

Clergy Assist
Director of Music/Organist
First Family Singers Director
First Family Singers Accompanist
Acoltyes

Coy Hallmark
Jillian Gardner
Celese Kendrick
Barry Sublett
9AM Katie Hodge, Maggie Kate Layne
11AM Allie Bailey, Nora Braden
9AM Charlie Bishop, Jeff Jones,
Joe Sutton
11AM John Bellis, Gene Bowman,
Jim Green, Lise Wilson
9AM Johnnie Hargrove
11AM Caroline Buncick

Ushers

Lay Liturgist



We're glad you're here!

Please **register your attendance** using the pad on your pew or scan the QR Code on your bulletin cover.

Candlelight Christmas worship for students in grades 6-12 will be this evening at 6 in the Wesley Worship Center.

The **Young Adults & Professionals** group is getting together for a Christmas party at the home of Rachel and Colin Boggs. Merriment will commence at 6:30PM Thursday. Please see our website Events page for details.

December 21 at 4PM in the Sanctuary we'll celebrate the annual ancient storytelling festival of **Boar's Head** which moves us from the darkness of this world into the glorious and redeeming light of Christ. Nursery available beginning at 3:15PM.

Do you find yourself far from the joy of this season? Is your heart weary? Join us for a **Blue Christmas service** in the Chapel at 5:30PM December 21 for worship of the Christ-child.

Join us for these other services and events:

- December 21: Children's Choir, 9AM, Wesley Center
- December 24: Christmas Eve services:
3, 5 and 11PM, Sanctuary;
4PM Wesley Center
- December 28: One combined worship service,
10AM, Sanctuary



Today

Nursery is open for children through age 3. Register children ages 4 (as of September 1) through second grade for Children's Church at the Welcome Desk in the Wesley Center.

The **church library** is open from 9:20 to 10:50AM.

Wednesday

Pastor Bill's Bible Study will not meet. It will resume January 7.


Music ensemble rehearsals: **Heavenly Honkers**, 6-7PM, Room 212; **Advent Children's Choir** rehearsal, 4:30PM, Room 204; **Sanctuary Choir** 7-8:30PM, Room 204.

Thursday

The **church library** is open from 1 to 3PM.

Friday

Men's Breakfast Group, 7:30AM, Room 129. Cost is \$10. For more information or to place your breakfast order, email Dick Titus at rctitus@cowboys.uwyo.edu.



HUNTSVILLE FIRST
United Methodist Church

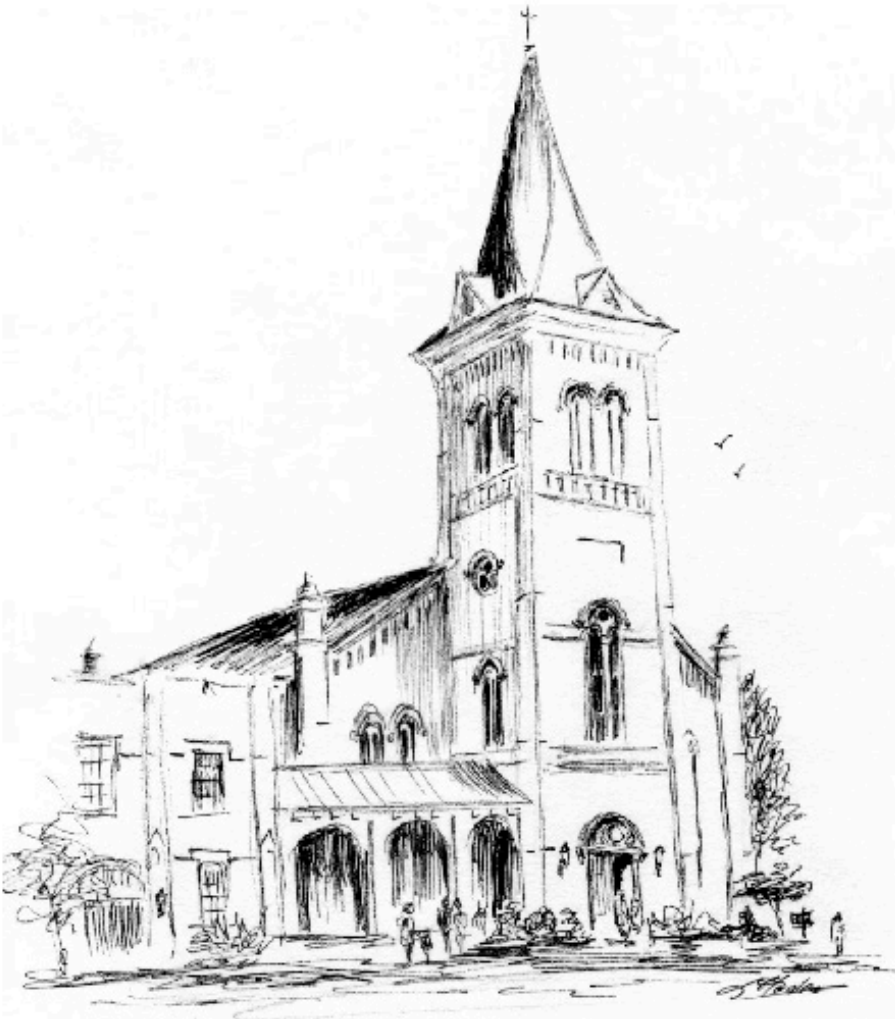
called to influence our community to know the love of Christ

120 Greene Street SE
Huntsville, AL 35801
256-539-5738
huntsvillefirst.org

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday 8:30AM - 4PM
Friday 8:30AM - Noon
Sunday 8AM - Noon

HUNTSVILLE FIRST

United Methodist Church



TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
Third Sunday in Advent
14 DECEMBER 2025 | 9 & 11AM

Using your smartphone camera,
please scan the QR Code at right
to register your attendance.

WIFI password JoHn3:16



Welcome to worship!

You are invited to read/sing the **bold print** appearing throughout the bulletin. Kindly silence all electronic devices.

UMH = United Methodist Hymnal

FWS = The Faith We Sing

*please stand as able



PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | Kenneth Kosche

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: The prophet cries out, “Prepare the way of the Lord!”

**People: We come, weary from the world,
to find our strength in God’s coming.**

Liturgist: The desert shall rejoice and blossom!

The weak hands and feeble knees shall be strengthened!

**People: Rejoice in the Lord always; again we say, rejoice!
God is with us! Let us worship!**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN UMH 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | VENI EMMANUEL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

9AM | David, Katie, Jack and Cleary Beasley

11AM | Joey, Lauren, Emilia, Abigail and Reina Woller

Reader: In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. We remind ourselves that as “the farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains, we also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.” (James 5:7-8).

People: Today, we joyously anticipate the coming of the Lord, when the blind will receive sight, the lame will walk, the sick will be healed, the deaf will hear, the dead will be raised, and the poor will have good news brought to them.

Reader: We light this candle of joy as a sign of the great rejoicing that will be had in heaven above and earth

below on that day when all creation will flourish together in the Light of Christ.

People: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

CONGREGATIONAL SONG RESPONSE

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;

A candle joy in December’s dark night.

While angels sing blessings from heaven’s starry sky,

Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.

*GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CONCERNS

*ADVENT HYMN UMH 206

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (v. 1) | HOUSTON

*THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11 (pew Bible page 10, New Testament)

*ADVENT HYMN UMH 206

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (v. 3) | HOUSTON

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

FIRST FAMILY SINGERS

Go, Tell It on the Mountain | Jack North

*DOXOLOGY UMH 238 Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

11AM CHILDREN’S ADVENT CHOIR

The Friendly Beasts | Robert Davis

Joy to the World | Mark Patterson

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION and BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

Children ages 4 through second grade are invited to come to the back of the sanctuary and go with a “Shepherd” to Children’s Church (Wesley Center, Room 208/210). After the service, parents should pick up their children at the bottom of the Wesley Center main staircase.

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10 (pew Bible page 629, Old Testament)

11AM ANTHEM

SANCTUARY CHOIR

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming | Howard Helvey

Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!

Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as those of old have sung.

It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter,

when half spent was the night.

Isaiah ’twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;

with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.

To show God’s love aright, she bore to us a Savior,

when half spent was the night.

O flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
true man, yet very God, from death now save us,
and share our every load; and share our every load.

SERMON

Rev. Bill Crosby

*INVITATION HYMN UMH 213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates | TRURO

The light of Christ, symbolically carried by the acolytes, leads us into the world to spread the good news.

*BENEDICTION

PEALING OF THE BELLS

POSTLUDE

Postlude on Mendelssohn | David Willcocks

11AM THE CARILLON



*If you placed a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one,
please take it with you after the 11AM service or leave it until
Christmas Eve.*