

SHERWOOD FOREST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January
2026

5250 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

sherwoodforestumc.org

Loving and serving all people in the name of Jesus Christ.

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[Watch our previous sermons!](#)

Join us on Sundays!

Worship

10:30 am in our sanctuary

Adult Sunday School

Two classes both starting at 9:15 am

Leadership Council

At its November meeting the Leadership Council agreed to complete the distribution of funds set aside from the sale of the Bolton Street property for helping to support sister UMC congregations in our conference. Typically, when property is sold the proceeds can only be used for the continuing church's capital needs. When the former Wesley property was sold there was foresight that the eventual proceeds would be more than the future needs of Sherwood Forest, so it was agreed that \$150,000 would be set aside to improve the facilities of other churches in need. Our Superintendents, Sam Moore and Mark Conforti, helped identify Marvin UMC in Winston-Salem and Celia Phelps UMC in southwest Greensboro as two such churches. Marvin's building has had serious deferred maintenance issues for some time. Celia Phelps' sanctuary burned in 2021, and they have been busy raising funds not covered by insurance to rebuild ever since. Recognizing our stewardship of excess funds, we will be providing a grant of \$100,000 to Marvin UMC and \$50,000 to Celia Phelps UMC to support these two important congregations in our UMC connection. Work also continues for our own physical plant. Look for refreshed lighting in the narthex soon, parking lot clean-up, and newly trimmed trees around the campus. A larger refresh of our total landscaping is also anticipated for the Spring. If you have interest in being part of that planning, please speak with Jim Wilhelm. He is coordinating that team and will appreciate your input and participation. We also want to thank Beth Dixon, Becky DuBois, Kathy Lisle, Don Mumy, Elaine Snapp, Jim Wilhelm, and Mona Crain, who are exiting as voting members of the Council this year. We all appreciate their input as part of the organizing Council for SFUMC - and their continued activity in vital ministries will certainly continue!

Updates and Reports

Cozy Bundle was a Success



The Cozy Bundle event was on December 13th from 1 to 3 in the afternoon. Thank you to the many members of Sherwood Forest United Methodist Church, who assisted with this event. We served a hot meal, hot chocolate, had crafts, had an area to visit with Santa, gave out cozy bundles, socks and pajamas. Also available for those individuals in need were coats from The Coat Closet. There were also some hats, scarves and other outer wear available in a few sizes. The event was productive for the whole time. Even after the event some Cozy Bundles with pajamas were delivered to others who needed them such as Open Arms, Horizon and some students identified by local social workers. We ended up giving out over 530 of the bundles. God is at work in our community due in part to this event. A special thanks needs to go to Gospel Light Missionary Baptist Church and Catholic Charities for giving us space for this event, and especially the SPARK team for the organization and community building nature of this event.

Lynn Blumenthal

Community Christmas Event



The Community Christmas Event was a success. This was held on December 13th from 6pm to about 7:45pm. It included a float ride through the neighborhood, crafts, snacks and hot drinks (hot chocolate or apple cider), and singing carols to end the event. 27 people rode on the float. A special thanks needs to go to the group that helped coordinate this event between three community churches (Epiphany Lutheran, Peace Haven Baptist, and Sherwood Forest United Methodist) and the float provider, the Harris family. It was a huge success and there is talk of future events like this next year.

Lynn Blumenthal

Updates and Reports

A Christmas Story of Jesus' Birth was Celebrated at Open Arms

For our last meeting before the Holiday break, the students at Open Arms preformed a short production of the story of Jesus' birth. Students and staff dressed up in costumes for the production and the scenes were preformed of Mary and Joseph being visited by angels, the manger scene along with shepherds, angels, the Magi and the star. All had fun being part of the story. The joy in the room was abundant. The true gift we receive for Christmas is the gift of baby Jesus. He came to earth to teach us how to live.

Lynn Blumenthal

Blessing Box

Our Blessing Box has found a new home at Marvin UMC! It will go in the ground as soon as the underground utilities have been marked. We will be collecting donations at Sherwood Forest to put in the box. We are in need of a few people to serve on our Blessing Box team. These folks will be in communication with Marvin UMC to take batches of food to Marvin for them to place in the box as needed.

Some things that are good for the box are canned soups and vegetables, staples like flour, sugar, salt and pepper, pasta rice and beans, canned fruit, peanut butter and crackers, and even things like toilet tissue. Please avoid glass containers as they might get broken. If you would like to help with this ministry, let Pastor Ben or Gale Sink know. We are happy with this partnership to place our Blessing Box in an area where there aren't any others.

Third Thursday Fellowship Gathering

Join us on January 15 at 11:30 at Creekside Lanes, 1450 Trade Mart Blvd. We will eat lunch at the bowling alley and bowl. We will also be hosting the Women of Vision Group from City with Dwellings. Come to bowl or just to fellowship with the group. Please sign up at the information table so we know how many lanes to reserve.

Ministries

Music Ministry Announcements

A Poem

The year is bright and new.
So what's in store for you?
Surely your desire
Is a seat in the choir
To refresh your soul anew.

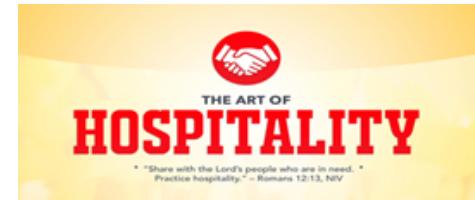
Rehearsals - Wednesdays 4:00 pm, Sunday Sing 9:45 am

United Women in Faith

Will meet on Monday, 1/12/26, at 11 am
Pledge Service provided by Elaine Snapp
Dessert provided by Jean Nelson

Hospitality Team

The Hospitality Committee will be meeting in the parlor at 1:30 on January 6th. We will review a bit of the end of 2025 and then look for ways to invite people during this winter and early spring. We have more coffee and gift bags available now. Any one interested in this committee is welcome to attend.
Lynn Blumenthal



Book Club

Our next meeting will be January 11th at 4 p.m. in the parlor. The book being read is **Theo of Golden** by Allen Levi. The book can be purchased on Amazon in paperback versions for under \$20. It may also be available at the local library. This book is almost 400 pages, so it's a good read for the holidays.

Come join us to discuss this book! We read books suggested by our members that have varied from serious reading to novels to mysteries to historical fiction. Our next meeting for this club will be in early January. - Lynn Blumenthal



Ministries

Outreach Committee

Will meet on Tuesday, January 13th at 10:00 in the parlor

Y.A.R.N. Ministry

The Y.A.R.N. Ministry of our church was fortunate to be able to share knitted/crocheted items with those in need this Christmas. Some of which were

Open Arms, Peace Haven Project, and UMAR Waddell Home. We donated 38 headbands, 32 hats, and 14 pairs of fingerless gloves. This is fantastic for such a small group whom the majority are not Sherwood Forest Members. Earlier in the year, we donated 12 prayer blankets to Cancer Services on Maplewood for cancer patients going through chemotherapy. You can get quite cool when going through a treatment.

This Ministry is open to anyone who would like to join. We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Community Partnerships

Open Arms Community

Volunteers are needed for tutoring (k-2) and Kids Club (3-5) on Mondays and tutoring for teens on Thursdays. We will also be providing a meal for the children on Monday once a month. We need help cooking and also taking the food to Open Arms and serving it to the children once a month. See Lynn Blumenthal if you would like to help with any of these projects.

Bolton Food Pantry (1210 Bolton St)

Pantry Set-Up on January 12th and 26th

Pantry Pick-Up on January 13th and 27th

Contact Beth Fields to volunteer (bethfields@aol.com)

The Bolton Food Pantry is in need of additional volunteers. They especially need diapers sizes 3-6 and wipes as well as empty egg cartons at this time. You can place your donations in the bin under the table outside the kitchen. If you are interested in volunteering, see Peg Price.

Thank You SFUMC

December offered us many opportunities to serve our community and bring smiles to many faces. Thank you to those who donated pajamas and blankets for Spark's Cozy Bundle event and to those who helped on the day of the event. Cozy Bundles were given to more than 460 children.

We also had a large group who volunteered at the Salvation Army Christmas Warehouse building bicycles, sorting toys, and filling toy bags so 1000's of local children can have a Merry Christmas.

Also, a big thank you to everyone who joined us when we went Christmas caroling. We were able to bring Christmas cheer to a large number of people —church members and many others who enjoyed our songs. - Gale Sink

Mission of the Month

City with Dwellings

City with Dwellings supports people experiencing homelessness through its Community First Center offering resources like mail, hygiene kits, and computer access alongside outreach navigation and community building programs. They provide a safe space and connect individuals with housing, health care, and other vital services to help people move toward stability.

One of the community building programs at City with Dwellings is a women's support group called Women of Vision. For our engagement opportunity this month we will join the Women of Vision group at Creekside Lanes for a bowling outing. This will take place on Thursday, January 15 at 11:30 am. Join us to bowl or just to fellowship with this group of women. If you wish to make a donation to City with Dwellings, you may do it through the church office and mark your donation for City with Dwellings.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our December Mission of the Month, Bolton Food Pantry White Christmas food drive. This food will help many people in need.

Finance Announcements

Sherwood Forest UMC's Financial Report

Income Expenses

November Budget	\$ 27,532.73	\$171,574.31 ¹
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November Non-Budget	\$ 28,598.50 ²	\$ 2,945.75 ³
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¹1 includes expenses from playground equipment and benches, piano tuning, donations to Marvin UMC and Celia Phelps UMC and Mission of the Month donations to WFU Wesley Foundation.

(Expenses related to building maintenance and upgrades are reimbursed from our Restricted Building account/s.)

²2 includes memorial donation; facility use fees from ESL, SPARK, Lifeline and DAR; interest earned on all accounts, and the Bolton Street Sale regular and extra loan payments.

³3 includes expenses for the BBQ fundraiser, Benevolence fund, Bolton Pantry, Fellowship events, Joy Singers, Missions/Outreach, and UM Men's Club.

Here are the ending balances for our accounts as of November 30, 2025:

Piedmont Federal Checking	\$ 54,525.09
Piedmont Federal Savings	\$ 101,264.72
Piedmont Federal Restricted Building	\$ 262,635.94
Piedmont Federal Restricted Housing	\$ 26,846.10
Piedmont Federal Restricted Housing CD	\$450,000.00
Piedmont Federal Savings CD	\$100,000.00
UM Foundation Conservative	\$ 36,270.90
UM Foundation Development	\$ 71,551.40
UM Foundation Income Only Restricted Building	\$ 593,961.82
UM Credit Union CD	\$ 109,440.05
UM Credit Union Savings	\$ 36.62

As of November 30, the outstanding balance on the Christ Church Anglican promissory note is \$973,557.52. They made an additional loan principal payment of \$11,000.

Sherwood Forest UMC received A Gift in Memory of SGM (R) Charles M. McClung from Mike and Leianne McClung. Sherwood Forest United Methodist Church is very appreciative of this remembrance!

Sherwood Forest UMC received \$50 for the Benevolence Fund, \$175 for the Bolton Pantry, \$2,100 in facility use fees from SPARK, ESL, Lifeline and DAR, \$138 from our November Fellowship meal, \$7,930.75 for our BBQ fundraiser, \$125 for our November Mission of the Month - Wesley Foundation, \$221 for Speas Elementary from our Thanksgiving Offering, \$10 for UM Men, and \$1 for the Upper Rooms.

THANK YOU for supporting our adventure for Christ! Please contact Darlene Davis at finance.sherwoodforestumc@gmail.com or 336-765-6590, ext. 4 with any questions.

Church Contacts

Current Emails and Times in Office

Church Website: sherwoodforestumc.org

Office Number: 336-765-6590 (extensions below)

Hours: Monday-Thursday 10-5 pm

(please call to confirm if you need a visit or an appt)

Pastor Ben

Pastor Ben's cell # 704-214-9835 Email bsloan@wnccumc.net ext. 2

Mondays-Thursdays 10 am-5 pm; Sabbath will be observed on Fridays

Darlene Davis:

finance.sherwoodforestumc@gmail.com ext. 4

Darlene's in-office hours:

Tuesday-Thursday 10 am-2 pm

Isaiah Smith:

secretary.sherwoodforestumc@gmail.com

office@sherwoodforestumc.org ext. 3

Isaiah's in-office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 am-2pm

Scripture for Worship

1/4: Matthew 2:1-12

1/11: Deuteronomy 5:4-21

1/18: Matthew 15:32-38

1/25: 1 Kings 3:16-28

Scripture for Homestead Hills Bible Study (Thurs at 3 pm)

1/1: off (New Year's)

1/8: Matthew 2:1-12

1/15: Acts 10:34-43

1/22: Matthew 4:12-23

January 2026 Sherwood Forest Ministry Schedules

Music Ministry

SFUMC Vocal Choir Rehearsals on Wednesdays at 4 pm (Hamilton Davis Chapel)

Sunday Sing at 9:45 am

Joy Singers Rehearsal (no rehearsal this month)

Hospitality Meeting Tuesday, January 6th at 1:30 pm (parlor)

Children's Craft Time Sunday, January 4th and Sunday, January 18th at 9:15 am

Community Dinner Wednesday, January 14th at 6 pm

Book Club Sunday, January 11th at 4pm (reading *Theo of Golden*)

United Women in Faith Monday, January 12th at 11 am

Outreach Committee Tuesday, January 13th at 10 am (parlor)

Y.A.R.N. Ministry Wednesday, January 21st at 1 pm

Third Thursday Fellowship Gathering Thursday, January 15th at 11:30 am (bowling at Creekside Lanes)

Leadership Council Meeting Sunday, January 18th at 1 pm

Newsletter Deadline Monday, January 26th

United Methodist Men Sunday, January 25th at 8 am

January 2026 Sherwood Forest Calendar

January 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Children's Craft Time 9:15a Adult Sunday School 9:15a Sunday Sing at 9:45a Worship at 10:30a GIFT Ministry at 11:30a	5 Girl Scouts 6 pm	6 Hospitality Committee at 1:30 pm (parlor) Boy Scouts 6-9pm	7 SFUMC Vocal Choir Rehearsal at 4pm	8 Homestead Hills Bible Study at 3p WS Civic Orchestra (Fellowship Hall 7 pm-9 pm)	9	10
11 Adult Sunday School 9:15a Sunday Sing at 9:45a Worship at 10:30a GIFT Ministry at 11:30a Book Club at 4 pm in the parlor (reading Theo of Golden)	12 United Women in Faith at 11 am (chapel) Joy Singers Rehearsal at 1p	13 Outreach Committee at 10 am (parlor) District Creation Care 11a-2p (fellowship hall) Boy Scouts 6-9pm	14 SFUMC Vocal Choir Rehearsal at 4pm	15 Third Thursday Fellowship Gathering at 11:30a (bowling at Creekside Lanes) Homestead Hills Bible Study at 3p WS Civic Orchestra (Fellowship Hall 7 pm-9 pm)	16	17
18 Children's Craft Time 9:15a Adult Sunday School 9:15a Sunday Sing at 9:45a Worship at 10:30a GIFT Ministry at 11:30a Leadership Council at 1pm	19 Girl Scouts 6 pm	20 Boy Scouts 6-9pm	21 Y.A.R.N. Ministry at 1p SFUMC Vocal Choir Rehearsal at 4pm	22 Homestead Hills Bible Study at 3p WS Civic Orchestra (Fellowship Hall 7 pm-9 pm)	23	24
25 United Methodist Men's Breakfast 8 am Adult Sunday School 9:15a Sunday Sing at 9:45a Worship at 10:30a GIFT Ministry at 11:30a	26 Information for the Newsletter due	27	28 SFUMC Vocal Choir Rehearsal at 4pm	29 WS Civic Orchestra (Fellowship Hall 7 pm-9 pm)	30	31