



**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 15, 2019

Worship Services:

Sunday School:

Sanctuary:
8:30AM & 11:00AM

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

Classrooms:
10:00AM

Service of Lessons and Carols

The Chancel Choir of First United Methodist Church will present a Service of Lessons and Carols today at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. This service incorporates Scripture readings, anthems sung by the choir, and congregational singing. Our service is inspired by one conducted each year since 1918 at King's College in Cambridge, England. It is a service that tells of the promise of the coming Messiah and the birth of Jesus Christ, and is celebrated in churches around the world. Scripture readings, familiar carols and choral anthems will help each of us to consider how, during Advent, the deep longing of our heart is met with joy in the birth of the long-expected Christ, this year and every year. A reception given by the United Methodist Women will be held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service. All are welcome and Christmas is the easiest time to invite someone to church. Please come and bring a friend or neighbor with you.

- Pierce Dickens
Director of Music Ministries/Organist

GSU Faculty Brass

It is always a highlight of the Christmas season at First United Methodist Church to host the Faculty Brass from Georgia Southern University. We welcome them this morning as they lead us in worship. Please give them a warm welcome and thank them for sharing their gifts with us. The members are Bill Schmid, Alice Schmid, Stephanie Furry Mason, Rick Mason, William Holmes and Jarrett Thompson.

Sunday, December 15, 2019

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

9:01AM & REVIVE - Rev. Stephanie Smith

Matthew 11:2-11

"When God Surprises You: What Did You Come to See?"

Our Faithfulness in Worship (Sunday, December 8, 2019)

Morning Worship: 547

Sunday School: 248

8:30AM: 72

9:01AM: 160

11:00AM: 248

REVIVE: 67

Offering Received: \$40,002.78

New Building Fund: \$1,330.00 (total \$75,414.38)

Attendance for Christmas Celebration Concert - 3:00PM: 516 | 6:00PM: 428

Our Church Family

Welcome New Members

Mr. Scott Marchbanks
804 East Inman Street, Statesboro, GA 30458
Cell: 912-687-6161

Scott, who is the owner of Frills in downtown Statesboro, joins our church on transfer of membership from Monaghan UMC in Greenville, South Carolina.

Ms. Sarah Shuman
13 Blair Loop, Guyton, GA 31312
Cell: 912-660-0119

Sarah joins our church on transfer of membership from Montgomery Presbyterian in Savannah.

Prayer Concerns

Hospital: *Barbara Fox - Home from hospital*
Bill Hatcher - Home from hospital
Bonnie Price - daughter of Clark & Jane Deloach - Memorial
Marshall Thigpen - EGR

Ongoing: *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, Peggie Herrington, 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

Called Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet in Room 306 this Tuesday evening, December 17 at 6:00PM. The Council will vote on a recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve the proposed 2020 Operating Budget.

Christmas Wrappers Needed

Join us in this simple mission! Again this year, volunteers will provide a free wrapping service on Saturday, December 14 and Saturday, December 21 from 10AM-5PM at the Bealls Outlet at the mall. If you would like to help, contact Eleanor Schneider, 682-3426.

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.

Christmas at the Courthouse!

Everyone is invited to participate in "Christmas at the Courthouse" on Friday, December 20 at 6:30PM. There will be reading of the Christmas story, caroling, hot chocolate and cookies.



SFUMC Students News

Senior Trip – The Passion Conference December 31– January 2

This is a college Christian conference that allows High School Seniors to attend. It is 3 days of incredible teaching and worship, which will challenge and encourage your student in their faith! This trip is only open to Seniors and we only have 2 tickets left!

The conference is being held at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium and we will be staying at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel. The total cost will be \$215, which includes hotel, ticket, transportation, and one lunch. First payment for trip of \$50 is due when signing up. A second payment of \$70 must be received by December 1. The final balance of \$120 must be received by December 31. If your student would like to sign up, please let Becca know! bbrown@statesborofirst.com

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!

Service of Light Community Service

Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other issues that put a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregation and communities. Yet, we still want to worship and reflect on the coming of our Savior. We will offer a community worship service on Thursday, December 19 at 6:00PM at First Presbyterian in Statesboro, Georgia.

Our Church Calendar

Sunday, December 15

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
5:00PM - Lessons & Carols, Sanct.
6:00PM - UMW L&C Reception, FH

Monday, December 16

Tuesday, December 17

10:00AM - *Through It All* Bible Study, 212
6:00PM - Called Church Council Mtg, 306
6:00PM - Al Anon, Grace House

Wednesday, December 18

9:00AM - ACTS, Outreach Center(offsite)
10:00AM - PS Christmas Program, FH
12:30PM - Roxella's Bible Study
7:00PM - Chancel Choir, Choir Rm.

Thursday, December 19

9:00AM - PS Polar Express Day
6:00PM - Service of Light (offsite)

Friday, December 20

Saturday, December 21

11:00AM - Al Anon, Grace House
12:00PM - Soup Kitchen, FH



Statesboro First Methodist
Children's Ministries

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Children's Moment (11:00 Traditional)
Ellen Cowart

Kids Worship:

9:00: Sarah Akins, Jodie Hendrix

11:00: Sarah Akins, Jodie Hendrix

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 let Sarah or Jodie know today 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

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 15, 2019

LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE

**GATHERING
PRELUDE & MEDITATION**

Wassail Toccata

Robert Parker

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,

Descend to us, we pray.

Cast out our sin and enter in.

Be born in us today.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

8:30AM Service - BETTY HODGES

11:00AM Service - SARAH & SKYLAR AKINS

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Hymn #234 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

***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)

ELLEN COWART

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

ANTHEM (11:00AM Service)

Patapan

arr. Howard Helvey

LEE WALKER - conductor

JAMES ALLEN - pianist

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

8:30AM BETTY HODGES; 11:00AM ELEANOR SCHNEIDER

OFFERTORY
Fum, Fum, Fum
arr. Sondra Tucker

***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!

***HYMN OF PREPARATION**
Hymn #240 *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

***SCRIPTURE READING**
Matthew 11:2-11

MESSAGE
“When God Surprises You: What Did You Come to See?”
REV. JIMMY CASON

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT**
Hymn #220 *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”*

CHORAL BENEDICTION (11:00AM Service)
Glory to God in the Highest
John Menzies MacFarlane

POSTLUDE
Joy to the World
arr. Howard Cable

Volunteers for December 15, 2019 (Third Sunday of December)

Prayer Warriors: Jim & Kristi Benton
8:30 Lay Liturgist: Betty Hodges
8:30 Ushers: Mike Beasley, Daryl Harrison
9:01 Ushers: Jason Parker, Linda Akins, Ed Akins
11:00 Lay Liturgist: Eleanor Schneider
11:00 Ushers: Si Waters, Hughes Williamson, Coley Cassedy, Edwin Hill, David Johnson, Fred Shearouse, John Lee, Rawls Neville
(Balcony: Olin Lovett, Ronnie Hodges, Earl Dabbs Jr., Brad Shiels)
Greeters: Anne Allen, Anne Williamson, Lisa Lee, Pam Smith, Kathleen Modd
Meals On Wheels (December 17): Betty Hodges

**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.