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1. Pull out your phone
2. Use the camera on iOS or Google Assistant on Android to scan the box to the left.
3. Click the website pop-up and fill out the connection card.

Only one scan is required per household.

Give Now

Scan the box to the right to be directed to our online giving page.



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



Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

8:30 a.m. Worship

665 W Corbett Avenue
Swansboro, North Carolina 28584
910 326-4822
www.SwansboroUMC.org



A Stephen Minister provides confidential support, encouragement, listening, and prayer to those going through a difficult time. Contact: SUMC office, website, or Laurie NardoKunst: 910-934-5457.

Pastor Laura Thompson: PastorLaura@swansboroumc.org
Pastor Elias Ballew: PastorElias@swansboroumc.org
Music Director: Lindsay Williams: Music@swansboroumc.org
Piano and Organ: Terri Boykin

8:30 Worship

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude "Unto Us a Child is Born"

*Call to Worship

Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."

Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"

Mary said, "How can this be?"

We often say, "But God, I am afraid."

Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

So may we trust the Inviter.

May we heed God's invitation.

May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.

Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

*Hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" UMH #213

Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Courageous God, You invite us to live into our call.

You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding "yes," we often hide our face. We dig our heels in.

We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark courage in us.

Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference.

Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone.

You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope, we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith,

no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news:

We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve.

May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call.

Amen.

*Passing the Peace

Welcome! Please take the next 60 seconds and find someone you did not come to church with and greet them in Jesus' name!

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Reception of New Members

PRAISE AND PROCLAMATION

OT Lesson Isaiah 35:1-10 Anne Scott

SwanKids Worship

All kids are welcome to follow our staff for SwanKids Worship during the sermon.

Anthem "People Look East"

*Gospel Lesson Luke 1:26-39

Sermon "What do you fear? Rev. Laura Thompson
Even in our fear, we are called Forward."

RESPONSE

Congregational Sharing: Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Giving of our Tithes, Offerings, and Connection Cards

Offertory Song "Fear Not, the Lord Is with You"

*Doxology UMH #94

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

SENDING

*Hymn "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" UMH 218

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Postlude "Christ, Be Our Light"

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

** Please stand as you are able.*