

## Upcoming Events

Dec 19th Christmas Cookie Walk  
Caroling / Deliver Fruit Baskets  
Hamburger & Hot Dog dinner

**Dec 24th Christmas Eve Service**

Jan 4th Believer's Pot Luck @ Emory

Jan 9th Board Meeting

Jan 16th Chili Lunch

Feb 1st Believers

Feb 13th Valentine Cookie Cake

## Prayer Request

Mary Ann Cooper  
Frank Burton  
Rita Stewart  
Carlyon Crook  
Danette Roberson  
Sherry Byrd  
Chub Davis Family

## Christmas Eve Communion Service

Service will be Friday, Christmas Eve @ 6:00 pm.

## Christmas Card Exchange

Today is the last day to turn in Christmas Cards  
Contact Robin Cox for details.

## Christmas Poinsettias

If you want your Poinsettias, please take them after the service today.

## Emory Independent Methodist Church

872 Watson Road  
Byhalia, MS 38611  
(662) 838-7878

Sr. Pastor Dr. Michael Johnson  
Mobile (901) 606-8113

10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship Service

[www.emorychurchbyhalia.org](http://www.emorychurchbyhalia.org)

# Emory Church

December 19, 2021





### The Four Sundays of Advent

First Sunday: Hope (or promise)

Second Sunday: Preparation (or waiting or prophecy)

Third Sunday: Joy (or peace)

Fourth Sunday: Love

Christmas Eve: Jesus

#### Egypt

Persecution against Christians in Egypt happens mostly at the community level. Incidents occur most frequently in Upper Egypt, where Salafist movements exert a strong influence on the rural communities due to high levels of illiteracy and poverty. Incidents may vary from Christian women being harassed while walking in the street, to Christian communities being driven out of their homes by extremist mobs.

Al-Azhar University, one of the most influential Islamic universities in the world, has a prominent place in Egyptian society and even in the constitution. The university's Grand Imam Ahmed el-Tayyeb has clearly stated that there is no place in Islam for Muslims to convert to Christianity.

Although Egypt's government speaks positively about Egypt's Christian community, the lack of serious law enforcement and the unwillingness of local authorities to protect Christians leave them vulnerable to all kinds of attacks, especially in Upper Egypt. Due to the dictatorial nature of the regime, neither church leaders nor other Christians are in a position to speak out against these practices.

Furthermore, in contrast to how mosques and Islamic organizations are dealt with, churches and Christian non-governmental organizations are restricted in their ability to build new churches or running social services. Christians of all backgrounds face difficulties in finding new places for communal worship. The difficulties come both from state restrictions, as well as from communal hostility and mob violence.

Christians from a Muslim background often have great difficulty in living out their faith since they face enormous pressure from their families to return to Islam. The state also makes it impossible for them to get any official recognition of their conversion.

# The Order of Worship

Prelude		Please be seated to prepare for worship
Advent Candle Lighting		
*Hymn	#123 O Come O Come, Immanuel!	Congregation
*Hymn	#132 Angels, We Have Heard on High	Congregation
Prayer of Praise		
Scripture Reading	Psalm 103:13-16	
*Hymn	#137 What Child is This?	Congregation
Prayer for the Nations	Egypt	
Scripture Reading	Matthew 1:18-25	
*Affirmation of Faith		
A Prayer of Supplication		
*Hymn		Lynn Howard
Sermon	The Mercy of Jehovah	Dr. Michael Johnson
	Psalm 103:1-5	
*Hymn	#128 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear	Congregation
Benediction		
Announcements		
Closing Prayer		

(\* ) indicate times when you are invited to stand as you are able