

December Corner Connections



Commit. Connect. Engage.

first methodist
TALLASSEE



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 Leroy's 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

Christmas Services Schedule

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 24th.

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!!!

Be the **light**

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

PRAYING THAT THIS


CHRISTMAS

FINDS YOU WITH PLENTY OF
PEACE, HOPE, LOVE AND JOY.



Widows/Widowers Brunch

DECEMBER 13, 10:00 AM
Fellowship Hall



Coffee with the Couple

Celebrating the engagement of
Jillian Clark
&
Carl van Rensburg


Saturday, December 23, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

First Methodist Church
1 Jordan Avenue
Tallasse, Alabama

First Methodist Church of Tallasse, ...
@fmctalasse

FIRST METHODIST HAS A NEW WAY OF GIVING!!

GIVE THROUGH VENMO



SCAN HERE

Stewardship Summary: November (to 11/27)
General Operating Fund

Monthly Contributions
Budgeted - \$32,083
Actual - \$41,969

Year to Date Contributions
Budgeted - \$352,917*
Actual - \$357,710

Monthly Expenses
Budgeted - \$34,771
Actual - \$22,956

Year to Date Expenses
Budgeted - \$382,476*
Actual - \$345,596

**budgeted to 11/30*

Year to Date, our total income minus expenses = \$12,429
Overall Financial Status: looking good! Your year-end financial gifts are helping us end the year without a deficit! Thank you!


New Beginnings Campaign

Raised so far: \$73,277
Still needed: \$56,274

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 applied to fiscal year 2023 must be received in the office or postmarked by December 31.

Avg. total worship attendance per Sunday: 129



**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

03 - FRANKIE SCOTT
10 - OPEN
17 - OPEN
24 - BILL & SANDRA PATTERSON
30 - OPEN

December 2023

December Birthdays

- 01 BRUE MILNER
- 02 EMILY BRYANT
- 03 SYDNEY BASS
- 04 IDA TURNER
- 05 FRANKIE SCOTT
- 07 SHIRLEY JACKSON
- 08 ADAM HILL
- 10 CUE ECKSTEIN
- KEITH HOLT
- 12 MICHAEL BUTLER
- JILL MANNING
- 13 KATHERINE ROBINSON
- SUSAN DAVIDSON
- 14 SADIE DAVIS
- CECILIA JOHNSON
- 15 GAIL MOSELEY
- 16 KAREN CUNNINGHAM
- KELLEY HILL
- AUDREY WELDON
- 17 IVY CATE WRIGHT
- 18 RUBY CRAIN
- THERON SHIPMAN
- BECKEY YOUNGBLOOD
- 21 HUNTER MILLER
- 22 AMY MCBROOM
- 23 MARGARET ERB
- 26 STEVEN TURNER
- 27 CHARLES PEPPERS
- 28 REVERE TOSCH
- 30 MICHAEL WELDON

December Anniversaries

- 14 SAM & CECILIA JOHNSON, II
- CHARLES & IDA MCCARTHA
- 15 WAYNE & CINDY PRESSLEY
- 27 JOE & LINDA WILLIAMS, SR.
- 31 MARLON & HEATHER JOHNSON

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Hanging of the Greens 6:00 pm	4 Crafty Christians 1-2:30 pm Church Council 6:00pm	5	6 Mission House open 9 am -1 pm	7	8	9
10 Child of Light Program 6:00 pm	11	12	13 Widows/Widowers Brunch 10:00 am Mission House open 9 am -1 pm	14 Home Supper Club 6:30 pm	15	16
17	18 Crafty Christians 1-2:30 pm	19	20 Mission House open 9 am -1 pm	21	22	23 Couple's Shower Jillian Clark 10am -12pm
24 Christmas Eve	25 	26 Office 	27 Office Closed Mission House open 9 am -1 pm	28 Office Closed	29	30
31 New Year's Eve One Service						