

CHURCH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE LINK

Volume MMXXII, Issue 12 - December 28, 2022



2023! How did we get here so quickly? I am believing the adage that time flies when you are having fun, but I also believe that as I grow “more mature” time flies whether I am having fun or not.

The Advent season at Church Street UMC was amazing. It is always great to be together. The men outdid themselves with the combined Sunday school breakfast. I look forward to the next gathering like this. The Chancel Choir did an amazing job with the Cantata. I am very thankful for their commitment to our church. The children blessed us when they rang and sang and I am thankful to our four youth that participated in our Advent services by leading the Advent candle liturgy. They are the best!

I am not sure if any of you make resolutions for the new year. Making resolutions is not something I have done on a regular basis. I do pray that with the dawning of a new year I grow in my relationship with Christ. I always pray that I will be more intent about practicing spiritual disciplines.

I invite you to join me in prayer for God to do amazing things in and through us in 2023.

Happy New Year to you!

Diane



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Michael Steele, Custodian

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Friday

8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Music Ministry Notes From Gordon

It is hard to believe we are moving quickly toward the ending of one year and the beginning of another new year. 2023 is fast approaching! I once again share the following hymn text by Frances R. Havergal which may serve as an encouragement to you.

Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee;
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

I cannot thank everyone who made Christmas 2022 such a wonderful time of worship. From our Advent readings/candle-lighting by our youth, to our Young Musicians sweet ringing/singing, to special solos/offertories, each Sunday during Advent was a very special time for worship. I especially wish to thank our Chancel Choir for the dedication to each service of worship. Their music truly helped us focus on the true meaning of the Christmas season. Their presentation of Night of the Father's Love on December 11th was a highlight of our Christmas worship! I wish to personally thank Milam and Daneen Turner for once again serving as our wonderful narrators. I would also like to thank our own Katie Wendland Nichols for singing with us this year and to Debra Burnside from Mulder United Methodist Church, Wetumpka for helping us. Thank you, thank you one and all!

I wish to remind parents of children that our Young Musicians choir will be back to Wednesday evening music time beginning Wednesday, January 4th. I am looking forward to leading your child/children in fun music activities each Wednesday evening. Please commit to having your child attend each and every rehearsal in 2023!

The new year is an excellent time to join the Chancel Choir. The choir will soon begin work on new worship anthems and would welcome male or female voices to the choir. Come visit a 6:00 p.m. Wednesday evening rehearsal and see what a great time we have together.

Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be,

On earth, or else in heaven, another year for Thee.

Gordon





Children's Ministry

It is an exciting time at Church Street UMC as we welcome the new year and a new class of Confirmands!!!! Rev. Diane will lead the class which culminates on Confirmation Sunday, Easter Sunday, April 9th. According to the United Methodist Church, "Confirmation classes journey together toward their first profession of their intent to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. . . . Confirmation is a sacred day of commitment and celebration in the life of an individual and the Church." Let us all acknowledge, welcome, encourage, and love our very special group of Confirmands!!

Also, please remember that Mid-Week Recharge activities will resume on Wednesday, January 4th at 5pm. Join us in WH for supper and then the children will have music with Mr. Gordon and a Bible lesson and "games" with me.

Rick Warren stated that "God specializes in giving people a fresh start." As we begin 2023, it's the perfect time to make sure we put on God's Armor, take a deep breath, and charge forth into our new year knowing that God IS!

Proverbs 23:18 *There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.*

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

Isaiah 43:19 *See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

Happy New Year,

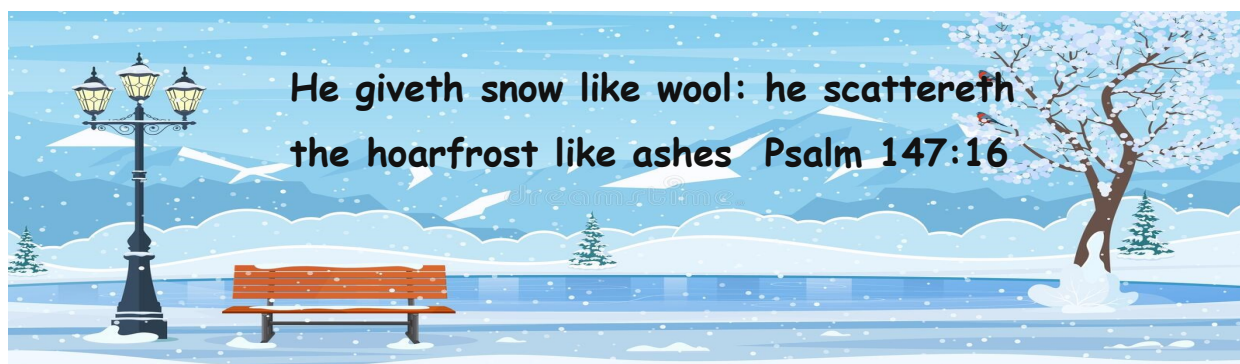
Frances



I will support Church Street United Methodist Church with my.... PRAYERS

Current: Robert Revel, Lisa Sexton, Elliot Roberts, Grace Henry, Bill Sellier, Elizabeth Cammack, Harold Speir, Barbara Stapps & Family, The Family of Helen Edwards, Lee Calame III, Rev. Fredrick Outlaw, Buddy Swift

Ongoing: Dub Deavor, Buc & Gwen Shaw, Mary Nell Mayo, Blake Flanagan, Jimbo Barrett, Becky Rives, Gloria Adams, Ray Delp, Ann Buster Payne, Kathryn Britnell, Bert Beers, Evan Trauai, Cassandra Steele, Peggy Cross, Caroline Thomas, Glenn Carter, Bobby Phillips, Allen Green, Sonny Nelson, Bob Simpson, Linda & Jesse Harris, Danny Jordan, Brooke Lawrence, Shelby Breedlove, David Saylor, Abigail Flanagan, Jim Kennedy, Arthur "Deedle" Sullivan, Amy & Jim Sims, Keith Stephan, Gary West, Kathryn Hardy, Bill Livingston, Clark Schatz, Shannon Miller Cook



I will support Church Street United Methodist Church with my.... PRESENCE

Average attendance YTD as of December

Sunday School: 97 Worship Service: 152



We hope to see each of you each week for our regular **Sunday Schedule with Breakfast at 8:30 a.m., Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., and Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.**

If you miss a service, be sure to listen to the prior week's sermon on Sundays, at 9:00 am on Dixie Country - WDXX 100.1.

I will support Church Street United Methodist Church with my.... GIFTS

Rex Waldrop

By: Myrna Hollis
By: Eleanor Reynolds
By: Jim & Amy Sims
By: Pairs & Spares
By: Herb & Suzy McCreary
By: Mary Drue Wheeler
By: Charles Pollack
By: Wayne & Paula Vardaman

David Pearce, Jr.

By: Jimmy & Gladys Elliott
By: Frances Henderson

John Haskell

By: Ray & Ann Thomas
By: Travis & Becki Barnes

Allen Williams

By: Ray & Ann Thomas

MEMORIALS

Helen Edwards

By: Mary Drue Wheeler
By: Wayne & Paula Vardaman
By: Carolyn Dunaway
By: George & Melanie Sedberry
By: Roberta Sample Circle
By: Charlotte Speed
By: Larry & Jan Justice
By: Jim & Amy Sims
By: Jennifer Carpenter
By: Gale Bedgood
By: Mary Frazier
By: Gary Janel Coton
By: Reba Wells
By: The Anderson & Small Families
By: Myrna Hollis

January News at Leika's

We love Winter at Leika's!! January begins with one of our favorite units: Winter & Signs of Birds!! "All the birds are mine." Ps 50:11 Then we will be busy learning about famous artists and making our own renditions of famous works of art during our unit on ART & Famous Artists!! "Stop and consider the wondrous works of God." Job 37:14 Leika's Art Show will begin on January 26. Please walk down the Leika's Hallway to view our masterpieces. Our month ends with our unit on SHEEP! "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me." John 10:27

A special thank you to all who supported Leika's & Leika's Lambs during our Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser that was held December 5th. It was a huge success!! We could not have done it without the help of so many volunteers from the church, school, and community!! Thank you for always supporting our school. With your continued support, our students and families are being ministered to daily. "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for such belongs to the kingdom of God" Matthew 19:14



I will support Church Street United Methodist Church with my.... SERVICE

Teams Serving in January

Ushers: Wayne Vardaman, Ed Livingston, John Nettles, Joe Newton, Scoop Rivers, Lee Calame, Larry Jones

Security: William Free, Jamie Thomas, Wood Spivey, Steve Todd, Em Moore

Worship Stewards: Polly Sellier & Em Moore

Collection Counters: Frank Speed and Jim Sims

If you are unable to be present, please find a replacement and contact your captain.

January Meetings

Trustees

Tuesday, January 10, at 5:00 pm in the Grist Library

Finance

Thursday, January 26, at 5:00 pm in the Grist Library

Church Council

Thursday, January 26, at 5:45 pm in the Grist Library

Please contact your chairperson or the Church Office if you will not be able to attend.



As the new year approaches, prayerfully consider ways that you can pray for and serve the Church - your Church. When you volunteer, not only does the Church grow, the Kingdom grows, and you grow.

For more information on areas of service and volunteer needs, contact any of the ministerial staff.



*Thank you to every member of
Church Street United Methodist Church
for your kindness and generosity. Your very
thoughtful and generous gifts during the
Christmas season were blessings to each of us.*

Your Church Staff

**I will support Church Street United Methodist Church with my....
WITNESS**

Living Treasures
will meet **Thursday, January 19th,**
at 12:00 noon in Windham Hall.
Join us for lunch, fellowship and a
wonderful program.

This group of senior adults (60 and above) meets the third Thursday of each month for a catered lunch at 12:00 noon and the program ends at 1:00 pm. The cost is \$8.00 per person and reservations are not required.



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Tuesday Bible Study led by Martha Jackson will resume meeting in January at 12:00 noon, in the Old Parsonage. Martha will be sending an email to announce the date.

Circle Meetings

Catherine Revel Circle

will meet Monday, January 9th,
at 3:00 pm in Windham Hall

The Endowment Committee will
meet on January 9th @ 5:00 pm in
the Grist Library

A Note from the Trustees:

The Trustees are recommending that a Handicap/Wheelchair Lift be installed to provide access to the Sanctuary and Calhoun Parlor. This will be in addition to the Handicap Ramp that provides access through the Education Building. In order to cover the cost of purchasing and installing the Handicap/Wheelchair Lift, the Trustees are requesting that memorial funds be designated for this purpose. Also, anyone may make a specific gift to this project. The estimated cost for purchasing and installing the Handicap/Wheelchair Lift is \$35,000.00.



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