

December 21, 2018

Making lifetime followers of Jesus Christ

The Anticipation of Immanuel

You can feel the excitement in the air as Christmas Day approaches! All over town, people are ready for Christmas. Some are ready out of joy and excitement of what is to come. Some are ready out of weariness of the Christmas hoopla that seemed to begin in early November. Some are ready due to a dragging faith, in the face of trauma and loss this year; they want to see if God really is with us after all.

Whatever our current human condition, we are a people who cannot wait for the coming of Immanuel, which means "God with us." On Christmas Eve we will hear again the story of the peculiar way Christ came into the world, and we will remember that his mother wrapped him in cloth and laid him in a feed trough! Is there any more humble beginning to life than this? In response, we are called to humble ourselves in reverence and awe at the gift of the Christ, Savior of the world.

Let me remind you how you can worship the Christ child with your church family these coming days.

December 23 – Our Sunday morning schedule is as usual with 8:30 and 11:00 worship services.

December 24 – Our 3 Christmas Services will be as follows:

3:00 pm – Our new service geared to families with young children, which will include candles, carols, and Holy Communion, but we will have the Christmas story shared by costumed characters from Bethlehem. There is no choir for this service; there is a nursery provided for ages 3 and younger. All ages are welcome.

5:00 pm and 11:00 pm – Traditional services of candles, carols, and Holy Communion. We will hear "O Holy Night" and go into the world by candlelight, singing Silent Night. There is a nursery at 5:00 pm and there is not a nursery at 11:00 pm. All ages are welcome at both services. Christ is coming. Can you feel it? Do you sense it? Can you believe it?

With excitement and anticipation,

Yours,



Rev. Robin Wilson

robinwilson@fumcopelika.org

Come Worship with Us



Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 23rd

8:30 a.m. - Worship Service

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Worship Service



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services Monday, December 24th

3:00 p.m.

A “family friendly” service including the traditional elements of Candles, Carols, and Communion, which is geared toward families with children.

5:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

Traditional services including Candles, Carols, and Communion, in which we hear the Christmas story and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Come dressed “just as you are” and participate with us.

A nursery will be provided for ages 3 years and younger



First Sunday after Christmas Day - December 30th

8:30 a.m. - Worship Service

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

[#B365](#)

We hope you're as excited as we are about #B365 — our year through the Bible in 2019. If you haven't done so already, download the “Read Scripture” app to follow along with us. You can also pick up a paper copy of the reading plan in the church office.

2018 Lay Person of the Year

On February 12, 2019, the United Methodist Men will sponsor a Ladies' Night Dinner. It is traditionally the time the Methodist Men recognize the Lay Person of the year. We are currently requesting nominations for this person. Please write a short narrative as to why this person should be considered for this honor. Your nomination may be turned in to the church office. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, January 31, 2019.

IT'S A GIRL!!!

*Congratulations to Slade & Katie Ponder upon the birth of their daughter,
Sara Grace Ponder.
Sara Grace was born on December 20th.
Her big sister is Reese.*

FUMC WILL RECYCLE IN 2019!!

We will collect recyclables here at FUMC. Our plan is to start off simple and collect any excess paper, magazines, plastic, cardboard boxes that can go into a city recycle bin. We will not initially collect cans or bottles. These are all recyclables generated at FUMC. We will not be collecting recyclables from church members' homes or businesses. We are now looking for RECYCLE CHAMPIONS, volunteers that will help us every two weeks. If you are interested in helping our church to maintain this very worthy cause, please call or email Brenda Woods (706-773-4892, henry.brenda941365@gmail.com) or Judy Smith (334-749-8223).

CAMP Ministry

We are in need of van drivers to pick our kids up from Morris Avenue school. If we have enough drivers you should only need to volunteer about once a month. All you have to do is pick up at Morris Avenue School at 2:30 p.m., drop off at church, and you are done by 3:30 p.m. at the latest! It's that easy! We do need 2 people on the van for Safe Sanctuaries, so grab a partner and come help. You do have to be trained in Safe Sanctuaries. If you haven't gone through the training it only takes about 30 minutes. Please contact Laura McKay (706) 888-6443 if you are interested in helping.

YOUTH NEWS

Sunday Morning Youth - Every Sunday morning up in the Cross Cafe from 9:30 - 10:30.
Milk and cereal and God's Word!

No Sunday Night Youth on December 23rd and December 30th

MERRY CHRISTMAS! & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Youth Ski Trip to Winterplace Ski Resort in West Virginia - January 1st - 4th

Sunday Night Youth on January 6th

Jr Hi from 5 - 6:30pm

Sr Hi from 6 - 7:30

O Town Ice Cream on Wednesday, January 9th

Sunday Night Youth on January 13th

Jr Hi from 4:30 - 6:30pm; Sr Hi from 5 - 7pm

Mission Night and **The Five Worship Service**

Wednesday Night Youth begins on January 16th

MATT (Meals and Teen Tires) and OPEN CAFÉ from 5 - 6pm. Youth meet in the Fellowship Hall at 5pm to decorate white to go boxes. We then fill them with food and then our drivers deliver them to our widows and shut ins. After MATT is done we head upstairs to the Cross Café for free time until 6pm. At this time we split up into our small groups which we call J Groups.

There is a small group for Jr Hi boys, Jr Hi girls, Sr Hi boys and Sr Hi girls. We finish at 7pm.

LAITY MINISTRY THIS WEEK

Greeters

8:30 a.m.

Eric & Ellen Canada
Charles & Glenda Bush

11:00 a.m.

Scott & Hope Scarborough
Cynn timer James & Lucretia Mann

Gathering Music: Charles Bonner

Crucifer: Adam Cason

Acolytes

8:30 a.m.

Sam & Erin Kemp

11:00 a.m.

Jack & Claire McKay

Sound & Video

8:30 a.m.

Nathan Goff

11:00 a.m.

Will Levins & Peter Elliott

Nurturing Notes

Hope Scarborough

Welcome Letters

Pat Brown

Flower Ministry

Nell Samford

Ushers

8:30 a.m.

Charlie Couey (Captain),
Paul Bush, Ben Landers,
Jonathan Patterson,
Erik Speakman, & John Wilson

11:00 a.m.

Bob Boothe (Captain),
Jason Halverson, (Co-Captain),
Jack Brown, Tyson Daffin,
Bill Levins, & Richard Moreman

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Attendance

Sunday School: 203
Worship: 493

Giving

Weekly Offering: \$22,892

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 23

8:30 a.m. - Worship
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services
3:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m.
11:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 27

8:00 a.m. - Noon- Church Office Hours

Friday, December 28

8:00 a.m. - Noon- Church Office Hours

Sunday, December 30

8:30 a.m. - Worship
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship

Monday, December 31

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 1 (New Year's Day)

Church Office Closed

MEMORIALS

Betty Joyce Booth by Lucinda Cannon; Gene Torbert

Mickey Groom by Jimmy Burdette; Lucinda Cannon

Shirley Locklear by Mary Carol Hitchcock

Butch Smith by Jimmy Burdette

Quinton Walton by Lucinda Cannon

HONORARIUMS

Charles & Glenda Bush
by Earl Sumners

Lillie Odom
by Servants In Christ Sunday School Class

Prayer Concerns

EAMC (Lanier): Buddy Lane
(*friend of Tonya & Starr Hollis*)

Northside Forsyth (Atlanta):
Ed Reynolds (*Kim Epperson's father*)

Home:

Trippi Abercrombie
David Alexander (*Marcia Alexander's husband*)
Jimmy Allen
Cole Ashley (*Sonshine student*)
Dean Bledsoe
Caroline Bugg
Eleanor Cole
(*Pam Alsobrook's mother*)
Mable Collins (*Arbor Springs*)
Al Cook
Bette Corley (*Nann Ogletree's mother*)
Betty & Hal Cummings
C J Dodd (*Arvle & Esther Marshall's grandson*)
Nancy Einglett
(*Becky Bailey's sister-in-law*)
Ellen Gaberlavage
(*Paul Gaberlavage's mother*)
Trey Gafford
Ronnie Gaston
(*Mike Gaston's father*)
Anne Grady (*Camellia Place*)
Reba Gullledge
(*Connie Carver's sister*)
Barbara Hartley
(*Marrell Hartley's mother*)
Earl Hartsfield (*friend of Laura Fuller*)
Monique Jenkins
Tom Krehling
Jim Levins
Lucretia Mann
Donna McCard
(*Becky Bailey's sister*)
Jane & Phillip Moon
(*Joyce Windsor's cousins*)
Dana Morgan (*friend of Pam Hope*)
Jackie Motley
(*friend of Linda McCain*)
Dot Norrell
Ogie Ogletree
Ginger Perkins
Michael Roberts
Ron Rooks
Theron Sorrell (*Jake Thompson's grandfather*)
Jody Wilkerson (*Deborah Mitchell's brother*)
Laurie Williams

Barbara Woolley

Out of Town:

Hartley Brabner (*Tina Roberts' great niece*)
Beth Briele (*daughter of Charles & Elizabeth Mason & Laura Seller's sister*)
Shirley Brown (*Ginger Perkins' sister-in-law*)
Brock Bugg (*Caroline Bugg's grandson*)
Barbara Compton (*Caroline Bugg's sister-in-law*)
Shannon Cook (*friend of Earle & Kenny Wilkes*)
Greg Greaves (*friend of Sherri Rowton*)
Kinsley Green
(*Kyle & Sydney Bugg's niece*)
Ann Greene & Betty Wright
(*Caroline Bugg's cousins*)
Traci Hart
(*Pam Hope's sister-in-law*)
Madeline & Sam Hayes, Jr.
(*grandchildren of Sharon & Ron Rooks*)
Carolyn Hicks (*Lisa Abercrombie's mother*)
Howard Hoch (*Sue Bentley's father*)
Glynda Holliman (*Sam Bailey's niece*)
Graham Lane (*friend of Sherry & Richard Freeman*)
Helen Lane (*Rick Lane's mother*)
Buddy Loyd (*Laura Boggs' father*)
Freida Meacham (*Emily Finck's mother*)
Lexi Melton (*great niece of Stanley Melton, III*)
Bob Miller (*Sam Bailey's brother-in-law*)
Cathy Prescott (*friend of Jamie Crews*)
June Pyle (*Ken Woolley's sister*)
Dot Rice (*Pat Mayfield & Debbi Thornton's sister*)
Marian Rogers (*Emily Finck's grandmother*)
Carolyn Sell
(*Jo Vaughan's daughter*)
Gladys Shackelford (*Richard Shackelford's mother*)
Steve Smith
(*friend of Eric Canada*)
Sutton Smith (*grandson of Teresa & Ogie Ogletree*)

Claus Sogarrd (*friend of Allen Blythe*)
Jimmy Spence (*Joyce Windsor's cousin*)
Leigh Ann Thompson
(*Mike Gaston's sister*)
Susan Taylor
(*Jimmy Collins' sister*)
Greg Wheelus (*Ginny Gaberlavage's father*)
Bobby Woodruff (*Caroline Bush's uncle*)

Military:

Steven Alvarado
Beau Carroll (*friend of the Perkins*)
Tyler Carter (*son of Tommy & Lynn Carter*)
Michael Fischer, & T J Fischer
(*friends of Phyllis & Jim Mayfield*)
Robert Groszmann (*Bob Ingram's nephew*)
Garrett Guess (*Becky Bailey's nephew*)
Paul Leonard (*Fay Burns' cousin*)
Will McKee (*son of Mike & Ginger McKee*)
Chandler Norris (*cousin of Mary Virginia Norris & Louisa Wood*)
Alex Pendergraph (*Janet Taylor's grandson*)
Jacob Ramus (*Phyllis & Jim Mayfield's son-in-law*)
Kennard R. Smith (*friend of Anne & Sheldon Whittelsey*)
Ronnie Snyder (*grandson of Arden Snyder*)

Christian Sympathy. . .

. . . is extended to John & Laura Maples and all of the family upon the death of John's father, Glennon Maples.

. . . is extended to Wallace & Lorene Paschal and all of the family upon the death of Wallace's sister, Ruby Ivy, of Murphy, NC.