

# THE LONGEST NIGHT

Christmas is nearly here. The postal service mail carriers are working long hours, the lights are beginning to appear and the anticipation is brimming. For some this time of year is full of tinsel, lights and joyful carols. For others, it can be a struggle as nights get longer and deadlines draw closer.

Winter Solstice is the longest night of the year falling on December 21. On the evening that offers the most darkness, FCC is offering a sacred space for worship. Please join us for "The Longest Night: A Service of Healing and Hope" on Sunday, December 21 at 5pm.

Someone you know will be experiencing Christmas for the first time without their spouse, without their parent, without their child, or without their friend.. Someone you know will be experiencing Christmas feeling isolated with depression and anxiety. Someone you know may be experiencing a terminal illness, realizing it could be their last time in this sacred part of the year.

With prayers, congregational singing, special music, healing stations and words of hope, we pray that it's a time of sacred community. If you or someone you know need a space to be surrounded by love and comfort, join us.

Come, be with community. Hold on. Hope will find you.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
WILSON, N.C.

# ADVENT SERIES

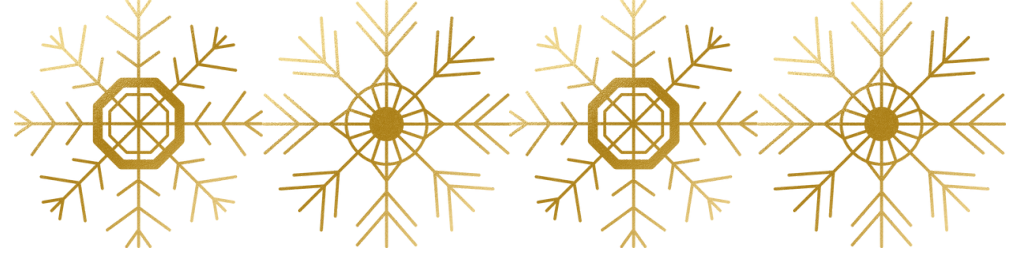
WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 17, 2025  
12:00 NOON

SHELLEY MADDOX,  
SOPRANO

CASEY CHILDERS, PIANIST



207 TARBORO ST. N  
FREE - OPEN TO ALL  
[WWW.FCCWILSON.ORG](http://WWW.FCCWILSON.ORG)



## PROGRAM

What Child Is This	arr. Mack Wilberg
A New Christmas Morning, Hallelujah	Robert MacGimsey
In the Bleak Mid-Winter	arr. Wilberg
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	arr. Terry D. Wilson
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas	Martin & Blane
Winter Wonderland	Felix Bernard
Silver Bells	arr. Luke Duane
Jingle Bells	arr. Mark Hayes
Sweet Little Jesus Boy	Robert MacGimsey
Angels from the Realms of Glory	arr. Amanda Wilson
Christ is Born	Ray Charles
Silent Night	arr. Dwight Dockery

the title role in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas. In addition to her solo work, Maddox enjoys choral singing. She is currently a member of the Chancel Choir at First United Methodist Church, the Maryville College Community Chorus, and is an Artistic Associate in the Maryville College Concert Choir. Maddox currently resides in Maryville, TN with her husband and chihuahua, Rosie. She is thrilled to return to FCC Wilson this year to share a recital of Christmas favorites.

**Casey Childers** has been serving First Christian full time since 2007 when she arrived as organist. She served this position while gaining the Masters of Music degree in Organ Performance and Sacred Music from East Carolina University as well as the Colleagues' Certification (CAGO) through the American Guild of Organists. Prior to this she received Bachelor of Music degrees from Appalachian State University in both Music (Clarinet) Performance and Music Education (K-12). In time aside from First Christian, Casey serves as accompanist for the James B. Hunt High School Choral Program, is an active member of Polyphony and runs her professional photography business on the side. She loves spending time with her husband, Andrew, sons, Jackson (9) & Phillip (5), thrifting, gardening, cleaning and all things photography.

**Shelley Maddox** earned the Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy and a Certificate of Advanced Performance Studies in Voice from East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina and the Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee. Maddox was an instructor of voice at Chowan University from 2008-2016. She has spent the last twenty years performing across the southeast in a variety of genres including opera, oratorio, solo recitals and numerous choirs across the region. Some of Maddox's favorite performances have been as a featured soloist in Handel's Messiah and Fauré's Requiem and in

First Christian is a Disciples of Christ congregation. All are welcome to the Lord's Table for the sake of mission and for the sake of the world as the one family of God.

Most congregations do this by celebrating communion every Sunday.

We worship together at 10AM.

Sunday School & Small Group follows worship at 11:15AM

Sunday, December 21 | Longest Night Service at 5PM

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve worship at 5PM