

# Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

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## Growing Through Gratitude

Thankfulness, studies show, has multiple physical, mental and emotional benefits. Psychologist Robert Emmons calls gratitude “fertilizer for the mind” because of its powerful effects.

He admits gratitude isn’t always easy — especially when life throws us curveballs (see the year 2020) — but says it can be most helpful during and after difficulties. Emmons suggests reframing challenges using thankfulness-based language. Ask, for example: Though I wasn’t grateful for the experience at the time, how can I be now? What lessons did I learn, and how did I grow as a person?

Throughout his letters, the apostle Paul reframes his extensive sufferings and urges us to do the same. “Give thanks in all circumstances,” he writes, “for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).



## Christmas Poinsettias

It’s Poinsettia Time again. Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we use poinsettias to decorate the Church Sanctuary and take time to remember and honor loved ones, family, and friends. There will be order forms at the back of the Sanctuary and in the Sunday school rooms. You may also call the church office or look on the church website to purchase your poinsettias.



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

- 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
- 9:50 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

*Thanksgiving Day*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

9-12 noon Methodist Market

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

- 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
- 9:50 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship
- 1:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- 5:30 p.m. Solid Ground Youth

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

- 4:30 p.m. Ladies Handbell Choir
- 5:30 p.m. W.O.W. Children's Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:15 p.m. Snack Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Youth

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2**

9-12 noon Methodist Market

**NOVEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 19. Seward Perry
- 20. Bill Anderson
  - Lanie Potter
- 24. De Paul
- 26. Louis Thompson
  - Rita Sanders
- 27. Butch Gary
- 30. Jenny Whitaker
  - 1. Bill McNair
    - \*\*\*\*\*
- 25. Mr. & Mrs. John Howie
  - 1. Mr. & Mrs. Larry Laferty



Thank you to all who prepared Shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Many children will enjoy and feel the love of Christ through your gift!



Sunday, November 12, 2023, **Thomas Bane Phillips**, infant son of Laura Catherine and Brad Phillips received the sacrament of Baptism at First Methodist Church.



Newborns

**Congratulations** to Hannah and Matt Matrick on the birth of their son, **Elijah Thomas Matrick**, who was born Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

**STEWARDSHIP**

If you have not filled out your **Intention of Giving** form or the **Time and Talent Survey** for 2024, there are blank forms available through the church office. Thank you.

**Foster Children's Ministry**

This Christmas, please consider joining in our ministry to Yazoo County's foster children in one or more of the following ways:

1. Commit to praying for a foster child and/or foster parent in 2024.
2. Assist in purchasing and wrapping Christmas gifts for a child.
3. Make a financial contribution (money may be turned in to the church office and designated for the Foster Children's Ministry).

God has used the prayers and gifts of our church and community to share His love and to change lives! Call or text if you would like to participate.

Allison Hughes, 662-571-4964



For the month of November, we will begin a new series called ***Following Wisdom***. The lessons we will be covering are "God's Wisdom," "Wisdom for Problems," "The Way to God," and "Keep Going God's Way." These lessons begin after the death of King David, and take us through the reign of his son, King Solomon. Solomon was young when he became King, and he looked to God for guidance. For the next few weeks, we will be studying about the wisdom of King Solomon.

## **W.O.W. Wednesday**

Wednesday night Bible Study for Grades K-6<sup>th</sup> will begin at 5:30 p.m. This year's Bible Study will be Bible-in-Crafts. We have been enjoying all the amazing stories in the Bible from the Book of Genesis. As we begin the month of November, we will be learning about God's faithfulness to Abraham. We will be talking about Isaac, Jacob and Esau, and the redeeming story of Joseph. Supper will be at 6:15, and we will dismiss at 6:30 p.m.



Sunday and Wednesday Night Youth Group have been talking about the importance of living a Christ-like life. We all have a story that God is writing for each of us. Sunday nights we have been having a great group of youth who continue to show up ready to study God's word. We have made a slight time change for Sunday's and will be gathering at 5:30 for this semester. Wednesday Nights we will have supper at 6:15 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 6:40 p.m.

## ***WINTER XTREME***

The youth will be attending **Winter Extreme** in Branson, December 27-29. We will hear multiple speakers and Christian Artists. We will also have a few activities planned in the Branson area. Final payment of \$50 is due by November 15<sup>th</sup> for those who still owe.

## **Spring Break**

There has been interest among the youth to plan a trip during Spring Break. Options have been presented, and a sign-up/interest deadline has been set for November 8<sup>th</sup>, for the trip to come to fruition. If nothing is done, there will be no trip.

## Sunday, November 19, 2023

Greeters Sandra Martin/Millie Phillips  
Scripture Philippians 4:4-9  
Sermon “The Thanksgiving Secret”  
Flowers Wanda & Tommy Woodard

## Sunday, November 26

Greeters LaShone Robins/Linda & Edwin McDonald  
Scripture Hebrews 4:12-16  
Sermon “Standing on the Word”  
Flowers Christy & Albert Vandevere

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

### NOVEMBER

**19. 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** **Mark 13:1-8**  
20. Why do you worry? Matthew 6:24-33  
21. Seed of the kingdom Luke 13:18-19  
22. Like the sun rising 2 Samuel 23:1-7  
23. *Thanksgiving Day* *Psalms 126*  
24. The Lord has chosen Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)  
25. The Alpha and the Omega Revelation 1:4b-8  
**26. Christ the King** **Matthew 25:31-46**  
27. Joshua to shepherd Israel Numbers 27:15-23  
28. Two kinds of shepherds Zechariah 11:4-17  
29. God will shepherd the people Jeremiah 31:10-14  
30. God will come with power and compassion Isaiah 64:1-9

### DECEMBER

1. Gift of grace sustains us 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
2. A promise of peace Micah 4:1-5