

THE EPISTLE

December 20, 2024

Find Hope Here

Sedgefield United Methodist Church

**2830 Dorchester Place
Charlotte, NC 28209**

www.SedgefieldChurch.org

704-523-0077

Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley, Pastor

Reflections From Pastor Tom



Dear Friends,

This Sunday is the 4th and final Sunday of Advent. We will have two new members join and two children baptized. We will have the special Gift For Christ offering at the close of the service. I will be preaching on Luke 1:39-45 and my title will be "Blessed Is She Who Believes."

This passage is about Mary's visit to Elizabeth. Both are pregnant. Mary will give birth to Jesus and Elizabeth will give birth to John the Baptist. Neither of them were likely candidates for motherhood. Elizabeth was beyond what might be considered child-bearing age and Mary - well, you know why SHE was unlikely to be expecting a child. They have more in common than unexpected pregnancy. They have incredible faith.

We can follow their example in our own lives. We can believe where we have not seen. We can show strength and determination when the odds are against us. We have our own surprises in life. Unexpected things happen. We will talk on Sunday about Mary and Elizabeth, faith and trust. I look forward to seeing you there.

Blessings,
Pastor Tom

This Sunday in Worship

December 22, 2024
10:30 a.m.
Blessed Is She Who Believes

Sunday School meets at 9:30 a.m.
in Room 203 in the Education Bldg.

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers during Advent are
the beautiful Poinsettia Plants.

The Altar Flowers for Sunday, December
29, 2024 are "With thanks to Sedgefield
United Methodist Church from Keystone
Montessori School."

Do you want to honor or remember
someone by donating Altar Flowers?
You can do so by using the Altar Flower
Sign-Up Page in this Epistle (you can now
sign up for flowers in 2025). You can also
call the church office to order flowers at
704-523-0077.

Future Sermons

Dec 29 - Frank Fields Preaching
Jan 5 - Take A Bath
Jan 12 - Power Trip

Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Serve At Rebound-Breakfast**
Sunday, December 22, 2024
7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
907 W. 1st Street
- ▶ **Kids Christmas Party**
Sunday, December 22, 2024
10:40 a.m.
- ▶ **Christmas Eve Service**
Tuesday, December 24, 2024
5:00 p.m.
Sanctuary
- ▶ **Youth Group**
Sunday, January 5, 2025
12 Noon - 1:30 p.m.
St. Andrews UMC
1901 Archdale Drive
Charlotte NC 28210
- ▶ **Bible Study - Romans**
Tuesday, January 7, 2025
11:00 a.m. - 12 Noon
Fellowship Hall
- ▶ **Trustees Meeting**
Wednesday, January 8, 2025
6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
- ▶ **Susanna Wesley Circle**
Thursday, January 9, 2025
6:30 p.m.
Room 204 in the Education Bldg.

The Newsletter will not be published on Friday, December 27, 2024.

The Newsletter will return on Friday, January 3, 2025.

The Church Office will be closed on:

Wednesday December 25, 2024, Thursday, December 26, 2024
and Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Everyone!

Gift for Christ

On the last Sunday before Christmas, December 22nd, we will take up a special offering called the Gift of Christ. The idea is that in this season of shopping and giving, we keep Jesus on our list. You are invited to present your Gift for Christ at the altar rail at the 10:30am Worship Service on December 22nd or at the 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service on Tuesday, December 24th.

You can wrap it like a little present or simply put it in an envelope.

If you are not able to attend on those days, you can bring it to church another Sunday or send it to the Church Office.

The Church Council will decide the area of greatest need and the offering will go to that area.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tom.



If you would like to use a box for your *Gift for Christ* offering, boxes will be available on Sunday December 22 and on Tuesday, December 24.



**This week Sedgefield UMC delivered
81 pounds of food to Nourish Up.
Thank you for your generosity!**

Our Food Collection for 2024

January & February - **120** pounds

March & April - **118** pounds

May - **175** pounds

June & July - **170** pounds

August - **77** pounds

September - **110** pounds

October - **108** pounds

November - **150** pounds

December - **81** pounds

On Communion Sundays we have a tradition of collecting food for Nourish Up our neighborhood food pantry. Items most needed are: canned meat, canned fruit, peanut butter, boxed or canned pasta, canned vegetables, powdered milk and shelf milk. Crackers would be a great addition as well.

The collection of non-perishable food items is an ongoing mission opportunity. Collection baskets are in the lobby each Sunday. Food donations can also be dropped off at the church office from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Monday - Thursday.

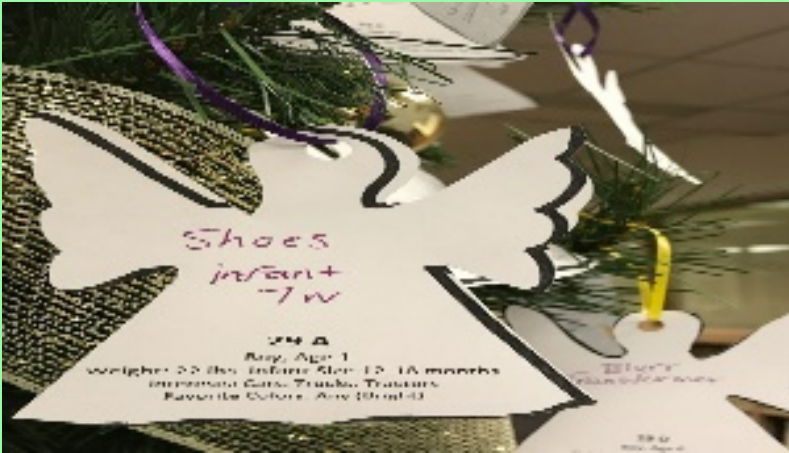
Angel Tree

Thank you to the individuals/families that sponsored ten Angels from our Angel Tree during December. Jim and I delivered two car loads of presents to Sedgefield Middle School this past Tuesday. We put the presents in trash bags to help to keep each family's gifts together for transporting them to their homes. I know that your gifts will help to make Christmas a little brighter for these families.

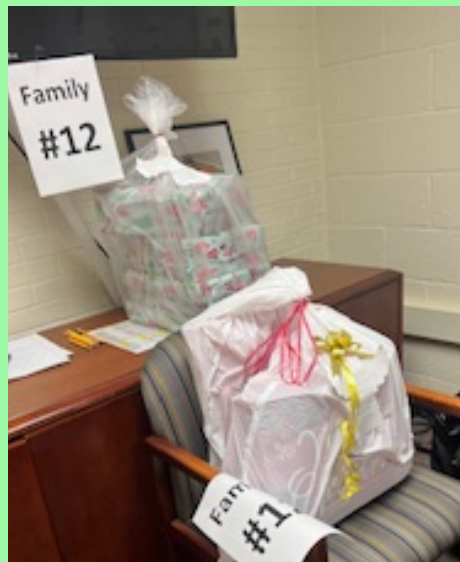
Blessings!

Mary Jo Bridges

Children's Program Director



Sedgefield Church,
Thank you so much for being a Sedgefield Middle School Angel Tree Sponsor. Thank you for supporting our families in need and bringing joy to them over the holiday season. Thank you for all the lovely gifts. Many blessings to your church.
Family, Lone - Sedgefield Middle School





Hello All

Just an update on our Razors for Rebound donation drive that was recently concluded.

In all, 435 Razors were collected and delivered to Rebound.

Thank you to all who helped make this possible.

Merry Christmas!

Regards,
Rob Neill

Pictures From the Youth Group Christmas Party at South Park Church on Sunday, December 22, 2024





Poinsettia Dedications 2024

In Honor Of

**Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hedberg
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Little**

**Jason, Roya,
Shea, Justin, Rowan**

David Gossett

**Jo Anne Horn
Cathy Straits
Brenda and JW Harbinson**

Carol and Tom Little

**Kimberly Little
Kelly Little
Steven Hedberg
Carson Hedberg
Matthew Hedberg**

Given By

Susan Carter-Hope

Myra Arbuckle

Myra Arbuckle

Johnny and Kelli Horn

Carl and Clara Hedberg

Carl and Clara Hedberg



Poinsettia Dedications 2024

In Honor Of

Clara and Carl Hedberg

**Our Children
Our Grandchildren
Our Great Grandchildren**

Tam Thompson

**Virginia Maxey
Douglas Maxey**

Our Children and Grandchildren

Given By

Carol and Tom Little

Larry and Jan Payne

Larry and Jan Payne

Jo Marie Best

Mary Jo and Jim Bridges



Poinsettia Dedications 2024

In Memory Of

Given By

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad N. Carter
Mrs. Martha Carter Mattocks

Susan Carter-Hope

Virginia Fesperman

Myra Arbuckle

Virginia 'GG' Fesperman
Marion 'Nonie' Clarke

The Clarke Family

Randy Walker
DJ and Mildred Walker
Bob and Cecile Kinnett
Larry Walker

Walker Family

Jim Thompson

His Family

Ernest and Lucy Payne

Larry and Jan Payne

Gordon and Thelma Lupo

Larry and Jan Payne

Jim Thompson

Larry and Jan Payne



Poinsettia Dedications 2024

In Memory Of

Given By

**Wanda Washburn
Robert T. Payne**

Tom and Leslie Anne Washburn

Barbara Scoini

Jean Fostvedt

**Betty and Bob Neill
Ann and Jack Sink**

Rob and Cathy Neill

**Alf and Edith Hedberg
Sam and Mamie Morris
William Pendleton**

Carl and Clara Hedberg

Aileen and Tom Little

Carol and Tom Little

Wanda Washburn

Charlotte Guthrie

Jim Thompson

Charlotte Guthrie



We want to thank the members of our church who volunteered at Room in the Inn this past Sunday, December 8th.

Members of Sedgefield Church will again be hosting at Room in the Inn on the 2nd Sundays in January, February and March.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Remaining Dates</u>
Avondale Presbyterian Church 2821 Park Road Charlotte, NC 28209	Sunday, January 12, 2025 Sunday, February, 9, 2025 Sunday, March 9, 2025

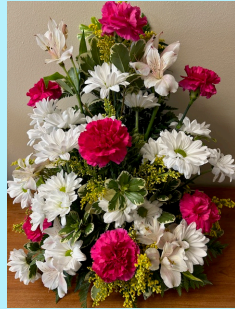
We need Church members and volunteers to host, prepare food and serve on these dates.

We need your help. Please use the Sign-Up Link below to volunteer or to fill a need.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4EACAB23A64-46252965-room>

If you have any questions, please email Ellen Lankford at ewlankford@gmail.com.

Thank you.



Altar Flowers

**Use the Sign-up Genius Link
Below to Order Flowers.**

**[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/
10C0D4DA5AB2AAB9-sedgefield](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA5AB2AAB9-sedgefield)**

- **pick an available date**
- **write a message to let us know who/what you want to memorialize, honor or celebrate**

**Or you can just call the Church Office
at 704-523-0077 to order flowers.**

The Altar Flower donation remains the same at \$40 which can be paid online using the Church Website sedgefieldchurch.org or by sending a check to Sedgefield Church, 2830 Dorchester Place, Charlotte NC 28209.

Please note “for flowers” online or your check.



How To Help With WNCCUMC Hurricane Helene Relief

Step 1: Sedgfield UMC Will Collect Supplies.

Current list of supplies needed:

- Water
- Flood Buckets
- Non-perishable food
- Diapers
- Baby Formula
- Cleaning Supplies

Absolutely NO clothes or food items that need refrigeration.

We will work on a more detailed list over time. This list may change quickly, and we will keep you updated.

Please leave your donations under the sign next to the stairs in the Narthex.

Step 2: We Will Deliver Our Donated Supplies to:

Woodlawn Community Fellowship (our District Collection Hub).

Ann Davis - Collection Hub Coordinator

704-502-9265 (Please text.)

Call Woodlawn Coordinator to schedule a time to drop off supplies.

Donate directly to WNCCUMC

Online: Use this Link: <https://bit.ly/WNCCHurricaneReliefDonations>

Checks: Checks can be made out to WNCC Treasurer and mailed to PO Box 2757, Huntersville, NC 28070 with memo Disaster Response.

You can also donate through Sedgfield UMC by whatever method you currently use (**note for Disaster Relief**). We will forward to WNCCUMC.

Ways to Give Your Offerings to Sedgefield UMC



Online Through

sedgefieldchurch.org

Make a credit card
or electronic
contribution.



Bank Draft

Set up automatic
contributions
through your
bank's Online
Bill Pay.



Church

Mail your check to:

Sedgefield UMC
2830 Dorchester
PI
Charlotte, NC
28209



Online Through

wncumc.org

Make a credit card
or electronic
contribution.



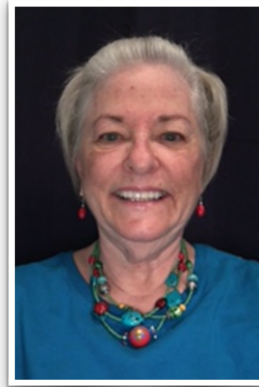
Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley, Pastor
pastortom@sedgefieldchurch.org



Ron Aldridge
Worship Leader



Mary Jo Bridges
Director of
Children's Ministry



Ellen Freitas
Office Manager



Bradley Kirksey
Youth Director



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