



BETHLEHEM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE HAPPENINGS

DECEMBER 1 - 7, 2023

Our Mission: "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by making *Worship* a priority, extending an intentional *Invitation*, *Nurturing* Godly friendships, committing to *Grow* spiritually, and making a difference by *Serving* others."

THE ANGELS OF CHRISTMAS

Advent is a season of great anticipation. This year, we will be exploring the Angels that are significant in the stories surrounding Jesus's birth. Angels are messengers sent by God with special news and instructions. Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds all have angel encounters that change their lives in unexpected ways. There are angel encounters throughout the scriptures and Angels often say the words, "Do not be afraid" to their listeners. These are words that we need to hear today. The words the angels bring to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the shepherds and

their responses are still instructive to us today. Our faith can grow deeper if we hear these familiar stories with new ears. Angels bring words of hope and peace and joy, but also bring commands from the Lord. May this advent season be one where we hear from God in unexpected ways and act on the unexpected invitations that the Lord puts before us. There are angels among us who wear skin. Some messages that change our lives can come from believers who act as angels – who instruct and guide us in our faith. This advent, we pray that you hear God's call in your life in a new way.



November 26 Standing in the Presence of God: Gabriel & Zechariah

December 3 Let it Be: Gabriel & Mary

December 10 Acting on the Unbelievable: An Angel of the Lord & Joseph

December 17 Hark the Herald Angels Sing: The Angels & the Shepherds

Please Join Us for Worship | In-Person or On-Line

9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 | Second Sunday of Advent: Love

Though Mary is one of the most important women in history, we don't know a lot about her. We don't know her birthday, we don't know how old she was when she got married, we don't know her favorite color. What we do know, though, is earth-shaking: she was a young girl called by God to bring His Messiah into the world. Her story begins with a message from an angel, a message that changed the course of her life, and has the potential to change ours as well. Through it all, God gives her reassurance, comfort, and guidance, prompting Mary to declare, "The Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me. He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him" (Luke 1:49-50).

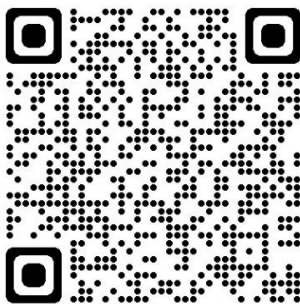
EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2		
9:30 am	House of Bread Food Pantry	126
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3		
7:00 pm	Handbell Christmas Concert	Sanct
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4		
6:00 pm	Hope Connects Event	
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5		
3:30 pm	Prayer Group	120
6:00 pm	Disciple 1	127
6:30 pm	Trustees	128
7:00 pm	Young Adults	130
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10		
5:00 pm	Live Nativity Cash Rehearsal	FH
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Everything BFUMC

can be found
on our app:

linktr.ee/bfumc



HANDBELLS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 3 @ 7:00 p.m.

Under the direction of Jenny Smith, the three BFUMC Bell Choirs will come together for an evening of joyful sounds for this holiday season. This event offers you a great opportunity to invite your neighbors and friends to Bethlehem First.



CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR HOPE CONNECTS

On December 4th, we are once again partnering with Hope Connects to provide a time of fun and fellowship for foster and adoption



families and the special children in their care. Parents have an opportunity to relax, knowing their children are having fun in a safe and loving environment, while they meet and eat. Parents will meet from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., so we will need to be ready to greet families at 5:30 p.m. and should be cleaned up and ready to head home by 8:00 p.m. Christmas themed activities have been planned for the children and as before, we are preparing for 30-45 children, so we need lots of volunteers. The children will be divided into age groups and assigned a room in the children's wing, where they will stay to enjoy dinner and the planned activities. All materials, including craft examples, will be prepared for you. We just need your kind hearts, loving hands and big smiles! You will find sign up forms on the blue Missions wall in the Stars Cafe as well as linktr.ee/bfumc (Hope Connects). Looking forward to seeing you there!

Lisa Heffner | 770-868-7858 (mobile)
ldheff69@gmail.com

2023 Community Christmas

Barrow Area
Rotary
Club

CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR BARROW KIDS

This year, we are partnering with Barrow County Rotary Club, to sponsor Community Christmas, formerly known as Holiday Connection, to help provide Christmas gifts for children county wide. Parents who need assistance apply at the Rotary Club and if approved, will shop the "Christmas Store" December 11th-14th. Here's where we get to spread some holiday cheer.

We are collecting gifts for all ages of children to donate to the Christmas Store, which will be at Bethlehem Church's 211 Campus in Winder. **If you would like to participate, please purchase an item of your choice and place your unwrapped gift on the collection table across from the restrooms near Stars Cafe anytime between now and December 7th.** Again, any gift, any size, boy or girl. I will gather our gifts and drop them off at the Wimberly Center periodically during this time. You are also invited to volunteer to serve as "Elves" to accompany families as they make their gift selections at the Christmas Store December 11th-14th. As the date gets closer, more volunteer sign up information will be posted on Bethlehem Church's 211 Campus Facebook page. If you have any questions, please call or text Lisa Heffner. Thank you for celebrating the birth of Christ by spreading His hope, love and joy to so many in our county.

Lisa Heffner | 770-868-7858 | ldheff69@gmail.com

BASKETBALL/CHEERLEADING

Do you have a child in PreK through 5th grade interested in playing basketball or cheerleading? We are now taking registrations for our new season coming up in January 2024! Early bird pricing is through December 15th, but that will also be our deadline for determining if we have enough interest. Please share this information with everyone you know who may be interested!

For more information and/or questions, please email:

Anissa.Sullivan@bethlehemfirstumc.com





KENYA PROJECT CLASSROOM DESKS

Over the past year the Kenya Project has been working with a local contractor in Nakura, Kenya, along with Kenya Project volunteers to design new desks to meet the needs of the older students at Mountain Park Academy.

BFUMC would like to help Mountain Park Academy purchase 100 desks for their middle school and high school students. **The cost of one desk with chair is \$45. You can make a donation to BFUMC with a check, cash, or online. Please mark your donations "Kenya Desk Fund."**



\$45
Kenya Desk Fund

130 Desks & Chairs!

Let's now try for 150!

Can we reach this goal by December 20th?

LIVE NATIVITY ON THE SQUARE

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22 & 23 @ 7:00 PM EACH NIGHT

This is our 60th year to hold the Live Nativity on the Square in Bethlehem. We need adults, teens, and children to sign up to participate in the Nativity.

If you would like to be a Cast Member in this year's event, rehearsals will be 5:00 p.m. on Sundays beginning December 10th. We will have rehearsals on Sundays, December 10th and 17th.

The night of the Nativity, we will meet at the Bethlehem Community Center at 6:00 p.m. to get dressed for the shows.

Sign up to greet or make cookies on linktr.cc/bfumc (December 2023 Events Help Needed)



DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

Dec. 3 7:00 pm Handbell Concert

Dec. 4 6:00 - 7:30 pm Hope Connects

Dec. 17 9:30 am **Worship - 4th Sunday of Advent**
11:00 am **Worship - Chancel Choir Cantata**

Dec. 22 & 23 7:00 pm Live Nativity on the Square*

Dec. 24 10:30 am **Christmas Eve Contemporary Candlelight Communion Svc. (WC)**
7:00 pm **Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Communion Svc. (Sanctuary)**

Dec. 25-Jan. 1 Church Office Closed

Dec. 31 10:30 am **Combined Worship with Star Words (WC)**

WC=Worship Center

For the Sundays not listed here, worship times are the regularly scheduled 9:30 a.m. Contemporary and 11:00 a.m. Traditional.



2023 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY FRIDAY, DEC. 29, 2023

Questions? Contact Belinda.Agnew@bethlehemfirstumc.com | 404-906-6539



PRAYER CONCERNS

To receive prayer updates and notices
for e-prayers, contact

Karen Whitehead 770-867-3727,

karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023

Alexander, Marilana – *undergoing treatment for stage 4 colon cancer (friend of Scott Palmer family)*

Allen, Janice

Amick, Elijah – *RSV – meningitis – complete healing (just a baby)*

Bagwell, Jean – *praise – eyesite improving from cataract surgery (Ken Bagwell's mother)*

Banks, Theodosia – *prayers to make good decisions in my life and prayers for daughter to live life with Jesus*

Bennett, James – *in CCU after a heart attack (Rebecca & Abby Lawrence's grandfather)*

Bernat, Betty – *struggling with memory issues*

Bostwick, Patsy

Chisholm, Bruce

Cline, Jason – *healing from bacteria infection (Lori Segar's cousin)*

Dickinson, Beth – *median nerve block 12/14*

Elkins, Lacey – *suddenly stopped breathing and body went septic from pneumonia, now in coma*

Evans, Wendell

Gamel, Terry – *brain aneurysm*

Gomez, Cris – *recovering from gallbladder surgery*

Howard, Morgan – *healing of wrist*

Ivey, Becky – *shingles around eye (Brenda Partee's sister)*

Johnson, Tylon

Jones, Virginia – *breast cancer (2nd time)*

Langley, Tim – *long battle with brain cancer, recent surgery and not healing well*

Mayfield, Melissa – *ongoing health issues, kidneys/dialysis, diabetes*

McGarity, Linda – *breast cancer delayed until December (Anna Marie Lawrence's aunt)*

McWhirter, Stuart & Oxana

Mirkes, Monica – *prayers for Connor's health and safety, and travel mercies for visit with parents in Texas*

Monk, John – *recovering from surgery*

Moon, Terry – *healing of leg*

Murphy, Paul & Dora Mae – *pneumonia*

Odum, Jimmy

Otts, Carlos – *stage 4 COPD. Needs double lung transplant. Has had two strokes so transplant is doubtful*

Parkhurst, Lillie Mae – *born at 34 weeks, in NICU getting stronger. Mommie Laurel is distressed not having her home ((Ruth Berger's grand niece)*

Pruett, Virginia

Reed, Clara – *preparing for driving test on 12/8 (Tracey Reed's daughter)*

Reed, Tracey – *promotional center assessment on 12/7. Pray for wisdom, focus, and God's will.*

Ries, Jerry – *colon cancer*

Roberts, Linda – *prayers for family members having difficult times*

Ruffner, Frances – *in hospital with RSV (Shirley Griffing's sister)*

Schultz, Tess – *safe travels during Thanksgiving break*

Sirleaf, Miatta – *18 month old with brain tumor*

Tinsman, Kate – *breast cancer*

Tolbert, Margo – *14 yr. old with mold infection in her sinus and close to eye.*

Wood, Pam Clotfelter – *recovery from brain surgery*

Wingard, Penny – *recovery from hip surgery*

Ongoing Requests

Alcorn, Shirley – *cancer*

Allen, Tyler

Bell, Charles – *eye issues*

Cox, Billy

Dean, Jamie – *breast cancer*

Dillard, Tonya

Fleeman, Brenda & Johnny

Helmets, Lois – *severe back pain*

Massey Family – *health issues*

- All Caregivers

- Our Elderly

WE ARE A PRAYING CHURCH

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am with them. Matthew 18:20

Gather | Devotional | Pray

Tuesdays @ 3:30 p.m.

Interested? Contact: Marian Monk

229-254-2784 | marianmonk@gmail.com

Our HomeBound

Please feel free to send them a card or note and let them know they are in your thoughts and prayers.

Abbett, Terry & Suda 770-307-0883
709 Westbury Dr.
Bethlehem, GA 30620

Alcorn, Shirley Spouse: Tom..... 678-227-2914
147 Thorn Brook Rd.
Bethlehem, GA 30620

Boyd, Evelyn & JP..... 770-867-9551
16 Joseph St.
Bethlehem, GA 30620

Chaffin, Patty 912-754-2402
133 Brookstone Way
Rincon, GA 31326

Ellis, Marilyn.....jse3801@gmail.com
Great Oaks Senior Living
920 GA-138 NW
Monroe, GA 30655

Fleeman, Brenda..... 678-863-1765
716 Harrison Mill Rd.
Winder, GA 30680

Haralson, Evelyn..... 770-466-0550
Riverside Healthcare
5100 W. Street
Covington, GA 30014

Harrison, Carolyn..... 470-209-7685
Gateway Gardens
138 Gateway Lane
Bethlehem, GA 30620

Kelley, Betty 770-867-2251
422 Aberdeen Way
Winder, GA 30680

McCauslan, Harriet 678-520-5692
2750 Atlanta Hwy., Apt. 114
Athens, GA 30606

Morris, Bobbie 678-447-9670
774 Exchange Mill Place
Dacula, GA 30019

Odum, Jane..... 770-867-2256
422 Aberdeen Way
Winder, GA 30680

Partee, Mary Nell, Spouse: John..... 770-867-9784
217 Carl Bethlehem Rd.
Bethlehem, GA 30620

Thompson, Rachel 770-867-9518
107 Sunningdale Dr.
Winder, GA 30680

White, Earlene..... 404-990-1666
1050 Octavia Ct.
Winder, GA 30680



OUR CLERGY

Rev. Frank Bernat, *Senior Pastor*
770.867.3727, ext. 105
frank.bernat@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Rev. Beth Dickinson, *Associate Pastor*
770.867.3727, ext. 106
beth.dickinson@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Rev. Megan Gomez, *Associate Pastor of
Discipleship & Spiritual Formation*
770.867.3727, ext. 107
megan.gomez@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Choir Director, Haley Cox Mitchell
770.867.3727, ext. 110
haley.mitchell@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Pianist, Katrina Wilson
pbp4katie@gmail.com

Technical Director, Gordon Wyngaert
gordon.wyngaert@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Worship Leader, Tim Darden
tim.darden@bethlehemfirstumc.com

OUR STAFF

Office Phone #770.867.3727

Accounts Manager (temporary), Belinda Agnew.....ext. 104
belinda.agnew@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Children Ministries Director, Trish Johnson.....ext. 108
trish.johnson@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Custodian, Anissa Sullivan.....ext. 109
anissa.sullivan@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Executive Assistant, Karen Whitehead.....ext. 102
karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Facilities Manager, Amber Wigley.....ext. 111
amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Fitness/Rec Director, Anissa Sullivan.....ext. 109
anissa.sullivan@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Preschool Director, Lizzy Sheffield.....770.867.3724
lizzy.sheffield@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Student & Young Adult Ministry
Director, Matt Brown.....ext. 103
matt.brown@bethlehemfirstumc.com

709 Christmas Avenue | Bethlehem, GA 30620
770-867-3727
info@bethlehemfirstumc.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday ~ 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday ~ 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

WWW.BETHLEHEMFIRSTUMC.ORG



YOU CAN ALSO FIND
BFUMC HAPPENINGS & EVENTS
AT WWW.LINKTR.EE/BFUMC

