



**December 22, 2019**

**Worship Services:**

**Sunday School:**

Sanctuary:  
8:30AM & 11:00AM

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

Classrooms:  
10:00AM

**When God Surprises You**

Have you ever received a gift that was completely unexpected? Maybe it was a gift from someone you normally do not exchange gifts with. Maybe it was a gift so off-the-wall you just didn't see it coming.

At times, even those things we know are coming can still feel unexpected. Maybe it's because things play out a little differently than we thought. Maybe it's because what we expected was not realistic. Or, maybe it's because God has a different plan.

Christmas is a season of anticipation and expectation. The excitement of little children when the decorations go up or new presents appear under the tree. And getting up way too early on Christmas morning because someone just can't wait to open their gift. The holiday happens every year and still we get excited.

Sometimes I worry that the Christmas story becomes too routine for us. We know the story so well. But the Christmas story is full of surprises. From the young mother, to the manger as a bed, to the Magi from the East, God offers the unexpected at every turn. But, after a lifetime of Christmases, we can tend to get comfortable, thinking we know what to expect.

Maybe that's not just something that happens with the Christmas story, but with our faith. Worship, Sunday School, prayer, Bible study, all these pieces that become part of our pattern in life, but are meant to be so much more than routine. The God who filled the Christmas story with so many surprising moments offers surprises for us as well, if we're just willing to look for them.

In the midst of our own plans and preparations this time of year, maybe the most important gifts are not just the moments we know are coming, but the unexpected moments, too. This Christmas I hope God can catch you by surprise. As followers of Christ, I pray you begin to expect the unexpected God has to offer us.

Join us this **Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve** and see where God surprises you.

**4:00PM Traditional Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary**  
Children's Live Nativity, Communion, and Candlelight

**5:30PM Contemporary Christmas Eve in the Fellowship Hall**  
Communion and Candlelight

**6:30PM Traditional Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary**  
Communion and Candlelight

**Sunday, December 22, 2019**

8:30AM & 11:00AM Traditional - Rev. Stephanie Smith

9:01AM & REVIVE - Rev. Jonathan Smith

Matthew 1:18-25

*"Now the Birth of Jesus Took Place In This Way..."*

**Our Faithfulness in Worship (Sunday, December 15, 2019)**

**Morning Worship: 525**

**Sunday School: 285**

8:30AM: 72

9:01AM: 218

11:00AM: 154

REVIVE: 81

Offering Received: \$35,863.60

New Building Fund: \$120.00 (total \$75,534.38)

# Our Church Family

In Memoriam - *Marshall Thigpen* - December 15, 2019

## Prayer Concerns

**Hospital:** *Susan Cason - EGR*

*Bill Mathis, Sr. - Post heart procedure at Mayo Clinic*

*Bonnie Price - daughter of Clark & Jane DeLoach - Home from hospital*

**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, Fred Maddox, Ken Whitaker, 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*

## Welcome New Members

Mr. Kevin & Mary Helen Harrison

613 Patrick Way

Statesboro, GA 30458

Kevin's cell: 912-536-5341

Mary Helen's cell: 912-978-0412

*Kevin* is the President of Citizens Bank and *Mary Helen* is a high school counselor in Screven County. They have a son, Davis, who is in the 5th grade and a daughter, Brynn, who is in the 3rd grade. Both attend Julia P Elementary. The family joined our church last Sunday at the 901 Service. Both Kevin and Mary Helen join on transfer of membership from other local United Methodist churches.

# Statesboro First United Methodist Church

## A Friendly Reminder

A friendly reminder about next Sunday, December 29. **We will have only one worship service at 11AM in the Sanctuary.** Nursery will be provided for children in PreK and younger, and there is no kids worship. We will not have the 8:30AM Traditional, 901 Contemporary, or REVIVE Contemporary. In addition, we will not have Sunday school classes.

## Volunteers for December 22, 2019 (Fourth Sunday of December)

**Prayer Warriors:** George & Anne Rountree

**8:30 Lay Liturgist:** Joyce Bohler

**8:30 Ushers:** Ken LeCain, Max Manack

**9:01 Ushers:** Chris Bishop, Tonya Bishop

**11:00 Lay Liturgist:** Joe McGlamery

**11:00 Ushers:** Mike Rollins, JJ Altman, Jack Bailey, Anthony Waters, Wayne Laircey,

Russ Lanier, John Hatcher

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

**Greeters:** Linda Rushing, Suzan Laircey, Grace Adams Stewart, Ellen Lanier



## SFUMC Students News

### Winter Retreat - February 20-24

We are headed to Ghent, West Virginia to go skiing/snowboarding at Winter Place Ski Resort! We will be staying at Glade Spring Resort in the Chestnut Houses. It's an awesome trip full of fun and worship opportunities! Even if your student hasn't skied before, this is still a great trip for them. We have taught many students over the years how to ski/snowboard, so don't worry! Cost for the trip is \$300 which includes rentals, ski lift, transportation, lodging, and food while there. Sign ups are now open for this trip, with a limited amount of space available. Please let Becca know if you'd like to sign your student up or if you'd like more information, [bbrown@statesborofirst.com](mailto:bbrown@statesborofirst.com).

## Statesboro First United Methodist Church

### Christmas Bundles Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Christmas bundles a success. We had a somewhat larger crowd than we expected but thanks in part to the Church Youth, who made over a 100 bundles, and the Church Choir, who made a large donation of items, we still had enough "extras" to help make this Christmas better for the local needy at ACTS, Action Pact Seniors and Fostering Bulloch as well.

Please continue to help the Bundles Bunch help less fortunate local people, not only at Christmas, but also at Easter and School Supplies Soup Kitchens by placing suitable items in the crate in the Gathering Area. Hygiene items will become even more important as motels are moving toward dispensers in the rooms and travel size items are becoming scarce.

Thank you for helping build this ministry. We are starting a new phase, without the workshop on Cherokee Court but with significant groups of volunteers from St. Matthew Catholic Church and the Statesboro Service League working with our core of volunteers. Please help us continue to share our blessings in the future.

- Sara Melford

## Our Church Calendar

### Sunday, December 22

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 23

*Preschool Closed*  
11:00AM - CM Nativity Rehearsal, Sanct.

### Tuesday, December 24

*Preschool Closed, Church Office Closed*  
4:00PM - Traditional Christmas Eve, Sanct.  
5:30PM - Contemporary Christmas Eve, FH  
6:30PM - Traditional Christmas Eve, Sanct.

### Wednesday, December 25

*Preschool Closed, Church Office Closed*

### Thursday, December 26

*Preschool Closed, Church Office Closed*

### Friday, December 27

*Preschool Closed*

### Saturday, December 28

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



Statesboro First Methodist  
Children's Ministries

**Sunday, December 22, 2019**

**Children's Moment** (11:00 Traditional)  
Buck Ford

**Kids Worship:**

**9:00:** Sarah Akins, Jodie Hendrix

**11:00:** Sarah Akins, Jodie Hendrix

## Children's Ministries News

### Christmas Eve Nativity

Children signed up to participate in the 4:00PM Christmas Eve service will rehearse in the Sanctuary tomorrow, December 23, from 11:00AM-12:00PM. This is the only time we will review the order of service with them, and costumes will be distributed, so please plan for your child to attend this important rehearsal. On Christmas Eve, children dressed as nativity characters should meet in Room 108 at 3:45PM, and all scripture readers should meet in the Sanctuary. Thank you!

## 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**

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2019**

**LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE & MEDITATION**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

arr. Dallas Blair

DAVID MILLER, SOLOIST

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

The God of hosts restores us;

**The face of God shines and we are saved.**

Let us never turn back from the Lord;

**God gives us life. Praise the Lord!**

**LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**

8:30AM Service - DARWIN & JOYCE BOHLER

11:00AM Service - CHUCK & RENEE PERRY, HUNTER, JACKSON & CONNOR

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

Hymn #211 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**\*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**

**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)**

**BUCK FORD**

(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. John Wade

**PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER**

**GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

8:30AM JOYCE BOHLER; 11:00AM JOE MCGLAMERY

**OFFERTORY**

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

arr. Dallas Blair

DAVID MILLER, SOLOIST

**\*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 #196 *"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"*

**\*SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 1:18-25

**MESSAGE**

*"Now the Birth of Jesus Took Place In This Way..."*

REV. STEPHANIE SMITH

**\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

Hymn #240 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

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

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

John Menzies MacFarlane

**POSTLUDE**

***Angels from the Realms of Glory***

arr. John Innes

*\*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.

*Protected under the following Christian Copyright Licensing International licenses:*

CCL1032344, CRL050476, CVLI503970405