

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

Chatsworth, GA 30705

Ph. (706) 695-3211

www.ChatsworthFirstMethodist.org

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

JANUARY 2026



A Letter From the Pastor

A new year is before us, full of possibility, reflection, and resolve. We can look back on where we have been and ahead to where God might be leading us. Scripture reminds us that God is never finished with His people. God is always doing something new. Yet, the new things God chooses are always connected to His unchanging purposes. The work that God is doing in us is not only for our sake but also for His mission. From the very beginning, God has been forming a people who are blessed IN ORDER TO be a blessing (Genesis 12:2-3). That calling reaches its clearest expression in the words of Jesus in the Great Commission to "go and make disciples."

As we step into this new year, I believe God is calling our church into a renewed focus on making disciples. We are called to focus not just on gathering but also on going out on mission. We are called to give our attention to not just programs but to people and relationships. We are called to not just devote our time to knowing the faith but also to sharing the faith. This is not about doing MORE for the sake of busyness but about orienting our church and our lives around our faith for ourselves and others, which involves both being a disciple and discipling others.

The first step of embracing what God is doing in our church is prayer. Making disciples begins with prayer. Will you join me as we begin a new year praying for God to show us the way forward to be a community of faith even more devoted to being effective disciple-makers? Also include in your prayers a request for God to give you more opportunities (or maybe show you the opportunities already present) to have faith-sharing, disciple-making interactions. May we all look for the people God has already placed in our lives, such as our families, neighbors, coworkers, and friends, who God has placed in our path so that the love of Christ in us could spill over into their lives.

Blessings,
Pastor Graham



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Sermons

Date	Scripture	Sermon
January 4	Matthew 2:1-18	Epiphany: Invited to Respond
January 11	1 Samuel 9	Establishing a Kingdom: Israel's First King
January 18	1 Samuel 11	Establishing a Kingdom: Victorious King
January 25	1 Samuel 12	Establishing a Kingdom: The Prophet's Farewell



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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 24-Jan. 1 Church Office Closed
 January 4 Epiphany Sunday
 January 8 Saturday Sacks Resumes
 January 11 Methodist Men Breakfast Meeting
 January 11 Prayer for Church Leadership
 January 11 Methodist Women Spaghetti Lunch
 January 13 Joyful Journey Bible Study Begins
 January 17-19 Youth Strength to Stand Conference
 January 19 MLK, Jr. Day
 January 28 Wednesday Night Programs Begin
 February 15 Valentine's Lunch Relay for Life Fundraiser
 February 16 Youth Ski Trip
 February 18 Ash Wednesday
 March 29 Palm Sunday/Easter Cantata
 April 5 Easter Sunday

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

Smith Family
 Jacob, Haley, AJ,
 and Brodie





MINISTRIES

Midweek Kids
Wednesday, January 28
6:30 - 7:30 PM in the Gym
Ages Preschool - 5th Grade
Questions: Contact Rachel
(404) 433-0517

**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!**

CHATSWORTH
First Methodist Church

YOUTH GROUP
SKI TRIP
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16
Meet at 7AM • Return at 10PM
COST: \$125
CATALOOCHEE, NC

CHATSWORTH
First Methodist Church

SATURDAY SACKS

**WILL MEET TO PACK FOOD SACKS ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8 AT 1PM**

CHATSWORTH
First Methodist Church

**EASTER
Cantata**
Rehearsals begin soon

CHATSWORTH
First Methodist Church

**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 @
6PM Beginning January 13**

Book Cost: \$25 (or free)

CHATSWORTH
First Methodist Church

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



MINISTRIES

Roadrunners 2026
Christmas Trip

Bryson City & Asheville, NC
December 10-12
(Thursday-Saturday)
Sign up by Sunday,
January 18

Polar Express on the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad
Grove Park Inn- National Gingerbread Competition Exhibits
Concert @ The Cove- Official Billy Graham Conference Center
Mast General Store in Waynesville, NC

The Polar Express Bus will chug out of the Church parking lot at 1:00 PM on Thursday, December 10. We will head to Bryson City where we will get on the REAL Polar Express, a special 5:00pm Great Smoky Mountains Railroad excursion, for a train ride complete with hot chocolate and cookies featuring the characters from the famous story. After the train experience, we will overnight in a nearby hotel (Hampton Inn or Holiday Inn Express). On Friday, we will have breakfast at the hotel before traveling to the Grove Park Inn in Asheville to see the 2026 National Gingerbread Competition exhibits and lunch at the Inn. Friday afternoon we will arrive at The Cove just west of Asheville. The Cove is the official Billy Graham Conference center. You will have time to enjoy the center before the evening meal and special Christmas at The Cove concert featuring Joseph Habedank, a

twice grammy nominated and four-time Dove Award winner. We will again overnight in a local hotel (Hampton Inn or Holiday Inn Express). On Saturday, December 12, we will return to Church stopping by Mast General Store in Waynesville with midafternoon arrival at church.

Cost for this trip will be \$80 for concert tickets and included dinner due January 18. A second payment of \$75 for the train will be due on March 22. Hotel rooms will be in the \$200 per room per night (staying two nights) price range and will be due November 1. We will collect during the trip to refill the bus as usual.

Please text or call, and get your concert money to Deborah Yarbrough, at 706-671-7169 by Sunday, January 18 if you plan to go. Due to advance purchase requirements, this is nonrefundable, but can be transferred to another person. To keep the trips as economical as possible, we will cancel any trip if there are less than 10 bus riders signed up by the reservation deadline.

January Roadrunners
Tuesday, January 20 @ 2pm
Meet at the church to play
5 Crowns card game
Please bring finger food to share

Have you ever wanted to learn something new? Research shows that helps keep the mind healthy. Following that logic, the January Roadrunner's trip will not be a trip at all as we will not leave the church. We will gather in the CUC Classroom at 2:00pm on Tuesday, January 20.

Kenny & Denise Pugh have taught another Roadrunner or two (Ted & Deborah) a new card game called 5 Crowns. We will be playing that a few times that afternoon. Please bring a finger food to share with others while we are relaxing and playing games after the busy holiday season.

Cost for this event will be a finger food that each family will bring to share and we will not need to collect during the trip to refill the bus as usual!

Please text or call Deborah Yarbrough at 706-671-7169 by Sunday, January 18 if you plan to participate. As with the past tradition, we will cancel this event if there are less than 10 participants signed up by the reservation deadline.



MINISTRIES

Food Donations Needed



DONATIONS MAY BE PLACED IN THE COLLECTION BOX IN EITHER ENTRY FOYER ON ANY SUNDAY MORNING OR BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH OFFICE.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS (CANS OF VEGGIES AND SOUP, BOXES OF CEREAL, MAC-N-CHEESE, ETC.)

THE NEED FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE IS GREAT. IS GREAT WE WILL DISTRIBUTE THESE TO FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO CONTACT US IN VARIOUS WAYS NEEDED FOOD.



Valentine's Luncheon & Cake Auction Fundraiser for Relay for Life Team

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026

FOLLOWING THE 11AM SERVICE

PORK TENDERLOIN, TWICE BAKED POTATOES, GREEN BEANS, ROLLS, BROWNIES, TEA, AND LEMONADE

WE WILL HAVE OUR ANNUAL DESSERT AUCTION TO RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM. WE NEED DONATIONS OF HOMEMADE CAKES, PIES, AND COOKIES FOR THE AUCTION.



Young Women's Bible Study

Meets Every Other Wednesday
@ 6:30 PM
Beginning January 28

Prayer for
CHURCH LEADERSHIP
Sunday, January 11
Both Worship Services

CHATSWORTH
First Methodist Church



Employment Opportunity

Chatsworth First Methodist Church
is seeking a part-time office
assistant.

For more details visit
[ChatsworthFirstMethodist.org/
employment-opportunities](https://ChatsworthFirstMethodist.org/employment-opportunities)



PRAYER REQUESTS

Milford Bennett- moved to Michigan to be closer to 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.

Jace Chastain (Mary Ann Black)- Bill and Mary Ann's grandson has been diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer and is undergoing treatment. Jace is the son of Brian and Cindy Chastain. Please pray for his healing and for the journey ahead for him and his family.

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

Jerry Cross (Dave Robinson)- mourning the death of his wife Edna.

Filbert Lewis- ongoing health issues.

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

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

Gage Southerland (Melissa Snead's great-nephew) - vitals and bloodwork numbers have improved even more this time around. His blood pressure, oxygen levels, and heart rate were all back to normal, and his CEA cancer marker level had decreased from 2498 to 2300. They are hoping to get it below 1000 and stay there, but it is definitely going in the right direction. He will have a scan in January to see if the cancer is shrinking.

Rich Sorge (Graham Arp)- Graham's step-dad has been diagnosed with cancer and will begin treatment soon.

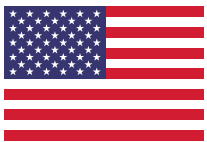
Ms. Virginia Summey (Dave Robinson) - Hip Replacement, in a nursing home.

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

Floyd Woods (Dave Robinson)- has ALS

Christian Sympathy is Extended to the Family of:

Baby Emma Lou Grant- the daughter of John Michael and Kelsea Grant was born on October 22 with health complications. She died on Christmas morning. Please pray for the grant family.



Please remember all of our active military members.



MEMORIALS

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>In Memory</u>
Barbara Grider	Audio/Visual Fund	Eddie Keener
Ted & Deborah Yarbrough	Audio/Visual Fund	Jere Weyman
Ted & Deborah Yarbrough	Audio/Visual Fund	Ragan Elrod
Ted & Deborah Yarbrough	Audio/Visual Fund	Darlene Clark
Ted & Deborah Yarbrough	Audio/Visual Fund	Carlton Peebles



ANNOUNCEMENTS

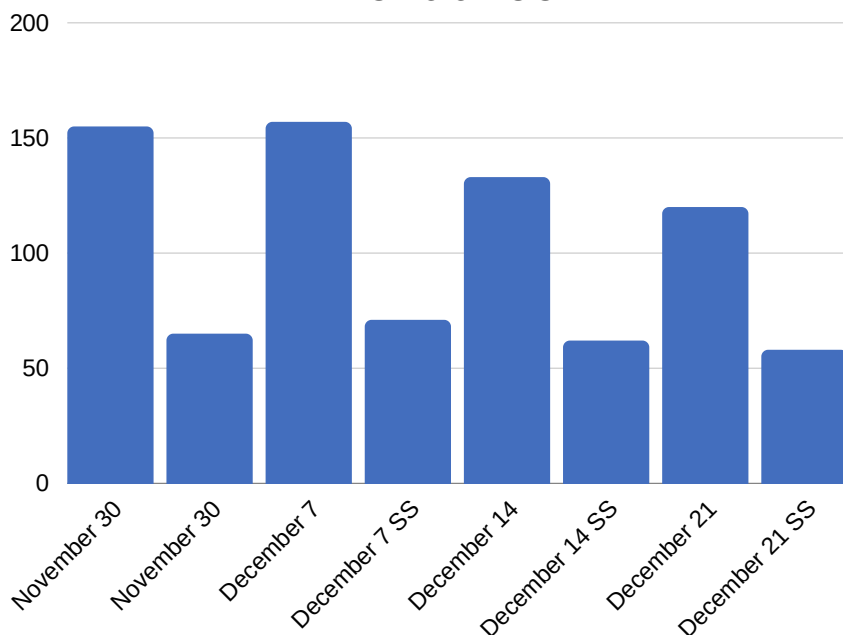
Stewardship
Operations (As of 12/24/2025)
MTD - \$32,687
YTD - \$336,727

Giving Opportunities
Saturday Sacks
Murray County Next Step
Belize School Children Lunches
Good Samaritan Fund

Nursery Schedule

Date	9AM	10AM	11AM
Jan. 4	Shawn Davis	Kathy Ballew	Anna Holcomb
Jan. 11	Help Needed	Julie Arp	Nancy Long
Jan. 18	Paula Catoe	Sandy Griffin	Mary Ann Black
Jan. 25	Laura Sparks	Christie Rainey	Rhonda Kilgore

Attendance



BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------|----------------------|
| January 5 | Mary Margaret Howard |
| January 6 | Rachel Ridley |
| January 8 | Tammie Henderson |
| January 13 | Ralph Ausmus |
| January 13 | Charlotte Pannell |
| January 15 | Bobby Harris |
| January 17 | Betty Jo Breeden |
| January 17 | Kendra Kilgore |
| January 18 | Chuck McLendon |
| January 19 | Liam Lyles |
| January 20 | Haley Smith |
| January 21 | Chris Townsend |
| January 22 | AJ Smith |
| January 23 | Micah Schmidt |
| January 24 | Charlie Pannell |
| January 26 | Jerry Bryson |
| January 26 | Tim Jones |