

Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

P. O. Box 444, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

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December 3, 2023

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The Advent Wreath

During Advent, which begins this year on December 3, many churches and families use wreaths to symbolize watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Colors for the candles vary, with some traditions using blue (for hope or creation) and others preferring purple (for royalty, humility or penitence).

The four candles that each represent a week in Advent also signify hope, peace, joy and love. (The third candle is often pink.) In the center is the white Christ candle, representing Jesus as the light of the world. That candle is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The round, green Advent wreath has special meaning of its own. It symbolizes eternal life and the unending love of God, who sent his only Son to earth to die in our place.



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.

December

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 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
- 3:15 p.m. Children's Outing
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 4:30 p.m. Ladies Handbell Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market

DECEMBER
Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4. Tera Smith
Mattie Burton
Daniel Cobb
- 5. Diane Vaughan
Jennifer Phillips
- 6. Clark Duncan
- 7. Bill Kyle
- 9. Prather King



- 17. White Christmas Candlelight
and Music Program 6:00 p.m.
- 24. Joint Worship 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Communion
5-6:30 p.m.
- 31. Joint Worship 10:00 a.m.



David Arnold

Barbara Arnold

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



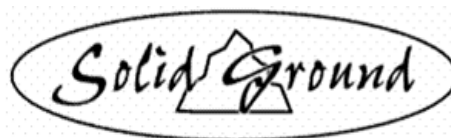
For the month of December, we will begin a new series called ***Willing to Serve***. These lessons will remind us of why Christmas is so important. We will remember the true meaning of Christmas and the birth of Christ our King.

W.O.W. Wednesday

Wednesday night Bible Study for Grades K-6th will conclude for the remainder of the year. We will resume in January and begin at 5:30 p.m. The Bible Study will continue to be Bible-in-Crafts. The children have enjoyed learning about so many of God's faithful followers in the Book of Genesis while creating crafts and activities.

Children's Outing

This Sunday at 3:15 p.m. the children will meet at the church for a special field trip. We will be going to Owen and Mary Lou Richard's place for a ***Fall Holiday Scavenger Hunt***. We will return to the church by 5:00p.m.



Sunday and Wednesday Night Youth Group finished off the year watching ***The Blind*** movie. This movie is about the life of Phil Robertson of the **Duck Commander** and ***Duck Dynasty*** Family Empire. We will begin the Study that follows along with the movie, as well as the ***I am Second*** series in which several of the Robertson family members shared their testimonies. This series will resume in January.

WINTER XTREME

The youth will be attending **Winter Extreme** in Branson, December 27-29. We will hear multiple speakers and Christian Artists, Anne Wilson, Crowder, NewSong, Chapels, and Colton Dixon will be performing. Information and the itinerary for the trip will be sent out in the coming weeks. This should be such an amazing experience for our youth.

Sunday, December 3

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| Greeters | Dixie & Jim Roberts/Sharon & Phil Nichols |
| Advent Readers | Julie & De Paul/Brent & Carrie Chaney |
| Scripture | Matthew 16:13-20 |
| Sermon | “What’s In a Name?: Christ the Messiah” |
| Communion Assistants | Amanda Canard, Amanda & Craig Prevost |
| Flowers | Barbara Parks |

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

DECEMBER

3. 1st Sunday of Advent

4. How long, O LORD?

5. Declare God’s glory

6. There is no other

7. Refined as by fire

8. Free to serve fearlessly

9. This is my prayer

Mark 13:24-37

Psalm 13

Psalm 96

Isaiah 45:5-8

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11d