



# RECAPTURING WONDER THIS CHRISTMAS

One of the things that people love about Advent and Christmas is the sense of wonder that we experience. It's something we experience easily when we are children. I remember when I was a child seeing the lights and the decorations and the special worship services and having the sense that the season was magical.

But as we get older it is easy to lose the sense of wonder around Advent and Christmas. For many, the rampant consumerism surrounding this time of the year makes them jaded and cynical. So how can we reclaim a sense of amazement and wonder during this season?

In his book, "The Wonder of It All", Mark Sorenson writes this: "The key is for us to make Jesus our primary focus, whether we are by ourselves, with our family, or out in the world." I think he's on to something. The entire account of the birth of Jesus in Matthew and Luke is a story filled with God's strange and powerful acts, and when we refocus on those acts, it enables us to recapture the wonder around Christmas.

In our Advent sermons and daily devotionals, we'll dig into the nativity story found in Matthew and Luke's gospel and recapture some of the wonder of Christmas.

In Christ,

Clint



### Hanging of the Greens - December 1, 10:00 am

Familiar Scripture readings and well-loved songs help ready our hearts and minds for the season as we decorate our sanctuary for Advent and Christmas in this traditional service.

### Child of Light - December 15, 5:00 pm

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

## Longest Night of the Year - December 18, 6:00 pm

As we approach the longest night of the year, we will have a service of healing and remembrance in our sanctuary. This is a time of worship for those who don't feel like celebrating Christmas.

## **Christmas Eve Service** - December 24, 5:00 pm

Join us for a traditional Christmas Eve service. This service will close with Holy Communion, candle lighting and singing of "Silent Night."

## **Covenant Renewal Service** - December 29, 10:00 am

Begin the new year with John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service at 10 AM in the sanctuary. This is an opportunity to start 2025 with a time of self-examination, reflection, and dedication, wholly giving ourselves to God. Sunday school classes will meet at 9 AM.









**YOUTH NEWS**: We will continue to have youth through December. Please join our Facebook page to stay updated with activities and times. We will be going on our youth ski trip December 26-29. Please be in prayer for safe travels.

CHILDREN NEWS: We are thankful for your generous support of our shoebox ministry. This year, we were able to fill 26 shoeboxes. The children always find joy in participating in this activity every year.

Keep a check on Facebook for youth and kids activities during the holidays.

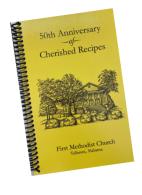




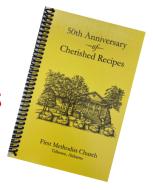
Beginning in January 2025, we will begin a new group for people age fifty-five & over. This group will be called "Senior Moments." This age group does have senior moments. The first meeting will be on Monday, January 13, 2025. At the first meeting we will have a time of fellowship, devotion, and of course food. We will begin at 10 am in the church fellowship hall. We will have light refreshments and welcome any ideas to help with organizing this new group. We plan to meet every month except for February and December if we have a good turnout. Future meetings include playing games, music, special speakers, and some days trips. Please come and join us for fun, good food, and great fellowship. If you have any questions, ideas, or need a

ride please contact Tammy Grumm.





ESTELLE LOCKWOOD WOMEN CIRCLE STILL HAS A FEW COOKBOOKS LEFT TO SELL. THESE MAKE A GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. YOU CAN ALSO GET THEM ALREADY GIFTWRAPPED. SEE SANDRA PATTERSON OR TAMMY GRUMM TO GET ONE. \$15 - CASH OR CHECKS ONLY



#### Stewardship Summary: December (to 11/24)

#### **General Operating Fund**

Monthly Contributions Budgeted - \$34,167 Actual - \$37,923

Year to Date Contributions Budgeted - \$370,595\* Actual - \$380,791

Monthly Expenses Budgeted - \$37,281 Actual - - \$19,483

Year to Date Expenses Budgeted - \$404,341\* Actual - \$368,733

\*budgeted to 11/24

Year to Date, our total income minus expenses = \$12,058

Avg. total worship attendance per Sunday: 136



## **NEW BEGINNINGS CAMPAIGN**

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our New Beginnings Campaign to cover our disaffiliation costs! Because of your overwhelming generosity, as well as a tax credit from the IRS, we have been able to pay back the loan we borrowed from the Endowment Fund! We are now debt free!



- 01 Brue Milner
- 02 Emily Bryant
- 03 Sydney Bass Ida Turner
- 04 Marie Milam
- 05 Frankie Scott
- 07 Shirley Jackson
- 08 Adam Hill
- 10 Cue Eckstein Keith Holt
- 12 Michael Butler Jill Manning
- 13 Katherine Robinson
- 14 Sadie Davis Cecilia Johnson
- 15 Gail Moseley
- 16 Karen Cunningham Kelley Hill Audrey Weldon
- 17 Ramona Lackey
- 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



- 15 Wayne & Cindy Pressley
- 27 Joe & Linda Williams, Sr.
- 31 Marlon & Heather Johnson





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Ladies Circle 10:00 am, FH  Church Council 6:00 pm , FH	3	4	5 Widows/ Widowers Brunch 10:00 am, FH	Allen Cowan Sunday School Christmas Party 6:00 pm	7
8	9	10	11	Home Supper Club 6:00 pm	13	14
Child of Light Christmas Program 5:00 pm	16	17	Longest Night of the Year Service 6:00 pm	19	20	21
22	23	24 Office Closed  Candle Light Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed  Youth leave For Ski Trip	27	28
29Covenant Renewal Service One Service 10:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am	30	31 Office Closed				

## **DECEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS**

Dec. 01 Open Dec. 08 Open Dec. 15 Open

**Dec. 22 Sandra Patterson** 

Dec. 29 Open



HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A BOUNTIFUL NEW YEAR!



### First Methodist Church of Tallassee

1 Jordan Ave. • PO Box 780147 Tallassee, AL 36078

pastor: Rev. Clint McBroom fmctallassee.com • 334-283-2195

### **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

8:50 am - contemporary worship 10 am - Sunday School, **all ages** 11 am - traditional worship

### **KIDS & YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

Sundays - 5 to 6:30 pm Wednesdays - 6 to 7:15 pm



## Facebook.com/FMCTallassee

The service for the preceding week is broadcast each Sunday at 11 am. Listen to Clint's daily devotions at 7:15 am each weekday morning.

