DECEMBER
2026

VANDERBURG METHODIST CHURCH

CARRYING THE CROSS



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THOUGHTS ON MARY'S PERFECT LAMB

By Rev. Jeff Greenway | Former NC GMC Bishop



That first Christmas night:
"She gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them." (Luke 2:7)

Some translations render this "swaddling cloths"—but the best translation is "bands of cloth." One thing I have learned in studying the Bible is God's very intentional in the words inspired—every word matters.

So—what does "bands of cloth" mean?

These words were rich with deep meaning to the people who first heard them. Bethlehem is only five or six miles south of the Temple in Jerusalem. Bethlehem was known for perfect, sacrificial lambs that were used for the 9 AM and 3 PM sacrifices each day in the Temple. Each sacrificial lamb needed to be male and perfect—without spot or blemish.

The region of the shepherd's fields outside of Bethlehem is called Migdal Eder—which translated means the "tower of the flock." A cave underneath the tower of the flock in Bethlehem was the place where the lambs to be sacrificed in the temple were birthed and cared for. In Micah 4:8—just before the prophet says the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem—he speaks of the watchtower of the flock—where the Kingdom will come—meaning the Messiah would be revealed at the watchtower of the flock.

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THOUGHTS ON MARY'S PERFECT LAMB

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On the night Jesus was born, the angel spoke to the shepherds who were raising sheep for sacrifice in the temple:
"This will be a sign for you. You will find a baby WRAPPED IN CLOTHS and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12)
These shepherds had been trained for their task. They knew a lamb to be sacrificed had to be perfect, and it was their job to make sure none of the animals were hurt, damaged, or blemished. The lambs born for sacrifice were birthed in the cave under the watchtower of the flock on the north end of Bethlehem. Upon birth, a priest assigned to the task anointed them with oil and wrapped them in bands of clothes (a gauze-like cloth) to protect them from injury. The wrapping would be done in the only clean place in the cave—a feeding trough hewn from limestone called a manger—where the lamb would be kept until it calmed down to protect it from injuring itself while thrashing about.

The shepherds knew exactly where to go—to the cave at the watchtower of the flock—the birthing room for sacrificial lambs—and that's where they found Jesus. The shepherds were probably the first ones to recognize what John the Baptist would say later: *"Look, the Lamb of God who comes to take away the sins of the world" (John 1:29).*



What does this all mean for us?
MARY'S PERFECT LAMB would grow to live a perfect life and die a sacrificial death by shedding His blood on a Roman cross during the Passover festival. He would be nailed to a cross at 9 AM—when the first lamb was being sacrificed in the temple—and died at 3 PM—when the second lamb was being sacrificed—giving His life as a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

The true meaning of Christmas is born in the nature and character of God, who loved the world so much He gave His one and only Son as a sacrifice for us—that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life. There's a lot more to MARY'S PERFECT LAMB than meets the eye—He'll save your soul, forgive your sin, and change your life. Trust Him!

Jesus is the LAMB OF GOD who died for you, me, and the whole world.



VANDERBURG METHODIST CHURCH

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Church and Finance Secretary

Follow Us on Facebook!
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Watch our 10:00am services each week on our YouTube channel @vanderburgchurch1809 or stream it later in the week on our website.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The circle of Friends met on Monday November 9 due to the delay from November 2 to accommodate travel and illnesses. We had 12 ladies in attendance including a new member.

We enjoyed refreshments from Stacey Pierce with the pecan chewie's being a huge hit and an excellent and appropriate devotional by Crystal Davis on Thank You and the power of it. There is always something to be thankful for.

Sandra Sherrills' birthday was celebrated on November 20. Officers reports were given and approved with Sherry giving detail on the successful Craft Fair. A huge thank you to all who supported our efforts in this event.

We are planning to provide desserts for our church Thanksgiving dinner hosted by Methodist Men on Sunday November 29 as well as provide desserts for Felicity Friends Thanksgiving meal delivery.

We will meet on December 7 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are gathering toys and food for the Holiday needs as well as deciding on how to distribute our income to charity in December.

Blessings to all,
Stacey Pierce



Mon. Dec. 7 | 6:00 PM
Jack Overcash Fellowship Hall

The Circle of Friends women's group that meets monthly to enjoy a time of fellowship, ministry and prayer. They are integral to the mission of the church, and you will find them at work at most every church event.



The group is meeting for a 2027 planning meeting on December 4 12:30 pm -2:30 pm. Their work is appreciated and vital to the church!

2026 Charge Conference



On Wed. Nov. 4 at 6:00 PM, annual Charge Conference was held for Vanderburg Methodist Church. Lead by our GMC Presiding Elder, Will Van Wieren, accomplishments of the past were celebrated, combined with focus on leadership and service to the community in 2027. A time of worship was enjoyed through singing and participation in Holy Communion. The meeting ended with the group reciting The Wesleyan Covenant.

Thank you to everyone who attended and thank you to the Vanderburg Church Family for your ongoing prayers as we serve and disciple God's people.

Thanksgiving CELEBRATIONS

Vanderburg came together in celebration of Thanksgiving during 2 special events.

On Saturday, November 14th, the Young Adults hosted annual Friendsgiving celebration for the community, welcoming almost 30 guests. The evening was filled with delicious food, including favorites like Matthew's ham, Jenrek's lumpia, and Katy's pecan pie! Together, we also wrote over 60 Christmas cards to be distributed through the VA hospital in Salisbury.

Later on November 22, the Vanderburg Methodist Men invited to the church family for their annual Thanksgiving celebration. Despite the weather and folks traveling, it was estimated that approximately 60 individuals attended. There was an abundance of desserts and beverages and all had a good time. Everyone even got to enjoy Lloyd Smith's famous sweet potatoes!
During both events, and above all, Vanderburg was blessed by wonderful Christian fellowship and the warmth of our Savior!













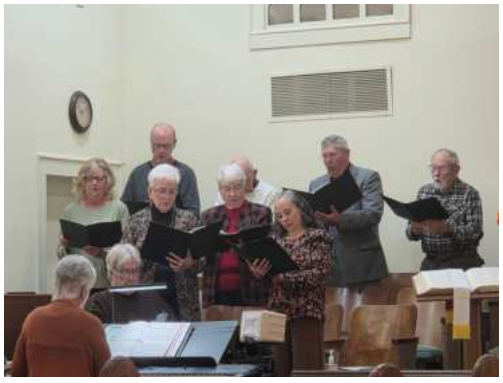


SUNDAY WORSHIP

Special thanks to Ronald Armstrong and Marguerite Beyerle for leading services on Sun. Nov. 22. The message, Jesus: Center of Everything, was given by Marguerite as Preacher Buddy was on vacation with his family during the holiday. The message used Ephesians 1:3-10 as its foundation.

During the 10:00 a.m. service, tt was wonderful to see a full Vanderburg Choir who shared a powerful anthem, We Thank You, Lord during the service.

The day was filled with Thanksgiving, and helped usher in a week of thanks in anticipation of Thanksgiving Day.



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School 9:00 AM hour offers classes for all ages! Choose from any of these classes geared to help you dig deeper in the Word!



We need volunteers to serve as the Safe Sanctuary person in the kids Sunday School class. We just need your presence. You will not have to help with the class or prepare a lesson. If enough are willing to serve, a schedule will be made. Thank you, Lynn Neill, Debbie Walker, and Crystal Davis for helping!



As a church, we need to have a nursery available for visitors as well as church members. See Susan Fogleman if you are interested in helping with this ministry. The service is streamed live, for nursery workers to enjoy.



The Young Adult class is growing! The class has moved to Room 107. All are invited to be part of this group.

CHILDREN & PRE-TEEN



Our children use the series All-in-One Sunday School, designed for preschool-12 yrs old. The teachers have enjoyed combining the classes and learning together.

All children are welcome each Sunday. You will find them in room 111.

Susan Fogleman and Sarah Davis will be joining the team to rotate teachers. This will allow for teachers to have the opportunity to enjoy being a part of a Sunday School class or take some needed time of rest. If you feel led to stop by and give the leaders a hand, they would appreciate it!

Thank you for being God's guiding light, transforming the world through God's unconditional love.

YOUNG ADULT CLASS

It is such a blessing to see that our new Young Adult class is going well. They are using the Lifeway Bible Study.
We have seven that have been attending. Please invite others.

The class meets in room 107, and all young adult singles and couples are invited.

BOB COMBS CLASS

The Bob Combs Class offers a quarterly curriculum for older adults 60+. Dig deeper into Scripture with the Bible Studies for Life, a resource featuring in-depth Bible exposition on the passages studied in this book.

They are led by Mark & Nancy Brawley & Susan Fogleman and meet in room 102.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

The Christian Outreach Class chooses a variety of topics; from Word studies on Bible Books or deciding on a study by a respected teacher. The group is made up of all age Adults.

They are lead by Marguerite Beyerle and Bradley Mills and meet in room 110.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

The Adult Bible Class offers a quarterly curriculum for adult men and women. The study offers opportunities to deeper explore the truths found in God's Word.

Many help facilitate the weekly discussions and lessons. You can find them in room 104.

FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR

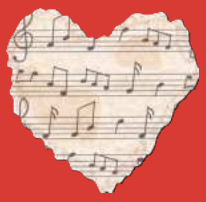
WEEKLY WORSHIP

Vanderburg offers 2 weekly worship services on Sunday.

8:00 A.M.
Early Worship Service
(no 8:00 A.M. service on the first Sunday.)

10:00 AM
Traditional Worship Service

CHOIR ON WEDNESDAYS



Want to share your talent with the church? You are welcomed in the Vanderburg Choir! See Mrs. Brenda Byrd to let her know of your interest.



DECEMBER

7	The Circle of Friends will meet for their scheduled fellowship meeting on Mon. Dec. 7 at 6:00 PM in the Jack Overcash Fellowship Hall. Women of all ages are welcome!
8	The Trustees will meet on Tue. Dec. 8 at 6:30 PM.
13	The Vanderburg Methodist Men meet for their scheduled breakfast meeting on Sun. Nov. 8 at 7:00 AM in the Jack Overcash Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!
13	Sunday Worship features our Vanderburg Choir presenting a mini-cantata and Drive-Thru Prayer follows 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
19	The Vanderburg Methodist Men Boston Butt Pick-Up starting around 10:00 AM.
24	Chistmas Eve drop-in Communion 5:30 - 6:30 PM
25	Happy Birthday, Jesus 

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY December BIRTHDAY

1 - Randy Peltier
4 - Jacqueline Overcash
6 - Rylie Downing, Kathi Harward & Caitlin Naas
8 - Chris Stutts
9 - Cynthia Lyman
10 - Don Byrd
12 - Marguerite Beyerle & Mike Bowers
15 - Russell Benfield & Robert Compton
17 - Jessica Evans
18 - Frankie Sue Coleman & Amy Crisp
21 - Billy Benfield
22 - Nick Drake
23 - Carey Church & Kelly Stutts
24 - Karen Barbee
26 - Andy Neill
28 - Dylan Bowers
29 - Rick Owens & Donnie West
30 - Mike Crisp



HAPPY Anniversary!

<u>December 12</u>
Dana & Joy Blalock

<u>December 16</u>
Jonathan & Ashley Jo Tyson

<u>December 21</u>
Jerry & Katy Smith

<u>December 30</u>
Jason & Ashley Pulver

NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC PRESENTATION



On Sun. Dec. 6, there will be special instrumental music during worhip, and on Sun. Dec 13. the choir will present a mini-cantata.

Invite your friends and family for these special Holiday services.

VANDERBURG PRESCHOOL

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

We would like to collect food items to give to families in need. Items will be given to a local food bank. This is a great way to teach our children to care about others. We appreciate any way that you can help.

Dec. 1 - Box of Cereal
Dec. 2 - Jars of Peanut Butter
Dec. 3 - Grits/Oatmeal (boxes with packets)
Dec 4 - Instant Potato Pouches
Dec. 5 - Canned chicken
Dec. 6 - Canned fruit/fruit cups (sugar free options)
Dec. 7 - Granola bars
Dec. 8 - Canned tuna
Dec. 9 - Canned ravioli
Dec. 10 - Jelly
Dec. 11 - Nut Trail Mix
Dec. 12 - Ketchup
Dec. 13 - Pancake/Waffle Mix
Dec. 14 - Mustard
Dec. 15 - Rice
Dec. 16 - Canned vegetables (low sodium options)
Dec. 17 - Pasta/Spaghetti Sauce
Dec. 18 - Canned soup (low sodium/heart healthy options)





Starting with Advent on Nov. 29, we will gather together as a church family during a combined service at 10:00 AM. What a special time to be together to celebrate the Christmas Holiday! The combined services will run through Sun. Jan. 3rd.



CHECK IT OUT

2026 Events & Celebrations!

2/18: GriefShare Begins
2/18: Ash Wednesday Service
2/20: Circle of Friends Fellowship Dinner
2/28: Tommy Carriker's Fish Fry
3/15: Community Soup Luncheon
4/2: Maundy Thursday w/Communion
4/4: Community Easter Egg Hunt
4/5: Easter Sunrise Breakfast (VMM) & Easter Services
5/12: Acts Bible Study Begins
5/15: Preschool Graduation
5/24: Pentecost & Memorial Day Sunday (Wear Red)
5/30: Chicken BBQ Fundraiser
6/7: Graduation Sunday
6/11-13: VBS "One Nation Under God"
6/14: VBS Recap and Birthday Party for America
7/19: Ice Cream Social
8/9: Homecoming
9/11: Old Fashion Game Night
9/26: Circle of Friends Senior Appreciation Luncheon
10/17: Circle of Friends Craft Fair
10/25: Trunks & Treats
11/8: Honoring our Veterans
11/14: Young Adults Friendsgiving
11/22: Church wide Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal by VMM
11/29: Advent Begins
12/13: Drive-Thru Prayer
12/19: VMM Boston Butt Fundraiser
12/24: Christmas Eve Drop-In Communion

Our outreach team is already planning for these and other community related events for 2027! Thanks for your ongoing prayers and support as we continue to share the love of Christ with a hurting and lost world!



Church-Wide Outreach Meeting

The Outreach team is having a Churchwide Meeting following the 10AM service on Sunday, January 10th, 2027. This will be a meeting for the congregation and all volunteers to gather to hear about Preacher Buddy's & Tommy Carriker's Carnival.



FINANCES

Gifts Made to Vanderburg

The following gifts were made to Vanderburg during the month of November:

In Memory of Terry Pardew to the General Fund:
- The Family of Wayne Moore & Joyce Cannon
- Wilson B. Kennerly
- Randy and Jody Oliphant
- Ron and Kathleen Patterson
- Gates Construction Company

In Memory of Bill Brawley to the General Fund:
- Mary Sue Eldreth

In Memory of Shirley Key to the General Fund:
- Jerry and Katy Smith
- Lloyd and Saundra Smith
- Paul and Lynn Neill

In Memory of Shirley Key to the Compassion Fund:
- Ron and Sherry Armstrong

Nov. Financial Snapshot*

Tithes & Offerings	$ 14,813
Expenses	$ 11,525
Budgeted per Month	$ 21,996
YTD Offering	$ 199,093

Monthly Finance Reports can be found in the Narthex the first Sunday of each month. All questions can be directed to the Finance Chair, Linda Wilhelm.

**through Nov. 24*

If mailing your Tithes and Offerings, please send to:

Vanderburg Methodist Church
P.O. Box 294
Mooresville, NC 28115



Vanderburg Church Preschool

vumcpreschool@gmail.com
704.664.1625
Directors: Susan Fogleman & Angelene Nelson





IMPORTANT!



Christmas Celebration
Fri. Dec. 18
10:30 AM

November News & Events



A BIG thank you to Aged to Perfection for taking the time from practice to sing a few Christmas selections to our preschool children.

Our preschool was treated to a Thanksgiving Feast by the Brawley family on Monday, November 23. The children enjoyed making placements to use for the meal and entertained with a few songs.

Our annual Reverse Advent food collection will begin December 1st . A list was shared in the bulletin, and is also found in this newsletter, of the canned goods and nonperishables that we are collecting for a local food bank. There will be a box in the fellowship hall for donations. Donations will be taken through December 18th . Thank you for your support.

The Preschool will be closed for the holidays December 21st to January 4th .

All are invited to our Christmas Celebration on Friday, December 18th . We will begin the celebration in the sanctuary at 10:30. The children will sing a few songs and then the celebration will continue in the fellowship hall with cooking decorating and craft making. We will also have visitors from the North Pole.









Vanderburg Methodist Church
P.O. Box 294
Mooresville, NC 28115

TO: