



**December 17, 2017**

**Worship Services:**

**Sunday School:**

Sanctuary:  
8:30AM & 11:00AM

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

Classrooms:  
10:00AM

**What Does Love Mean?**

**(Through the eyes of Children 4 to 8 years old)**

As I write this column on Tuesday morning, I am still basking in the joy of our Preschool Christmas Program. As I turned the corner into the church parking lot, I was amazed at how many cars were there. There is something special for parents and grandparents and senior pastors when we listen to off-key children, sing and tell the Christmas story with so much joy and delight.

I was also reading a forwarded email from one of our members. A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds: What does love mean? Listen to some of their answers.

*When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over to paint her toenails any more. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.*

*When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.*

*Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.*

*Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.*

*Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.*

*If you want to learn to love better, you should start with someone you hate.*

*Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.*

*A next door neighbor was an elderly man who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little four-year old boy went into the old man's yard, climbed into his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing. I just helped him cry!"*

As Jesus would say, "Go, and do likewise!"

**Sunday, December 17, 2017**

9:01 & 11:00AM Traditional - Rev. Jimmy Cason

"The Gospel of Peace" - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

8:30 & 11:00AM REVIVE - Rev. Scott Harris

"The Gospel of Peace" - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

**Our Faithfulness in Worship (Sunday, December 10, 2017)**

**Morning Worship: 528**

**Sunday School: 281**

8:30AM: 60

9:01AM: 173

11:00AM: 201

Revive: 94

Lessons & Carols: 137

Offering Received: \$47,178.50

Preserving God's House: \$5,145.00

## Our Church Family

**Christian sympathy and prayers** are expressed to *Mr. & Mrs. Jim Campbell* upon the death of Jim's mother, *Mrs. Audrey Campbell*, who died on December 14.

### Prayer Concerns

**Hospital:** *Fred Maddox - Metter Swing Bed*  
*Susan Renfrow - Home from hospital*  
*Marilyn Turner - Candler Rehab*  
*Linda Arnold - Memorial*  
*Mae Doughty - recovering at the home of Frances Humphrey*  
*Sarah Mathis - recovering from surgery*  
*Janette Johnson - recovering at Willow Pond*  
*Bobby Deal - Willow Pond*

**Ongoing:** *Barbara Fox, Chuck Shiels, Jim Long, Amos Connell, Shirley Connell, Inman Hodges, John Popp, Dick Armstrong, Charlie Christmas, Creighton Alexander, Jimmy Hood, Khaki Herrington, Marshall Thigpen, Lloyd Jones, Diane Deloach, John Gould, Ed Shannon, Dolly Shannon*

Congratulations to *Madeline Marsh, Troy & Liz Marsh's* daughter and *JoAnn Marsh's* granddaughter. Madeline recently graduated from the University of Georgia receiving her Masters Degree in Christian Counseling. She will soon begin an internship with the Wesley Foundation.

## Statesboro First United Methodist Church

### Christmas Eve Services

- One morning worship service at 11AM
- 4:00PM Traditional Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary with Children's Nativity, Communion, and Candlelight
- 5:30PM Contemporary Christmas Eve Service in the Fellowship Hall with Communion and Candlelight
- 6:30PM Traditional Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary with Communion and Candlelight

### End-of-Year IRA Contribution

For members of the congregation who have Individual Retirement Accounts and are 70 1/2 years old or older, please note that you have an opportunity to make a charitable contribution directly from your individual retirement account to the church. This method of making a gift to the church reduces your "adjusted gross income" and may make less of your Social Security benefits taxable or may possibly reduce the Medicare excise tax. If you have questions, please contact Robin Kersey in the Church Office.

### Volunteers for December 17, 2017 (Third Sunday of December)

**Prayer Warriors:** Don & Nancy Marsh

**8:30 Lay Liturgist:** Bryan Burke

**8:30 Ushers:** Mike Beasley, Daryl Harrison

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

**11:00 Lay Liturgist:** John Ray

**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:** Pam Smith, Nita Waters

**Meals on Wheels (December 19):** Karen David & Anita Hill



## SFUMC Students News

### **Leadership Christmas Party - December 17**

Our student leadership team will be gathering tonight Sunday, December 17, from 5:30PM-7:30PM at Becca and Cam's house. Student's should wear tacky Christmas gear and bring a chair for the bonfire.

### **Passion Conference - January 1-3**

We'll be kicking off the year on a high note with our High School seniors as we head to the Passion Conference in Atlanta. Be praying that we will all encounter Christ in new ways as we start 2018 in the best possible way! If you or your student are signed up to go on the trip, please turn in your money and forms.

## Statesboro First United Methodist Church

### **Finance Committee Approves Tutition Assistance**

Many of you are aware that our Associate Pastor, Scott Harris has begun attending seminary at Asbury Seminary-Orlando. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee has urged him to start his seminary work in order that he might be ordained sometime in the future. He is taking some online courses which require him to attend classes on campus two to three times during the semester.

Our church has entered into an agreement with Asbury Seminary to help not only Pastor Scott but future members of our church who might wish to attend Asbury Seminary. If you would like to contribute toward this fund, please make your check payable to Statesboro First United Methodist (SFUMC) and put Asbury Seminary in the memo line. Please do not put Scott's name anywhere on your check. Your check will be credited as a charitable contribution to our church.

### **Thank You**

A huge thank you to all involved in the Christmas Bundles Soup Kitchen this past Saturday, December 9. A delicious meal was prepared and served and several hundred Christmas bundles were given out to our community's needy. It was a blessing to those that received and those that served! Thank you!

## Our Church Calendar

### **Sunday, December 17**

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 18**

*Preschool Closed for Christmas Break*  
2:30PM - Charlene Black Bible Study, Lib.  
7:00PM - Revive Band Practice, FH

### **Tuesday, December 19**

*Preschool Closed for Christmas Break*  
6:00PM - Al Anon, Grace House

### **Wednesday, December 20**

*Preschool Closed for Christmas Break*  
9:00AM - ACTS, Outreach Center(offsite)

### **Thursday, December 21**

*Preschool Closed for Christmas Break*

### **Friday, December 22**

*Preschool Closed for Christmas Break*  
9:00AM - ACTS, Outreach Center(offsite)

### **Saturday, December 23**

11:00AM - Al Anon, Grace House  
12:00PM - Soup Kitchen  
*Soup Kitchen sponsored by SFUMC*



Statesboro First Methodist  
Children's Ministries

**Sunday, December 17, 2017**

**Children's Moment** (11:00 Traditional)  
Elizabeth Lippincott

**Kids Worship:**

**9:01:** Sarah Akins, Jodie Hendrix, Summer Hodges  
**11:00:** Sarah Akins, Jodie Hendrix, Jill Vickery

## Children's Ministries News

### Christmas Eve Nativity

There will be a family service in the Sanctuary at 4:00PM on Christmas Eve. We invite children to participate in the live nativity and singing. Costumes are provided. Please let our Children's Ministry team know if your child would like to participate (sakins@statesborofirst.com or jhendrix@statesborofirst.com). There will be a brief rehearsal on Thursday, December 21, from 10:30AM-11:30AM in the Fellowship Hall.

### Children's Sunday School

We will not have Sunday school on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. Please join us for Kids Worship on those Sundays.

## Statesboro First United Methodist Church

### Angel Tree

Please have Angel Tree gifts at the Church Office by today, December 17. A few "Angels" were taken that were not signed out. If you did not sign yours out, that's ok! Just make sure we get the gift for that child.

### Important Notice from the Business Administrator

Due to Federal tax laws, all donations to be included on your 2017 statement must be made by December 31, 2017. Any checks given or postmarked after that date cannot be listed on your 2017 statement regardless of the date on the check. Donations received after this date will be put on your 2018 contribution statement.

Final statements for 2017 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 2017 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 2018 pledge in 2017, you must write "2018 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.

## Statesboro First United Methodist Church

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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 17, 2017**

**LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE**

*We are pleased to welcome to our services this morning the Faculty Brass from Georgia Southern University. They are always a highlight of the Advent season at First United Methodist. The members are William Schmid, Alice Schmid, Stephanie Furry Mason, Richard Mason, William Holmes and Jarrett Thompson. Please greet them warmly and thank them for playing in our worship services today.*

**GATHERING**

**LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

**PRELUDE & MEDITATION**

*Wassail Toccata*

Robert W. Parker

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

God has a vision for our world.

**God's vision is one of justice and peace for all.**

God calls for us to join God's vision.

**Let us work for justice and become peacemakers.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

Hymn #220 *"Angels from the Realms of Glory"*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*The Apostles' Creed* #881 Hymnal

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*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 SECOND ADVENT CANDLE**

8:30AM: ROBERT & ANNA BENSON, ROBERT, SPEAR

11:00AM: TODD & LYDIA CROSS, ANDREW, CAROLINE, CHARLIE

**PROCLAIMING THE VISION**

Why does Statesboro First United Methodist Church exist?

**To glorify God and love others through worship, study, and service.**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT (11:00AM Service)**

**ELIZABETH LIPPINCOTT**

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

**ANTHEM (11:00AM Service)**

***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

arr. Douglas J. Benton

**PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER**

**GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

8:30AM BRYAN BURKE; 11:00AM JOHN RAY

**OFFERTORY**

***Carol of the Bells***

arr. Howard Cable

**\*DOXOLOGY HYMN #94**

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION**

Hymn #234 "*O Come, All Ye Faithful*"

(verses 1-3, 6)

**\*SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

**MESSAGE**

*"The Gospel of Peace"*

REV. SCOTT HARRIS - 8:30AM

REV. JIMMY CASON - 11:00AM

**\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

Hymn #238 "*Angels We Have Heard on High*"

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

***Glory to God in the Highest***

John Menzies MacFarlane

**POSTLUDE**

***Joy to the World***

arr. Howard Cable

\*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.