



STATESBORO FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



SFUMC
NEWSLETTER



FOR THE WEEK OF:
JANUARY 31, 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

Kathleen Modd - January 25, 2021

Christian sympathy to Norman and Martha Wells at the passing of their grandson, Ben, last week.

Prayers for Charlie Christmas, Si Waters

Continued prayers for Betty Hodges, Bobby & Holt Coursey, Mike Beasley, Dot Piazza, Coley Cassedy, 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 24, 2021

In Person Worship: 180	
8:30AM: 20	9:01AM: 82
11:00AM: 33	REVIVE: 45
Online Worship: 226	
9:01AM: 95	11:00AM: 131

Offering Received: **\$27,224.20**

Identity and the Work of Heroes

Jack and I stayed up the other night and watched one of the original Star Wars movies, Return of the Jedi. It has been my favorite in that series since first watching it three decades ago. A band of heroes finally find success after various scenes that force them to search deeply to discover their true identity. What they find is that the final destination was a return to some truth they knew before. Joseph Campbell (1904-1987) studied this hero's journey and found it in essentially every great story - whether real or myth. These elements that are common throughout history.

So, it is no wonder that the Scriptures are filled with people who have to get away to find themselves, before the great battles or tests come later. I think of the temptation story of Jesus detailed in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. After his baptism by John the Baptist, Jesus was tempted by Satan for forty days and nights in the wilderness. Jesus refused each temptation. I think we see Jesus reaching inside to the truth of who he is. He responds with the Word. He overcomes because he knows his story, God's story, and humanity's story.

This is what our Finding Focus for the Future work is about: spending time listening, asking questions, and recapturing the identity of how God has uniquely made and called this church. Of course, the stakes are high. The world is against the work of God and every local church is feeling the pressure. Campbell once said in an interview that, "If the person doesn't listen to the demands of his own spiritual and heart life, and insists on a certain program, you're going to have a schizophrenic crack-up." I think it is true of the person, but also the organization.

So, join us in praying for what God is doing. Sign up to get updates on how it is going and invitations to pray, by going to www.statesborofirst.com/focus. And lift these names up for their work in these coming months: Amy Altman, Robert Benson, III, Earl Dabbs, Jr., David Johnson, Katie Johnson, Elizabeth Lippincott, Mary Ann Lisenbee, Don Marsh, Nancy Martin, Janice Smith, Gina Taormina, and Bill Thompson.

Grace and peace, Scott



SFUMC Students News

Upcoming Youth Activities

- Sunday Night Surge, January 31 at 6PM.
- Breakfast Club Monday, February 1 at 7AM.
- Wednesday Night Small Groups, February 3 at 6:15PM.
- The Youth ski trip scheduled for February 18-21 is full. Contact Becca or Clay if your student would like to be added to the wait list.
- Mark your calendar for the *By Design* Event, Sunday, March 21.



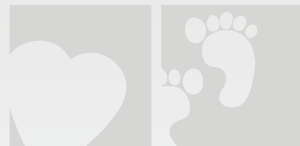
Statesboro First Methodist
Children's Ministries



Children's Ministries News

Kids Corner

Children's Ministry of Statesboro First is excited about the "Love in Action" challenge that they will be participating in for the month of February. The children can collect items for a family in need in our community. We look forward to seeing who wins the challenge. Will it be the boys or the girls? For more details contact Jodie Hendrix, 912-690-1291.



Church News

2021 Hope Chest Needs

We continue to be blessed by donations from our community. There are some items that we frequently run out of: new ladies underwear (mainly size 9 & up), new men's boxers or briefs (mainly large & up), washcloths (new or gently used) and laundry detergent. There will be a donation box in the Gathering Area and our green donation box at 102 Elm Street is also available 24/7. Please call me at 912-536-5752 if you have any questions.

- Jackie Vaughn

Church Calendar

Sunday, January 31

8:30AM - Traditional Service, Sanctuary

9:01AM - 901 Service, FH

11:00AM - Traditional Service, Sanctuary

11:00AM - REVIVE Service, FH

6:00PM - Students Surge, FH

Monday, February 1

7:00AM - Youth Breakfast Club, FH

6:00PM - Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, February 3

5:45PM - Children's Ministry Activities

6:30PM - Students Small Groups

6:30PM - Pastor Scott's Bible Study, Zoom

Thursday, February 4

6:30PM - Music Rehearsal, FH

Saturday, February 6

12:00PM - Soup Kitchen