

## Get Connected!

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### Upcoming Sermon Series – Beginning Jan. 8, 2023.

For the past few years, many of you may have participated in the “One Word” focus for the coming year. Instead of a list of resolutions, each person is challenged to pray and discern one word for the new year that represents the area in their life where they

**It's Time to Reconnect**  
Worship God, Love One Another, Serve the World

hope God will bring change and renewal. This year, our church family is also lifting up a word collectively together: Relationships. What would happen if we made relationships the central focus of our shared mission and calling in 2023? How might we lean into our relationship with God, with each other, and with others in the world around us? Join us for a new series beginning January 8<sup>th</sup> as we invite all of us into the year of relationships. It's time. It is past time. It's actually right there in our mission – worship God, love one another, serve the world - though we often lose sight of that focus or become distracted with lesser things. Let's reconnect with God, one another, and with others who we have yet to meet – let's do it in the name of Jesus and for the sake of Good News of God's inbreaking kingdom of light and love.

**January 8, 2023**

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

**Worship God**

**January 15, 2023**

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

**Love One Another**

**January 22, 2023**

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

**Serve the World**



*“Worship God, Love One Another, Serve the World”*



**December 24, 2022**

**7:00 pm**

**Traditional Service**

665 W Corbett Avenue  
Swansboro, North Carolina 28584

910 326-4822

[www.SwansboroUMC.org](http://www.SwansboroUMC.org)

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**Beacon Worship Leader: Don Haines**

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## Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Welcome and Centering Prayer

Prelude "O Holy Night" Pastor Regina

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

The people who once lived in darkness have been given a great light!

**Praise be to God who has heard our cries.**

Our souls sing out God's praise!

**God has brought us a light of Hope and Peace.**

Tonight, in this place, the Light of God's Love is given to us!

**And we shall see that light and let it shine through our lives. AMEN.**

\*Hymn UMH #238 "Angels We Have Heard On High"

\*Opening Prayer of Confession

**God of grace and truth, we confess that we have lived far too long in dark places of our own making. Forgive us for the way we have walled ourselves in, shut the world out, and held ourselves captive to our fear and failings. Free us from this place, Lord. Give us the strength to run again with shepherds to the mystery and miracle of your manger tonight. May your Child of healing and Child of hope take the things that hurt us most and redeem us with your light and love. We wait in eager anticipation for the glory of your salvation this night. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel. Amen.**

\*Assurance of Pardon

Rejoice and be glad: Your burdens are lifted; your captivity is ended! The Lord's great light pierces the darkness, breaching the walls of our prisons, revealing the way of true freedom. Light, love, and salvation have come to us this night. Christ is born, and with Christ, we are born anew! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.**

\*The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

As forgiven and reconciled people, let us now show one another signs of reconciliation and love. (*Wave to one another and remain in seats*)

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Christmas Bidding Prayer

Light the Advent Candle FWS #2090, (verse #5)

Lighting of the Christ Candle (Center)

We light this final candle tonight, the Christ Candle, remembering that Christ is the Light that has come into the world and the darkness has not overcome it. May God's light shine in our hearts anew as we become children of the light who walk in the ways that lead to life.

Special Music "Star of Bethlehem" Angie Cooper, Dave Johnson, Kristen Viszneki, Pastor Kevin

\*Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

Sermon "The Manger"

Invitation

Giving of our Tithes, Offerings, and Connection Cards

All undesignated offering gifts tonight will go to our Appalachia Service Project team from Swansboro UMC that travels each summer to various locations in Appalachia where hundreds of families are living in substandard homes that are unhealthy and unsafe for themselves and their children. Seed monies for this mission trip are required to buy materials and help resource our team of youth and adults as they impact lives for Christ and have a transforming immersion experience in the process.

Offertory "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

\*Doxology UMH #94

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*The Great Thanksgiving with Christmas Carols

Breaking of the Bread

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after the Meal

Candle Lighting Liturgy

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

**In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

\*Candle Lighting & Closing Hymn UMH #239 "Silent Night"

\*Dismissal with Blessing

\*Postlude

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**\*\* Please extinguish your candle before leaving your seat.**