



**STATESBORO FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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

REV. JAMES A. CASON SENIOR PASTOR
REV. STEPHANIE SMITH ASSOCIATE PASTOR

December 8, 2019

Worship Services:

Sanctuary: 8:30AM & 11:00AM
Fellowship Hall: 9:01AM & 11:00AM

Sunday School:

Classrooms: 10:00AM

Christmas Celebration Concerts Today

Today at 3:00PM and 6:00PM First United Methodist Church will host the Georgia Southern University Choral Department in the annual Christmas Celebration Concert. This year's concert, entitled "This Wondrous Night", will feature the Georgia Southern University Chorale, University Singers, Southern Gentlemen, Southern Sirens, and our own Chancel Choir. As Advent begins, the music featured will help us to focus on the anticipation of the arrival of the Christ child and is a marvelous way to begin your holiday. Please come and invite a friend to join you. There is no admission charge.

Lessons and Carols next Sunday

Next Sunday, December 15 at 5:00PM, the Chancel Choir will present a Service of Lessons and Carols. This is a telling of the Christmas Story through scripture and song. Through the singing of anthems and carols and the spoken word, we re-live the days leading up to the birth of Christ. Please come and invite a friend to join you. There is no admission charge. There will be a reception hosted by the United Methodist Women immediately following the service.

Important Operating Budget Information

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|---|------------------|
| Operating Budget Donations Received in November: | \$118,987 |
| Operating Budget Ministry Expenses in November: | \$131,947 |
| Net Ministry Income: | \$12,960 Deficit |
| Operating Budget Donations Received Year-to-Date: | \$1,372,813 |
| Operating Budget Ministry Expenses Year-to-Date: | \$1,419,020 |
| Net Year-to-Date Ministry Income: | \$46,207 Deficit |

Last year at this time, our Net Year-to-Date Ministry Deficit was \$167,267. We always start December with a deficit, and because of your generosity we usually end the year with a surplus. Last year was the largest deficit we have had entering into December. However, this year's deficit is one of the smallest entering into December. Let's make up the difference with year-end-giving and even an extra gift to the Operating Budget.

Sunday, December 8, 2019

8:30AM & 11:00AM Traditional - Rev. Jimmy Cason

9:01AM & REVIVE - Rev. Stephanie Smith

Matthew 3:1-12

"When God Surprises You In the Wild"

Our Faithfulness in Worship (Sunday, December 1, 2019)

Morning Worship: 450

Sunday School: 217

8:30AM: 57

9:01AM: 130

11:00AM: 191

REVIVE: 72

Offering Received: \$18,100.00

New Building Fund: \$1,030.00 (total \$74,083.73)

Our Church Family

The **Flower** on the **Altar** on December 8 is given to the glory of God and in honor of *Rafe Mateo Rubio* who was born November 19, *son of Jose & Britt Rubio* and grandson of *Brian & Chrystal Thomas*. Big brother, *Jairo*, was there to welcome him home.

Christian sympathy and prayers are extended to *Mr. and Mrs. George (Anne) Rountree and Tressa* upon the death of George's brother and Tressa's uncle, *Mr. William Perry "Pete" Rountree* of Twin City who died on November 21.

Christian sympathy and prayers are extended to *Mr. and Mrs. Eric (Jennifer) Wyles, Ian and Dane* upon the death of Jennifer's father and Ian and Dane's grandfather, *Mr. Jim Martin* of Fitzgerald, Georgia who died on November 26.

Prayer Concerns

Hospital: *Barbara Fox - Home from hospital*

Bill Hatcher - Hip replacement surgery in Reidsville

Bonnie Price - daughter of Clark & Jane Deloach - Memorial

Ongoing: *Anne Allen, Connie Hodges, Charlie Christmas, Greyson Kennedy, Joyce Bohler, Bill Mathis Jr., Sue Brammar, Joel Martin, Ed Akins, Sara Betty Cook, Carter Berkeley, Frances Humphrey, Bill Mathis Sr., Fred Maddox, Ken Whitaker, Marshall Thigpen, George Ann Thigpen, Judy Strickland, Yvonne Redden, Laura Beasley, Mike Beasley, Jim Long, Brian Harrison, Daryl Harrison, Shirley Connell, Lloyd Jones, Diane Deloach, Steve Piazza*

Care Facilities: *Willow Pond - Willie Coleman, Carolyn McCarty, Janette Johnson*
Southern Manor - Jean Braswell, Libby Hutcheson *Brown's - John Gould*

Statesboro First United Methodist Church

2020 Operating Budget Pledge Update

- 187 persons have pledged so far for \$1,020,649.
- 23 persons who pledged last year have not yet pledged.
- There has been a 4.6% increase in the pledge amounts from persons who pledged again this year.
- 30 new pledges have been received for a total of \$76,900.
- If those persons who have not yet returned a pledge card who have pledged previously make a pledge, we have a possibility of receiving \$1,690,762.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RETURNED YOUR PLEDGE CARD, PLEASE DO SO BY PLACING IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR MAILING IT TO THE CHURCH OFFICE.

Christmas Bundles Soup Kitchen - December 14

This special soup kitchen is almost here and on Sunday December 8 some extra help would be appreciated at our last workshop. The workshop will be from 2-4PM at 1102 Cherokee Ct. Also consider being part of the fun at the soup kitchen on December 14 from 11AM-1PM. Thank you for your help with this event that benefits our needy neighbors. For more information, e-mail saramelford@gmail.com.

Thank You!

Just in time for the holiday season, our generous church members prepared 78 boxes of gifts for Operation Christmas Child. The children who receive these boxes will be introduced to the love of Jesus and will be given the opportunity to accept Him and grow in their faith. Thanks go out to all who prepared a box or made a donation. Special thanks go to those who helped to prepare them for shipping: Karen David, Fay Foy Franklin, Pat Long, Nancy Marsh, Natalie Neville, Pat Parsons, Martha Ray, Jordan Robins, Arnold Stephens, Sally Waters, and Jane Yawn.



SFUMC Students News

Last Sunday Night Surge for Semester! - December 8

Middle School and High School students will meet for a Combined Surge from 6:00PM-7:30PM in the Youth Room. This is our weekly large group meeting where students participate in games, food, worship, and a message. Cost for dinner is \$2.

Last Breakfast Club for Semester! - December 9

This event is for Middle and High School students. We meet on Monday mornings on the third floor (Room 306) for breakfast (Chick-fil-A and Donuts), a devotional, and then we give students a ride to school. Arrive at 7:00AM and the cost is \$2.

Statesboro First United Methodist Church

Angel Tree Additions

We have an addition to our Angel Tree this year. You may notice that envelopes in support of Habitat for Humanity have been added. After you have chosen your angel in support of the Prison Ministry, you are welcome to select an envelope that lists a need or dollar amount in support of our local affiliate. As our church is a strong supporter of the mission of Habitat for Humanity, this gives individuals an additional giving opportunity. There is no need to wrap these gifts, just return them to the church by December 25. Thank you for helping local families have a home for the holidays!

UMW Celebrates Babies

December 22 will be the day UMW honors babies for 2019. The UMW donates \$5 to Missions for each baby born to church members. If you have a grandchild, niece, nephew or a friend's baby who was born this year whose parents are non-members and you would like to honor them with a gift to Missions, please pick up a form in the Gathering Area, fill it out, and return it with \$5 to the Church Office. Please submit all requests by December 16. If you have any questions please call Marilyn Sellers, 682-2582.

Our Church Calendar

Sunday, December 8

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
3:00PM - Christmas Celebration, Sanct.
4:00PM - Youth Band Rehearsal, YR
6:00PM - Combined Surge, YR
6:00PM - Christmas Celebration, Sanct.

Monday, December 9

7:00AM - Youth Breakfast Club, 306
6:00PM - Finance Committee Mtg, 213

Tuesday, December 10

10:00AM - *Through It All* Bible Study, 212
2:00PM - UMM Shut-In Meal Prep, Kitchen
5:30PM - Missions Committee Mtg, Lib.
6:00PM - Al Anon, Grace House

Wednesday, December 11

9:00AM - ACTS, Outreach Center(offsite)
12:30PM - Roxella's Bible Study
6:30PM - Youth Christmas Party, FH
7:00PM - Chancel Choir, Choir Rm.

Thursday, December 12

6:00PM - Holy Land Trip Mtg, 201

Friday, December 13

9:00AM - ACTS, Outreach Center(offsite)
9:30AM - PS Cookies with Santa, FH

Saturday, December 14

8:00AM - GSU Brass Rehearsal, Sanct.
11:00AM - Al Anon, Grace House
12:00PM - Soup Kitchen, FH



Statesboro First Methodist
Children's Ministries

Sunday, December 8, 2019

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

Kids Worship:

9:00: Sarah Akins, Jodie Hendrix

11:00: Sarah Akins, Jodie Hendrix, Joy Renfroe

Children's Ministries News

Christmas in Bulloch 2019

We are so thankful for the various ministry areas, adult Sunday school classes, and small groups that contributed to Christmas in Bulloch this season, allowing us to provide new clothing and goodies to children in need in our community. These items were donated to many of the families of students already enrolled in our Backpack Buddies ministry, and we thank you all for making it possible to serve over 70 children this Christmas.

Christmas Eve Nativity

Children in Pre-K through 5th grade are invited to participate in the 4:00PM Christmas Eve service as part of the live nativity. There is still room for additional shepherds, angels and kings, costumes provided. Please contact Sarah or Jodie by December 15 if your child would like a special part in this Christmas Eve service held in the Sanctuary (sakins@statesborofirst.com or jhendrix@statesborofirst.com).

Statesboro First United Methodist Church

Important Notice from the Business Administrator

Due to Federal tax laws, **all donations to be included on your 2019 statement must be made by December 31, 2019.** Any checks given or postmarked after that date cannot be listed on your 2019 statement regardless of the date on the check. Donations received after this date will be put on your 2020 contribution statement.

Final statements for 2019 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 2019 income tax return until you have received 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 2020 pledge in 2019,** you must write "**2020**" **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

101 South Main Street, PO Box 2048

Statesboro, GA 30459

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|--|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Main Church Phone: | 912-764-7589 | Church Email: | mail@statesborofirst.com |
| Jimmy Cason, Senior Pastor: | 912-764-1875 | Church Website: | www.statesborofirst.com |
| Stephanie Smith, Assoc. Pastor: | 912-764-1874 | Church FAX: | 912-764-7638 |

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019

LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE

GATHERING

PRELUDE & MEDITATION

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski

CHANCEL RINGERS

MCKENZIE BOULINEAU, FLUTE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Prepare the way of the Lord.

God's kingdom has drawn near.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

God's salvation is at hand.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

8:30AM Service - RUSS LANIER

11:00AM Service - WES & EMILIE TAULBEE, MAGGIE, BANKS & ANNA CLAIRE

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Hymn #249 *"There's a Song In the Air"*

***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

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)

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)

There Shall a Star from Jacob

Felix Mendelssohn

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

8:30AM RUSS LANIER; 11:00AM JOHN RAY

OFFERTORY

Christmas Eve/Sarajevo 12/24

arranged by Hart Morris

CHANCEL RINGERS

MCKENZIE BOULINEAU, FLUTE TYLER ROQUEMORE, PERCUSSION

*DOXOLOGY HYMN #94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12

MESSAGE

"When God Surprises You In the Wild"

REV. JIMMY CASON

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

Hymn #218 *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

CHORAL BENEDICTION (11:00AM Service)

Glory to God in the Highest

John Menzies MacFarlane

POSTLUDE

Postlude in ADESTE FIDELES

arr. Gordon Young

Volunteers for December 8, 2019 (Second Sunday of December)

Prayer Warriors: Don & Nancy Marsh

8:30 Lay Liturgist: Russ Lanier

8:30 Ushers: Steve Garner, Buck Ford

9:01 Ushers: Don Marsh, Nancy Marsh, Thad Riley

11:00 Lay Liturgist: John Ray

11:00 Ushers: Clark Collins, Chris Bishop, Jake Collins, Jim Davis, Michael Mallard, Dan Snipes,

Brian Thomas, Bill Thompson, Robert Benson III, Kent Brannen

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

Greeters: June Rushing, Janice Davis, Pam Campbell

Meals On Wheels (December 10): Carol Yawn

*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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