

## **Welcome to Randall by the River**

December 14th, 2025

Pastor Hanna Barlow

980-356-2705

*9:00 am Every recorded Sunday Services are posted to “Randall by the River” on Facebook*

*Randall by the River is a Lighthouse Congregation of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, in partnership with The United Methodist Collective of the Western NC Conference.*

### **Centering Words**

Today we will light the candle of Joy, remembering Mary—the young mother who treasured every word, pondered every mystery, and trusted God through the songs and the sorrows.

**We come, like Mary, ready to rejoice...even when joy is complicated, even when hope asks something of us.**

Mary teaches us that joy is not shallow delight but a deep, steady courage rooted in God’s promise.

**Our souls magnify the Lord! Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

Come, people of God— draw near to the One who meets us in waiting, who fills the humble with good things, and who is still shaping the world with love.

**We come to worship the God who is with us, who lifts us up, and who makes all things new. Amen.**

### **Opening Prayer**

**Opening Song-** “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” UMH #89

### **Prayers of the People**

*We come together as a community to pray for and with one another. What joys and what concerns do we have this day?*

“To that we all say, **Amen!**”

### **Close with the Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### **Advent Wreath Lighting**

**A Visit From Mary and Elizabeth**

**Special Music-** “Breath of Heaven”

### **Scripture Lesson- Luke 1:26-33 and 1:46-55**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.  
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name;  
<sup>50</sup> indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

### **Message- Mary, Full of Grace**

### **Response to the Word**

This is an opportunity to respond to the Word as you feel led. We invite you to remember your baptism, listen to the music, light a candle,  
give your offering, and pray.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

### **Closing Song- "Joy to the World" UMH #246**

### **Benediction**

### **Call to Action**

- Our mission box is going to the Spruce Pine UMC Community Assistance Fund!
- Connect Youth will meet today at 5:30 at Central UMC.
- Join us today after worship for our Christmas Cookie Exchange Party!
- Our Advent Study will meet again on Tuesday at 6:30 pm!

- On December 17th at 11:30 the Lunch Bunch will gather. Please let Shirley LeHue know if you would like more information.
- On December 23rd, at 6:30 pm, we will gather in the Branch to pack fruit bags and our gifts to hand out on Christmas Day at the Community Table. We hope you can join!
- On December 24th, we will have our Christmas Eve service at 6:30 pm! A time of fellowship will follow in the Branch.
- We will be serving at the Community Table on Christmas Day! We are in need of volunteers. Please sign up through our sign-up list or Karen Good.
- We will also be giving out socks, hats, and gloves on Christmas Day. If you would like to donate to this ministry, please bring your items to church by December 21st. We need all sizes!
- If you would like to donate to the fruit bag ministry that provides fruit bags to everyone after our Christmas Eve service, please place your offering in an envelope marked "fruit bags."
- January 11th, we will have a Joining Sunday! If you have been feeling a call to join our membership at Randall by the River, it will be a chance for you to join with others who are feeling that call!
- As Pastor Hanna and Josh plan to welcome the baby, we are in need of help for worship! If you are willing to lend your voice during Pastor Hanna's leave through scripture reading, prayers, or announcements, please let Pastor Hanna know!

Financial Stewards: Bob Brannan and Thomas Hahn

Mission Statement: "Our mission is to be a spirited, vibrant church planted by God's grace, growing in Christ's love, and living as fruitful neighbors within our community as we answer God's call to make disciples of Jesus Christ."