

111 W. Cherokee Street / P.O. Box 152

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Rev. Graham Arp, Pastor,

pastor@chatsworthfirstmethodist.org

Melissa Sneads, Office Manager

Marla Sanford, Office Assistant

Rachel Jordan, Minister to Children

Mandy Ledford, Minister to Youth

Kristi Harvey, Minister of Music

Mary Margaret Howard, Preschool Director, Pianist,
Organist

Phil Noles, Pianist

Amy Williams, Head Nursery Attendant

December 2024



A Letter From the Pastor

There is so much that we do this time of year that is intended to invite us to wonder. We devote so much time and energy to extra things that inspire wonder. We decorate inside our homes and outside our homes (some go REALLY big!). We are more generous and give more gifts. We become more festive with our attire. There are numerous special events available to bask in the wonder of the season. All of this is worth celebrating. The reason for the season is truly something that causes wonder, and it is truly WONDERful. So, it is certainly a time of year when it is appropriate to seek to fill life with experiences that inspire us to wonder.

All of the experiences and spirit of the season our culture offers can either aid our wonder of the birth of a savior, or they can distract from it. Our joyful responsibility is to ensure that the central focus of our wonder is the beautiful story of God choosing to come down to earth, put on human flesh, and be born in a stable.

Throughout scripture, anytime someone encountered the presence of God in scripture the experience inspires wonder (and fear!). The wonderful truth that God the Son willingly humbled Himself to become a human baby born in lowly circumstances is the most wonder-inspiring event of all time, topped only by the death and resurrection of that same baby 33 years later.

So, let us intentionally renew our wonder of the Christmas story. I invite you to join me this Advent in seeking to recapture the wonder of what God did in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. In addition to whatever other wonder-inspiring experience you take time for, be intentional about taking time each day to do daily devotions that will inspire wonder in the amazing truth that God became human and was born as a baby. With the Advent devotion book we are doing together as a church, The Wonder of it All, experience anew the wonder of Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and Wise Men.

Blessings,
Pastor Graham



Sunday

- 9 AM In-Person Worship
- 10 AM Sunday School
- 11 AM In-Person Worship
- 11 AM Facebook Live Worship
- 5 PM Choir Cantata Rehearsal
- 6-8 PM UNITED Youth Group

Wednesday

- 5 PM Handbell Practice
- 7 PM Choir Rehearsal

Upcoming Sermons

Date	Scripture	Sermon
Dec 1	Luke 1:5 - 20	The Wonder of it All: The Wonder in Waiting
Dec. 8	Luke 1: 26-50	The Wonder of it All: Wonder Instead of Doubt
Dec. 15	Matthew 2: 1-12	The Wonder of it All: The Wonder in Searching
Dec. 24*	John 1: 1-5	*Christmas Eve Service* The Wonder of it All: Ordinary Turned into Wonder
Dec. 29	Isaiah 5: 1-7	The Vineyard



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 30	Church Decorating
December 1	First Sunday of Advent
December 1	Children's Gingerbread Party
December 7	Choir Christmas Party
December 8	Church Cantata and Christmas Party
December 8	Methodist Men's Breakfast
December 10	CFMW Ornament Swap
December 11	The Academy Christmas Play
December 15	Youth Fancy Christmas
December 24	Christmas Eve Service
December 25	Christmas Day
Dec. 24 - Jan 1	Offices Will Be Closed
December 31	New Year's Eve
January 1	New Year's Day
January 12	Spaghetti Luncheon
January 12	Youth Sunday Funday
January 20	MLK Day



We are looking forward to a time of food and fellowship at our Church Christmas Party. It will be held in the Fincher Family Life Center following the Cantata on Sunday night, December 8th.



MINISTRIES

Advent Book

ADVENT


The Christmas story is not just a wonderful story, it's a wonder-FILLED story. Perhaps it's time to recapture the wonder found in the Christmas story.

THE WONDER OF IT ALL

This year's Advent Devotional is titled: The Wonder of It All. With this daily devotional and our Advent sermon series we will focus on the wonder of the story experienced by those who experienced the first Christmas.

MARK SORENSEN A Daily Advent Devotional

Book \$10




Staff Gifts

Staff Gifts 2024

On behalf of the CFMC Staff-Parish Relations Committee, I would like to extend an invitation to the congregation to join us in showing our love and appreciation to the Pastor and staff who continue to serve us so faithfully and go "above and beyond" in so many ways to be a blessing to us. Each year we accept donations to make up their Christmas gifts. If you would like to contribute, please place your gift, earmarked "staff gift", in an offering envelope and place in the offering plate. You may also mail them to or drop them by the church office. The deadline for donations is Sunday, December 8th.

Thank You,
Kelli Kendrick




The Academy Christmas Play

The Academy Presents

Oh Holy Night

Wednesday, Dec. 11 @ 6:30PM
Reception to Follow



Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettia Order Forms

You may purchase poinsettias (\$15/each) and dedicate them in honor or memory of a friend or loved one by filling out the form in the bulletin. Please earmark your payment "Poinsettia" and place it in the offering plate. The deadline is Sunday, December 8th. Your plant(s) may be picked up after our Christmas Eve Service.



Christmas Card Exchange

Christmas Card Exchange 2024

The Card Club will be distributing Christmas cards this year from Sunday, Dec. 1 - Sunday, Dec. 24. Please place cards in the box in the Gathering Room. They will be available for pickup there as well.



Christmas Giving Opportunity

Christmas Giving

In your giving this Christmas, please consider giving a financial gift to help provide meals for children in Belize. You are invited to give any time from now until Christmas.

Church Goal: \$8000





MINISTRIES

Children's Ministry

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST [at] 3 PM

FINCHER FAMILY LIFE CENTER [at]
CHATSWORTH FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

DECORATING MATERIALS AND GINGERBREAD HOUSES WILL BE PROVIDED.

MUST RSVP TO RACHEL JORDAN BY SUNDAY, NOV 24TH

(404) 433-0517 OR FILL OUT THE FORM ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

CFMC CHILDRENS MINISTRY



Youth Ministry

LET'S CELEBRATE ANOTHER YEAR AT

UNITED YOUTH FRIENDSGIVING 2024

SUNDAY DECEMBER 1ST 6:00 PM
YOUTH ROOM

Please bring a covered dish to share



Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class

Pastor Graham plans on leading a confirmation class in the spring. If you have a child you would like to be a part of the class, please let Pastor Graham know via email: Pastor@ChatsworthFirstMethodist.org or call the church office at 706-695-3211



CFMW Ornament Swap

CHATSWORTH FIRST METHODIST WOMEN ANNUAL LUNCHEON & ORNAMENT SWAP

Tuesday, December 10 @ 11AM

Wright Hotel \$12/Person

RSVP: Paula Catoe

770-241-0730 or email @ catoe777@gmail.com

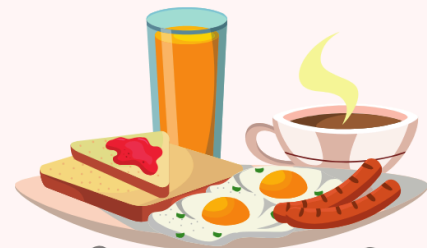
Please bring an ornament.



Methodist Men

Methodist Men's Breakfast

Sunday, December 8 @ 8:00 AM





PRAYER REQUESTS

Peggy Bailey (Tamara Massengale)- is in the hospital with multiple complications, including multiple fractures in her hip from a fall, kidney issues, and high CO2 level. She is currently on the ventilator to try to bring down the CO2 level.

Bryan Dorries- had emergency surgery to remove his appendix. He is recovering and doing well. Please pray for his continued recovery.

Oliver Jordan (Shawn Davis) - Shawn's great nephew is got to go home from the hospital. The family wants to thank everyone for their prayers lifted up for Oliver. Please continue to pray that his recovery goes well.

David Loughridge - undergoing cancer Treatments.

Mandy Ledford - has a severe sinus infection and a touch of pneumonia in her left lung. She is traveling this week for an FCA event. Please pray for her healing.

Luke Lyles- recovering from Mono. He was finally able to go back to school after a few weeks of being absent.

Tom Peeples- continued prayers for battle with cancer and other health challenges.

Rachel Ridley (Donna Ridley)- scheduled for hernia surgery on December 9.

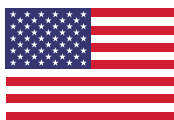
Melissa Sneads- has an injured shoulder. Pray that with rest it will heal and no surgery is needed.

Frank Ward- has a throbbing pain in his leg that's cause has not yet been determined.

Sandy Yarber - Please pray for Sandy. She has been diagnosed with a UTI and Diverticulitis.

Christian Sympathy is Extended to the Family of:

Family of Cindy Peeples - please pray for Tom and the family.



Please remember all of our active military members.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers for the Sanctuary

November 24	Shawn Davis
December 1	Gary & Dian Green
December 8	Ruth Woods
December 15	Lynne Long
December 22	Poinsettias
December 29	Ophelia Hall

Stewardship

Operations (As of 11/20/2024)

MTD - \$21,229.30

YTD - \$315,271.32

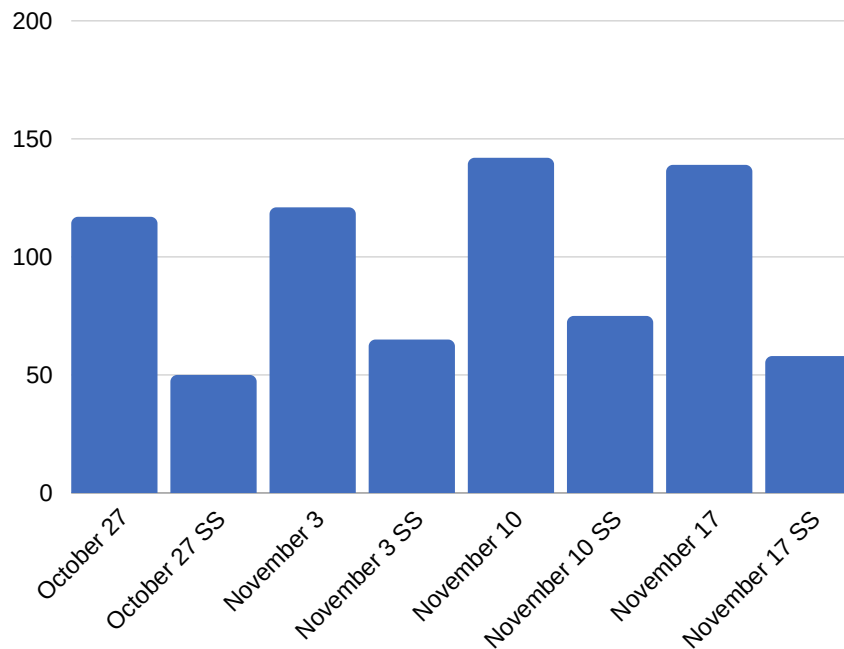
Giving Opportunities

Christmas Giving- Belize Missions
Saturday Sacks
Murray County Next Step
The Academy Homeschool Hybrid

Nursery Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>9AM</u>	<u>10AM</u>	<u>11AM</u>
Dec. 1	Shawn Davia	Brenda Chapman	Deborah Yarbrough
Dec. 8	HELP NEEDED	Julie Arp	Nancy Long
Dec. 15	Paula Catoe	Sandy Griffin	Mary Ann Black
Dec. 22	Laura Sparks	Sara Lyles	Cassidy Powell
Dec. 29	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	Susan Walls

Attendance



BIRTHDAYS

France Adams	December 1
Allyn Walls	December 1
Linda Starnes	December 3
Dianne Davis	December 6
Lilly Dories	December 6
Chris Petty	December 8
Jordyn Self	December 12
Valerie Pannell	December 13
Lydia Arp	December 15
Sheila Butler	December 15
Filbert Lewis	December 19
Milford Bennett	December 19
Craig Holcomb	December 20
Casey Schmidt	December 20
Liz Mabry	December 24
Amy Williams	December 30
Dale Plemons	December 31

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