

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS DECEMBER 9-14

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:45 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Discover FUMC - Gillian Walters	Fellowship Hall
11:00 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
12:00 p.m.	Children's Holiday Hope-la	Youth Lounge
4:30 p.m.	Disciple 2 - Gillian Walters	WH 207
5:00 p.m.	Disciple 1 - Lucas Tribble	WH 201
5:30 p.m.	MYF	WH Various

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

10:00 a.m.	Respite Ministry	WH Various
11:30 a.m.	UMW Circle 8	WH Various
6:00 p.m.	Scout Troup 15	WH Various
6:45 p.m.	Girl Scouts	WH Various

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:00 a.m.	Jeremy's Men's Bible Study	Epworth Room
7:00 a.m.	Men's Covenant Group	WH 207
10:00 a.m.	Respite Ministry	WH Various
10:00 a.m.	Circle 2 Meeting	CB 100
11:00 a.m.	Book Club	WH 206
12:00 p.m.	Cathedral Bell Practice	Bell Room
4:00 p.m.	Senior Ladies Exercise - Wigginton	Gym
5:45 p.m.	Allegro Bell Choir Practice	Bell Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

8:00 a.m.	Heritage Club	Adult Lounge
9:00 a.m.	Fix-it-Shop	WH Various
10:00 a.m.	Respite Ministry	WH Various
10:30 a.m.	Wednesday Bible Study and Lunch	Fellowship Hall
4:30 p.m.	Wednesday Choir Dinner	Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m.	Wednesday Evening Chapel Service	Chapel
5:30 p.m.	Small Group - Sallie Gowan	CB 205-206
5:45 p.m.	Adult Ensemble Rehearsal	FB 305
5:45 p.m.	Mom's Connect Group	CB 104
6:00 p.m.	Mom's Connect- Stephanie, Anna, and April	CB 203
6:00 p.m.	Youth Small Groups	Off Campus
6:00 p.m.	6th and 7th Grade Study	WH Various
6:00 p.m.	Covenant Advent Group - Hampton Hook	WH 104
6:30 p.m.	Cathedral Choir Practice	Choir Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

10:00 a.m.	Respite Ministry	WH Various
10:00 a.m.	Yoga Class	WH 105
11:30 a.m.	Covenant Advent Group - Jan Pringle	WH 104
12:00 p.m.	Covenant Group - Leslie Bingham	WH 207
4:00 p.m.	Senior Ladies Exercises - Wigginton	WH 301
6:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts Winter Banquet	Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

2:00 p.m. Church offices closed

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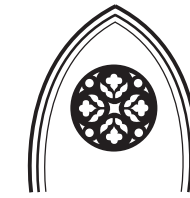
All Tower Chimes mailings are lovingly handled by volunteers!

If you are in need of a minister after hours or on weekends, please contact pastoralcare@fumcmontgomery.org.

Sunday, December 9, 2018
 Morning Worship at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Expectant Hope
 Luke 3:1-6
 Dr. Jeremy K. Pridgeon

Wednesday, December 12, 2018
 Chapel Service and Holy Communion
 Dr. C. Jason Borders

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



FIRST UNITED
 METHODIST CHURCH
 MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

TOWER CHIMES

DECEMBER 6, 2018

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 49

It was a great start to the Advent season on Sunday! From the two worship services where we celebrated Holy Communion and a Baptism, to the Hanging of the Greens service, to Christmas parties for our Jr. High and Sr. High youth, and a pancake supper for the Huntingdon College students as they take their final exams, it was a tremendous day! Thank you to all who helped make it possible, as so many gave of their time, their talents, and their gifts to help us begin the journey to Bethlehem!

There is no place like First Church to experience the joy of Advent and Christmas. From the beautiful music offered by our Cathedral Choir, the excitement of the children with their eyes full of wonder, the richness of the fellowship in the many gatherings that take place, to the story of Christ's birth told once again, we are blessed – truly blessed – to live out our faith in and through this great church.

Advent is a season of preparation and waiting, marked best by the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath each Sunday. This year, we are using wax candles on the wreath. We will see the passage of time as the candles become shorter each week. The four candles symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love. Of the four candles, the hope candle burns the longest.

The hope candle burns the longest...I like this. There's always hope. Archbishop Desmond Tutu was a professor of mine while I was in seminary at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He wrote, "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." Each week, we will light the hope candle. As it flickers in our beautiful sanctuary, let it be a symbol to us that there is light. The light of the world, and the light for the world, is none other than Jesus.

I want to thank you for being hope for so many children in the Florida panhandle. I'm fighting back tears as I type this article. Your response to the Communion Rail offering this past week was simply amazing. The devastation in northwest Florida is unbelievable and so many are in need. Because of your generosity, we will distribute \$7,000 among four churches, First United Methodist Church in Marianna, First United Methodist Church in Port. St. Joe, First United Methodist Church in Wewahitchka, and St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Panama City, where the pastors and their leaders can help families in providing Christmas for their children. Thank you, thank you, thank you...

The hope candle burns the longest. English philosopher Bernard Williams wrote, "There was never a night or a problem that could defeat sunrise or hope." As we face the many challenges of this life, may we hold to the hope of this season, the hope of the world, Jesus Christ!



First United Methodist Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation.

Children's Ministry

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY HOPE-LA

Sunday, December 9 | 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. | Youth Lounge and Gym

Bring the family as we come together to work on outreach projects that will share hope and love with others this Advent season, and enjoy pizza and a birthday cake for Jesus! **Projects will include:** wrapping and organizing Christmas gifts for local families in need, stuffing 72 children's stockings for the Salvation Army, and packing 100 weekend snack bags for Reality & Truth Ministries. Visit the church website to sign-up to purchase Christmas gifts for families and/or make deliveries the week following Hope-la. We ho-ho-hope to see you there!

'TIS THE SEASON FOR ELMO

Sunday, December 16 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Grades 3 – 5 | Gym and Fellowship Hall

This fun, December ELMO includes gingerbread house decorating, games, and a devotional. Bring friends and \$10.00 to help pay for a gingerbread kit and supper.

A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT!

Children's classes decorated the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall with hand-crafted ornaments, made with love during Sunday School. We hope parents, members, and guests will enjoy this beautiful gift to the church.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

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

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

Thought for the Week:

"Peace on earth will come to stay when we live Christmas every day."

Youth Ministry

TREE OF LIGHTS

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. 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!

ANGEL TREE SHOPPING AND WRAPPING

Sunday, December 9 | 4:00 p.m. | Youth Lounge

Meet in the youth lounge to go shopping for the kids we are sponsoring. Each youth needs to bring \$10 to put towards the gift. At 5:30 we will return to the church to wrap all of the gifts. There will be no dinner, but we will have hot chocolate and snacks! If your small group has their own angel, meet in the youth lounge from 5:30-6:30 to wrap gifts with your group.

WINTER RETREAT

Join us for our annual trip to Camp Hargis January 19-21. We only have 5 spots left! The cost is \$225. Our speaker this year will be our own Bria Rochelle.

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 - Wednesday, December 12

The kitchen will reopen on Wednesday, January 9.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Give Hope River Region Gift Fair

Instead of giving a traditional Christmas gift to a loved one this holiday season, purchase a gift in their name that will go to benefit a local charitable organization with Give Hope River Region Gift Fair. The link to the event can be found on our website. Orders placed by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11th will be mailed on Thursday, December 13th. And orders placed by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, December 18th will be mailed on Thursday, December 20th.

FUMC Book Club

Tuesday, December 11 | 11:00 a.m. | Wesley Hall 206

Calling all book lovers! Join us on the second Tuesday of every month at 11:00 a.m. for the FUMC Book Club. At the upcoming December meeting, we will begin reading *The Reckoning* by John Grisham. Don't miss out!

Annual Young Adult Christmas Party

Friday, December 14 | 6:30 p.m. | 1100 Woodward Ave., Montgomery, AL 36106

Throw on your tacky Christmas sweaters and join this time of fellowship as we celebrate together. We hope to see you there and don't forget to bring a Dirty Santa gift! For more information please contact Lucas Tribble at ltribble@fumcmontgomery.org

Churchwide Caroling in Cloverdale

Sunday, December 23 | Meet in Fellowship Hall | 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.

Poinsettia Orders

Order Deadline: Monday, December 10

The church is offering the opportunity to place poinsettias in the sanctuary in memory or honor of a loved one. Poinsettias will be placed in the chancel area on Sunday, December 23. The names of those persons being remembered or honored, along with the name of the giver, will be listed in the worship bulletin on Sunday, December 23. **Orders must be placed by Monday, December 10.** To place an order please contact Tammy Holcomb at tholcomb@fumcmontgomery.org or 334-834-8990.

Salvation Army Christmas Bell Ringing

This Christmas season, we will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at the Walgreens on Carter Hill Road and Wal-Mart on Chantilly Parkway. Two hour shifts are available on Thursday, December 20, Friday, December 21, and Saturday, December 22. Sign up for your shift on our website.

Advent Devotional

The Advent season is here! If you are signed up for electronic communication from FUMC, be on the lookout for a daily email with the annual Advent Devotionals, written by members of our congregation. If you would like a printed copy, they are now available for pick-up at the church.

Plug-in and Recharge Sunday School Assembly

Starting in January, the Sunday School class with the highest attendance and highest percentag 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!

For more information, or to register for the events above, please visit www.fumcmontgomery.org/events.

AROUND THE CONGREGATION

Baptism

John Christopher Mathews IV

December 2, 2018

Son of John and Beth Mathews

Wedding

Elizabeth Mahaney & Charles Walden, Jr.

October 27, 2018

Hospital/ Rehab List

Nov. 23 - Nov. 29

John Gill
Lessie Harris
Margaret Mock
Wyndol Murrah
Tom Norris
Tommy Oliver

Memorials

Maudie Bell

Respite Ministry: *Rhebia Nordan*

John Morgan Foshee, Jr.

Building Fund: *Mr. and Mrs. Ham Wilson, Virginia Noblin, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Mitchell; Respite Ministry: Mr. and Mrs. Mack Bazzell, Mr. and Mrs. Vic Canerday, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bear Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Bill Dunaway, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Newell, Al Hildreth, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mobley, Mrs. Bonner Patrick Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Mark Tiller, Jerald J. Labovitz, Daisy G. Norman, Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Jones*

John Sanderson Bowman, Jr.

Building Fund: *Mr. and Mrs. Ham Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Clay Torbert; Respite Ministry: Mrs. Bonner Patrick, Jr.*

Paul N. Curtis

Respite Ministry: *Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bear Jr.*

Ruth Hill Cook McLemore

Respite Ministry: *Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bear Jr.*

John Malcolm Holloway

Respite Ministry: *Mrs. Bonner Patrick Jr.*

Margaret Rowlen Elliott

Building Fund: *Virginia Noblin, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Holcomb*

In Honor Of

Daphne Johnston

Respite Ministry: *Mrs. Bonner Patrick Jr.*

Hattie Boo and Frank Johnston

Respite Ministry: *Charles and Winnie Stakely*

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 will be open until 5 p.m. on December 31.

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.

Music News

Act of Praise

Comfort Ye and Every Valley from *Messiah* by G.F. Handel- James Seay, Tenor

Offertory

And the Glory from *Messiah* by G.F. Handel - Cathedral Choir

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 16 | 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

On Christmas Eve, a little more than a month after the close of World War I in 1918, the Dean of King's College, Cambridge, England introduced more imaginative worship service to celebrate the birth of the Christ-child. The Festival of the Service of Lessons and Carols has been held in the Cathedral of King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve ever since. Now, exactly 100 years later, churches around the world continue the tradition of the telling of the birth of Jesus through Scripture readings, carols, anthems, and hymns.

This year, our very own Service of Lessons and Carols will be led by the Cathedral Choir, Adult Ensemble, and Orchestra. The music will include new compositions by American composers, timeless classics from the English repertoire, traditional carols that we all know and love, and even the telling of the story of the birth of Jesus from the perspective of a Native American. Join us for a set of special worship services that you will not want to miss!