



BAINBRIDGE

First United Methodist Church

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Online Sources:
www.bainbridgefirstumc.org
www.youtube.com/c/bainbridgefirstunitedmethodistchurch

ADVENT JOURNEY

Advent is a season of waiting and spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ. As recorded in the Gospel of Luke, the story of Christ's birth is the story of a journey: the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The truth of the incarnation, God becoming human in Jesus, is also a very human story in which God uses ordinary people to accomplish something extraordinary. Over the next four weeks, we will focus on Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth and the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. It is a journey we've been on before, but will take again together. We will journey to the manger to meet the Christ child. We will seek to welcome him once more into the world and into our hearts. Join us for the journey of a lifetime.

Melissa



Sunday, December 3, 7:00 pm
Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 10, 5:00 pm
Come to Christmas

Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 pm
Children's Christmas Musical:
Jesus Means Christmas to Me

Sunday, December 17, 7:30 pm
Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 20, 6:00 pm
Cornbread & Caroling

Sunday, December 24, 10:30 am
Advent Communion Worship Service

Sunday, December 24, 5:00 pm
Christmas Eve Communion Service

Sunday, December 24, 7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Service



DECEMBER

Services of Worship

11:00 AM—In person
Worship, Sanctuary
Live Stream Worship
available on-line at

<https://www.youtube.com/c/bainbridgefirstunitedmethodistchurch>

Scripture

December 3
First Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:26-38

December 10
Second Sunday of Advent
Matthew 1:18-24

December 17
Third Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:39-56

December 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve
Luke 2:1-7

December 31
New Year's Eve
Luke 2:9-20

Liturgists

3-Beth Yarbrough
10-Hunter Hall
17-Kevin Lewis
24-Carla Robinson
31-Ruth Yarbrough

Acolytes

3-Emslee Cantley
Harper Trawick
10-Anabel Dempsey
17-Hunter Hall
24-Grayson Griffis
31-Thomas Hufstettler

Calendar

NOTE: Calendar Schedule may be affected by unexpected changes

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—December 1

2 FRIDAY 6:00 PM-9:00 PM Youth Progressive Dinner

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—December 3—First Sunday of Advent

3 SUNDAY 10:00 AM-10:45 AM Sunday School, ASSB-SB
11:00 AM-12:00 PM Worship Service, SAN
5:00 PM-5:30 PM Children's Snack Supper, JOS
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Children's Fellowship, SB
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Youth Fellowship, YB
6:00 PM-7:00 PM Readers & Choir Warm-Up, SAN/CR
7:00 PM-8:00 PM Hanging of the Greens, SAN

4 MONDAY 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB

5 TUESDAY 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
9:00 AM-10:00 AM Food Bank, ASSB3
7:00 PM-8:30 PM Chancel Choir Christmas Rehearsal, CR

6 WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
12:15 AM-1:00 PM Keenagers, LIB
6:00 PM-6:30 PM CFD-WNS, Eat In/Pick Up, JOS
6:30 PM-7:30 PM Children's Worship Arts, SB
6:30 PM-7:30 PM Youth Cell Groups, YB
6:30 PM-7:30 PM An Unlikely Advent Study, JOS
7:30 PM-9:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, CR

7 THURSDAY 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
10:00 AM-11:30 AM Thursday Morning Bible Study, ASSB

9 SATURDAY 10:30 AM-12:00 PM Children's Musical Rehearsal, JOS

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—December 10—Second Sunday of Advent

10 SUNDAY 10:00 AM-10:45 AM Sunday School, ASSB-SB
11:00 AM-12:00 PM Worship Service, SAN
5:00 PM-5:30 PM Come to Christmas, SB

11 MONDAY 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB

12 TUESDAY 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
9:00 AM-10:00 AM Food Bank, ASSB
1:30 PM-3:00 PM Church Staff Meeting, SP
7:00 PM-8:30 PM Chancel Choir Christmas Rehearsal, CR

13 WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
6:00 PM-6:30 PM CFD-WNS, Eat In/Pick Up, JOS
6:30 PM-7:30 PM Children's Christmas Musical, JOS
7:30 PM-9:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, CR

14 THURSDAY 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB & JOS
10:00 AM-11:30 AM Thursday Morning Bible Study, ASSB

15 FRIDAY 7:00 PM Youth Lock-In Begin, YB

16 SATURDAY 7:00 AM Youth Lock-In End, YB

Locations Key: ASSB=Adult S. S. Building, CFR=Children's Fellowship Room, CIR=Circle Room, CR=Choir Room, EBS=Esther Bible Study Room, HR=Handbell Room, JOS=J O Smith Building, LIB=Library, MR=Movie Room, PAR=Parsonage, PL=Parking Lot, RC=Reynolds Chapel, SAN=Sanctuary, SB=Sharp Building, SH=Scout Hut, SP=Simmons Parlor, YB=Youth Basement

Ushers

- 3-Jack Leverett
Charles Walker
Bert Parker
John Bridges
- 10-Earl Begley
Peanut Enfinger
Hal Earnest
Owen Earnest
- 17-Jack Palmer
Kevin Lewis
Brent Loeffler
Jackie Fleetwood
- 24-Todd Martin
Jason Moya
John Reynolds
Volunteer Needed
- 31-Earl Begley
Peanut Enfinger
Hal Earnest
Owen Earnest

Video Technician

- 3-Beau Hatcher
- 10-Matt Reynolds
- 17-Philip Moore
- 24-Beau Hatcher
- 31-Matt Reynolds

Snack Supper

- 3-Kelly Rogers
- 10-Come to Christmas
- 17-Meg Smith

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—December 17—Third Sunday of Advent

17 SUNDAY 10:00 AM-10:45 AM Sunday School, ASSB-SB
11:00 AM-12:00 PM Worship Service, SAN
5:00 PM-5:30 PM Children's Snack Supper, JOS
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Children's Fellowship, SB
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Youth Fellowship, YB
6:30 PM-7:30 PM Readers & Choir Warm-Up, SAN/CR
7:30 PM-8:30 PM Lessons & Carols Service, SAN

18 MONDAY 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB

19 TUESDAY 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
9:00 AM-10:00 AM Food Bank, ASSB
7:00 PM-8:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, CR

20 WEDNESDAY WINTER BREAK—NO MMO-TLC
6:00 PM-8:30 PM Cornbread & Caroling, JOS

21 THURSDAY WINTER BREAK—NO MMO-TLC

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—December 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent

24 SUNDAY CHRISTMAS EVE
10:30 AM-11:30 PM Worship Service, SAN
5:00 PM-5:15 PM Christmas Communion, RC
7:00 PM-8:00 PM Communion & Candlelight Service, SAN

25 MONDAY CHRISTMAS DAY
WINTER BREAK—NO MMO-TLC
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

26 TUESDAY WINTER BREAK—NO MMO-TLC
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
9:00 AM-10:00 AM Food Bank, ASSB

27 WEDNESDAY WINTER BREAK—NO MMO-TLC
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS RELAXED (CALL BEFORE COMING)

28 THURSDAY WINTER BREAK—NO MMO-TLC
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS RELAXED (CALL BEFORE COMING)

30 FRIDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—December 31

31 SUNDAY NEW YEAR'S EVE
10:30 AM-11:30 PM Worship Service, SAN

Advent Calendar

SUNDAY, December 3 7:00 PM-8:00 PM Hanging of the Greens, SAN

SUNDAY, December 10 5:00 PM-5:30 PM Come to Christmas, SB

WEDNESDAY, December 13 6:30 PM-7:30 PM Children's Christmas Musical, JOS

SUNDAY, December 17 7:30 PM-8:30 PM Service of Lessons & Carols, SAN

WEDNESDAY, December 20 6:00 PM-8:30 PM Cornbread & Caroling, JOS

SUNDAY, December 24 5:00 PM-5:30 PM Christmas Communion, RC
7:00 PM-8:00 PM Service of Communion
& Candlelight Service, SAN

Christian Fellowship Dinners

December Menus

December 6

Baked Pasta
Caesar Salad
Garlic Bread
Dessert & Drink

December 13

Fried Chicken
Green Beans
Yellow Rice
Cornbread
Dessert & Drink

December 20

Cornbread & Caroling

MEAL COST

Adults (≥ 15-64) \$8.00
Seniors (≥65) \$6.00
Children (6-14) \$6.00

beginning January 2024

Adults (≥ 15-64) \$8.00
Seniors (≥65) \$7.00
Children (6-14) \$6.00

**MEAL RESERVATIONS
ARE REQUIRED.**

When making reservations, state if they are eat-in or pick-up. Make reservations by Monday on-line or by calling the Church Office. Prepay your meals through our website or bring exact change.

PICK-UP Meals at 6:00 pm in the lane behind the J.O. Smith building, or EAT-IN in the J. O. Smith Building.

BFUMC News & Announcements

NEW WORSHIP TIME

Beginning December 24, 2023, our worship service will begin at 10:30 am. This time change will continue throughout the new year. We don't want anyone to miss worship, so please help us spread the word. Tell all your neighbors and friends. Invite them to come to worship with you at 10:30 am.

NEWEST MEMBERS TO LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH

This advent season, we will have traditional lighting of the advent wreath each Sunday of Advent. The Advent wreath will be lit by our four newest members: the Digbys, the Johns, Penny Clark and Tammy Tully. Be sure to welcome them to the BFUMC church family.



MARY NELL LOVERING RETIRING

During worship on Sunday, December 3, 2023, we will recognize and celebrate Ms. Mary Nell Lovering for her faithful service to our church. Ms. Mary Nell is retiring at the end of 2023 after 15 years of service as our bookkeeper. We love her and wish her all the best! A reception will be held in the Simmons' Parlor immediately after worship for the congregation to express their thanks to Mary Nell.

We also would like to welcome our very own Ginger Johnson, who will be taking over the duties of bookkeeping for our church. Welcome Ginger in this role.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY –

SATURDAY JANUARY 20, 2024 9 AM – 3 PM.

Leadership Training Day is for all leaders of Bainbridge FUMC who are serving as members of any committee or in any other leadership capacity for 2024. All members are welcome to attend. Anne Bosarge, Director of Leadership Strategies and Local Church Resources for the South Georgia Annual Conference, will lead us. Anne has a passion for Jesus, making disciples, leadership and the power of the local church. She will help us discern together the unique mission that God has for Bainbridge FUMC. Anne's gift is inspiring and motivating leaders. You won't want to miss it. Lunch will be provided. Please confirm your attendance with your committee chairperson or Pastor Melissa. Nursery available upon request to Ida.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER PRICE CHANGE

Beginning in January, the cost of Wednesday Night Supper for Seniors (≥ 65 years old) will change to \$7.00. This change is due to increasing food costs. All other prices will remain the same. Family maximum remains at \$25.00. Thank you for your understanding.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SCHEDULE—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

10:30 am Worship Service

NO Sunday School, NO evening activities

BEGIN THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW COMMITMENT TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!

A new Sunday School schedule begins on Sunday, January 7. Come at 9:00 am to have a fellowship time with coffee, juice, and treats in the center hallway of the Adult Sunday School Building. Sunday School classes will begin at 9:15 am. Did you know we have three great classes for adults and classes for youth and children? We are also always looking to start new classes. Pick the best class for you.

The Epworth Class meets in the first room on the left from the portico entrance. The class is taught by Dr. Doug West. Most class members are working adults with grown children.

The Mildred Thigpen Class meets in the classroom on the left of the hall closest to Shotwell Street. This class rotates teachers and chooses its own studies on a regular basis. The class consists mostly of parents of youth and children.

The Dewberry Forrester Class meets in the Reynolds Chapel in the Sharpe building. This class is made up of our wisest members and is very welcoming to everyone who would like to join them. This class rotates teachers and studies.

Youth Sunday School meets in the room on the right as you enter from the portico. This class is for all youth 6th grade and up. The class is taught by Ginger Johnson and Elizabeth Simmons.

Children Sunday School—The children are participating in rotation model Sunday School. The children study the same Bible story for several weeks through different mediums. Julie Brantley and Martha Hatcher are the teachers.

We know there are classes needed for parents of young children, women, and men. If God is calling you to teach and organize a new class, please contact Pastor Melissa.

The beginning of the new year is a great time for new commitments. Commit to Sunday School this January and invite a friend to come with you.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

MONDAY & TUESDAY—DECEMBER 25 & 26, 2023 for the celebration of Christmas Day
(WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY—DECEMBER 27 & 28, 2023, office hours as needed)
FRIDAY & MONDAY—December 29, 2023 & January 1, 2024 for New Year's Day

Members News

WELCOME, BLESSINGS and CONDOLENCES

Please welcome our new members:

Penny Clark transferred her membership on November 12 from Young Harris UMC in Athens.

The Johns family joined on November 26. Paul and Kacie Johns transferred their membership from FUMC in Rome, and Mary Madeline Johns was Baptized and joined by Confession of Faith.

Please remember the family of Mrs. Betty Jackson who passed away on November 25.

Members to Visit, Call or Send a Card

Marcia Barber	1633 Wesleyan Drive, Unit 122, Macon, GA 31210
Carolyn Livingston	Solana East Cobb, 1032 Johnson Ferry Rd., Marietta, GA 30068
Elon Gossett	1804 Lake Circle Drive, Bainbridge, GA 39819
Helen Tillman	Willow Ridge, #9, 801 Faceville Hwy, Bainbridge, GA 39819 229-246-3080
Bobbie Dewberry	Riverside Place, #151, 1151 W. College Street, Bainbridge, GA 39819
Betty Jo Fulmer	Riverside Place, #152, 1151 W. College Street, Bainbridge, GA 39819
Montine O'Quinn	Bainbridge Healthcare, 1155 W. College Street, Bainbridge, GA 39819

Missions

VASHTI FAMILY CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

We will be supporting a Vashti Family again this year with Christmas gifts. It's a single mother with five kids (3 girls and 2 boys). An Angel Tree is on the table outside the church office. Please select gift requests from the tree and have them returned to the church office by Wednesday, December 13. You may also make monetary donations that will be used to purchase gifts.

Music Notes

We have a great Advent season upon us and all of the choirs are now preparing special Advent music. I have listed all of the programs that are available for your attendance and support. Come and get into the Christmas Spirit!

Upcoming Dates:

Hanging of the Greens- December 3, 7:00 pm

Preschool Choir, Children's Choir, and Chancel Choir will perform during the service.

Children's Christmas Musical- December 13, 6:30 pm

The Preschool Choir and Children's Choir will present their Christmas musical "Jesus Means Christmas to Me." in the J O Smith Building!

Service of Lessons and Carols- December 17, 7:30 pm

Presented by the Chancel Choir, and Children's Choir. Guest Musicians include Mitchell George on Cello and Isabelle George on Harp from the FSU School of Music. Come and hear your favorite carols performed in new ways.

Christmas Eve Service- December 24, 7:00 pm

Our service of Communion and Candlelight will have two violinists from Thomasville accompanying our worship service.

Music in the Woods will be having their first concert of the year on Sunday, January 7, 2024. They will be hosting the Capitol City Brass in our Sanctuary at 7:00 pm. Capital City Brass is a Quintet formed in the Fall of 2021 by a group of FSU graduate students in the College of Music who share an interest and love for chamber music. Each member of the group performs in the top large ensembles and many serve as graduate teaching assistants for their respective studios. Come and enjoy the gift of music.

Children's Chat

Children's Fellowship will conclude their memorization of the books of the Old Testament this month. The kids have done a great job learning the order of all the Old Testament books and how they are grouped. We will begin memorizing the books of the New Testament in January. Both pre-K and elementary children have worked very hard coloring Thanksgiving Cards to accompany the Thanksgiving dinners that were distributed through our Church on Thanksgiving Day. We did two hundred and thirty-eight! WOW! Good job kids!

Don't miss the Children's Musical this month. They will be presenting "Jesus Means Christmas To Me " on Wednesday December 13th at 6:30 pm in the J. O. Smith building.

Youth News

My how this year has flown by. I know that December is a full month for everyone but I do hope to see you at the special events planned for this month. During November we have been busy filling blessing boxes to send with Gene Trulock's group called Lifeline Ministries. They will be distributed to the children on the Navajo Indian Reservation. We also had help from many adults that volunteered to help. We packed 300 boxes this year. Thanks to all that contributed to this special mission.

The youth also served by preparing dessert for the Mayo Livingston Thanksgiving Meal. We always have a good time getting in the kitchen.

Thanks to those that supported the youth in the Butter Braids fundraiser. We hope you are able to enjoy them with your family.

In December, the youth will have a progressive dinner on December 2. Our hosts will be Sally Bates, Zadie Peters, Lee Bush, Ginger Johnson, Tammy Tully, and Lynn Hatcher. Thanks to all of these ladies for doing this for our youth.

On December 3, those going on the ski trip will have a meeting at 4pm in the basement for final paperwork. Parents and youth will need to attend. On this night, we will also be having our Christmas Party. We will have dinner in the JOSmith building at 5pm and then go to the basement for some celebrating. The youth will need to look around your home for something you already have but don't use anymore to bring as your gift. Please wrap the gift. DO NOT BUY A GIFT. At 7pm, we will go to the sanctuary for Hanging of the Greens.

Other events for the month of December are:

Dec. 10- Come to Christmas at 5:00 pm; Youth Leadership Meets

Dec. 13- Children's Musical- no cell group

Dec. 15- Lock In 7:00 pm-7:00 am

Dec. 17- regular youth at 5:00 pm and Lessons and Carols at 7:30 pm

Dec. 20- Cornbread and Caroling

Dec. 24- Christmas Eve Service

We will not meet for youth December 27 or 31. Wednesday night dinner and youth will return on January 10. Sunday night youth activities will not return until January 21.

I hope we all are able to slow down during Christmas time and enjoy our families and all of our many blessings.

November Memorials

Food Bank

In Honor of:

Dr. & Mrs. Jack Leverett

By:

Ken & Susan Whittle

Music Fund

In Memory of:

Homer & Vasta Yarbrough

James & Mary O'Quinn

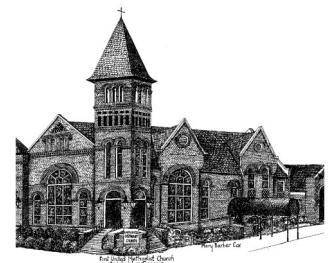
Billy Bedsole

By:

Leah McLain

Leah McLain

Leah McLain



November Activities



TLC 3/4 year olds donating to the Food Bank



FUMC TINSEL TRAIL CHRISTMAS TREE

The Southwest Georgia Tinsel Trail is a festive display of LIVE Christmas trees at the Earle May Boat Basin. Intended to promote the spirit of Christmas and community involvement, over 100 trees are sponsored and decorated by local businesses, groups, or families. The display is free to the public and open all hours of the day and night! We invite you to experience this joyful display of holiday spirit by talking a stroll through the display or driving your vehicle, as Tinsel Trail is accessible by foot or by car. Southwest Georgia Tinsel Trail connects to the Lights Along the River Christmas light display that winds along the banks of the Flint River.

We thank Rusty and Charlotte Davis for making our metal ornaments. The 'Star' is on top to help us on the path, beautiful 'Angels' guide us, the 'Nativity' scene is where Jesus was born, and the 'Cityscapes' represent his path...Bethlehem to Nazareth to Jerusalem.



↔ Youth, Parents, and Adults packing 300 Blessing Bag Shoeboxes for Lifeline Ministries.

← Youth baking brownies for the Thanksgiving Day Meals

↙ Youth, Parents, and Adults packing more Blessing Bag Shoeboxes

