

Veranita's Varieties

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE

October 5, 2025

- 8:30 Worship: 16
- 8:45 Worship: 68
- 11:00 Worship: 103
- Total in Person: 187

October 12, 2025

- 8:30 Worship: 18
- 8:45 Worship: 67
- 11:00 Worship: 95
- Total in Person: 186

October 19, 2025

- 8:30 Worship: 24
- 8:45 Worship: 58
- 11:00 Worship: 102
- Total in Person: 184

October 26, 2025

- 8:30 Worship: 18
- 8:45 Worship: 61
- 11:00 Worship: 155
- Total in Person: 236

**Average for October 2025
Worship Services : 198.25**

Thanksgiving 2022



Thanksgiving 2022

When pictures come up on my phone, I am amazed at how much time has passed! We recently celebrated my 2nd cousin, Nicola, and her retirement after serving 20 years in the Navy. Her husband, David, retired several years ago and now works as a commercial airline pilot. Nicky retires to work at home as a full-time Mom. Their kids, pictured above, at Thanksgiving at our house in 2022 and below, in Norfolk, VA, at the Aviation Museum, are now 8, 6 and 3 years old. It seems they have grown so quickly!

Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas can be a blur, a flurry, a downpour of action. October through December blend into *Hallow-Thank-Mas*, often with giving thanks getting smushed between costume selection and present-wrapping. How easy it is to get caught up in busy-ness and forget to give thanks with generous hearts! Of course, we can give thanks every day, not just around the Thanksgiving Table.



Nicky's Retirement October 2025

Perhaps, we can practice giving thanks over small things, whether a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a regular day at work or a usual phone call from a Beloved. According to Meister Eckhart, a German Catholic priest and mystic from the 1300's, *"If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough."*

Grace & Peace, Veranita

Thanksgiving 2023



Thanksgiving 2024



STAFF SCHEDULE UPDATES

Rev. Veranita Alvord:
Awakening Soul Conference:
November 13 - 16**Brittany Ingold (Operations)**
Vacation:
November 1 - 5**Veterans Day Office Hours:**
Church Closed on November 11**Thanksgiving Office Hours:**
Church Closed November 26 - 28

NOVEMBER

EVENTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL MEETUP - GLOW PARTY

Meet at Good Shepherd from 6:30-8pm for a glow party. We will play games and have a glow stick dance party. Dinner will be provided. We hope to see you there!

MARVELOUS MONDAYS

Once a month Monday meetings:
9:45AM - Prayer Shawl Makers
 in the Chapel - bring your yarn & hop in!
11:00AM - Creation Care
 in the Asbury Classroom upstairs. Come chat about how to create a better world!
11:00AM - The Singing Saints
 in the Choir Room. Enjoy hymns, Seasonal Songs, Fellowship, and a Dutch treat lunch at noon at Sunrise/Pescado's!

All are Welcome!

UMC CHARGE CONFERENCE

Tuesday, November 11th starting at 6:00PM at Skyland UMC.
 Meet at the Caldwell Street Parking Lot at 4:45 to catch the Church Van for this Annual Church Business Meeting!

COLLEGE WALK COMMUNION

This month's College Walk Communion will be held on **Thursday, November 13th at 1:00PM.** Rev. Veranita Alvord will be serving Communion. She looks forward to worshipping with you!

FLAME & BOARD OF STEWARDS MEETING

4:00PM FLAME meets @ DeerLake Community Center. More info on page #5!
6:30PM Board of Stewards monthly meeting in the Fellowship Hall. All are Welcome to attend!

CHOW, THANKSGIVING FEAST!

5:30-7:30PM "Church Happens on Wednesday" Fellowship Meal!
 For more information, check out page #3.

YOUTH DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS

Crosstown & BFUMC youth are invited to help decorate the church for Christmas from 5:00-6:45pm! Join us for an evening of holiday cheer, dinner will be provided. If you have any questions about this, please contact Fred Cantler.

THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

The Church office **CLOSED:**
 November 26 - November 28.
 Enjoys Thanksgiving All!

ADVENT ONE & WREATH MAKING

Sunday, November 30th ADVENT begins!
 We look forward to the season of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love!

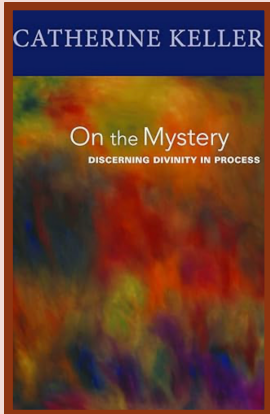
5:00PM Annual Advent Wreath Workshop! A wonderful way to keep the season of Advent and anticipation of Jesus' birth in your home! We can't wait to see you here! More info on Page #5!

RECURRING GROUP MEETINGS AT BFUMC

Prayer Group: Weekly, Tuesdays at 10:30AM
Centering Prayer: Weekly, Thursdays at 10:00AM
Jacob Conversations: Weekly, Thursdays at 8:00AM
Grief Group: Thursday, November 6th & 20th at 2:00PM
Dream Group: Monday Nov. 17th at 6:30PM on ZOOM
Creation Care Meeting: Monday, Nov. 10th at 11AM
Prayer Shawl Meeting: Monday, Nov. 10th at 9:45AM
Singing Saints: Monday, Nov. 10th at 11:00AM



Upcoming Events & Announcements



NOVEMBER CHURCH READ

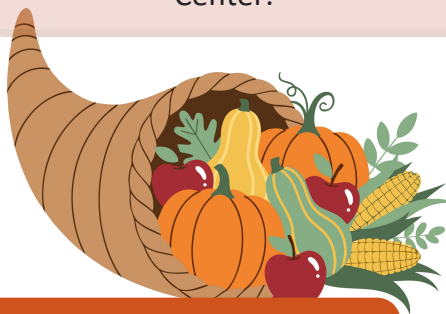
BOOK COST = \$20.00

On the Mystery, Discerning Divinity in Process by Catherine Keller.

Book Discussion:
Sunday, November 30th at 12:30PM

in the Seekers Classroom.

SIGN UP & grab a book at the clipboard table in the Welcome Center.



CREATION CARE CORNER

Here are some **tips from the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement** to lessen your impact on our earth during the holidays:

Enjoy your celebrations with a sustainability mindset: reusable dinnerware, cloth napkins, less meat/more plant-based foods, plan to use leftovers, set up your kitchen to maximize composting and minimize trashing. Use washable rags for cleanup instead of paper towels. *Earth will be thankful you did.* Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday are part of our culture of **relentless advertising and overconsumption.**

Be thoughtful about **what** you buy and **from whom.** *Discern wants versus needs.* Look for environmentally focused companies with ethical practices. Consider packaging, durability, and sustainability in the products you choose.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Tuesday, November 25 at 6:30PM we gather for thanks & praise at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation for a **Community Worship Service.**

This year, our own Veranita Alvord will be sharing the message. If you wish to sing in the Community Choir, practices are at UUTC at 4:00PM on **Wednesdays, November 12 & 19**
Location : 24 Varsity Street at South Broad Street

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



Through Tuesday the November 4th, we have received **70 pledge cards totaling \$370,612.** This is a great beginning. Last year our total number of cards received was 109, totaling \$543,000. **Our goal for 2026 is \$600,000.**

(We are 62% of the way there!)

This would allow us to operate with a balanced budget. Last year we had to make meaningful cuts to our operations in order to get a workable budget.

THANKSGIVING FEAST - CHOW!

5:30-7:30 PM Wednesday, November 19th,
Thanksgiving Feast in the Fellowship Hall!

The Church Life team will prepare Turkey, Stuffing and classic sides!

We look forward to breaking bread with our church family. Gratitude is the best part of this season!

Cost for the Meal :

Adult (age 13+): \$10.00

Child (age 6-12): \$6.00

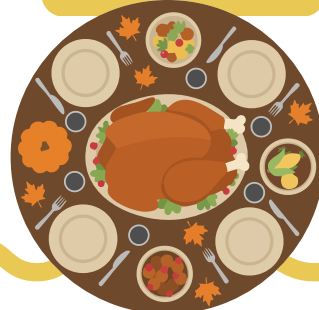
Children 5 and under: no charge

Family (w/children) Maximum: \$26.00

Brevard College Students: FREE



RSVP HERE



CONSUME LESS

CREATE MORE!



MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATES

A note from the Interim Music Director...

We are halfway through our rehearsals for the cantata, believe it or not. The next few rehearsals will be getting a final order, running entire pieces, and making sure that we are performance ready:

11/5: Cantata 6:30-7:30, then straight on to Sunday's music and beyond

11/12: Cantata 6:30-7:30, then straight on to Sunday's music and beyond

11/19: Cantata 6:30-7:30, then straight on to Sunday's music and beyond

11/26: NO REHEARSAL

12/3: Full Run in sanctuary with piano + Sunday's music

12/10: Dress rehearsal (Full run with orchestra) 6:30-8:30PM

12/14: Cantata Performance- 8AM Call, 8:30 Service, 9:30 Breakfast in Fellowship Hall,
10:45 Re-assemble in choir loft, 11AM Service

SINGING SAINTS

The Singing Saints will meet on Monday, November 10th, from 11-12 in the Choir Room. Come enjoy hymns, songs of the season, fellowship, and the option for (Dutch treat) lunch at noon at Sunrise/Pescado's. All are welcome!

CONTACT

For all MUSIC related questions, please email Interim Music Director (Bart Gilleland) at bart@brevardfumc.org

CHILDREN'S CHOIR UPDATES

We are small. but we are mighty!

I'm so pleased with the children who have been attending choir rehearsals faithfully for the past few weeks since we started. We have a small group, but they are so **enthusiastic**. They are attentive and are picking up quickly on music theory, timing and even learning some basic sign language to an old classic (which will be the first song we sing in worship). I'm so proud of them and am enjoying getting to know them. **My thanks to my awesome assistant**, Maggie Montgomery -- and a **great shout-out to her mom**, Sarah Grace, who has been amazing with her support, contacting parents, and checking children in each week!

Blessings. Debra Gaddy

It's not too late to get in on the fun! **Join us every Wednesday from 4:30 - 5:20**

in the children's choir room.

If you have any questions, call or text Debra Gaddy (Children's Choir Director) at (828) 707-0112.

ADVENT QUIET DAY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Come Light the Lights of Advent!

Advent is a time of waiting and anticipation, an opportunity to focus on the arrival of Jesus, God disguised as an infant.

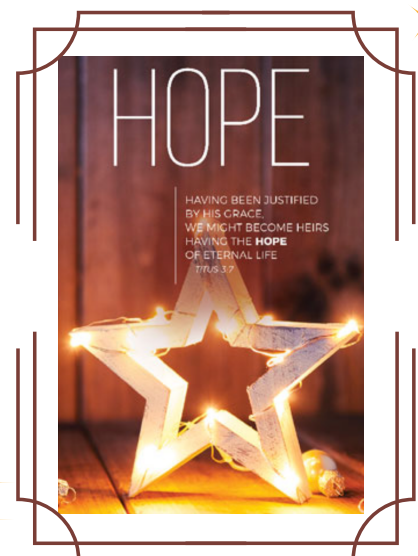
Consider attending an Advent Quiet Day along with the people of Skyland UMC.

Led by Rev. Rob Field, Director of the Center for Missional Wisdom.

Meet at Lutheridge Conference Center in Arden for a half-day of reflection and renewal. Look for sign-ups and carpooling info SOON!!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 9:30AM-12:30PM

Lutheridge Address: 28 Spruce Drive Arden, NC 28704



ENGAGE

"Everyone Needing God, All Giving Encouragement" is made up of young woman, many who are in the season of being single or having children at home or in school. ENGAGE meets every two months. The next gathering is **December 5 at 6:30PM at the home of Pastor Veranita**. The ladies will have an appetizer dinner and exchange Christmas ornaments. Watch for your invitation! *Please RSVP to 828-506-7607 by November 30th.*

To all the BFUMC Ladies!!



FLAME



Fellowship, Laughter and Methodist Energy" is made up of woman who are in the season of nearing retirement or being retired. They meet once a month. The next gathering is **November 18 at 4:00PM at the Deerlake Clubhouse**. Dinner will be served. *Please RSVP to 828-506-7607 by November 14th.*

These groups are open and you can attend at anytime!
Contact Brittany in the Church Office for more information about these Ladies Fellowship Groups.

Advent Wreath Workshop

The Annual Advent Wreath Workshop will be on **Sunday, November 30**. At 5:00PM gather in the Fellowship Hall for pizza, salad and root beer floats!

The Wreath Making Begins at 5:45PM!

If you have supplies left over from last year, please bring them.

SCAN the QR code to register for this event!

The sign-up deadline is November 23 - we need to ensure there are supplies for everyone!



Stock the Sharing House Christmas Toy Store through the Blessing Tree November 9-November 30!

Each Christmas Sharing House sponsors a toy store!

Parents or guardians of newborns to high schoolers who reside in Transylvania County and are in need, qualify to "shop" at the store.

People get to choose up to \$50 of gifts per child along with stocking stuffers.

This gives families the dignity and joy of creating Christmas magic for their children.

The Blessing Tree will be in the Welcome Center **Sunday, November 9**.

The Blessing Tree helps to stock the Sharing House "toy store." Take a tag off the tree, shop for the corresponding item and return it unwrapped to the tree by **Sunday, November 30**.

If you'd rather give money and have someone shop for you, we're here to help! You can drop the funds off with Brittany in the Church Office or talk to Katrina Cantler. You may also use the **Amazon QR code (left)** to have the gift delivered directly to Sharing House. Your generosity is a gift and blessing to many!



2026 CONFIRMATION



Our next Confirmation Class will convene after the new year. Students in 6th-7th grade **AND** anyone older who has not yet been through the Confirmation Class are invited to attend. We will be sending out information letters in Mid-November. If your child is interested in participating and you'd like more information, **please contact Sarah Grace!**

DAY LIGHT SAVINGS



It's the time of year when days get shorter & nights get longer! Here are some tips on how to use light and darkness to your advantage!

Get morning sunlight: Expose yourself to natural light, especially in the morning, to help reset your circadian rhythm and boost your mood.

Avoid blue light before bed: Limit exposure to screens from phones, TVs, and computers before sleep, as the blue light can interfere with melatonin production.

Create a relaxing evening routine: Establish a calming routine 15-30 minutes before bed, such as reading or meditating, to help signal to your brain that it's time to wind down.

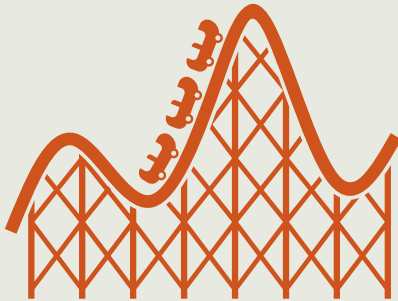
NOVEMBER CROSSTOWN YOUTH DETAILS

6-12TH GRADERS:

If you are able to join us for our Carowinds trip on November 15, please make sure to let us know by scanning the QR code (below)! The cost is \$50 and covers your ticket and meals. Please reach out to Sarah Grace and me for scholarship information.



**CAROWINDS
RSVP CODE**



All are welcome!

On Sunday, **November 9**, CrossTown will meet at St. Philip's from 5-6:45pm. Please note that we are adding a meeting and will also meet at St. Philip's on **November 16**.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS:

We hope you can join us at Good Shepherd on Friday, November 7 for Middle School Meetup.

We will have a **glow party** and games.

We will have breakfast for dinner. We encourage you to bring a flashlight and a friend.



HIGH SCHOOLERS:

Please mark your calendar for our next dinner club meeting on **November 20**.

We will meet at Zaxby's at 6:30pm.

For all Crosstown Youth related questions, reach out to Sarah Grace at sarahgrace@brevardfumc.org



PEACE CONFERENCE

SCAN
TO
REGISTER



The Peace Conference is March 13-15, 2026 at beautiful Lake Junaluska!

Clergy and laity of all ages fellowship, dialogue and learn with renowned peace-builders.

Through 3 days of worship, plenaries, workshops, hands-on shalom experiences and film screenings, come share strategies and hopes of how we, as people of faith, can build bridges of peace across political, theological, and social divides.

Upcoming Events & Announcements



NOVEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

November 9

"7 Grooms for 1 Bride:
What about Resurrection?"
Luke 20:27-38
Rev. Veranita Alovrd, Preaching

November 16

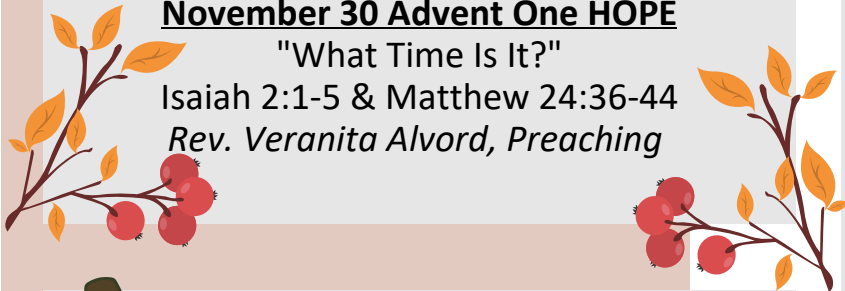
Rev. Dr. Sharad Creasman, Preaching

November 23

Christ the King Sunday
"Grateful Hearts"
Rev. Veranita Alvord, Preaching

November 30 Advent One HOPE

"What Time Is It?"
Isaiah 2:1-5 & Matthew 24:36-44
Rev. Veranita Alvord, Preaching



FUN THANKSGIVING FACTS

U.S. Towns Named Turkey

There are four, and they are in Texas, Arizona, Louisiana and North Carolina.

Estimated Number of Turkeys Prepared

Each year, it is estimated that 46 million turkeys are prepared for the traditional feast.



Religious Holiday

The first recorded religious celebration of Thanksgiving took place two years after the first feast in 1621 and marked the end of a two-month drought.



Football Tradition

The Thanksgiving football game tradition began in 1876 with Princeton and Yale.

November BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 : Millie Hyman | 15 : Eva DeWitte |
| Will Stephenson | Lucas DeWitte |
| 2 : Kerry Purselle | Nancy Patrick-Scharsich |
| Salley Stepp | |
| 3 : Grover Dobbins | 16 : Jerry Ann Dye |
| John Dodson | 18 : Keaton Campbell |
| Scott Heseltine | 19 : Haelyn Hoxit |
| Drew Scott | Jack Williams |
| 4 : Scott Moser | 20 : Cathie Hargreaves |
| Andrew Scott | 21 : Toni Garrett |
| 6 : Samuel Cermak | Carol Hamann |
| Cooper Scruggs | 22 : Marjorie Brockway |
| 7 : Wade Bradley | Faye Coan |
| Rivers Smith | 23 : Kevan Smith |
| 9 : Stephanie Chapman | 24 : Helen Estes |
| Darrell Hand | Ray Gill |
| Sam Owen | Bronwen Starnes |
| 11 : Craig Gilmore | 25 : Rivers McCall |
| 12 : Olivia Ducker | 26 : Geoff Bishop |
| Alice Lewis | Jorg Ronke |
| Eli McCall | Nora Scalf |
| 13 : Justin Coye | 27 : Steven Seelinger |
| Sara Shields | 29 : Katrina Cantler |
| 14 : Barbara Williams | Joseph Fields |
| M. Paul Williams | Jeff Outlaw |
| Nora Winchester | |



INTERFAITH LECTURE Sunday, December 7 @ 3:30PM

Professor Joseph Lam teaches at UNC Chapel Hill and focuses on the Hebrew Bible and its ancient Near Eastern context. He studies creation stories, especially. Join us for this lecture exploring "Jewish Life and History!"



Suzi Estes weaves sleeping mats for homeless people out of plastic bags.
Please drop your clean extra plastic bags off at the church in the box labeled:
"DONATE/RECYCLE CLEAN PLASTIC BAGS" near the elevator lobby.