorce, or any number of things. This year, we might be mourning lives lost to the pandemic, gathering with family, or celebrating beloved traditions. We are offering the following ways to participate this year:

- We invite you to watch a short video service that will be posted online on Tuesday, December 21, the longest night of the year.
- Pastors will also be available for individual prayer at the church from 4-6 pm.

Advent DEVOTIONAL

Written by your Church family,
the Advent Devotional is a tradition
at Wrightsville UMC. These daily
devotions are compiled into booklet form
and available for pick-up in the Narthex while they last - or online at the top
of the homepage of
www.wrightsvilleumc.org.

Dear Friends and Fellow Members of Wrightsville UMC,

On behalf of the SPRC, I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for the love, support, and grace you have extended our pastors and our staff through another year of this pandemic. They have worked tirelessly to get us back in the building safely as well as continue to reach us virtually through our online worship services and programs. Thank you for the warm welcome and love you have shown Pastor Julia and Pastor David. What a wonderful addition they have been this year! We are grateful for their leadership and service. Now that the holiday season is upon us, I pray that we all feel that renewed sense of Hope that the holidays bring.

Mikki and Susan continue to be the front porch of Wrightsville UMC keeping us connected through all lines of communications at the church as well as offering support to all of us during times of need. Madison keeps our website and social media presence up-to-date with all of our events. Donna has kept our small and large groups and committees scheduled in the building and/or Zoom which is no small feat. Christina Norvell and Pam Hutsell continue to dedicate their time and talents reaching our children and youth through their various programs and getting those back up and running in-person. It is wonderful to have our 4:12 Youth Group back breaking bread together on Sunday nights as well as faith groups.

The Jewell family's musical talents have been a source of peace during worship services. Ryan and Julia have become digital experts, upgrading our worship service, The Vine, weekly adding personal touches and creatively inviting our congregation to participate in many ways. Courtney and Carey have continued to make joyful music for our members, young and old, spreading the Word of God through their beautiful talents.

Carla continues to work overtime to keep our church moving forward during another difficult year when our financial future is uncertain. We are excited to welcome Jamie Borum as our new Financial Administrative Assistant on December 1st. Mac works weekly ensuring that our building remains safe and sanitized for our staff and congregation to be back in-person.

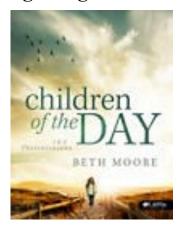
Lastly, Pastor Doug, Pastor Julia, and Pastor David have embraced another year of the pandemic as a time to effectively minister to us, the members, and many nonmembers. It is wonderful to be worshipping back in the sanctuary as well as having hundreds of people worshipping online weekly. They continue to offer their support daily to all of us through times of uncertainty, happiness, grief, and service. We give praise and Thanksgiving for their leadership.

I ask those of us who can to consider a love offering gift to our staff this holiday season. You can give online, by writing a check, or on our phone app. The deadline is Sunday, December 19th. Join me in giving thanks to our entire Wrightsville UMC staff!

May the love of Jesus Christ continue to bless you and your families!

Kristin Selby – Staff Parish Relations Chairperson

Monday Night Lights Women's Study



Join Sherri Ingle on Mondays at 5:30 pm beginning on January 3 for this terrific study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

Available on-site and online.

Registration now underway: donna@wrightsvilleumc.org

"Join **Beth Moore** and walk the shores of Thessalonica with this verse-by-verse Bible study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians. During this nine week study, you'll learn how to let go of past mistakes and discover your circumstances are not coincidental - God's timing is impeccable! Whether you're facing family crises, medical diagnoses, relationship troubles, doubts, or fears, you'll come away encouraged that even though it may not feel that way, you are exactly where Christ wants you to be!"

Monday Night Blessings Women's Study

A Celebration of Favorite Women's Bible Studies

In this 10-session Bible Study, we will explore God's Word each session, as we view & discuss a video session taken from a variety of favorite Women's Bible Studies. The video leaders are Angela Thomas, Beth Moore, Mary Kassian, Jennifer Rothschild, Tianne Moon, Lisa Whelchel, Anne Lotz Graham & Priscilla Shirer.

Join us January 10 - March 14, 2022 for 10 Monday nights. We meet in the church chapel from 6-7:30 pm. Each night, we will view & discuss a video session taken from 10 well known Bible Studies. There will be NO STUDY BOOK. Instead, we will read suggested Scripture at home. This loving group of women is comprised of different ages. We pray for each other & we have fun together in restaurants or homes. Don't let conflicts with dates stop you from joining us. You are truly blessed each time you come! Please, regulars & newcomers, text me at 910-612-8051 to let me know if you plan to join us. Mark your calendars so you don't forget. I will send email reminders later.

Love to each of you, Ann Jenkins

PS. Has God placed a friend in your life for you to encourage to come to a Bible Study with you?

Young Adult Bible Study

Pastor Julia is leading a Young Adult Bible Study on the book of John. If you are interested in joining in, please contact Julia Crone at pastorjulia@wrightsvilleumc.org.

Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study

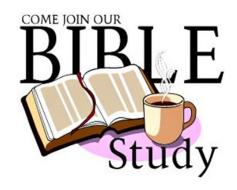
continues on Thursday mornings at 6:45.

Join them for coffee and their study of the Book of James!

Available on-site and online.

Questions? Gene Ingle at gingle@intracoastalrealty.com





Ladies Bible Study

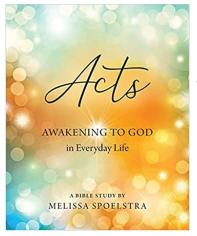
Led by Linda Chapman, Ladies Bible Study continues on Thursday mornings at 9 for Bible Study, Prayer and Fellowship.

Questions? donna@wrightsvilleumc.org

New Thursday Morning Women's Study!

Please join Donna Hickman for a brand new Women's Study on Thursday mornings at 10:00 beginning on January 6.

Available on-site and online.



"Whether it's because of distractions, busyness, or a case of the blahs, we can experience a drift toward indifference in our spiritual lives. We have a need for an ongoing spiritual awakening if we want to become more aware of God's presence and activity in our everyday lives...

This study offers a fresh encounter with God to prepare you to:

- Face daily battles
- Be able to discern the messages of our culture
- Be ready to share God's love with others always"

Registration is underway now: <u>Donna@wrightsvilleumc.org</u>

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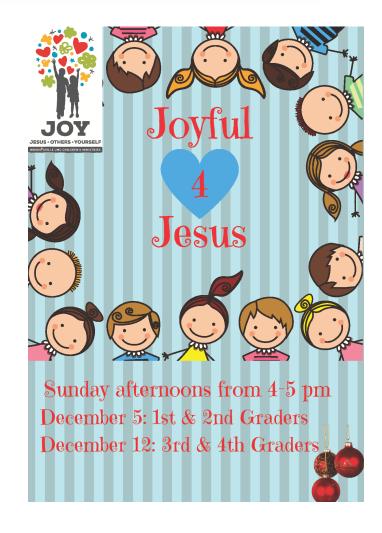
Christmas Events, Worship & Sunday School

- We invite all families to come join us for Journey to the Manger on Sunday, December 19, from 6-8 pm
- We hope you will join us for our Christmas Eve services at 11 & 2 on December 24 that will be led by our Children of JOY!
- Join us Sunday mornings!
 Wiggle Worship for preschoolers: 8:15-9:15
 Sunday School for ages 3-5th Grade from 10:30-11:30

Sending you all love and peace this Christmas season!







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4:12 News!



Confirmation Classes: Wednesdays, December 1st & 15th 5:30-7 pm

Sunday Evenings:

December 5: 4:12 Youth, 5:30-7 pm

December 12: 4:12 Christmas Party

5:30 - 7 pm

We invite all families to come join us for Journey to the Manger on Sunday, December 19, from 6-8 pm

Sending you all peace and love this Christmas season!

We will see you all back for Youth Group on January 9th!



nappy birthday to you

December 2021 Birthdays

- 1. Jack Coleman, Maggie Landreth, Jesse Smith, Camdyn Emerson, Breck Bisplighoff, Jim Morrissey
- 2. Geneva Yohe, Angela Carson, Lisa Menius, David Rizzo, Julia Campbell, Jack Ford, Alison Pollard, Parker Midgett, Susan Russell, Cathy Griffin
- 3. Charlotte Konrady, Amy Bullock, Davon Peebles, Hannah Halac, Muriel Shelton, Jan Turpin
- 4. Jack Thomas, Kellan Eckles, Tate Harris, Clay Emerson, Mary Deal, Anderson Ray, Jack Thomas
- 5. Betsy Summey, Jeannie DeGaetano, Yvonne Hughes, Eva Pope, Bailey Easley, Carol Mansbery, Jerry Gaskins, Mary Jo Harris
- 6. Cathy Bagley, Rivers Wansley, Rick Blacher, Chloe Stowe, Ellie Marks, Carol Knight
- 7. Peyton Neatherly, Jennifer Nease
- 8. Tanya Aldridge, Adam Keen, Aimee Almond, Babs Sutton
- 9. Steve Lewis, Noah Pierson, Robin Freeman, Karin Walker, Cassandra Hughes, Michael Stone, Kristin Freeman, Caroline Borum, Gibby Little, Truett DeGeare
- 10. Marian Sidbury, Holly Boyer, Adam Shay, Annemarie Petroff, Johanna Currin, Jim Holt
- 11. Marty Hernandez, Gina Wilkins, June Knott, Whitney Belisle, Zach Batey, Cooper Pierce, Bennett Tayloe, Stacie Hidek, Rod Maguire
- 12. Ron Guard, Leith Hellens, Jennifer Dorton, Ellis Newman, Emery Nichols
- 13. Linda Gibson, Matt Hunter, Angie Jackson, Hunter Rahe, Donna Collier, Kathleen Barber, Ben Schosek
- 14. Elizabeth Williams, Donna Pinckney, Bryce Morrison, Lauren Phillips, Smith Cooke, Mary Ryan Campbell, Ella Senter, Mavis Norvell, Marty Foerster, Glenn Schroeder
- 15. Mason Barnes
- 16. Lara Cottle, Jean Rich, Jordan Fife
- 17. Brooke Graham, Dalton Cole, Reece Cole, Cayden Tarbert
- 18. Barbara Guard, Connie Rogers, Kathryn Schosek, Avery Prescott
- 19. Frank Crandall, Carol Powers, Jimmy Summey, Kylie Jenkins, Thomas Braza, Abby Long, Elliott Wells, Tim Howard
- 20. Eddie Collins, Harrison Spicuzza, Scarlet Campbell
- 21. Andy Eliot, Colton Daniels
- 22. Nancy Madison, Norwood Smith, Walter Blackwell, Andre Preziosi
- 23. Pat Hutchins, Ashley DeGroote, Ames Yorba, Patton Hutchins
- 24. Betsey Norris, Drew Kerekes, Eddy White, Claire Witmer, Katie Witmer, Beau Beam, Jim Collier, Doug Peacock, Elle Fitzpatrick, Parker Smith
- 25. Harry Johnson, Carl Hudson, Tigger Clarkson, Kathy Saieed
- 26. Dell Hocutt, Perry Newman, Will Sullivan, Kea Stroud
- 27. Mary Alice Howard, Amy Witmer, Brandon Farrell, William Bumgardner, June Guggenheimer
- 28. Candace Blanke, Thomas Cofer, Bill Buchanan, Tanner Hamilton, Libby Schosek, Kelly Ridenhour
- 29. Sharon Chadwick, J.D. Swart, Erin Dills
- 30. David Bryant, Becca Edwards, Catherine Murphey, Brice Godwin
- 31. Jack Kilbourne, Nicole Roche, Lori Millard, Campbell Carter, Cooper Perry, Lily Bobo, Thomas Carter



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PRAYER LIST DECEMBER 2021

"Pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."

Carter Poelling Lorraine Westermark

Peggy Smith Kelli McPhail
Jim Farrior Autum Hall
John Solano Nancy Cates
Katie Simmons Walker Patty Westbrook
Jim Hardee Judith Cariker

Amy Waller Evans Brittney & Anthony Surratt

Marie Hardy
Carl Rogers
Anna Stinson
Bobby McKeithan
Mark McConahey
Betty Jackson

Greer Moore Cindy Jackson Shoaf

Greg Clemens Lenny Borowy
Keith Eller Gary Chadwick
Nancy Wimbish Deb Shulse

Fran Hirt
Anne Leister
Kay Wheatley
Betsy Balas
Patsy Emmart
Kathy Reed
Bill Merriman
Samantha Furniss
Syndey Healey

A requested prayer of thanks from many who have benefited from your prayers.

Condolences to the families of:

Jon Worden, Walter Frueh, Robert Holding, Jim Wimbish (Wanda Peacock's father), Gary Brown (Len Jenkins' brother-in-law), Isabelle Jewell (Kelly Jewell's mother), Marjorie Fields, Scotty Ledbetter, Sandy Malfa

We encourage you to lift up the names of people in our church, your family, or friends you know personally so that the church might pray for them.

If you would like to add a person's name to the prayer list please contact Mikki Perry at 910-256-4471.

December 2021

Sat	4	11 9 am Cookie Walk	18 10 am - 12 pm: Willowdale Urban Farm	Merry Christmas!	
Fri	3	10	17	24 11 am Children's Service 2 pm Children's Service 3:30 pm Candlelight Service 5 pm Candlelight Service 7:30 pm Candlelight Service	31 Church offices closed
Thu	2 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Ladies Bible Study	9 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Ladies Bible Study	16 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Ladies Bible Study	53 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Ladies Bible Study	30 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Ladies Bible Study
Wed	1 10 am Advent Study 5:30 pm Confirmation	8 10 am Advent Study	15 10 am Advent Study 5:30 pm Confirmation	22 10 am Advent Study	29
Tue		7	14 10 am Ruth Circle	21 4-6 pm Pray with the Pastors Blue Christmas Online Service Available	28
Mon	Children and Youth Sunday School: 10:30-11:30 am. Wiggle Worship: 8:15 am Worship Service Nursery provided during both worship services. High School Sunday School meets from 9:30-10:30 am.	9	13	20	27 Church offices closed
Sun	Worship in the Sanctuary every Sunday at 8:15 am & 10:30 am Adult Sunday School at 9:30 am	5 4 pm Joyful 4 Jesus: 1st & 2nd Graders 4:30 pm Faithful 5th Christmas Party 5:30 pm 4:12 Youth	12 4 pm Joyful 4 Jesus: 3rd & 4th Graders 5:30 pm 4:12 Youth Christmas Party	6-8 pm Journey to The Manger	26 10 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary (No Sunday school)



4 Live Oak Drive / PO Box 748 Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480

Return Service Requested

it happens here.)

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