

The Journey....

**DRAWING OTHERS TO GOD THROUGH FAITH,
HOPE, LOVE AND SERVICE**

DECEMBER 2024



**Bushnell Methodist Church
Bushnell, Florida
Joyce Dunne, Pastor**



**GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH**

My Five Favorite Church Christmas Traditions

Many decades ago during a new members class, the pastor asked each of us, what's your favorite Bible story? I didn't need to ponder the question, because the birth of the Christ child at Christmas is my favorite, filled with memories and emotions the season brings to my mind. As we prepare for the season, I would like to share my five favorite Christmas traditions with you.

5. Nativity Plays and Musicals - I have fond memories of nativity plays, musical dramas and cantatas from the churches where I attended and served. Some offered a musical drama with props and full customs, while others had children and youth in custom act out the nativity scene as the scripture lesson was read aloud during worship. While others practiced for weeks for their annual Christmas Cantata. I have so many fond memories of participating in or directing these acts of worship through music and drama.

4. Lighting the Advent Wreath - Lighting the Advent Wreath has been a Christmas memory since I was young. As a child, I never quite understood why the lone pink candle represented joy instead of love. Once I had a family of my own, it was an honor to be asked to participate in such a time honored Christmas tradition.

3. Live Nativity Scene - All hands on deck the weekend of the Live Nativity at my home church. Men would build the life-size stable, with a life-size manger out in front of the church, complete with a pen for the animals and spotlights to shine on the participants of all ages. The choir and bell choir would alternate playing carols on the church porch, as people would stop by for cookies and hot chocolate and listen to the music while enjoying the live performance. Mary and Joseph would take their place by the manger, with the baby Jesus wrapped up so tightly you really couldn't tell it was a doll. The older youth would oversee the sheep and the lama, no one owned a camel or a cow in our congregation. The youngest children would represent the heavenly host of angels. To make the nativity scenes complete, the three wisemen took their places, ignoring the fact that they didn't come bearing gifts until years later.

2. Neighborhood Christmas Caroling - Days before Christmas, we would bundle up in our winter hats and gloves and meet at the church to go caroling in the neighborhood, using real candles. At each house, we would sing just the first verse of several carols, because few carolers knew all the verses. After a time, we would return to the church for cookies and hot chocolate, after all we lived in Pennsylvania and it was cold in December. Before the night came to an end, we would break up into smaller groups and drive to our shut-ins to sing to them.

1. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service - For as long as I can remember, my family attended Christmas Eve service, and at the end of the service, the lights would be turned way down and our pastor would light a white tapered candle from the Christ candle to share the flame with the ushers. The ushers would in turn, light the candles of the congregants at the end of each row until the entire sanctuary was aglow with the warmth of candlelight. The congregation would sing all four verses of Silent Night. It was a magical and spiritual experience that I continued to share with my own family. Never imagining that God would one day call me to be a pastor who would continue this tradition of symbolically sharing the light of Christ to the faithful and the world.



Christmas brings up wonderful memories for most of us who grew up in the church. Christmas to me is a very important celebration theologically as well, because if Jesus never came to earth to be born, to live, to die and to rise again, our eternal fate would be sealed to spend eternity separated from the love, goodness and grace of our Lord and Savior. And this is why Christmas is my favorite Bible story. What's yours?

Merry Christmas Pastor Joyce



*Wishing everyone a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy
and Prosperous New Year!
Pastor Joyce, Mary, Rosa and
Russ*

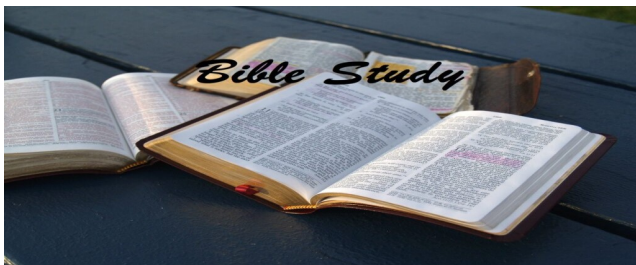


TOYS FOR KIDS MINISTRY

November 3rd, thru December 1st

Helping the children of Bushnell Elementary School have a wonderful holiday season. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Wrapping and packing party will be held on
December 10th, Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

**Wednesday, December 4th, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
with dinner beginning at 5:00 p.m.**

**"When God Comes Down"
by Author, James A. Harnish**



MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Tuesday, December 3rd, 9:00 a.m.
Darrell's Diner, CR-48, Bushnell**



FREE BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 7th

**Come join us the first Saturday of each month for a
free breakfast and fellowship. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to
10:00 a.m. Hope to see you there!!**



December 5th - Thursday

Christmas Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army at the Walmart in Bushnell. Please see Hannah Foster for volunteer times.



LADIES LUNCHEON

December 17th, Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.

Hope to see you at Papa Joe's for our luncheon and Christmas gift exchange at 6244 Spring Lake Hwy., Brooksville, FL 34601

To confirm your reservation please contact Celeste Hayes @ 352-346-1304.



CHIME CHOIR PRACTICE

Every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. If you would like to become involved with the new musical program please see Jo Jefferson.

choir practice



Choir practice every Sunday
morning at 9:30 a.m.

(No choir practice on 12/29, Sunday)

CANTATA PRACTICE

*December 6th, Friday, 2:00 p.m. @ Floral
City Methodist Church*

*December 13th, Friday, 2:00 p.m. @ Bushnell
Methodist Church*



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

*December 15th, Sunday,
"Messiah Heaven's Glory"*

*Combined choirs of Bushnell and
Floral City Methodist Church*



Happy Birthday to:

12/23 David Higgins
12/27 Tommy Bryan
Evelyn Christy



Happy Anniversary to:

12/20 Mike/Shirley Revels
12/21 Terry/Betsy Gideons
12/30 Felix/Kim Adams

Angie Bartel
116 Shawnee Trail
Ringgold, GA 30736

Marie Massey
3610 NE 16th Place
Ocala, FL 34470
352- 223-3766 (Cell)
352-620-9991 (Home)

Bert Park
110 Creekside Dr. Apt 204
Painted Post, NY 14870
607-689-6019

Betty King
2020 Harbourside Dr. # 422
Longboat Key, FL 34228



Please call or send a card



www.facebook.com/bushnellmethodist

11:00 a.m. Sunday, December 1
Scripture: (NIV)
Sermon: “Hanging of the Greens”

11:00 a.m. Sunday, December 8
Scripture: Luke 1:68-80 (NIV)
Sermon: “God’s Faithfulness Revealed”

11:00 a.m. Sunday, December 15
Scripture: (NIV)
Sermon: “Christmas Cantata”

11:00 a.m. Sunday, December 22
Scripture: Mark 1:1-8 (NIV)
Sermon: “A Forerunner of Hope”

5:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 24
Sermon: “Christmas Eve Service”

11:00 a.m. Sunday, December 29th
Scripture: Luke 2:22-40 (NIV)
Sermon: “The Glory of God Revealed”

**Praying with you and for you,
Pastor Joyce**



Find us on:
facebook®

NEWS!!

Facebook.com/bushnellmethodist

Website: www.bushnellmethodistchurch.org



SCAN QR CODE

NEW NAME TAGS AVAILABLE

Order your new name tag! The cost is \$ 6.00 each.

The number of tags, name and amount should be written on the envelope provided.

Place money in the envelope and drop in the box provided. Thank you!



EVENTS COMING YOUR WAY January 2025



If you would like to work a two hour Salvation Army bell ringing shift on December 5th at Walmart, please see Hannah Foster.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

December 1st, Sunday

Please come join and help decorate the church immediately following the morning service.

Our Christmas dinner will be held after the decorations are completed. Please bring a side dish to share and the meat will be provided.

DECEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Hanging of The Greens w/ dinner	2	3 Men's Breakfast 9am.	4 chime prac 9:30a Food pantry 11 am Advent study 5p	5 Bell Ringins at Walmart	6 Cantata prac. 2pm Floral City	7 Free Breakfast 8-10am
8	9	10 Toy wrapping 9:30a	11 chime prac.9:30 Advent study 5:00p Food pantry 11a	12	13 Cantata prac. 2p Bushnell	14
15 Cantata w/Floral City	16	17 Ladies Luncheon 1:00p	18 chime prac.9:30a food pantry 11a Advent study 5pm	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas candlelight ser. 5pm	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27	28
29 No choir practice	30	31				

Bushnell Methodist Church

221 West Noble Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513 Phone: (352) 793-3221
bushnellumc@yahoo.com

You're INVITED!

Sun. Worship at 11:00 AM

See you then!