



STATESBORO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"TO GLORIFY GOD AND LOVE OTHERS THROUGH WORSHIP, STUDY, AND SERVICE."

JAMES A. CASON SENIOR PASTOR
SCOTT HARRIS ASSOCIATE PASTOR

December 18, 2016

Worship Services:

Sanctuary:
8:30AM & 11:00AM

Fellowship Hall:
9:01AM & 11:00AM

Sunday School:

Classrooms:
10:00AM

IT IS A SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR!

It is a special time of year for inviting friends, family, and neighbors to attend church with you. There is a special feeling in the air. People think of coming home for Christmas. Take the front of this newsletter (or grab an extra one) and use it to give someone that special invitation to come to church with you. (Yes, it might involve picking them up or meeting them at an agreed upon location.) You will be glad you did, and you will help others catch the spirit of the Christ who became one of us so that we could become like Christ.

Today, December 18

- Two contemporary worship services in the Fellowship Hall at 9:01 & 11AM.
- Two traditional worship services featuring the Georgia Southern University Faculty Brass at 8:30AM and 11AM.

Saturday, December 24

- Kid-friendly Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary at 4PM. Children will re-enact the Christmas story.
- Contemporary Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30PM.
- Traditional Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary at 6:30PM.

Sunday, December 25

- One combined Christmas Day worship service in the Sanctuary at 11AM. No other worship services or Sunday School.

Sunday, January 1

- Celebrate the New Year with one worship service in the Sanctuary at 11AM. No other worship services or Sunday School. Communion will be celebrated on January 8.

Sunday, December 18, 2016

8:30 & 11:00AM Traditional - Rev. Jimmy Cason
"The Wonder of a Promise" - Matthew 1:18-25

9:01 & 11:00AM REVIVE - Rev. Scott Harris
"The Wonder of a Promise" - Matthew 1:18-25

Our Faithfulness in Worship (Sunday, December 11, 2016)

Morning Worship: 502

Sunday School: 298

8:30AM: 76

9:01AM: 129

11:00AM: 222

Revive: 75

Attendance for Lessons and Carols: 155

Offering Received: \$25,570.69

Preserving God's House: \$4,935.00

Special Offering: Poinsettias - \$1,574.00

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

Hospital: *Margaret Ann Johnston - Beaufort Memorial Rehab*
Darby Benson - Reidsville Rehab
Bob Counce - EGR
John Gould - EGR
Bob Gunnels - EGR

Ongoing: *Bettye Hodges, Art Doughty, Jimmy Hood, Bobby Deal, Kathy Richardson Jones, June Weaver, Khaki Herrington, Carolyn Millican, Marshall Thigpen, Mary Karrh, John Karrh, Lloyd Jones, Yvonne Redden, Gary Redden, Diane Deloach, Jim Long, Bryan Rountree, Harold Newton, Amos Connell*

Welcome New Members

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen (Patricia) Johnson, Grace and Tucker
104 Duke Road
Statesboro, Ga 30458
His cell: 404-989-8076
Her cell: 404-989-8090

Stephen and Patty join our church on transfer of membership from the Cornerstone UMC in Newnan, GA. Stephen is employed with the Department of Homeland Security while Patty is employed with the Bulloch County School system. Their children, Grace, age 5, who attends our preschool, and Tucker, age 2, will be placed on our church's baptized member roll. They are relatives of Merideth and Mark Cummings, who are already members of our church.

Statesboro First United Methodist Church

Baking/Visiting Ministry

As you probably know, when a person or family visits First Methodist for the first time, they are visited and given some goodies and a welcome bag, provided they give us a name and address. If you would like to join the team of bakers/visitors in the new year, please let the Church Office know or call Nora Ford (764-9698).

Volunteers for December 18, 2016 (Third Sunday of December)

Prayer Warriors: Don & Nancy Marsh

8:30 Lay Liturgist: Suzan Laircey

8:30 Ushers: Mike Beasley, Daryl Harrison

9:01 Ushers: Lynda Akins, Ed Akins, Kasey Harrison, Jason Parker

11:00 Lay Liturgist: Clark Deloach

11:00 Ushers: Si Waters, Hughes Williamson, Coley Cassedy, Edwin Hill,
David Johnson, Tommie Rushing, Fred Shearouse

(Balcony: Olin Lovett, Ronnie Hodges, Earl Dabbs Jr., Brad Shiels)

Parking Lot Greeters: Anne Allen

Front Door Greeters: Peggie Herrington, Pam Smith, Nita Waters

Meals on Wheels (December 20): Bruce & Carol Yawn



SFUMC Youth Ministries

Love God : Love People : Serve the World

Youth Ministries News

Important Dates

- **January 2-4** - Passion Conference (Seniors only)
- **January 15** - First Surge (combined 6PM-7:30PM)
- **January 18** - First Youth Small Group
- **January 23** - First Breakfast Club
- **February 23-26** - Ski Retreat at Winter Place
- **April 28-29** - Local Missions Weekend

Statesboro First United Methodist Church

Important Notice from the Business Administrator

Due to Federal tax laws, all donations to be included on your 2016 statement must be made by December 31, 2016. Any checks given or postmarked after that date cannot be listed on your 2016 statement regardless of the date on the check. Donations received after this date will be put on your 2017 contribution statement. The church office will be open on Saturday, December 31 from 9:00am until Noon.

Final statements for 2016 will be sent out in early January. Please review your statement as soon as possible.

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2016 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. You may lose a deduction for some contributions if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church.

Also, when making prepaid contributions toward your 2017 pledge in 2016, you must write "2017 pledge" on the memo line of your check.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Robin Kersey
SFUMC Business Administrator
764-1872 or rkersey@statesborofirst.com.

Our Church Calendar

Sunday, December 18

8:30AM - Traditional Service, Sanct.
9:01AM - 901 Service, FH
10:00AM - Sunday School, Classrooms
11:00AM - Traditional Service, Sanct.
11:00AM - REVIVE Service, FH

Monday, December 19

2:30PM - Charlene Black Bible Study, Lib.
7:45PM - Revive Band Practice, FH

Tuesday, December 20

6:00PM - AA, 206
6:00PM - Al Anon, 306

Wednesday, December 21

9:00AM - ACTS, Outreach Center(offsite)

Thursday, December 22

Friday, December 23

Church Office Closed

9:00AM - ACTS, Outreach Center(offsite)

Saturday, December 24

There will be no Soup Kitchen this Saturday

4:00PM - Christmas Eve Service, Sanct.

5:30PM - Christmas Eve Service, FH

6:30PM - Christmas Eve Service, Sanct.



Statesboro First Methodist
Children's Ministries

Sunday, December 18, 2016

Children's Moment (11:00 Traditional)

Martha Ray

Kids Worship:

9:01: Sarah Akins, Jodie Hendrix, Laura Gordon

11:00: Sarah Akins, Jodie Hendrix, Jill Vickery

Children's Ministries News

Christmas Caroling This Morning

The children's Sunday school classes (Pre-K through 5th grade) will leave at 10:10AM this morning to sing Christmas carols at Willow Pond Assisted Living. We will take the church bus, and return by 10:55AM. Please be sure to sign a permission form for your child to participate. Parents are welcome to join us!

Children's Nativity on Christmas Eve

Children are welcome to participate in the 4:00PM Christmas Eve service as part of the live nativity. This will be held in the Sanctuary. Please be sure to connect with our Children's Ministry team for costumes and details (sakins@statesborofirst.com).

Wednesday Night Ministry

Mark your calendar! Wednesday Night Ministry will resume January 11.

Statesboro First United Methodist Church

101 South Main Street, PO Box 2048

Statesboro, GA 30459

Main Church Phone:	912-764-7589	Church Email:	mail@statesborofirst.com
Jimmy Cason, Senior Pastor:	912-764-1875	Church Website:	www.statesborofirst.com
Scott Harris, Assistant Pastor:	912-764-1874	Church FAX:	912-764-7638

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016

LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE

GATHERING

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

PRELUDE & MEDITATION

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

arr. Arthur Frackenpohl

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ is coming soon.

Love is on the way.

But Christ is already here.

And love is all around us.

We wait for the fullness of God's kingdom.

Christ is coming soon. Love is on the way.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Hymn #238 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed #881 Hymnal

***GLORIA PATRI** Hymn #71

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen, Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE AND REGISTRATION OF ATTENDANCE

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

8:30AM: BUCK & NORA FORD

11:00AM: JOHN & ANGIE GERGUIS, LUKE, DANIEL, CHRISTOPHER

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (11:00AM Service)

JOHN McWHORTER HILL

Son of MITCHELL & MEG HILL

God Claims You

Chorus: McWhorter, McWhorter, God claims you.

God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

Verse: We this day do all agree, a child of God you'll always be. **Chorus**

Verse 2: We are here to say this day that we will help you on your way. **Chorus**

CONGREGATIONAL PLEDGE

**With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ,
that this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the
faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (11:00AM Service)

MARTHA RAY

(Following the Children's Moment, children in Pre-K through 4th grade are invited to Kids Worship in Room 306.)

ANTHEM (11:00am Service)

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

arr. Christopher Gale

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

8:30AM SUZAN LAIRCEY; 11:00AM CLARK DELOACH

OFFERTORY

The First Noel

arr. Howard Cable

***DOXOLOGY HYMN #94**

*** HYMN OF PREPARATION**

Hymn #220 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

***SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 1:18-25

MESSAGE

"The Wonder of a Promise"

REV. JIMMY CASON

*** HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

Hymn #240 *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

***CHORAL BENEDICTION (11:00AM Service)**

O Come to Us

arr. T. Pierce Dickens

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

arr. Howard Cable

We are pleased to host the Georgia Southern University Faculty Brass today. The members are Bill Schmid, Alice Schmid, Stephanie Furry Mason, Rick Mason and William Holmes. Please offer to them a warm First United Methodist welcome and thank them for their contribution to worship this morning.

**Congregation standing if able during this portion of the service.*

Please ensure your cell phone is silenced during the service.

A **children's bulletin** with Bible puzzles and activities is available in the Gathering Area on the first floor and also in the back of the Sanctuary's balcony on the second floor.



The Sanctuary is equipped with a hearing assistance system.

Please ask an usher for a receiver.

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