



# Under the Dome...

## Proclaiming the Kingdom of God

### throughout Jasper and Walker County

#### Our Staff at First UMC

**Alan Beasley**  
Senior Pastor

**Tex Egle**  
Associate Pastor

**Stuart Branstetter**  
Student Pastor

**Tamara Matthews**  
Children's Director

**John Stallsmith**  
Organist/Choir Director

**Chris Trawick**  
Worship Leader

**Cheryl Odle**  
Administrative Secretary

**Lanny Capps**  
Media Specialist

**Sam Furman**  
Custodian

**Brandi Freeman**  
Custodian

**Jane Walker**  
Kitchen Hostess

**Delisa Grace**  
Nursery Supervisor

#### *The Surprising Advent Prophet*

*<sup>8</sup> He has shown you, O man, what is good.  
And what does the LORD require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.*

You may recognize the verse above. It's from the minor prophet Micah and is often quoted and frequently preached. Micah 6:8. Yeah that's it. Now you are with me. I've only recently considered Micah important to the Advent story. In the previous chapter the place of the Messiah's birth is given as Bethlehem and we move on. But if you look at the life of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, you quickly realize he lived this verse every moment of his life. We see each and every action and relationship is framed around kindness and righteousness and humility. And we are to do the same. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly with your Lord. That's the Advent story. That's the message from the beginning and for us again. He is born in us in order that the prophet's message is seen in us.

**Christmas Eve Candlelighting and Holy Communion  
5:00 pm and 6:30 pm**

#### The Music of Christmas

What is it that gives so much meaning to Christmas in your life? There are those who really love the lights and the decorations of Christmas. There is a house just east of my house on Arkadelphia Road that has the most lights possible, and yet they seem to add more each year. There are those who find the real meaning of Christmas in the baking and preparing the special foods of Christmas. My mother always enjoyed preparing her special recipes for Christmas, she would make Peanut Brittle and her "No Bake Fruit Cake", and so many others.

I love the music of Christmas, because it is the music that really speaks to me at Christmas time. I love hearing the story of Jesus' birth in the hymns of Christmas. What would Christmas be without "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear", or "What Child is This", and "Away in a Manger". But the Music of Christmas is more than just the hymns that have been around so long. One song that really speaks to me is "Mary Did You Know", especially when it is performed by someone Like J.J. Hadder. J.J. sang this song at the United Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon and it was a great performance. You can see and hear it on our church's website if you were not there that day. Through the years I have found that each year a different hymn or song will bring God's message to me at Christmas. Where will you hear God's message this year? Will you hear God calling you in the hymn "O Come All Ye Faithful" in this Christmas season?

Tex Egle

## Methodist Happenings

### St. Andrews Mission Outreach

This Christmas we have a chance to impact St. Andrews Elementary School in St. Andrews, FL. This school serves students with behavioral issues. Following the storm, the school has 96 students along with 62 teachers and staff members. We, along with other local churches, want to bless this school. We are asking interested church members to buy and wrap one gift for a student or a teacher, suggested spending is \$10-\$15. (Please do not select clothing as these needs are being met locally.)

Below is a list of current students and teachers. We ask that you please bring your gift, fully wrapped and labeled (Example: 3rd Grade Girl, brief description of the item.) to the church on or before **Sunday, December 16th**. Gifts can be left on the table in the Easter Wing. Thank you for your support of this mission.

**Pre K:** (3 & 4 year olds)- 3 boys, 1 girl

**Kindergarten:** 13 boys, 1 girl

**1st grade:** 8 boys, 3 girls

**2nd grade:** 10 boys, 2 girls

**3rd grade:** 12 boys

**4th grade:** 10 boys, 1 girl

**5th grade:** 20 boys, 3 girls

**Mixed Classes:** K-2nd grade-4 boys, 1 girl

**Mixed Classes:** 3rd-5th grade-2 boys, 2 girls

**Adult Males:** 11      **Adult Females:** 51



### PARENT REMINDER

Rehearsals for our 2018 Christmas program have started. The program will be **Wednesday, December 19** at 6:00 p.m. Following the program we will celebrate Jesus's birthday with refreshments served in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Tamara for details and try to have your children here on Wednesdays for rehearsal. We want all interested children to be involved with the program.

### **EXTRA REHEARSAL FOR THE CHILDREN'S PRESENTATION OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY**

**Saturday-December 15** for all those attending Parent's Day Out, we will rehearse the music at some point during the day.

**Monday-December 17-EPIC 456 kids ONLY.** Tamara will get them from school as she does on Wednesdays. They will have a snack and then rehearse in the sanctuary. Parents will need to pick-up in the alley at 5.

**Wednesday-December 19-3:30** rehearsal for everyone, K-6th grade. Tamara will bring the EPIC kids over from School. They will rehearse until 5:00 p.m. At 5:00 p.m., they will have some pizza and juice. At 5:30 they will begin getting dressed for the program at 6:00. The preschool kids need to be at the church by 5:30 p.m. If you are willing and able to help with either after school rehearsal please let Tamara know. Following the program, we will have *Happy Birthday, Jesus* birthday cake and drinks in the Fellowship Hall.



### December Parent's *DAY* Out Saturday, December 15 9:00 a.m-1:00 p.m.

Parents of all 3 year olds—6th graders, mark your calendars for this special day. It's the perfect time to wrap-up last minute preparations while the kids have fun doing crafts, playing games, eating and enjoying seasonal holiday activities. Please let Tamara know if your kids will be participating in this special day.



### Angel's in the Street Ministry

Sam and Crystal Furman operate a street ministry to the homeless in Birmingham at Christmas called *Angel's in the Street*. They provide warming bags and Bibles for as many as possible. Last year they gave out over 100 bags. They are in need of the following items to go in the bags: gloves, scarves, hats/toboggans, socks, blankets, bags/backpacks, and Bibles. If you would like to participate in this ministry just bring the items to the church. Financial donations are also welcome.

### HONORARIUM

Lanny Capps-Media  
by  
United Methodist Women



*Monday, December 24*

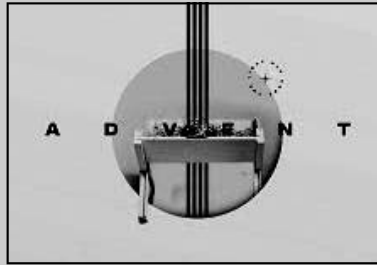
*5:00 p.m.*



*6:30 p.m.*

## Worship Information for Sunday, December 16, 2018

**Prayer of Invitation**-Come, Holy Spirit, come. Come as the wind and blow. Come as the fire and burn. Convict, convert, and consecrate, until we are all fully thine. Amen.



### Advent. The Light Has Come.

**Sermon:** "Singing a Song of Joy." - Rev. Alan Beasley

**Scripture:** Luke 2:8-12

8:30 a.m. **Celebration Service**

**Praise and Worship**- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel; Joy to the World; O Come All Ye Faithful; Mary Did You Know; Noel

10:55 a.m. **Traditional Service**

**Hymns**-Hark! The Herald Angels Sing; There's A Song in the Air; The First Noel

**Greeters:** Jill Odom and Lola O'Mary

**Acolytes:** Libby Allred and Kelley-Brooke Brown

**Liturgist:** Chris Taylor      **Children's Church:** Tamara Matthews

**Ushers:** Jimmie Vann (head), Johnny Bagley, Al Blanton, Marcus O'Mary and Chris Taylor.

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of *Kathy Stough* (Mama Kat) by the Stough Family.

Poinsettias placed in the sanctuary are to the glory of God in memory and in honor of loved ones.



### Worship Attendance—Week of December 9, 2018

Celebration Service	217
Traditional Service	167
Online Viewers	77
Youth Wednesday Evening	20
Hope Kitchen	<u>76</u>
<b>Total in Worship</b>	<b>552</b>

### Tithes and Offerings -Week of December 9, 2018

Received-to-Date	\$ 752,584.49
Expenses-to-Date	\$ 724,047.27

### December 9, 2018

General Budget	\$ 13,128.21
Designated	\$ 1,850.00



Thank you to Dr. John Stallsmith, our First United Methodist Chancel Choir and guest musicians for a wonderful service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 9. If you missed it, the service is archived on our web site for viewing. You will enjoy every moment.





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**Church Calendar of Activities**

**Sunday, December 16**

\*8:30 a.m. Celebration Worship Service  
 \*10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 \*10:55 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

**Monday, December 17**

9:00-2:00 Preschool

**Tuesday, December 18**

8:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast, Fellowship Hall  
 9:00-2:00 Preschool  
 11:00 a.m. Hope Kitchen

**Wednesday, December 19**

9:00-2:00 Preschool  
 3:15 p.m. EPIC 456 After School  
 6:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program

**Thursday, December 20**

9:00-2:00 Preschool

**Friday, December 21**

9:00-2:00 Preschool

**MEMORIALS**

*Jane Crump*-White Christmas  
 by  
 Bob & Linda Maddox

*Merle Donaldson*-White Christmas  
 by  
 Bob & Linda Maddox

*Phoebe Hyche*  
 by  
 Evelyn C. Costen  
 Kenneth & Lisa Coston  
 Will & Carol McDonald-Hope Kitchen  
 Kathryn O'Rear  
 Frank G. Smerglia



The members of the First United Methodist Church chancel choir who sang in Handel's "The Messiah" would like to express our gratitude for the generous donation made from our church to the Walker County Christian Chorus. The chorus considers this production our Christmas gift to the community. We worked extremely hard to produce an outstanding performance, but our work would be in vain without financial assistance. Knowing our church supports us in this endeavor is humbling and meaningful. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

*John A. Stallsmith, Keith Gann, Debby Howton, Becki Stallsmith, Lisa Miller, Lorin O'Rear, Judy Hager, Mike Cordle, Griff O'Rear, Kaitlyn Johnson, Gail Madrigal, Barbara Wilson, Mary Owen, and Maxine Cordle.*