



Veranita's Varieties

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

November 2, 2025

- 8:30 Worship: 23
- 8:45 Worship: 61
- 11:00 Worship: 118
- Total in Person: 202

November 9, 2025

- 8:30 Worship: 24
- 8:45 Worship: 65
- 11:00 Worship: 99
- Total in Person: 188

November 16, 2025

- 8:30 Worship: 20
- 8:45 Worship: 76
- 11:00 Worship: 93
- Total in Person: 189

November 23, 2025

- 8:30 Worship: 14
- 8:45 Worship: 60
- 11:00 Worship: 95
- Total in Person: 169

November 30, 2025

- 8:30 Worship: 18
- 8:45 Worship: 53
- 11:00 Worship: 111
- Total in Person: 152

Average for November 2025
Worship Services : 180

Back in August (or was it September?), Joe and I planned an **Advent Quiet Day** for this coming Saturday, December 6, 9:30-12:30 at Lutheridge Conference Center in Arden. We *thought* that this Saturday, at the beginning of Advent, would be a helpful grounding point before the proverbial Polar Express train leaves the station, dragging us along with it.

We *thought* that time apart in reflection with **Rev. Rob Field of the Center for Missional Wisdom** would be helpful for the spiritual and devotional lives of our congregants at Skyland UMC and here at Brevard First. We *thought* it would be nice to sponsor this event together. We *thought*, back then, this coming Saturday would help us take a breath and receive the Holy Child minus the hurry and harry of the season of making lists and checking them twice.

Were we wrong in this thinking and planning?

That question has crossed my mind this week. Joe's Mom has had to have surgery for a melanoma on her face, he is with her this week in GA. Olivia is home, working remotely due to the cost of flights after Thanksgiving. I hosted a brunch for community pastors and BFUMC staff at the parsonage. We have the Mary Kathryn Fisher Celebration of Life for which to prepare. My Sister's good friend died. We didn't realize back then, that this Saturday is also the **Christmas Parade at 3:00 and the Firewood Ministry has a float!**

What in the world were we thinking?

Well, back then, before the busy-ness, we *thought* about how important it is to place ourselves, with intention *in the quiet, so that we, like Mary, might ponder in our hearts, minds and bodies, what the Advent of the birth of Jesus means for us.* We were imagining that our priorities need to be in the right order. We were planning to remind our future selves to pause, take a breath and consider the things that God has done, that God is doing, that God will do through Jesus and his people.

No matter how busy and full our lives might be, we must take time to observe the wonder and goodness of God through the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. **He is the reason for the season, after all!** Do you have room for Advent Quiet Day? If not at Lutheridge this Saturday from 9:30-12:30, **please make time to create your own Advent Quiet, either 1 minute or 5 minutes or an hour...your soul needs it!**

*And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!*



*Grace and Peace.
Veranita*



STAFF SCHEDULE UPDATES

The Church Office will be **closed** during the following days as we recognize the **Christmas Holiday:**
Tuesday, December 23rd
through Friday, January 2nd

From December 25th through January 2nd, Rev. Veranita & Rev. Sarah Grace will be on vacation. Please reach out to **Brittany Ingold** for administrative questions and **Sharad Creasman** for pastoral care needs. Brittany and Sharad will **not be physically in the office**, but will get back to you in a timely manner if needed.

December EVENTS

12.2

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 8:30AM

Christmas Brunch at the Parsonage for Preaching Group and BFUMC Staff. Breakfast items will be served.

12.5

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT 12:30PM

Advent Organ Recital, featuring Elizabeth LaJeunesse at BFUMC. More info on page #6

12.6

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Advent Quiet Day from 9:30AM-12:30PM at Lutheridge Conference Center. **At 3:00PM come to the Brevard Christmas Parade**, more info on page #4.

12.7

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

ADVENT TWO, PEACE

Join us at either **8:30, 8:45 or 11:00AM** services! At **3:30PM** Explorations in Jewish Life and History, **featuring Professor Joseph Lam**. Then at **5:30PM Longest Night Service** at UU, a service for those feeling less joyful in the season.

12.12

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 12:30PM

Advent Organ Recital, featuring James Taulbee at BFUMC. More info on page #6

12.14

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

ADVENT THREE, JOY

This Sunday is **Cantata Sunday**, come hear the sounds of Christmas at either **8:45 or 11:00AM**. Between the two services, join us for a **Covered Dish Brunch** beginning at **9:45AM**. More info on page #3

12.18

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

Our Weekday Children's Program **Christmas Program is at 10:30AM** in the Sanctuary, with cookies to follow in the FH afterwards.

FLAME meeting at 2:00PM in the BFUMC FH, more info on page #5

12.19

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 6:00PM

Christmas Party at the Parsonage for **Chancel & Handbell Choir Members**

12.21

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21,

ADVENT FOUR, LOVE

Join us at either 8:30, 8:45 or 11:00AM services! The 8:45AM Service will have a special **"Music of Christmas" Program** in the BFUMC Fellowship Hall (more info page #3). **From 5:00-7:00PM** Join Crosstown for the **Christmas Party at White Squirrel Arcade**

12.24

CHRISTMAS EVE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00-5:45PM Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service

7:00-8:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion

**More info on both services, page #3*

CHRISTMAS DAY!

Christ is born! Hallelujah!

12.28

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 AT 10:00AM

ONE Worship Service at BFUMC, No Sunday School. Come in your Pajamas for a pancake breakfast

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, December 4th & 18th at 2:00PM

Dream Group: Monday Dec. 1st & 15th at 6:30PM on ZOOM

Creation Care Meeting: Monday, Dec. 8th at 11AM

Prayer Shawl Meeting: Monday, Dec. 8th at 9:45AM

Singing Saints: Monday, Dec. 8th at 11:00AM



Upcoming Events & Announcements

ONE-MAN CHRISTMAS CAROL

Brevard College Theatre will present William Leach's "A Christmas Carol," a one-man adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic cautionary holiday story. **The show is directed and performed by our Praise Band Leader, Dan Toot.** The performance is Dec. 5th at 7pm and Dec. 6th at 2:30pm at the Porter Center on the Brevard College Campus. SCAN the QR code below for tickets!



THE NUTCRACKER ACT 1

Carolina Dance Collective is presenting "The Nutcracker" Act I the weekend of **December 13-14, 2025!** Many FUMC youth and children are part of the cast. Please support them! SCAN the QR Code below for tickets!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Our **5:00 Family Friendly Service** is an opportunity for all ages (from 0 - 100+) to hear the Nativity Story in a creative way. Children will be invited to participate in a **hands-on reminder of different parts of the Nativity Story and the entire congregation will experience the awe of Christ's Light with the Candle Creche presentation.** The service will end with the traditional singing of Silent Night with candlelight and glow sticks for little ones. All are welcome!

The **7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service** includes Christmas Carols, Special Music, Communion and ends with traditional Candlelight while "Silent Night" is sung! All Ages are Welcome to Attend!

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERINGS GO DIRECTLY TO COVE SHELTER!

See more information on page #7

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS

The church family is invited to join us in the **8:45am Service on December 21** as we celebrate Christmas through music, video, the spoken word and the joy of the Children's Choir! We will enjoy light breakfast foods around the tables throughout the service, **so come hungry!** (8:45 service attendees are reminded we are hosting this event - so please bring breakfast goodies to share.)

Perhaps your SS Class will decide to come as a group to enjoy this time of celebration? Invite friends and family to come and support this joyous celebration! It is yet another opportunity for the church family to come together! **We look forward to seeing YOU December 21!**

ART & SPIRITUAL DIRECTION WORKSHOP

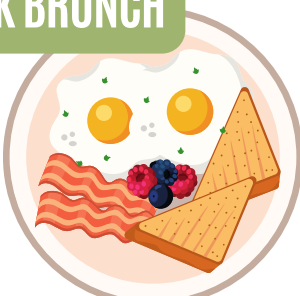
During Advent, consider coming to an Art and Spiritual Direction Workshop on **Friday, December 19 from 9a-NOON.** We will meet in the Journey Class downstairs. We will be using a Photo Collage-Visio Divina (Spiritual Seeing) method of reflection on an Advent text.

Supplies will be provided for a \$10 fee. Facilitated by Veranita. Please pre-register by emailing veranita@brevardfumc.org.

CANTATA POTLUCK BRUNCH

REMINDER :

There will be **ONLY** two Worship Services and **NO Sunday School** on Cantata Sunday, 12/14/25.



Sunday, December 14th Christmas Cantata and Potluck Brunch!

The Chancel Choir, accompanied by orchestra, perform "Appalachian Winter" Christmas Cantata at 8:45AM and 11:00AM Services.

At 9:45AM, a **Brunch Potluck** is served in the Fellowship Hall!

The Church Life Team will be providing drinks & set up.

If you are attending, please bring **one** of the following options :
Breakfast Protein, Fruit, Pastries or Breakfast Bread



CREATION CARE CORNER



Gift giving started with God,
who gave God's only Son...
Wise persons today give their gifts
to honor that first Gift.



Give Light. Christmas lights are symbols of the Light that came into the world with the birth of Christ. Enjoy them and use LEDs to take care of the world that Jesus lit up with his presence. LED lights use 1/10 as much energy as conventional holiday lights. Turn them on only when people are around to appreciate them.

Give the Past for the Future. Ask parents and grandparents to give you an ornament that has been a part of your growing-up Christmas traditions. Pass along its story to your children.

Give an Awesome Experience. Perhaps a trip to a nature preserve or state or national park, a local museum, a concert, or a sporting event? **Give an adventure**—an experience that can be shared, talked about, and remembered.

Give the Gift of Giving. Help a young person experience philanthropy directly. Give the funds and then together explore local non-profits related to environmental care that are likely to connect with your young person. Talk about why you give and encourage them to remember God's gift of love for people and our planet.

Give an Art Project. Fill a box with items like broken or mismatched jewelry, construction paper, colorful leaves, smooth rocks, pinecones, feathers, paints and brushes, an empty frame, glue, scissors—whatever might spark creativity. Give the gift to a specific person or to the family as a fun Christmas Day project.

FIREWOOD MINISTRY AT THE CHRISTMAS PARADE

We hope you are planning on going to Brevard's Annual Christmas Parade at 3:00 in the afternoon on Saturday, December 6th at 175 E. Main St.

Be sure to look for the Penguins, especially **The Penguin that Hated the Cold**. Believe it or not, that is a children's book by Barbara Brenner! Pablo, the cold penguin, said "*Cold weather is for the birds.*" We agree, and so is a Cold Home!

WNC FireWood Ministry is sponsoring the float! We want more people in the community to learn about this vital ministry. The float signs were paid for by a grant from Thrivent, and will be reusable for other Ministry activities. The Ministry processes donated hardwood logs into firewood, then provides Transylvania County neighbors in need with **FREE home heating firewood**. We will be handing out to adults, pieces of firewood with a booklet about the ministry, and, of course, candy for the kids!

The ministry is growing! The Distribution Center off of the FUMC Caldwell Parking lot is **OPEN** so people can pick up firewood easily. We have applied for grants to help pay for a commercial wood splitter, chain saw and wood conveyors to enable us to make more firewood available to those in need.



SCAN FOR MORE
INFO ABOUT THE PARADE!

We can always use more prayers, volunteers, and donations.
Contact us at info@wncfirewood.org or visit the ministry website at ministry.wncfirewood.org.

Come to the parade and get a piece of kindling to find out more info about the Firewood Ministry!

Brenda and Jim Whitcomb



GROW MINISTRY UPDATES

ADVENT WREATHS 2025

Thank you to all who came to share a meal and make an advent wreath on Sunday November 30th.

They get prettier every year! Please remember to keep your wreath and supplies after Advent season is over.

You are welcome to bring them back to the church office where they will be stored until next year.

ENGAGE= Everyone Needing God, All Giving Encouragement

Engage members will have a Christmas party at the Parsonage on December 5 starting at 6:30pm. Members are asked to bring a wrapped Christmas ornament for a gift exchange.

FLAME = Fellowship, Laughter And Methodist Energy

FLAME members will meet December 18 in the Church Fellowship Hall at 2:00pm. In January, FLAME meets on the 15th in the Church Fellowship Hall. Hostesses are needed for January! Please call, text or email Katrina Cantler if you can help.



SHARING HOUSE BLESSING TREE

Your continued kind and thoughtful generosity has helped ensure that over 1,000 children in Transylvania Co will know the joy of Christmas!

Thank you!



BLESSING BOX UPDATE

Winter weather with temperatures going well below freezing has impacted what items we can stock in the Blessing Box. Foods and personal care items subject to damage from freezing, thawing and refreezing aren't being stocked in the Box for now. This includes canned items, bottled items and anything liquid or semi-liquid. Suggested donations for the Blessing Box we'll gladly continue to accept include items on the following list:

****As always, we will gladly accept items that are not expired or within one month of their "Best By" date.****

- Individual packaged dry food products that require reconstitution with water, such as single serve packages/cups of Ramen noodles or dried soup packages.
- Individual packaged snack items, chips, microwave popcorn.
- Snack bars, cheese or peanut butter crackers, individual packages of cookies.
- Coffee, ground or instant (not pods), individual packets of hot chocolate, tea, cider, fruit drink mixes.
- Individual packets of oatmeal or dry cereals.
- Individual packets of tuna, chicken, or other meats.
- Personal care items such as tooth paste and brushes, soaps, small packages of disposable diapers
- Individually packaged toilet paper and facial tissues, small powdered laundry detergents.
- Children's, young reader and adult reader books. Coloring books, small packages of crayons.



Please note, food items that require multiple additional ingredients such as boxed mac & cheese, cake mixes are not being taken by Blessing Box users, possibly because they may not have access to the other required ingredients to prepare those products available to them.

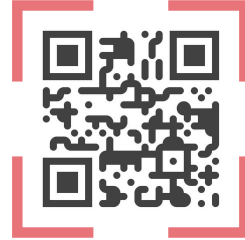
Your donations are gladly accepted! Please continue to place your donations only in the plastic bin near the elevator in the Welcome Center. We ask that you not restock the Blessing Box yourself, as our Team will restock it three times a week. This allows us to monitor what items are being utilized and ensures items are not expired or past their date.

Thank you for your consideration and ongoing support, as we work to serve our neighbors in the community, who for whatever reason, might have a need or otherwise benefit from what is provided in the Blessing Box.

The Blessing Box Team

CROSTOWN YOUTH UPDATES

The **Winter Lights Trip** is rescheduled for **January 4 from 4:00-8:00PM!**
This is such a **BUSY** time of year so we are rescheduling Winter Lights for
Sunday, January 4 and inviting both **Middle School and High School!**
This will be our regular Crosstown meeting to **kick-off the New Year!**
All are welcome! Please RSVP using the QR code (right)!



Save the Date

SparkDwell Registration opens January 1st!

Dates are June 10-14, 2025

High Schoolers!

Please consider joining us for a unique opportunity to learn and grow alongside Brevard College Students. We will be participating in a **Civil Rights Pilgrimage Trip to Montgomery, Alabama in February.** Limited to 5 High School participants.
A registration application will be sent to all High School youth in the next few weeks!



December Crosstown Youth Highlights:

- **12/7 NO Crosstown Youth**
- **12/14 Crosstown Youth Meet 5:00-6:45pm**
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
- **12/21 Crosstown Youth Christmas Party 5:00-7:00pm**
White Squirrel Arcade! **Invitations coming soon!**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATES

There will be no Sunday School on December 14! We hope your family will join us for the Cantata Brunch in between services. Sarah Grace is planning a special children's activity and craft during the brunch in the Fellowship Hall! All are welcome!

Family Christmas Eve Service - Readers needed! If your family is planning to attend the 5:00pm service on Christmas Eve and your child would like to help tell the Nativity story as a reader, please email or text Sarah Grace! **CONTACT** : sarahgrace@brevardfumc.org or 704-962-8975



MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATES



Advent Organ Recital Series

As we enter these sacred weeks, the Beulah McMinn Zachary Memorial Organ Foundation is delighted to invite you to the **tenth annual Advent Organ Recital Series**, featuring two gifted performers whose artistry will bring the sounds of the season to life. **SCAN the QR Code for more information and check out the performance schedule below :**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5
12:30 P.M.
AT BREVARD FUMC
Elizabeth LaJeunesse, organist

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12
12:30 P.M.
AT BREVARD FUMC
James Taulbee, organist



The 2025 Christmas Cantata

You are invited to attend this year's **Christmas Cantata, "Appalachian Winter"** by Joseph M. Martin, with full Chancel Choir and Orchestra on Sunday, December 14 at either 8:45AM or 11:00AM in the Sanctuary. Our Chancel Choir, Interim Music Director (Bart Gilleland), Interim Organist (Sarah Lee Myracle) and guest musicians **have been working diligently on this performance for months!** We look forward to celebrating the Holiday through music together!
See page #3 for more information!



SERVE MINISTRY UPDATES

Thanks to this congregation's generosity, the SERVE Team was able to distribute an **additional \$5,000 in 2025 to local agencies and outreach programs through our monthly Mission Moments in worship.** Your support made this possible, and we are deeply grateful. We also **provided three "Bed in a Bag" kits to Pisgah Forest Elementary**, scholarship assistance for childcare to a local family, as well as regularly stocking the Blessing Box on our church campus with your generous donations.

We will share one more special offering on Christmas Eve to benefit the Cove Shelter. **Cove Shelter is a faith-based emergency facility seeking to treat others as Jesus Christ would.** Cove serves people without shelter Nov. 1st – March 31st. During "Code Purple" periods, Cove Shelter provides overnight accommodations for 20 guests, a hot meal a place to shower, clothes closet and laundry facilities. **PLEASE BE GENEROUS!**

Upcoming Opportunities to SERVE:

- Would you like to **help prepare and staff a hot chocolate station** at a Christmas party for foster, adoptive, and kinship families on **Dec. 13 from 10-12 PM at Big Air Trampoline Park in Asheville?** Please contact Jamie Gilmore at gilmore.jlr@gmail.com for more information or to sign up.
- Volunteers needed for new Saturday lunch service at Bread of Life. **Would you like to volunteer as part of a monthly team from FUMC that helps serve lunch at Bread of Life on Saturdays from 10-1 PM?** No cooking involved! Just extra hands to package and serve lunches! Please contact Jamie Gilmore at gilmore.jlr@gmail.com if you would like to sign up for this new ministry opportunity.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JANUARY?

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH

Ephiphany and Communion Sunday! We look forward to seeing you at either 8:30, 8:45 or 11:00AM. Rev. Veranita Alvord will be preaching & starting a "Star of Wonder" sermon series! At 4:00PM, Crosstown Youth heads to Winter Lights, more info on page #6.

STAFF RETREAT, JANUARY 5TH THROUGH JANUARY 7TH

More information on page #8

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH

Rev. Veranita Alvord will be visiting our friends at College Walk for Communion at 1:00PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13TH

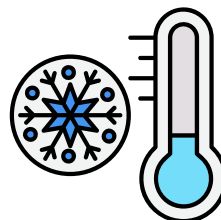
The Board of Stewards will be meeting at 6:30pm at the Church for their first meeting of 2026. All are welcome to come attend and put forth input to the important conversations occurring!

MONDAY, JANUARY 19TH

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Office Closed

LOOKING AHEAD TO WINTER WEATHER :

The Brevard First Staff and Board encourages all congregation members to stay indoors and stay safe during winter weather. Snowfall and other winter precipitation poses a threat to safety and travel. **Please do not come to the Church when these hazards are at hand.** Updates regarding cancellations will be posted on our website, Facebook, Instagram and through phone calls and texts.



Upcoming Events & Announcements

DECEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

December 7, Advent Two: PEACE
"Heaven Comes Near - Heaven's Light"
 Rev. Veranita Alovrd, Preaching

December 14, Advent Three: HOPE
Cantata Sunday (8:45 & 11AM Services)
"The Blind See the Light"
 Rev. Veranita Alovrd, Preaching

December 21, Advent Four: LOVE
"Let Your Face Shine"
 Rev. Veranita Alvord, Preaching

December 24, Christmas Eve
5PM Family Friendly Service
Candle Creche and Carols
7PM Candlelight & Communion Service
 Rev. Veranita Alvord, Preaching

December 28, One Service at 10AM
Pancakes & Pajama Sunday
 Rev. Dr. Sharad Creasman, Preaching

INTERESTING CHRISTMAS FACTS

The first Christmas tree decorations were edible—people used apples, nuts and sweets.

Candy canes were invented to keep kids quiet during church services.

The world's first artificial Christmas trees were made in Germany using dyed goose feathers.

The largest gingerbread house ever built covered over 2,500 square feet in Texas.

The world's tallest Christmas tree was 221 feet tall in Seattle, Washington, in 1950.

The US Postal Service receives hundreds of thousands of letters to Santa every year.

In the Netherlands, Germany and other European countries, kids leave shoes out instead of stockings, for St. Nicholas to fill.

December

BIRTHDAYS

2 : Ryan Hyman Allie Williams	18 : Chris Chiles 19 : Maggie Dodson Joe Ownbey Volney Tinsley
3 : Isabella Gibbs Erin Smith	20 : Nancy Loveland 21 : Laura Brookshire Gil Coan Judith Hittel
4 : Kathy Nissley Dan Toot	22 : Colton LaRowe Amanda Lewis
5 : Lily Harris Pam Jamrog Alan Winchester	23 : Meg Ronke 24 : Sadie Cade Olivia Tarpley
6 : Gunnar Bingham Carolyn Smith Natalie Stephenson	25 : Christina Hairston Keenan Smith
7 : James Garrett Morris Davis	27 : Donna Burghardt Robert Rebscher
9 : Miles Bryson Amir Creasman Judy Hargett Leah Johnson Gabriela Purcell Beverly Stewart	28 : Avery Winchester 29 : Wren Bradley Jenny Campbell Heather Comfort Sharon Gallimore Glynda Wilkins
11 : Sarah Lee Myracle 12 : Sam Gilmore 14 : Katie Crawford Stephen Monk Nora Trowbridge Dana Vance	30 : Myrick Allison Margo Toering 31 : Byron Gill Zoe Stallings
15 : Bryan Stroup 16 : Everett Hathaway Phil Steinke	

If you see a mistake on this list, please email Brittany at admin@brevardfumc.org!



2026 STAFF RETREAT

BFUMC Staff will be headed to Weaverville, NC
Monday, January 5th through Wednesday, January 7th.

Staff Retreat is where Veranita, Sarah Grace, Sharad, Dan & Brittany will **regroup and refresh**. They will be looking back on 2025 and planning for the future of 2026. Keep our staff in your prayers as we continue to move forward as a team!

All communications during this time can be sent through email, all staff emails on the church website!

Do you prefer a **PAPER COPY** of the Monthly Newsletter? Let Brittany know at admin@brevardfumc.org! **She will send you one through the mail monthly.**