

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS DECEMBER 23-28

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23**

8:45 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
2:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Practice	Choir Room
3:30 p.m.	Churchwide Christmas Caroling	Meet in Fellowship Hall

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 24**

12:00 p.m.	Holy Communion Service	Sanctuary
3:15 p.m.	Christmas Eve Family Service	Sanctuary
5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25**

Church offices closed. Merry Christmas!

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26**

Church offices closed.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27**

10:00 a.m.	Yoga Class	WH 105
1:00 p.m.	Success Unlimited Basketball Practice	Gym
4:00 p.m.	Senior Ladies Exercises - Wigginton	WH 301
6:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministry	WH Various

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28**

2:00 p.m. Church offices closed

FB=Fellowship Building    WH=Wesley Hall    CB=Children's Building

The Tower Chimes (USPS Periodicals Permit # 011908) is published weekly by First United Methodist Church, 2416 West Cloverdale Park, Montgomery, AL 36106-1908. Periodicals Postage PAID at Montgomery, Alabama. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Tower Chimes.

**Music Ministry**

**Churchwide Caroling in Cloverdale**

*Sunday, December 23rd at 3:30 p.m.*

Join us as we spread Christmas cheer through song to our surrounding Cloverdale neighbors. We will meet at 3:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for hot chocolate and Christmas cookies before venturing out into the neighborhood. You don't have to be a professional singer or a member of the choir to enjoy caroling with your church family and sharing the love of Christ with our neighbors. Join us the day before Christmas Eve as we spread carols in Cloverdale!

**Special Music for the Services of Christmas Eve**

On Christmas Eve, the Music Ministry will offer a wide variety of music for all of our services. At the Noon Communion Service, the Youth Choir will combine with youth choir alumni to lead our worship. At the 3:15 p.m. Family Service, the voices of children will lead us with the Wesley and Agape Children's Choirs singing. And at the 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Services, the Cathedral Choir will be joined by a string quartet to offer special music for Christmas Eve. Our organist, Dr. Joshua Coble, will join the string quartet to present a special 30 minute prelude prior to the 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. services. Join us for these beautiful services of worship on Christmas Eve!

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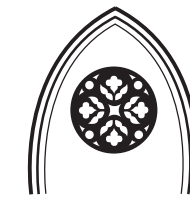
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All Tower Chimes mailings are lovingly handled by volunteers!

If you are in need of a minister after hours or on weekends, please contact [pastoralcare@fumcmontgomery.org](mailto:pastoralcare@fumcmontgomery.org).

Sunday, December 23, 2018  
 Morning Worship at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.  
*Joy to the World*  
 Luke 1:39-56  
 Dr. Jeremy K. Pridgeon

Wednesday, December 26, 2018  
 No Chapel Service and Holy Communion



FIRST UNITED  
 METHODIST CHURCH  
 MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

**TOWER CHIMES**

DECEMBER 20, 2018

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 51

As Christmas Eve approaches, final preparations are taking place. Parties are being held, travel plans are being made, gifts are being purchased, decorations are being hung, and celebration is in the air! It truly is the "most wonderful time of the year!"

As we prepare to tell the story of the birth of Jesus once again, the eyes of the world will shift to a little village called Bethlehem. I have had the opportunity to travel twice to the Church of the Holy Nativity, considered to be the site where Christ was born. The images I held about the birth of Jesus changed dramatically when I visited the Holy Land. I remember gazing into the sky in the Shepherd's Fields trying to picture the angelic chorus. I was struck by the hewn cave structures in rocks that would have provided cover for the livestock. I was a bit disoriented in the Church of the Holy Nativity as we were led down a dark stairwell to see the Grotto of the Nativity and the Star of the Nativity where it is believed Jesus was born. Experiencing Bethlehem in person was simply unforgettable!

I was also surprised to learn that the number of Christians in Bethlehem is rapidly declining. In 1950, Christians made up approximately 80% of the population there; today it is just 12%. The complexity of the geopolitical nature of the Middle East is challenging and immense. That said, church leaders and residents describe the intense pressure on the tiny Christian communities in Israel where they are caught between much-larger Muslim and Jewish populations. It is quite possible that there will be a day where no Christians live in the city where Jesus was born.

And yet, we will sing in the upcoming days that great hymn of our faith, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Written by Philip Brooks, he recalled traveling on horseback between Jerusalem and Bethlehem on Christmas Eve, to the Shepherd's Fields and to a service at the Church of the Holy Nativity.

One of the favorites of the season, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," is held in high regard by hymnologists. One scholar noted, "Not only does the hymn beautifully describe the little town asleep in the December night; it also gracefully modulates from a description of Christmas into an examination of the meaning of Christmas: first in its encouragement of charity and faith, and then into the coming of Christ into the human heart."

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas again, I pray we will all be encouraged in acts of charity and faith, even ask the "dear Christ" to enter into our hearts, our lives, and our world once more.

*First United Methodist Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation.*

## Children's Ministry

### CHURCH-WIDE CHRISTMAS CAROLING

*Sunday, December 23 | 3:30 | Meet in Fellowship Hall*

Your family is invited to church-wide caroling as we share Christmas joy with our neighbors in Cloverdale.

### MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR TEACHERS

For those who would like to remember our wonderful children's Sunday School teachers during the Advent season, a complete list may be found on the church website.

### PRAYER, CHORE, DEED CALENDARS

"Prayer, Chore, Deed" 2019 calendars are located on tables in the Children's Building. These wonderful calendars emphasize the importance of saying a prayer, doing a chore and a kind deed every day. Please pick one up for your family.

### MARK YOUR 2019 CALENDAR

*Vacation Bible School | June 10 - 14*

*Camp Lee | July 24 - 27 | Grades 3 - 5*

### JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sunday School (all ages) 9:45 - 10:45 in the Children's Building

Children's Church (age 3-1st grade) during 8:45 and 11:00 worship services

### CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL!

#### Thought for the Week:

"O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel." – Phillips Brooks

## Youth Ministry

### TREE OF LIGHTS - LAST CHANCE TO GET YOUR LIST IN!

The youth are sponsoring the Tree of Lights this year to help raise money for mission projects throughout the year. For a contribution of \$8, the youth will mail a card to the person you would like to honor, or the family of the one you wish to remember. For \$100 you can sponsor a wreath for a loved one. This is a wonderful way to honor loved ones, Sunday school teachers, supper club members, circle members and anyone else special to you this Christmas season. Start making your lists, and let someone know you are thinking of them this year!

### SUNDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES | DECEMBER 23

There will be no MYF this Sunday. We are praying for everyone as they are with family and friends during this Christmas season.

### MOVIE NIGHT | DECEMBER 28

Check out Instagram and Facebook soon for details on a fun night out at Chantilly movie theatre.

### WINTER RETREAT

Join us for our annual trip to Camp Hargis January 19-21. We only have 3 spots left! The cost is \$225. Our speaker this year will be our own Bria Rochelle. We will focus on the hills and valleys of life and how to stay rooted in Christ through all circumstances! The band will be a group from the Wesley Foundation in Tuscaloosa.

### COSTA RICA | JUNE 15-22

For those signed up to go on our mission trip this summer, the next payment of \$300 is due ASAP. If you have not paid please talk to the youth staff. The third payment will be \$300 due on January 23.

### GET CONNECTED

Make sure to follow us on our social media accounts for updates on upcoming events and pictures of past events!



FUMC Montgomery-  
Connect Student Ministries



FUMC.CONNECT

### No Wednesday Night Dinner

The kitchen will reopen on Wednesday, January 9.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

### End of 2018 Giving Reminder

All giving must be received in the finance office or postmarked no later than December 31, 2018 in order to be applicable for 2018 tax purposes. The Finance Office will be open until 5 p.m. on December 31.

### New Year Studies

Start the new year off right by growing deeper in your walk with Christ through one of our New Year Studies: Financial Peace University, Worship Shapes Belief, and the 3 Big Questions for a Frantic Family. Please visit <https://fumcmontgomery.org/new-year-studies/> for more information.

### Oxygen Ministry Nature Hike

*Saturday, January 12, 2019 | Lagoon Park*

Mark your calendars for the first Oxygen Ministry Nature Hike of the new year on January 12, 2019! This hike will take place at Lagoon Park with 3 miles of easy hiking and mountain bike trails. Reward yourself with hot s'mores at the trail's end! More details to come.

### Rise Against Hunger

*Wednesday, January 23 | Fellowship Hall*

Round up the whole family and join us as our church hosts the fifth Rise Against Hunger meal packing event. Over 30,000 meals will be assembled to be distributed around the world in a great effort to end hunger in our lifetime. Please register on-line at our website.

### Spiritual Growth Retreat for Women

*Saturday, January 26, 2019 | 10:00 a.m. | Epworth Room | \$25; lunch included*

Join the FUMC UMW at their annual retreat as Rev. JoAn Kinrade of FUMC Newnan, GA speaks on "Understanding the Father's Heart for Each of His Children." For questions or more information, please contact Linda Singleton at 334-819-9431.

### Plug-In and Recharge Sunday School Campaign

Starting in January, the Sunday School class with the highest attendance and highest percentage of attendance each week will be announced in morning worship. Our current average attendance is 515 and our goal by the end of January is 700. Be thinking of ways you can reach out to guests and Sunday School members you have not seen in awhile, and invite them to come with you in January!

### FUMC Clothing Closet

Our clothing closet is in need of all sizes of coats and warm clothing for both children and adults. Please contact Claire Smith at [csmith@fumcmontgomery.org](mailto:csmith@fumcmontgomery.org) for more information. Clothes Closet hours at Capitol Heights UMC are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon.

### Joseph Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

The Joseph Ministry is looking for volunteers to serve in the areas of visitation, luncheon, flower delivery, ushers and emailing. If interested, please contact Susan Jemison by email at [susanjemison1550@gmail.com](mailto:susanjemison1550@gmail.com) or call 334-315-1408.

## AROUND THE CONGREGATION

### New Members

Sheila and Lauren Babcock  
The Babcocks come to us from another local congregation. Sheila is an office manager for Results LLC, and Lauren is in the fifth grade at a local school.

### Wedding

Lundy Starke and Collier Williams

*December 15, 2018*

### Hospital/ Rehab List

**Dec. 7 - Dec. 13**

Lessie Harris

Margaret Mock

Henry Wheaton

### Memorials

**John Morgan Foshee Jr.**

Respite Ministry: *Dae Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lucas, Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Kyser, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Phillips*; Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation: *Mr. and Mrs. Clay Crenshaw*

### Mays Jemison

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation: *Mr. and Mrs. Warren Floyd*

### Anthony Winston

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation: *Leah Winston*

### Joanna McGee Byrd

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation: *The Byrd Family*

### Margaret Rowlen Elliott

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation: *Mrs. Marilyn Gillespie, Mabry Phillips, Sr.*

### Ruth Cook McLemore

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation: *Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Faulkner*

### Reba Redden

Respite Ministry: *Dwight and Julie Mixson*

### Clifford Leroy Clark

Respite Ministry: *David, Raymond and Michael Cohen*; Memorial Fund: *The Misfit Golf Group, Hugh P. Nicholson*; Pastor's Discretionary Fund: *Col. and Mrs. Eugene Crooks*

### John Sanderson Bowman

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation: *Bert Estes*

### Jean Bedgood

*Charles Bedgood*

### Fred and Earle Zeigler

*Charles Bedgood*

### In Honor

**Angie Long**

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation: *Billy and Karen Bowers*

### Martha Demere

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation: *Sandra Patrick, Paulette Thompson*

### Daphne Johnston

Respite Ministry: *Josephine Foshee*

### Dr. Jeremy Pridgeon

Respite Ministry: *Josephine Foshee*

### Rev. Gillian Walters

Respite Ministry: *Josephine Foshee*

### Rev. Lucas Tribble

Respite Ministry: *Josephine Foshee*

### Josephine Foshee

Respite Ministry: *Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnston*

### Jo Young

Respite Ministry: *Ginger and Bill Page*

### Kate Lindsey

Respite Ministry: *Ginger and Bill Page*

### Peggy Phelps

Respite Ministry: *Ginger and Bill Page*

### Virginia and Hugh Maddox

Respite Ministry: *Ginger and Bill Page*

### Pat and Burke Sylvest

Respite Ministry: *Ginger and Bill Page*

### Jim and Elmore Inscow

Respite Ministry: *Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Kyser*

### Carolyn Bowman

Respite Ministry: *Josephine Foshee*

### Laura Selby

Respite Ministry: *Josephine Foshee*

### David Zeigler

*Charles Bedgood*

### Jenny Medley

*Charles Bedgood*

### Fred and Marilyn Zeigler

*Charles Bedgood*

### 2019 Altar Flowers

If you are interested in placing flowers on the altar in memory or in honor of someone for 2019, please contact Tammy Holcomb at 334-834-8990 or [THolcomb@fumcmontgomery.org](mailto:THolcomb@fumcmontgomery.org).

### Holiday Church Office Hours

The church offices will be closed December 24, 25, 26, and January 1 and 2, 2019 to allow time with friends and family this Christmas and New Year's season. The church offices will resume normal hours on Thursday, January 3, 2019. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!