



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."

ADVENT 2024 - PROMISES

Our culture says that Advent is a happy (if busy!) time filled with decorations and nostalgia and family and friends. In our churches Advent is when we begin counting the blessings of Christmas with the familiar themes of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. All of these things are wonderful as long as we don't miss the true meaning of Advent: Promises. Traditionally during the season of Advent we remember Christ's first coming and we rejoice, while also preparing for His second coming. This year, we are going to take a closer look at the Old Testament prophecies and the promises God made to His people before Christ's first coming to find clues in how we live as we await His second coming. Through it all we can rest in the assurance of Emmanuel, God is with us, and He always keeps His promises.



DEC. 1

PROMISES

DEC. 8

PREPARATION

DEC. 15

PASSION

DEC. 22

PRESENCE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP | IN-PERSON OR ONLINE ON SUNDAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

10:30 AM COMBINED WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Love - Jesus himself is a reminder of God's great love for us.

"Presence" | Micah 5:2-5a (ESV)

As we close out an Advent focusing on the promises of God, we cannot leave without focusing on Emmanuel, the promise of God's presence with us. Jesus was foretold in the Old Testament and Mary sang of Him before His birth. Whether Jesus returns tomorrow or centuries from now, we can still rest in the promises and presence of God, assured of God's great love for us.

This morning we will look at the Annunciation shared by the angel Gabriel with Mary, her response to this invitation, Mary's visit with Elizabeth and the joyful song she shared known as the Magnificat, and we will discover, like Mary, how we can magnify the Promise of God's Presence in our own lives.

EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21		
9:00 am	Run for God	
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22		
10:30 am	Combined Worship	Sanct
7:00 pm	Live Nativity on the Square	
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23		
7:00 pm	Live Nativity on the Square	
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24		
3:00 pm	Kidz Christmas Play	Sanct
5:00 pm	Candlelight Communion Svc.	WC
7:00 pm	Candlelight Communion Svc.	Sanct
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 - <i>Merry Christmas</i>		
	Church Office Closed thru January 1, 2025	
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28		
9:00 am	Run for God	
10:00 am	Disc Golf-Covington Central Park-Parkers Pasture 3134 Ponderosa Dr., SW, Covington	

**COMBINED
FAMILY WORSHIP**
December 29th @10:30am
in the Worship Center

*Childcare for 4 and under

Epiphany Sunday
STAR WORDS
January 5th 9:30 & 11am

Combined Family Service

PRESENCE

12.22 in the Sanctuary @10:30am

LIVE NATIVITY
December 22nd and 23rd @7pm

Presented by
BETHLEHEM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWN SQUARE
750 MANGER AVE E
BETHLEHEM, GA 30620
FOOD TRUCKS!

GOT MAIL?
Don't forget to check the boxes!!!

**BOXES ARE
IN THE
HALLWAY
BETWEEN
THE STARS CAFE
AND
COMMONS AREA**

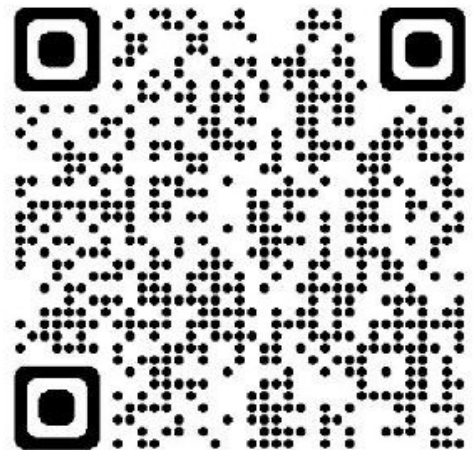


	Needed Operating	Received Operating	Operating Difference	Received Designated
December Week 1	\$19,200	\$27,011	\$7,811	\$432
December Week 2	\$19,200	\$31,587	\$12,387	\$31
Year to Date	\$902,462	\$845,999	-\$56,463	\$99,433

OnLine Giving:

END OF YEAR GIVING

Donate online before December 28 to insure 2024 credit.
Some transactions take several days to post to the church bank account.



Cash and Checks

Cash and Checks must be received at the church office by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31, 2024. The check date and postmark date are not acceptable.

BFUMC Mailing Address
709 Christmas Ave.
Bethlehem, GA 30620

The church office will be closed December 25 - January 1. Belinda Agnew, our Accounts Manager, will be in the office on Tuesday, December 31, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., if you need to drop it off.

**New Message Series
Beginning January 12, 2025**

TRANSFORMED

Would you like to become all that God intended for you to be? To live a full and abundant life? You can! But not with your own willpower or desire. If you're like most people – every New Year – you've tried to make positive changes and then give up or slide back into old destructive patterns and habits. Here's the good news, with

God's help you can make and maintain positive changes in every area of your life. Join us for our new message series Transformed and learn how unlocking the promises in God's Word and following His instructions for living will Transform your life. God's presence in our lives Transforms us holistically, touching every aspect of who we are and how we live. In this series we'll explore God's promises and plans for every area of our lives!



Join Us Sunday Mornings: 9:30 & 11:00 AM



Develop deep, supportive friendships. Fellowship with people who care and pray for you. Learn more about God, the Bible, and faith. Learn to live life well. If any of these things appeal to you, then check out our Grow Groups! We have over 30 groups! Here is a small sampling:

- Kids, Youth, Young Adults, In the Middle (*for big kids 30-50 years old*), and *NEW* this winter, The Next Episode (*empty nesters growing and seeking God together*).
- Connect and Coffee—a supportive group for preschool moms.
- The Band of Brothers—Men's group studying 2 Samuel and the life of David.
- United Methodist Women—2 different groups meeting at different times, but both serving our community and world.
- 2 different groups watching and discussing The Chosen (*seasons 3 and 4*).
- Crochet, Hiking, Disc Golf, Book Art, Travel Club, Handbells, Choir, and more!

To sign up or see our full list with times, go to: www.linktr.ee/bfumc.





FREE TRIAL

ACTIVITY & FITNESS CENTER

Open
MON-SAT
6am-7pm
SUNDAY
1-7pm

LOCK-IN
CURRENT
RATES
BEFORE
2025

- STRENGTH TRAINING
- CARDIO EQUIPMENT
- GROUP FITNESS CLASSES
- NO MONTHLY CONTRACT
- AFFORDABLE RATES
- SHOWERS & LOCKERS
- PERSONAL TRAINING

JOIN NOW

Director Anissa Sullivan: 770-867-3727 ext.109
bethlehemfirstumc.org/fitness-center

CONTACT US

WISEMAN 5K & FUN RUN

January 11, 2025



Check-In 7am | 5K 8am | Fun Run 9am
Register early for a shirt!
www.wiseman5k.com

UPWARD BASKETBALL & CHEER

REGISTRATION
OPEN TIL 1/11
Volunteers welcome!



Join us for
our annual

HEALTH & BEAUTY EXPO

January 25th
9am-2pm



PRAYER CONCERNS

Sunday, December 20, 2024

Note: Names in **Bold** added this week

Almond, Mac – cancer (*Leigh Strickland*)
 Bagwell, Ken – mass on pancreas & lesions on liver; many tests scheduled; prayers for treatment, healing
 Beaver, Marty – post op complications (*Ruth Pugh*)
 Bell, Caroline Loomis – recovering from surgery
 Bernat, Pastor Frank – hernia surgery 12/30
 Brooks, Joe – recovering from hip surgery
 Callahan, Martha – recovering at home from disc fusion in neck
 Carpenter, Kari – in Minnesota taking care of her mom following the death of her father (*Lynn Smith*)
 Davis, John – hospice (*Jean Stroud's cousin*)
 Dickinson, Beth – recovering from surgery
 Errol - in hospice (*Marjorie Powell's friend*)
 Gomez, Elias – updated medical equipment to be received before 12/31 insurance deadline
Gunderman, Pat – surgery related to thyroid on 12/18
Hall, Jackie Bonnemer – cancer (*Lynn Smith*)
Lee, Dawn – severe bronchitis
Lockerbie, Diane – answers, healing, resolution of long-standing GI problems (*Beth Dickerson's mother*)
 McCauslan, Harriet – recovering from gallbladder surgery
 McErlean, Jim – cancer (*Ruth Berger*)
 Mobley, Christopher – diagnosed with rare kidney disease (*Andrea Tyler*)
 Moon, Terry – abdominal surgery (*Linda Smith's mother*)
Orendorff, Al – undergoing treatment/medication to control AFib
 Reed, George – recovering from Covid, worried about wife, Terrie (*Tracey Reed's father-in-law*)
 Reed, Terrie – possible stroke, broken back, recovering from Covid (*Tracey Reed's mother-in-law*)
 Reynolds, Jess – surgery on foot 12/16 (*Amber Wigley's sister-in-law*)
 Smith, Judy – migraines; prayers for answers & relief
 Stringer, Carolyn – kidney dialysis (*Grace Hughes*)
 Standridge, Steve – moving from Shepherd to new medical facility on 12/19; (*Clara Allen's brother-in-law*)
 Sturchio, Cindy – laid off work; 2nd time this year (*Colin Sturchio*)
Thomas, Janet – healing of long-term respiratory infection/illness
 Whitaker Family – Shannon, Dwayne, Emma, and Samuel (*Nick Jacobs*)

Williamson, Maryanne – husband Jerry passed away (*Lesli Bernat*)
 Wilson, Jaxon – Pre-K boy with mass on brain; 3rd round of chemo (*Brenda Pryor*)

Ongoing Requests

Alcorn, Shirley – cancer
 Allen, Tyler
 Bell, Charles – eye & hearing issues
 Bernat, Betty – dementia
 Boyd, Evelyn & JP
 Brown, Mildred – (*Lynn Smith's mother*)
 Dean, Jamie – breast cancer
 Dillard, Tonya – ongoing treatments & infusions
 Fleeman, Johnny & Brenda
 Helmers, Lois – back issues
 Jonse, Mary & Tom – (*Monica Mirkes' parents*)
 Loomis, Diane – at home physical therapy
 Massey Family – health issues
 Mixon, Tommy – Vets Home in Milledgeville; diagnosed with lung cancer (*Tracey Reed's stepfather*)
 Odum, Jane – congestive heart failure
 Odum, Jimmy – chemo treatments for returned cancer
 Partee, John & Mary Nell – congestive heart failure
 Whitehead, Beth

Sympathy

Shannon Kennedy on the death of her aunt Darleen Kraustwurst. – Darleen passed away on Sunday, 12/8/24.
 Al Orendorff on the death of his sister-in-law Laura Orendorff who passed away on Monday, 12/9.

Special Requests

- Financial needs of BFUMC to be met
- Special Advent Services

To receive prayer updates and notices

for e-prayers, contact

Karen Whitehead 770-867-3727,

karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com.

Our HomeBound

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Abbett, Terry & Suda.....770-307-0883
709 Westbury Dr.
Bethlehem, GA 30620</p> <p>Alcorn, Shirley Spouse: Tom678-227-2914
147 Thorn Brook Rd.
Bethlehem, GA 30620</p> <p>Boyd, Evelyn & JP770-867-9551
16 Joseph St.
Bethlehem, GA 30620</p> <p>Chaffin, Patty912-754-2402
133 Brookstone Way
Rincon, GA 31326</p> <p>Ellis, Marilyn..... jse3801@gmail.com
Great Oaks Senior Living
920 GA-138 NW
Monroe, GA 30655</p> <p>Fleaman, Brenda & Johnny678-863-1765
Winder Healthcare
263 E. May Street, Winder, GA 30680</p> | <p>Haralson, Evelyn.....770-466-0550
Riverside Healthcare
5100 W. Street
Covington, GA 30014</p> <p>McCauslan, Harriet.....678-520-5692
2750 Atlanta Hwy., Apt. 114
Athens, GA 30606</p> <p>Morris, Bobbie678-447-9670
774 Exchange Mill Place
Dacula, GA 30019</p> <p>Odum, Jane770-867-2256
422 Aberdeen Way
Winder, GA 30680</p> <p>Partee, Mary Nell, Spouse: John.....770-867-9784
217 Carl Bethlehem Rd.
Bethlehem, GA 30620</p> <p>Thompson, Rachel770-867-9518
107 Sunningdale Dr.
Winder, GA 30680</p> <p>White, Earlene.....404-990-1666
1050 Octavia Ct.
Winder, GA 30680</p> |
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BFUMC CARE MINISTRY

Did you know BFUMC has a Care Ministry? It falls under the Nurture Wing. We target those in our congregation who are sick, homebound, and facing challenges. Our goal is to reach out in various ways to those who might need a kind word or a sign of support.

One way to show kindness is through mail. A note, a kind word of encouragement, thinking of you, or a note of sympathy or support, can mean so much to someone going through an illness or a difficult time in their life. If you want to send a note, here are a few suggestions:

- **Ken Bagwell** - *pancreas/ liver-upcoming tests and treatment plan*
110 Carterdale Ct., Bethlehem, GA 30620
- **Joe Brooks** - *recovering from hip surgery*
720 Nicholasville Rd., Monroe, GA 30656
- **Al Orendorff** - *treatment of AFib*
3400 Callie Still Rd., Lawrenceville, GA 30045



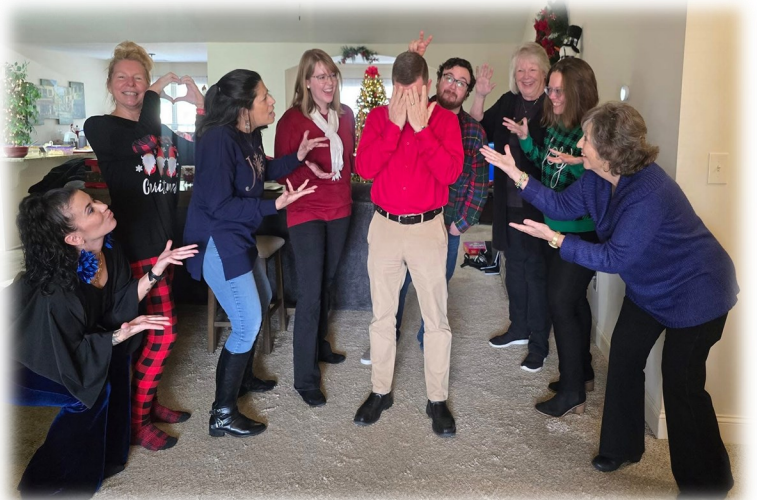
Karen Whitehead, Care Ministry Coordinator
404-245-0443
Karen.Whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com



From Left to Right: Trish Johnson, Pastor Frank Bernat, Lizzy Sheffield, Matt Brown, Pastor Beth Dickinson, Belinda Agnew, Pastor Megan Gomez, Amber Wigley, Anissa Sullivan, and Karen Whitehead

We are more than coworkers, and closer than friends. We are family...
...and so honored to be a part of the BFUMC family.

Merry Christmas



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

Sound Technician, Jaron Hardy
jaron.hardy@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, Amber Wigley ext. 110
amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com
- Communications 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. 110
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 Ministries,
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

Scan Here



linktr.ee/bfumc

 	<p>DONATIONS NEEDED</p> <p>OATMEAL & GRITS HAMBURGER & TUNA HELPER CEREAL PEANUT BUTTER CANNED MEAT</p>	 <p>DONATIONS NEEDED</p> <p>TUNA OR CHICKEN MEAT IN POUCHES SOUP OR STEW (PULL-TOPS ONLY) JUICE BOXES</p>
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