



Community Connection

Advent 2020

Pastoral Staff

Senior Pastor: Dr. David Grout

Associate Pastor: Rev. Matt Abel

Children's Pastor: Rev. Anna Merlo

Church Office: 859-371-7961

www.florenceumc.com

Welcome To Florence UMC!

See www.florenceumc.com/live for more info. Please send prayer requests to doris@florenceumc.com or call the church office!



A Note from Pastor David



Dear Church Family,

During Advent which this year begins on Sunday, November 29 and for all the Sundays in Advent we will return to having two services at

Florence UMC! We will have a 9:00 a.m. traditional service and also an 11:00 a.m. contemporary service in the sanctuary to celebrate the season of Advent!

If you attend in person there are a few guidelines to consider: You must check in at the Welcome Center so that we can record your attendance, wear a mask and practice social distancing (at least 6 feet apart) and wait for the ushers to seat you. Families must sit together. If you decide to not attend in person you will also be able to view both services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Livestreamed on Facebook at www.florenceumc.com/LIVE.

Special thanks to Jim Blundy, Val Holland, Mollie Eichenberg and Pastor Matt for getting us to the point of being ready to livestream both services and for stepping up to the extra demands of two services.

Be safe and smart! Please do not come to the in-person service if it is better for your to watch online. Is it the same? Not exactly but we are striving to improve it all the time.

I look forward to worshipping with you during the Advent and Christmas Season!

In Christ's Peace,

David

Christmas at Florence UMC



Christmas Poinsettias

Reservations are now being taken for Christmas poinsettias. The cost is \$10.00. If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of loved ones, **please call the church office 859-371-7961 or sign up online in the announcements section www.florenceumc.com/LIVE** Payment may be placed into the offering plate, with the envelope or check marked "Poinsettia." You are welcome to take your poinsettia home sometime after the Christmas holiday.



Angel Tree Reaches Into Community

The church has come together to adopt 35 children for Christmas, providing five items per child, including outfits, pajamas, shoes, toys and special wish-list needs. Additionally, we will be collecting gift cards for three separate local ministries and sending Christmas Cheer to many of our members.

All WalMart gift cards will be forwarded to Ida Spence Mission, Amazon Gift Cards will bless women and children served by the Welcome House and Kroger Gift cards will be used by Vine & Branches for ministry programming. Gift cards can be dropped in the Offering Box, located in the Sanctuary or placed in the incoming mail slot of our church mailbox near the "A1" door.

We ask that all Adopt-a-Child gifts and gift cards are returned to the church by Sunday, December 6th so they can be delivered by Christmas.

Touching Lives...Making a Difference!

Giving Opportunities

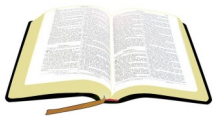
Items Needed

Ida Spence is currently in need of laundry soap, basic hygiene products, etc. For info email Gina Snavelly: Ginac.idaspence@gmail.com

SNL Food Pantry Needs: Fruit cups, peanut butter, canned pasta, toilet paper, Pop Tarts, bottled water.

Be Concerned: (United Ministries) canned goods, cereals

If you have anything you would like to submit for the Winter edition of the Community Connection, please submit it to the desk of Doris Daugherty (doris@florenceumc.com) **no later than** [Dec 18th](#)



In the Word

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are
enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth!
Psalm 80: 1

The Joy You Give by John Whittier

"Somehow, not only for Christmas
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to you glad."

Church Office News

Deadline for Year End Giving

If you would like credit for your year end gifts, please make sure you have everything to Julie in the Finance Office **no later than December 30th**, to make sure it is included in your 2020 giving statement. This includes receipts for purchases you made for the church that you want credited to your giving statement. If you have any questions, please call Julie at the church office: 371-7961. If you need a letter for tax purposes for Mountain Mission donations or Rummage sales, etc. please contact Doris Daugherty.

Memorial Candles

For those of you whose loved ones were remembered during the All Saints service, the memorial candles are ready to be picked up in the office.

2021 Altar Flowers

The 2021 sign up calendar for altar flowers is now available in the office if you'd like to reserve a Sunday for purchasing flowers in honor of or in memory of a loved one. **The cost is \$35.00.** If you have any questions, call Jan Bowling at 859-283-2607.

With Heartfelt Gratitude

We wanted to take a moment to share a **BIG THANK YOU** to our Sunday Servant Team who have been faithfully serving the church every single week for in-person worship since June. Thank you to Stephen Orcutt, Keli Mason, Kenny and Julie H. Overwein who have served as our primary usher team. And thank you to Tracey Rice, Debbie Funk, Margaret Watkins and Pam Grout who have been serving as our Connection Center hostesses.

*Thank
you*