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Rev. Graham Arp, Pastor,

pastor@chatsworthfirstmethodist.org

Melissa Sneads, Office Manager

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 2025



A Letter From the Pastor

I usually struggle with gift giving. I enjoy giving gift, but I find it challenging to find good gifts to give. What does the person really want? What will they use or enjoy for a long time versus just set aside and forget about. There have been times when I was still shopping in stores as they were closing on Christmas Eve. I search for the right gifts that communicate love. But Advent asks us a deeper spiritual question: What am I giving to God?

It is easy to get caught up in the busyness of the season, from the gatherings to shopping for gifts that we have little or nothing left to give as a gift to God. Our cultural demands of the seasons can lead us to forget to give God the gift that He asks for. Christmas is not only about what God gives us in Christ. It is also about our response.

When Mary learned that she was to give birth to the Son of God, she did not only consider what she was receiving, but also what she was giving. She offered herself as a gift to God, saying, "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled." (Luke 1:38). When Joseph learned that Mary's pregnancy was from the Lord, He obediently offered himself to God. When the shepherds heard that the savior had been born, they went and eagerly offered themselves in worship to God. When the Wise Men followed a star to see the newborn King, they offered gifts as an act of worship.

Rather than the Christmas season being a time when God might actually get less from you, what if it was a time when you gave God MORE? What if you gave God more of your presence in scripture reading, devotion reading, and prayer? What if you gave God more faith, asking Him how you can live boldly for Him and seeking ways to show love to others and share your faith with them? What are you giving to God this Christmas? Put God at the top of your list and give Him the gift that He desires most from you.

Blessings,
Pastor Graham



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Sermons

Date	Scripture	Sermon
December 7	Genesis 22	Roots: God's Provision
December 14	Joshua 2	Roots: Adopted into God's Family
December 21	Luke 1:1-25	Roots: Extended Family
December 24	Luke 2:1-20	*Christmas Eve* Roots: Invited to Come and Worship
December 28		*Guest Preacher Kevin Schmidt*



UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 2 Roadrunners Trip to Tate House
- December 7 Children's Gingerbread Decorating
- December 7 Youth Christmas Party
- December 9 Methodist Women Ornament Swap
- December 10 Academy Christmas Play
- December 14 Methodist Men Breakfast Meeting
- December 14 Church Cantata & Christmas Party
- December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
- Dec. 24-Jan. 1 Church Office Closed
- January 11 Methodist Women Spaghetti Lunch
- January 17-19 Youth Strength to Stand Conference
- January 19 MLK, Jr. Day
- February 16 Youth Ski Trip
- February 18 Ash Wednesday
- March 29 Palm Sunday/Easter Cantata
- April 5 Easter Sunday





MINISTRIES

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



A Child is Born... All is Well Christmas Cantata

Arranged and
Orchestrated by
Russell Mauldin

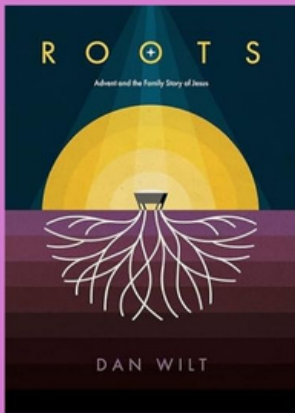
Created by
Russell Mauldin and
Sue C. Smith



Sun.,
Dec. 14
at 6pm



Advent Devotion Book



The heart and mission of Emmanuel, God with us, is more profoundly understood by exploring the well-watered roots that flowered into Jesus's life as the Word of God made flesh (John 1:14). The roots of Jesus are his family tree and its characters, the land of Israel and its towns and terrain, and the incredible faith-story of God's covenant people, the Jews. This year's Advent Devotional is titled *Roots: Advent and the Family Story of Jesus*. With this daily devotional and our Advent sermon series we will draw from both Jesus' genealogical ancestry and his faith heritage.

Book Cost: \$10



CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY 2025

Sunday, December 14

The Christmas Cantata is at 6pm with the party immediately following. Santa Claus will be here for pictures. Please bring savory finger foods for everyone to enjoy.



Children's Ministry Gingerbread House Decorating Party



December 7th @ 3 PM
Fincher Family Life Center @ CFMC
Decorating materials and gingerbread houses will be provided.



Staff Gifts 2025

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.

Thank You,
Kelli Kendrick





MINISTRIES

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 Sun., Dec. 7. Your plant(s) may be picked up after our Christmas Eve Service.



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December, 7

6:00-8:00 PM

Dinner will be provided.

Contest: Dress up like a movie character.



Bring a pair of funny, printed socks wrapped for gift exchange.



LET US ADORE HIM ↑

THE STORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS



WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 10, 2025
AT 6:30 PM
PLAY PRESENTED BY THE ACADEMY

Christmas Card Exchange 2025

The Card Club will be sorting and distributing Christmas cards this year from Sunday, Nov. 30 - Sunday, Dec. 21.

Please place cards in the box in the Gathering Room. They will be available for pickup there as well.



New Sound System

CFMC plans to purchase a new sound system. This will result in upgraded sound quality, a more user friendly system, and better livestream sound quality.

Contributions are gladly accepted. Please make checks out to CFMC and note "New Sound System" in the "for" line.



CHATSWORTH FIRST METHODIST WOMEN SPAGHETTI LUNCH

Ages 5 and under FREE

Ages 6-11 \$5.00

Ages 12 and up \$7.00

Donations also welcomed.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 12
FOLLOWING 11 AM SERVICE
JOIN US!





MINISTRIES

THE JOYFUL JOURNEY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

"Jesus & Women "
by Kristi McLelland

Follow in the footsteps of the women who came face-to-face with the Living God. Over 7 sessions, examine the historical and cultural climate of first-century Middle Eastern society to not only understand Jesus more deeply but to fuel your worship of Him today.

Meets every other Tuesday @ 6:30 PM Beginning January 13

Book Cost: \$25 (or free)



Contact Christie Rainey 770-581-8563 or the church office to sign up.

CHATSWORTH FIRST METHODIST WOMEN ANNUAL LUNCHEON & ORNAMENT SWAP

Tuesday, Dec. 9 @ 11AM
Wright Hotel \$12/Person

Please bring an ornament.



Contact Paula Catoe to sign up 770-241-0730 or catoe777@gmail.com



MEMORIALS

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>In Memory</u>
Calvin & Melodie Burger	Honor/Memorial Fund	Eddie Keener
Rhett & Sandy Griffin	The Academy	Darlene Clark
Rhett & Sandy Griffin	The Academy	Sonia Ridley
Rhett & Sandy Griffin	The Academy	Richard Hammontree
Jeannette Greeson	Honor/Memorial Fund	Carlton Peeples
Rick and Toni McCamy	Honor/Memorial Fund	Peggy Bailey
The McDaniel Family Foundation	Saturday Sacks	Carlton Peeples
Betty Peeples & family	Honor/Memorial Fund	Carlton Peeples
Roger & Christie Rainey	Saturday Sacks	Carlton Peeples
Roger & Christie Rainey	Saturday Sacks	Jere Weyman
Melissa Sneads	Youth	Sonia Ridley
Melissa Sneads	Youth	Richard Hammontree
Melissa Sneads	Youth	Carlton Peeples
Carolyn Stewart	Honor/Memorial Fund	Carlton Peeples
Chris & Lori Townsend	The Academy	Novis Davis
Chris & Lori Townsend	The Academy	Jere Weyman
Chris & Lori Townsend	The Academy	Ben Mosteller



PRAYER REQUESTS

Linda Barbee (Melissa Sneads' cousin) underwent a heart ablation. The doctor found the misfiring nerves but was unable to perform the ablation due to their location. He prescribed her medication and said that she will most likely have to have a pacemaker in the future.

Milford Bennett- is selling his house in Murray County and moving to Michigan to be close with family.

Lacey Burger- cancer treatment

Ms. Irene Carter (Dave Robinson) - COPD

Michael Chaffe (Shannon and Hugh Eighmie's brother-in-law) - diagnosed with stage 4 rectal cancer.

Joyce Craft (Mary Nathan Kendrick)- fell and fractured a vertebra. She is in a lot of pain. She is staying with her son in Watkinsville.

Keith Franklin- recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Baby Emma Lou Grant- was born on October 22 and due to complications spent a month in the hospital. She is now home. However, lots of prayers are needed for her and her family.

Ben Haefner (Melissa Sneads) is undergoing physical therapy.

Lynn Hall (Barbara Grider)- has previously had cancer and now the cancer has come back.

Lisa Hughes- recovering from hernia surgery.

Filbert Lewis- ongoing health issues.

Jane Mason (Melissa Sneads) recovering from double knee replacement surgery.

Karen McFee (Dave Robinson)- death of her husband Dr. Eric McFee.

Pray for Christians who are persecuted, especially Christians in Nigeria where persecution is severe.

Eileen Scarborough (Mary Nathan Kendrick)- suffered a stroke. Please pray for her recovery.

Eileen & Bob Simmons (Melissa Sneads) Eileen is home on Hospice. Please pray for God's peace.

Gage Southerland (Melissa Snead's great-nephew) - please pray as he continues treatment for cancer.

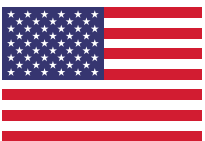
Ms. Virginia Summey (Dave Robinson) - Hip Replacement

Ms. Tanis Watlington (David Robinson) - Bone Marrow Cancer

Christian Sympathy is Extended to the Family of:

Sonia Ridley- Marla Sanford's mother died on November 20. Please pray for Marla and family.

Eddie Keener- Neil Keener's brother died on October 30. Please pray for Neil and family.



Please remember all of our active military members.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship

Operations (As of 10/23/2025)

MTD - \$26,336.10

YTD - \$297,860.40

Flowers for the Sanctuary

December 7 Gary & Dian Green
 December 14 Open
 December 21 Poinsettias
 December 28 Ophelia Hall

Giving Opportunities

Saturday Sacks
 Murray County Next Step
 Belize School Children Lunches
 Good Samaritan Fund
 New Sound System

Nursery Schedule

Date	9AM	10AM	11AM
Dec. 7	Shawn Davis	Brenda Chapman	Rhonda Kilgore
Dec. 14	Paula Catoe	Julie Arp	Nancy Long
Dec. 21	Paula Catoe	Sandy Griffin	Mary Ann Black
Dec. 28	Laura Sparks	Kathy Ballew	Deborah Yarbrough

BIRTHDAYS

December 1 France Adams
 December 1 Allyn Walls
 December 6 Diane Davis
 December 6 Lilly Dorries
 December 8 Chris Petty
 December 12 Jordyn Self
 December 13 Valerie Pannell
 December 15 Lydia Arp
 December 15 Sheila Butler
 December 19 Milford Bennett
 December 19 Filbert Lewis
 December 20 Craig Holcomb
 December 21 Casey Schmidt
 December 24 Liz Mabry
 December 30 Amy Williams
 December 31 Dale Plemmons

Attendance

