## **December** Corner Connections





In the opening devotional of Matt and Josh LeRoy's book "Protagonist," they expand upon a point once made by C.S. Lewis: that Hamlet could never meet Shakespeare. Why? Because Hamlet was created by Shakespeare. While William Shakespeare knew everything about this character he invented, the character could never break out of the play or move off the page and into the world of his creator. Unless, Lewis pointed out, William Shakespeare wrote himself into the story as a character:

If Shakespeare and Hamlet could ever meet, it must be Shakespeare's doing. Hamlet could initiate nothing...Shakespeare could, in principle, make himself appear as Author within the play, and write a dialogue between Hamlet and himself. The "Shakespeare" within the play would of course be at once Shakespeare and one of Shakespeare's creatures. It would bear some analogy to Incarnation.

CS Lewis, Surprised by Joy

This is exactly what our Creator God has done for us in Jesus Christ. He has written himself into the story of his own creation, he has become one of his creators, so that he could be seen, heard, and touched by his own creations. That is the mystery of what we call the incarnation...God being made one of us. As the Leroys write, "The Author becomes the Protagonist."

The goal of the season of Advent is to enter into the experience of the people of Israel in the 400 years in between the last prophetic word from God (given through Malachi) and the arrival of God's anointed Christ. Through this season of hopeful anticipation, we realize that in our slavery to sin and need for a Savior, how great a gift has been given to us in Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,

Clint



Hanging of the Greens - December 3, 6:00 pm

#### Child of Light - December 10, 6:00 pm

Our Shadow Drama Christmas program will include Scripture readings and traditional music of the season as the Nativity story is portrayed through shadow theatre.

#### Christmas Caroling - December 20, 6:00 pm

Join us for Christmas Caroling for some of our homebound church family. We will leave from the church at 6 PM. Meet at the church van by the office.

#### Morning Worship on 12/24 - December 24, 8:50 am and 11:00 am

This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on December 24, so our morning services on that Sunday will celebrate that last Sunday of the Advent season. We will have our regular worship schedule on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Christmas Eve Service - December 24, 5 pm

On the evening of Sunday, December 24 we will have a traditional Christmas Eve service. This service will close with Holy Communion, candle lighting and singing of "Silent Night."

#### Worship on the morning of New Year's Eve - December 31, 10:00 am

Prepare for the New Year with John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary. This is an opportunity to start 2023 with a time of self-examination, reflection, and dedication, wholly giving ourselves to God. Sunday school classes will meet at 9:00 AM.

## **Community Thanksgiving Meal**



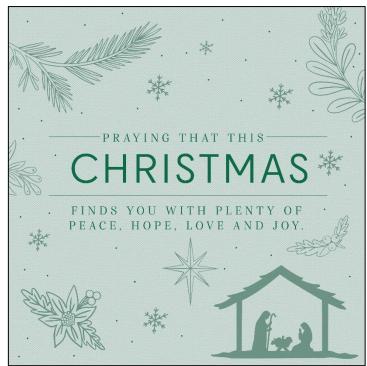
We served well over 200 plates. We had about 40 plates picked up and the rest were delivered. We had so many people come to help serve, people of all ages. We are hoping to find a date to do it again during Christmas break! Thank you again to everyone who helped in whatever way you helped. We have had several people reach out to tell us what a blessing it was to them to have a hot meal provided.

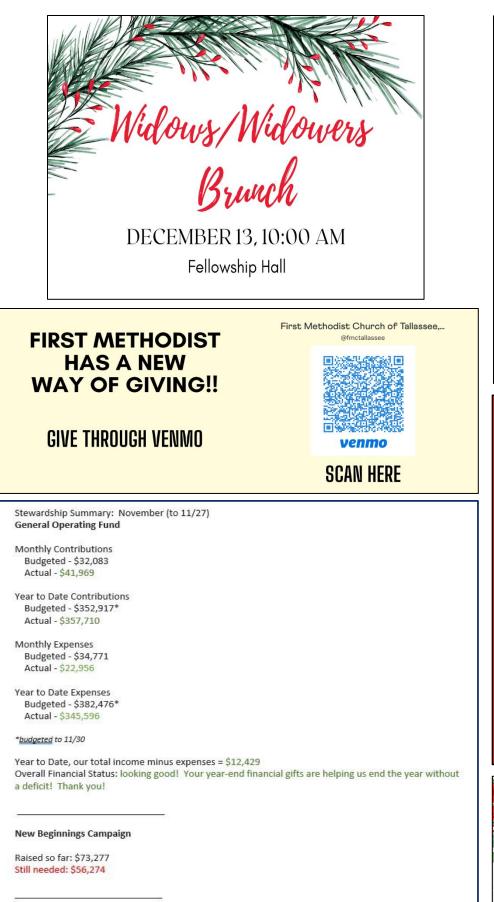
# YOUTH & CHILDREN Please check the Facebook pages for Sunday & Wednesday night activities!!!



#### White Christmas

From now until December 17, we will be collecting donations for the Embrace Alabama Kids, which provides help and hope for abandoned and neglected children within the geographical bounds of our conference. Please make checks payable to "FMC" with "White Christmas" in the memo line, or donate online at embracealkids.org





We appreciate your monetary contributions to First Methodist this year, which have helped us fund new ministries such as our young adult evening Sunday School and Wednesday night Bible study, Thanksgiving take-out plates coordinated by Hillary and the youth, welcome gift bags for visitors, and fellowship events to promote church-wide togetherness, among others. THANK YOU so much!!

Any donations you would like <u>applied</u> to fiscal year 2023 must be received in the office or postmarked by December 31.



Consider a year-end gift for your church family. The church office will be open Tuesday 12/26 to receive year-end contributions.

DECEMBER

**ALTER FLOWERS** 

**O3 - FRANKIE SCOTT** 

10 - OPEN

17 - OPEN

24- BILL & SANDRA PATTERSON

**30 - OPEN** 

December Birthdays Brue milner Emily BRVANT			•		BECKEY YOUNGBLOOD HUNTER MILLER AMY MCBROOM S MARGARET ERB STEVEN TURNER CHARLES PEPPERS	REVERE TOSCH MICHAEL WELDON 14 15 27 31
8 م 2 8	Saturday 05	43 49 69 47 49 69	2 7 S	\$ <u></u>	23 Couple's Shower Jillian Clark 23 10am -12pm 26	9 8
	Sat	2	۵	22	23 Couple Jilli	30
	Friday	-	ω	S	22	58
2023	Thursday		7	14 Home Supper Club 6:30 pm	5	28 Office Closed
P	Wednesday		ó Mission House open 9 am -1 pm	3 Widows/Widowers Brunch 10:00 am Mission House open 9 am -1 pm	20 Mission House open 9 am -1 pm	27 Office Closed Mission House open 9 am -1 pm
* Cembé	Tuesday		ч	12	6	26 Office
J. C.	Monday		4 Crafty Christians 1-2:30 pm Church Council 6:00pm	F	l8 Crafty Christians 1-2:30 pm	25
	Sunday		3 Hanging of the Greens 6:00 pm	10 Child of Light Program 6:00 pm	17	24 Christmas Eve 31 New Year's Eve One Service