

# THE CORNERSTONE CONNECTION



*Reaching Up To Christ and Out To Each Other*

*January, 2026*

*From the Pastor:*

The Season of Christmas began on December 25 and continues on until January 6<sup>th</sup> which is when we recognize the arrival of the Magi to the home of the infant Jesus (who was probably around 2 years old at the time of the visit). From that point on we have the season of Epiphany where we acknowledge the Light of the World; the light of the star leading the Magi to Jesus, Jesus himself the Light of the World, and us as light guiding and pointing the way toward Jesus. May you enjoy reading the true meaning of the 12 days of Christmas and have a happy and prosperous New Year of 2026 shining your light and bathing in the light of Christ.

Pastor Cindy

## **Meaning of Each Gift in the '12 Days of Christmas'<sup>1</sup>**

Discover the meaning of the gift for each of the 12 days of Christmas that relates to the fundamentals of the Christian faith.

### **1. A Partridge in a Pear Tree Meaning**

The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.

### **2. Two Turtledoves Meaning**

These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So, in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of the Christian faith and God's plan for the world. The doves are the biblical roadmap that is available to everyone.

### **3. Three French Hens Meaning**

These birds represent faith, hope, and love. This gift harkens back to 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter written by the Apostle Paul. It also represents the Holy Trinity: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

### **4. Four Calling Birds Meaning**

These birds represent the four Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

### **5. Five Gold Rings Meaning**

The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the [Pentateuch](#).

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<sup>1</sup> "12 Days of Christmas Carol - Lyrics Hidden Meaning and History," Christianity.Com, accessed December 22, 2025, <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/the-12-days-of-christmas-lyrics-meaning.html>.

- |            |                 |                   |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Genesis | 3. 3. Leviticus | 5. 5. Deuteronomy |
| 2. Exodus  | 4. 4. Numbers   |                   |

### 6. Six Geese a-Laying Meaning

These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation when God “hatched” or formed the world.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. God created the heavens and the earth | 4. God created the sun, moon, and stars |
| 2. God created the sky and seas          | 5. God created fish and birds           |
| 3. God created the land and plants       | 6. God created land animals and man     |

### 7. Seven Swans a-Swimming Meaning

As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for spiritual gifts; the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:

- |          |                |            |               |
|----------|----------------|------------|---------------|
| Prophecy | 1. Teaching    | 3. Giving  | 5.            |
| Ministry | 2. Exhortation | 4. Leading | 6. Compassion |

### 8. Eight Maids-a-Milking Meaning

As Christ came to save even the lowest of the low, this gift represents the ones who would receive his word and accept his grace. Being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England during this period; this code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The Eight Maids represent the 8 Beatitudes, from [Matthew 5:3-10](#):

Blessed are...

1. the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Those who mourn: for they shall be comforted.
3. The meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
4. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be filled.
5. The merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
6. The pure in heart: for they shall see God.
7. The peacemakers: for they shall be called children of God.
8. They which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### 9. Nine Ladies Dancing Meaning

These nine dancers were really the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit. The Fruits of the Spirit include:

- |         |                |                |
|---------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Love | 3. 3. Peace    | 5. 5. Kindness |
| 2. Joy  | 4. 4. Patience | 6. 6. Goodness |

7. Faithfulness

8. 8. Gentleness

9. 9. Self-control

### 10. Ten Lords A-leaping Meaning

This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code for the [Ten Commandments](#) was fairly straightforward to Christians.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Thou shall have no other gods before me                  | 6. Thou shalt not kill                                    |
| 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image           | 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery                         |
| 3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain | 8. Thou shalt not steal                                   |
| 4. Remember the <a href="#">Sabbath</a> Day to keep it holy | 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor |
| 5. Honor thy father and mother                              | 10. Thou shalt not covet                                  |

### 11. Eleven Pipers Piping Meaning

This is almost a trick question, as most think of the disciples in terms of the dozen. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, only eleven men carried out the gospel message. Therefore, the Eleven Pipers Piping signify the 11 Faithful [Disciples](#):

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Simon (whom He named Peter) | 8. Thomas   |
| 2. Andrew                      | 9. James, son of Alphaeus   |
| 3. James                       | 10. Simon, who was called the Zealot                              |
| 4. John                        | 11. Judas, son of James   |
| 5. Philip                      | 12. Judas Iscariot who was later replaced with faithful Matthias. |
| 6. Bartholomew                 |   |
| 7. Matthew                     |   |

### 12. Twelve Drummers Drumming Meaning

The final gift are the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed.

1. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
2. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
3. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
4. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
5. He descended into hell. On the third day, He rose again.
6. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
7. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
8. I believe in the Holy Spirit,
9. the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
10. the forgiveness of sins,
11. the resurrection of the body,
12. and the life everlasting.

### Lectionary Study for January:



Sunday, Jan. 4th:

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 147:12-20 (UMH 859)

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Sunday, Jan. 18th:

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-11 (UMH 774)

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Sunday, Jan. 11th:

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29 (UMH 761)

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, Jan. 25th:

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27:1, 4-9 (UMH 758)

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

### January Birthdays:

10<sup>th</sup> Olivia Henke

14<sup>th</sup> Judy Prather

15<sup>th</sup> Lilith Hasenjaeger

18<sup>th</sup> Sara Stovall

20<sup>th</sup> Judy Pernie

20<sup>th</sup> Zin Bronola

24<sup>th</sup> Georgia Hurley

25<sup>th</sup> Debbie Betancourt

29<sup>th</sup> Kathy Hurley

### February Birthdays:

2<sup>nd</sup> Diana Deyton

7<sup>th</sup> Linda Rossey

13<sup>th</sup> Edwina Jonas

22<sup>nd</sup> Maxine Smith

27<sup>th</sup> Steve Pilecki

*Please contact Church office if there are any additions or corrections to the birthday & anniversary list.*

For prayer e-mail and/or bulletin prayer list requests please notify the church office, 328-1496 or [crnrstone@comporium.net](mailto:crnrstone@comporium.net) (office hours are Mon-Thurs 9-2 p.m.). When the church office is closed, leave a voice mail on office phone or you may also email, call or text church secretary, Cary Bartelmo, [cbartelmo@comporium.net](mailto:cbartelmo@comporium.net); 803-372-7923.



Donations to Cornerstone can be made by using the **QR Code** or through **Zelle** by using our email address: **[crnrstone@comporium.net](mailto:crnrstone@comporium.net)**.

Or mail your checks to: 2697 Heckle Blvd., Rock Hill, SC 29732

Check out Cornerstone's **Instagram** page: @umc.cornerstone  
**and**

View the worship service each Sunday on Cornerstone's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CornerstoneUMCRockHill/>

**Scripture Readers For January:**

Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>: Steph Pilecki  
Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>: Ken Jones  
Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>: Bill Brothers  
Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>: Randy Hayes

**Acolyte Schedule For January:**

Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>: DeeDee Anthony  
Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>: Gavin Sliva  
Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>: Emery Sliva  
Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>: Teresa Boehme

**Schedule for offering counters (Sunday mornings):**

Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>: Linda McCallum; Dan Sliva  
Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>: Teri Brothers; Diana Deyton  
Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>: Vicky Castro; Randy Hayes  
Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>: JoAnn Till; Angela Constantine

**Schedule for Youth Sunday School Teachers:**

Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>: Kathy Hurley  
Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>: Angela Constantine  
Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>: Randy Hayes  
Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>: Dale Williams

**Rock Hill Lay Servant School** will be held Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> at Cornerstone. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. For more information and to register online go to:

**[umcsc.org/rockhillonlineregistration/](http://umcsc.org/rockhillonlineregistration/)**

These classes are open for anyone to take, even if you do not intend to become a Lay Servant. Cost is \$35.00

**Upcoming Mission trip:**

“Healing Guatemala” is a non-profit organization based in the US that aims to provide physical, social, and spiritual healing to those who live in Guatemala. It is operated by the Rev. Dr. Luke Rhyee, a pastor in the South Carolina Annual Conference. Medical and construction teams are needed. If you are interested in learning more about this mission opportunity and being a part of an UMVIM team, please contact Jennifer Parker at [jpcllemsongirl@gmail.com](mailto:jpcllemsongirl@gmail.com). Tentative trip dates are April 20<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 so don't delay in responding if you are interested.

Please use the link below to register for the "**Lights, Camera, Action**" convocation for church leaders on Saturday, Jan. 10th at 9 a.m. Registration is required, even if you plan to come to Cornerstone Saturday morning to participate. These workshops are designed to strengthen and enhance leadership skills for today's church. [UMCSC Lay Leadership Convocation - South Carolina UMC](#)

**Salkehatchie Camps for 2026 have been scheduled throughout the state. The Rock Hill camp will be June 20-27<sup>th</sup>. For more information and other camp locations, go to:**  
[\*\*https://www.salkehatchie.org/\*\*](https://www.salkehatchie.org/)

**Mark your calendars for the UMM Chicken Barbeque and Bake Sale on January 31<sup>st</sup> from 4-7 p.m. at Cornerstone.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>New Year's Day</i> (Office closed)	2	3
4 <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> <b>Communion</b> -9:30 am Good Eats -9:45 am Sunday School -11 am Worship -12:15 pm Trustee mtg	5  10:30 am devotional study at CUMC	6  Cary – out of office	7  6:00 pm Choir	8  2:00 pm Nifty Knitters	9	10
11 -9:30 Good Eats -9:45 S.S. -11 am Worship  -5:15 Finance -6:00 Church Council	12  10:30 am Devotional study at CUMC	13	14  6:00 pm Choir	15	16	17  1-4 pm Building use by Sara McClain family
18 -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am S.S. -11 am Worship  5-7 pm Youth	19 <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> (Office Closed)  -No Devotional study  -6:30 pm UMM	20  -Newsletter items due in	21  6:00 pm Choir	22	23	24  Lay Servant classes at Cornerstone
25 -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am Sunday School -11 am Worship -Lay Servant classes conclude	26  10:30 am Devotional study at CUMC	27	28  6:00 pm Choir	29	30	31  4-7 pm UMM barbeque & bake sale at Cornerstone
		<u><b>Offering Counters</b></u>  4th: L. McCallum Dan Sliva 11th: Teri Brothers.; Diana Deyton 18th: Vicky Castro; Randy H. 25th: JoAnn Till. Angela Constantin	<u><b>Scripture Readers</b></u>  4th: Steph Pilecki 11th: Ken Jones 18th: Bill Brothers 25th: Randy Hayes	<u><b>Acolytes:</b></u>  4th: DeeDee Anthony 11th: Gavin Sliva 18th: Emery Sliva 25th: Teresa Boehme	<u><b>Youth S.S. Teachers:</b></u>  4th: K. Hurley 11th: Angela Constantine 18th: R. Hayes 25th: Dale Williams	<u><b>Opening &amp; Closing:</b></u>  Johnny Starnes  <u><b>Altar Guild</b></u>  Maxine Smith

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<b>1 Communion</b> -9:30 am Good Eats -9:45 am Sunday School -11 am Worship -12:15 pm Trustee mtg	2  10:30 am devotional study at CUMC	3	4  6:00 pm Choir	5	6	7
8 -9:30 am Good Eats -9:45 am Sunday School -11 am Worship  <b>“Soup”er Bowl lunch after worship</b>	9  10:30 am devotional study at CUMC	10	11  6:00 pm Choir	12	13	14  Valentine's Day
15 <b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> -9:30 Good Eats -9:45 S.S. -11 am Worship  5-7 p.m. Youth	16  10:30 am Devotional study at CUMC	17	18  <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	19	20	21
22 <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am S.S. -11 am Worship	23  10:30 am Devotional study at CUMC  Newsletter items due in to office	24	25  6:00 pm Choir	26	27	28
		<u><b>Offering Counters</b></u>  1st: L. McCallum Dan Sliva 8th: Teri Brothers.; Diana Deyton 15 <sup>th</sup> : Vicky Castro; Randy H. 22nd: JoAnn Till. Angela Constantin	<u><b>Scripture Readers</b></u>  1st: Diane Brewer 8th: Steph Pilecki 15 <sup>th</sup> : Ken Jones 22nd: Bill Brothers	<u><b>Acolytes:</b></u>  1st: DeeDee Anthony 8th: Gavin Sliva 15th: Emery Sliva 22nd: Teresa Boehme	<u><b>Youth S.S. Teachers:</b></u>  1st: K. Hurley 8th: Angela Constantine 15th: R. Hayes 22nd: Dale Williams	<u><b>Opening &amp; Closing:</b></u>  Johnny Starnes  <u><b>Altar Guild</b></u>  Maxine Smith