



# NEWSLetter

December 2025

**Moncks Corner United Methodist Church**

*Proclaiming that Jesus Christ is Lord to our community and to the world through worship, mission, discipleship, and service to others.*

Dear Beloved Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we enter this holy Season of Advent, my heart is whole with gratitude and anticipation. Advent is our annual invitation to slow down, breathe deeply, and remember that we are people shaped not by fear or hurry, but by hope. It is a season when we wait—not passively, but intentionally—for Christ to be born again in our world, in our homes, and in our hearts.

This year at Moncks Corner United Methodist Church, we are embarking on a new Advent sermon series titled “Journeying to Bethlehem Together.” Each week, we will walk a little closer to the manger, guided by the people, places, and promises that prepare the way for the coming of Christ. Bethlehem is more than a destination on a map—it is the symbol of God’s willingness to meet us in the ordinary and unexpected places of life. It is the reminder that divine hope often begins in humble corners.

As we journey, we will explore what it means to carry hope when the world feels uncertain, to make room for peace during chaos, to cultivate joy that runs deeper than circumstance, and to practice love that reflects the very heart of God. My prayer is that each step we take will draw us closer not only to the Christ Child but also to one another, as a community shaped by grace.

I invite you to worship fully, pray deeply, and open your heart generously throughout this season. Come with expectation. Come with curiosity. Come ready to be transformed. God is doing something beautiful among us, and your presence is a vital part of that story.

May this Advent be for you a time of holy wonder—where the candlelight reminds you that darkness never has the final word, where familiar carols stir hope long forgotten, and where the journey to Bethlehem leads you to the warmth of God’s unfailing love.

I am grateful to be traveling this sacred road with you.

In Christ’s abiding peace,  
Pastor Rebecca

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### **Wednesday Night SUPPER**

December 3rd, 10th, 17th at 5:30pm

### **Church Council & Finance Committee**

No meeting in December

### **Breakfast With SANTA**

December 6th from 9-11am

### **Christmas Parade**

December 6th (After Breakfast!)

### **ANGEL Tree**

December 10th - Wrapped gifts due!

### **FEED Berkeley**

December 16th at noon & 17th at 8:30am

### **Dinner THEATER**

December 17th at 5:30pm

### **Wednesday Night SUPPER**

December 18th at 5pm - Fellowship Hall

### **Christmas PAGEANT**

December 21st during 11am service

### **Christmas EVE Service**

December 24 at 5pm



## **Flowers in the SANCTUARY**

The following upcoming dates are available for those who wish to provide flowers for the altar:

**January 4, 11, 18, 25**

If you would like to provide flowers in honor or memory of a person or event please contact Ann Burnette (843)709-0794 or the church office.

## CHILDREN'S Ministries:

As we enter the final month of the year, December brings a special kind of magic and a time for reflection. It's a month filled with festive celebrations, joy and the warmth of gathering with loved ones. Let's take this opportunity to celebrate and extend love, kindness and generosity to those around us.

### Upcoming Events:

**December 6th - BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** Please join us from 9-11AM for a delicious breakfast, crafts, fellowship and a visit with Santa!

**December 6th - MONCKS CORNER CHRISTMAS PARADE** Our children and youth will have a float in the annual Moncks Corner Christmas Parade. I encourage you to come enjoy the parade and support our children in what will be a fun evening for everyone.

**December 21st - MCUMC CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** During our 11AM service the children will perform the Christmas story.  
*Merry Christmas, - Molly Purvis*

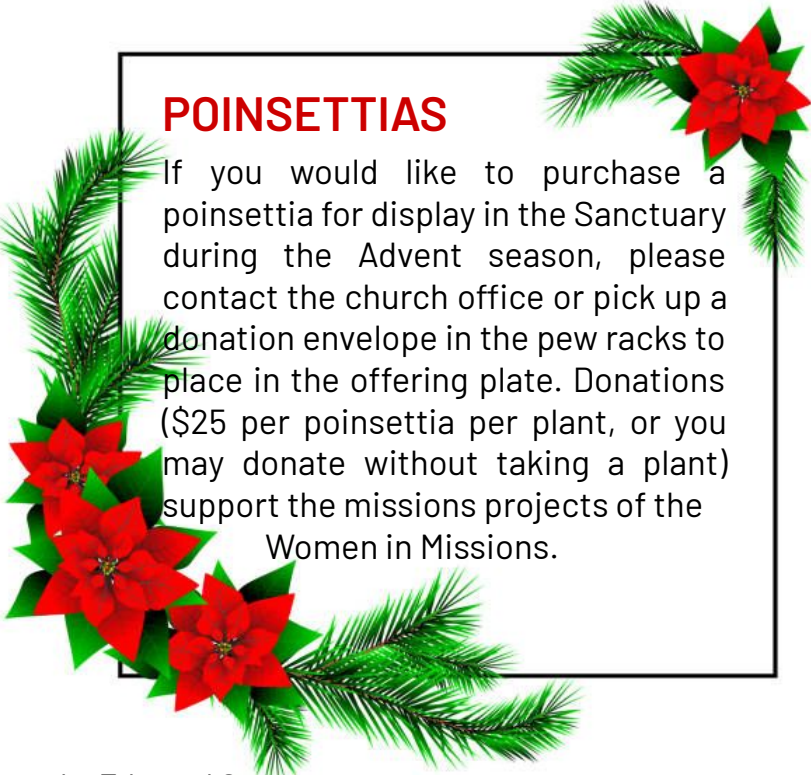


**PRAYER List:** Iris Austin, Barbara Bates, Butch Grunsky, Betty Lou Hanna, Betty Jean Harvey, Frankie Herndon, Leila Matkovich, Danny McLaurin, Penny Metts, Betty Milner, Kay Murray, Michele Rodgers, Carol Sisson, Marvis Solley, Sydney Solley, Charles Staley, Miriam Talley, Maxine & Robert Tanner, Donna Tucker.

## MCUMC Staff:

|                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rev. Rebecca Rowell      | Pastor                |
| VACANT Position          | Youth Director        |
| Sue Hagan & Brenda Ayers | Secretary             |
| Molly Purvis             | Children's Ministries |
| Earle Johnson            | Director of Music     |
| Mary Miller              | Custodian             |
| Lori Glover              | Financial Secretary   |
| Mike Holtsclaw           | Maintenance           |
| Bobby Rozier             | Grounds Maintenance   |
| Jennifer Barnhill        | Nursery               |

## POINSETTIAS



If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for display in the Sanctuary during the Advent season, please contact the church office or pick up a donation envelope in the pew racks to place in the offering plate. Donations (\$25 per poinsettia per plant, or you may donate without taking a plant) support the missions projects of the Women in Missions.

## HYMN of the Month

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*, a Christmas poem written by Edmund Sears.

This is a Christmas Carol that doesn't focus on the holy family, but the song of the angels. Luke 2:14 says the angels said "Peace on the Earth, good will to men." Edmund Hamilton Sears was born in 1810. He earned a degree from Harvard Divinity School and became an ordained Unitarian minister in 1839.

Sears was a pastor of the Unitarian Church in Wayland, Massachusetts. In 1849, he composed a five stanza poem in Common Meter Doubled. The poem first appeared in the Boston Christian Register on December 29, 1849.

He wrote *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* during a time of personal melancholy. He had recently suffered a breakdown and left a larger congregation in Lancaster, Massachusetts to return to his Wayland congregation. The news of the United States war with Mexico and revolution in Europe also preyed heavily on his mind. He struggled with the dark world, "full of sin and strife" and not "hearing the Christian message." The troubled context found in the song was inspired by the turbulent times in which he lived. He is said to have written the hymn at the request of his friend, Rev. William Parsons Lunt. "One account says the carol was first performed by parishioners gathered in Sears' home on Christmas Eve, but it is unknown to what tune as Willis' familiar melody was not written until the following year."

However, the song was taken from a poem Edmund Sears had worked on a dozen years earlier entitled, "Calm of the Listening Ear." At the request of Rev. Lunt, Sears pulled out the old poem and revised his work. "According to Ken Sawyer, Sears' song is remarkable for its focus not on Bethlehem, but on his own time, and on the contemporary issue of war and peace. Written in 1849, it has long been assumed to be Sears' response to the just ended Mexican-American War." This was also the decade leading up to the Civil War.

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* is one Christmas Carol that does not mention Jesus Christ. However, the hymn leaves room for those that do. There is debate over whether Edmund Sears believed in Jesus, because the Unitarian Church does not preach about Jesus Christ. However, it is believed that Rev. Sears stated he was a believer.

Edmund Sears wrote other Nativity poems and songs and several books on religious topics. From 1859-1871 he served as editor for the Boston based Monthly Religious Magazine. This is a Carol that reminds us of the days of old. This song appeared a few years after "A Christmas Carol". He died in 1876. The tune the hymn is most often sung to in the United States is a melody called "Carol". "Carol" was written by Richard Storrs Willis, a student of Felix Mendelssohn. In the United Kingdom, the hymn is usually sung to a tune called "Noel", which was adapted by Arthur Sullivan from an English melody in 1874.

Numerous performers have performed this Christmas Carol over the years including Bing Crosby, Anne Murray, Glen Campbell, The Carpenters and Josh Groban to name a few. *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* is considered to be the first Christmas carol composed in the United States.



## DINNER THEATER

December 17: More Details to come!  
Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased from the church office.

### Her Majesty's Tree

A Live Christmas Show



DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>  
DINNER & SHOW  
5:30PM

MONCKS CORNER  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

*Queen Charlotte*

Tells the true story of the 1<sup>st</sup> decorated Christmas Tree



HISTORIC PERFORMANCE EVENTS

Moncks Corner United Methodist Church  
106 Church St  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

(843) 761-8547

Visit our website: [MoncksCornerUMC.org](http://MoncksCornerUMC.org)

Email: [office@MoncksCornerUMC.org](mailto:office@MoncksCornerUMC.org)

To be added or removed from this mailing,  
please contact the church office.

Moncks Corner United Methodist Church  
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Permit # 14

Moncks Corner, SC 29461

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