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

Christ caring for people through people
STEPHEN MINISTRY

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.

Swansboro
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Worship God, Love One Another, Serve the World"



November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent
8:25 a.m. Worship

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

8:25 Worship

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Terri Boykin

*Call to Worship

In God's house,
we are free to wear our hearts on our sleeves.
In God's house,
we may come exactly as we are.
In God's house,
we dare to hope. We dream new dreams. We cry out.
We call upon God.
In God's house,
all are welcome, and all are heard.
So come and worship.
God is here. God is listening.
Let us worship God with us.

*Hymn "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" UMH 196

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
we have been known—
to bite our tongues,
to work through a broken heart,
to don our favorite rose-colored glasses.
We have been known— to look for the bright side,
to sweep the pain under the rug,
to choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss.
We have been known to keep the hurt in our heart to ourselves.
Forgive us for filtering our honesty.
Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament.
Forgive us for not turning to you first.
Remind us that you are a God who listens
and you are a God who restores.
With open hearts, we pray. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

…So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
There is nothing we could do or say that will keep God's love at bay.
We are seen, forgiven, and invited—into deeper honesty and deeper relationship. Thanks be to God! 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

PRAISE AND PROCLAMATION

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 64:1-9 Megan Fahy

SwanKids Worship

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

Anthem "Christ, Be Our Light!" Choir

*Gospel Lesson Mark 13:24-37

Sermon Rev. Laura Thompson

RESPONSE

*Hymn of Response "All Earth is Waiting" UMH 210

*Affirmation of Faith

We believe
even on the longest nights— when our steps are unclear
and fear takes hold— that the sun is still rising.
We believe in that sunrise like we believe in God's promised day.
So instead of giving in to the great unknown,
we move, in spirit, toward that light.
We summon our courage. We carry each other.
We dance under the stars. We listen for the angels.
And we believe the good news of the gospel,
which says that God loves God's creation so fiercely
that God took on flesh to be with us.
This is the truth that sustains our journey.
In this, we believe.

Congregational Sharing: Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Giving of our Tithes, Offerings, and Connection Cards

Offertory Song "Advent Kyrie" Choir

*Doxology UMH #94

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

SENDING

*Hymn "People Look East" UMH #202

*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.*