



STATESBORO FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



SFUMC
NEWSLETTER



FOR THE WEEK OF:
JANUARY 17, 2021

Worship Services:

Traditional Worship
8:30AM & 11:00AM
in our Sanctuary

Contemporary Worship
9:01AM & 11:00AM
in our Fellowship Hall

Watch online at www.statesborofirst.com/live

Main Church Phone 912-764-7589

Rev. Dr. Scott Hagan, Senior Pastor 912-764-1875

Rev. Stephanie Smith, Associate Pastor 912-764-1874

Church Email mail@statesborofirst.com

Church Website www.statesborofirst.com

Church App www.statesborofirst.com/app

SFUMC Prayer List

In Memoriam

Dr. Pierce Dickens - January 9, 2021

Continued Prayers for Kathleen Modd at EGRMC

Continued prayers for Mike Beasley, Dot Piazza, Coley Cassedy, Ronnie Pope, Barbara Fox, Carter Berkeley

Every week we invite you to join us in praying for:

- 1) Our nation's military and the civilians who support them as they defend freedom around the world.*
- 2) First-responders, who serve and protect our communities.*
- 3) Leaders of government at every level - for God's will to be done through them and around them.*

Worship Attendance

JANUARY 10, 2021

In Person Worship: 170	
8:30AM: 15	9:01AM: 64
11:00AM: 41	REVIVE: 50
Online Worship: 326	
9:01AM: 147	11:00AM: 179
Offering Received: \$14,148.00	
New Building Fund: \$30	Total: \$84,627.69

On Sadness and the Spirit

I sat and listened to the music at the funeral for our beloved Pierce Dickens on Tuesday. In addition to a local organist there was a string quintet, along with four vocalists, all students from Georgia Southern. They came to offer their gifts to a professor and mentor whom they loved. Their gifts were extravagant, as I was moved to listen to the beauty of what they were sharing.

Beyond the sounds, though, there were visuals. Some of the students were crying as they performed, and for others the grieving was evident as they listened to their classmates sing or play.

It was just a few hours later that I came across a truth about how God uses sadness. "Tears were called a gift of the Holy Spirit," by many of the early Christian teachers, writes Richard Rohr. In that same vein, one of the orthodox teachers believed that we do not know God until we have wept. Which makes sense, because it is often in our lowest times that we are most open to the work of God in our lives.

Jesus included a word about this in some of his most famous teaching, the Sermon on the Mount. He says, "Blessed are people who grieve, because they will be made glad." This sends a jolt to us when we first hear it. Grieving is not something any of us associate with happiness. But, the scriptures repeat the refrain of God's presence when we need comfort. In the middle of one of the most known passages of the Bible we hear, "Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger because you are with me. Your rod and your staff - they protect me." (Psalm 23:4)

Pierce Dickens was great on the organ bench - truly considered one of the most talented and technically proficient in the southeast and around the country - and even greater away from it. He was kind, funny, smart, humble, and generous. And, he loved serving among the people of this church and this community. His legacy lives on, but for now it is appropriate for us to continue to give pause and consider all that his absence means to us.

Grace and peace, Scott

SFUMC Students News

Welcome Back!

We are so glad to be back with your students! Our weekly programming kicked off this past week and it was awesome to spend time together! Please note the following:

- We are away this weekend with our High School Seniors on retreat.
- No Sunday Night Surge January 17.
- No Breakfast Club Monday, January 18.
- The Youth ski trip is full. Contact Becca or Clay if your student would like to be added to the wait list.



Statesboro First Methodist
Children's Ministries



Children's Ministries News

Kids Connection

It was great seeing the kids this past Wednesday night for small groups. We enjoyed learning about responsibilities and two of God's greatest commandments. The kids had fun being back at church and spending time with friends.

Don't forget, each Sunday morning we offer Kids Worship for our 9:01 and both 11:00 services. Kids Worship is for ages Pre-k-3rd grade. Our Nursery is open every Sunday also.

Church News

Church Safety Measures

Our church remains committed to the safety of our members, guests, and our entire community. The measures our Church Council put into place when we returned to in-person worship in July, and then resumed spread out ministries with kids and students in September, are still offering safe places. We are watching the local numbers, closely. Our Council's Executive Team is meeting next week to discuss both the present conditions as well as develop hopeful plans for resuming Sunday School and small groups when it is appropriate to do so. As of right now, we are complying with the distanced per-room limitations that our Trustees set in August.

Church Calendar

Sunday, January 17

8:30AM - Traditional Service, Sanctuary

9:01AM - 901 Service, FH

11:00AM - Traditional Service, Sanctuary

11:00AM - REVIVE Service, FH

Monday, January 18

MLK Holiday-Church Office & Preschool Closed

Tuesday, January 19

7:00PM - Church Council Executive Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 20

5:45PM - Children's Ministry Activities

6:30PM - Students Small Groups

Thursday, January 21

6:30PM - Music Rehearsal, FH

Saturday, January 23

12:00PM - Soup Kitchen