



BAINBRIDGE

First United Methodist Church

BFUMC Staff

Rev. Melissa Traver
Senior Pastor
pastor@bainbridgefumc.org

Yuliia Billa
Director of Music Ministries
billayuliia@gmail.com

Ida Cooksey
Director of Children's Ministries
ida.cooksey@yahoo.com

Lisa Enfinger
Director of Youth & Family Ministries
youth@bainbridgefumc.org

Ruth Masciarelli
Church Secretary
secretary@bainbridgefumc.org

Mary Nell Lovering
Financial Secretary
finance@bainbridgefumc.org

Deborah Jones
Kitchen & Facilities Steward

Physical Address:
300 W. Shotwell St.,
Bainbridge, GA 39819

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 541
Bainbridge, GA 39818

Telephone: (229) 246-1864,
Fax: (229) 246-3800

Online Sources:
www.bainbridgefirstumc.org
[www.youtube.com/c/
bainbridgefirstunited
methodistchurch](http://www.youtube.com/c/bainbridgefirstunitedmethodistchurch)

Longing

In March 2020, I and every pastor I know, began to formulate their “Welcome Back” newsletter article. The article that says, “The coast is clear! Come back to church. Come back to Bible Study. Come back to fellowship groups! You’ve been missed! You are loved! It’s not the same without you!” Personally, I planned to write that article in April and June and August and October and thought surely, I will write it in January 2022.

Yet, as I write this article, our trip to the Holy Land is postponed once again due to COVID infections abroad and at home. If we watch the developments around the world, we are likely facing some more disruptions in the coming weeks. Avoiding crowds will again be important for some of our members and friends for a time. So, I can’t write the article I long to write.

However, I think what I can write maybe should have been written months ago. In this time, please know that I long for you. I hope you long for each other. I long most for connection and the energy and grace that occurs when we gather in God’s name. I hope you long for connection too.

What is also true is that the church is always the church. We never stopped being the church. We can also make and strengthen connections no matter what is happening in the world. So while maybe January 2022 is not the time to say, “All Clear!,” it can be the time to say be sure you are connected. Take time this month to call someone in the church you haven’t seen in a while perhaps because you have been away or s/he has. Connect to your church family in one new way that is right for you. We have a Zoom group that begins again in January if you need that. Commit to watch online services regularly so you feel connected to your church family. Come to a Sunday School class, attend or pick up Wednesday night dinner, join a fellowship group, make time to call someone each week. As the church, we are the body of Christ; a body that is strengthened by its connection.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Melissa

Services of Worship

11:00 am—Live
Streamed Worship
available on-line at
[https://www.youtube.com/c/
bainbridgefirstunitedmethodist
church](https://www.youtube.com/c/bainbridgefirstunitedmethodistchurch)

11:00 AM—In person
Worship, Sanctuary

Scripture

January 2

Epiphany Sunday

Ephesians 3:1-12

January 9

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16

Rev. Leigh Ann Raynor

January 23

Revelation 2:1a, 2a, 4-5a

January 30

1 Peter 1:13-16

Ushers for January

Jack Leverett
Brent Loeffler
Todd Martin
Bert Parker

Liturgists for January

2—Xander Griffis
9—Beth Yarbrough
16—Ginger Johnson
23—Carla Robinson
30—Chris Griffis

Video for January

2—Beau Hatcher
9—Curtis Robinson
16—Philip Moore
23—Beau Hatcher
30—Curtis Robinson

Calendar

NOTE: Calendar Schedule may be affected by unexpected changes

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—January 1

1 SATURDAY - NEW YEAR'S DAY

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—January 2

2 SUNDAY - EPHIPHANY SUNDAY
10:00 AM Sunday School-all classes, ASSB-SB-JOS
11:00 AM Worship Service, SAN

3 MONDAY - OFFICE CLOSED

4 TUESDAY - 9:00-10:00 AM Food Bank, ASSB

5 WEDNESDAY - 12:00 PM Keenagers, JOS

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—January 9

9 SUNDAY - BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY
10:00 AM Sunday School-all classes, ASSB-SB-JOS
11:00 AM Worship Service, SAN

10 MONDAY - 9:00-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB

11 TUESDAY - 9:00-10:00 AM Food Bank, ASSB
9:00-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB

12 WEDNESDAY - 9:00-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
7:30-9:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, CR

13 THURSDAY - 9:00-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—January 16

16 SUNDAY - 10:00 AM Sunday School-all classes, ASSB-SB-JOS
11:00 AM Worship Service, SAN

17 MONDAY - REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

18 TUESDAY - 9:00-10:00 AM Food Bank, ASSB
9:00-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB

19 WEDNESDAY - 9:00-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
5:30-5:50 PM CFD-WNS Pick Up, JOS
6:00-6:30 PM CFD-WNS Eat In, JOS
6:30-7:30 PM Children's Worship Arts, SB
6:30-7:30 PM Youth Cell Groups, YB
7:30-9:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, CR

20 THURSDAY - 9:00-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The Church Office will be closed on
Monday, January 3 for the New Years Day Holiday,
and Monday, January 17 for the Martin Luther King Holiday.

Locations Key: ASSB=Adult S. S. Building, CFR=Children's Fellowship Room, CIR=Circle Room, CR=Choir Room, EBS=Ester 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

Christian Fellowship Dinners

January Menus

January 19

Baked Chicken
Green Beans
Mac & Cheese
Cornbread
Dessert

January 26

Baked Pasta
Salad
Fruit
Garlic Bread
Dessert

MEAL COST

Adults (≥ 11-64) \$7.00
Seniors (≥65) \$5.00
Children (4-10) \$5.00

MEAL RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.

Make your reservations by Monday. Reservations can be made on-line or by calling the Church Office. Prepay your meals through our website or bring exact change.

PICK-UP Meals from 5:30-5:50 pm in the lane behind the J.O. Smith building. Enter from the Shotwell Street entrance, stop at the covered walkway and a volunteer will bring your meals. If making payment during pick-up, turn in checks or exact change to the volunteer.

Snack Supper for January

23 – Catherine Gossett
30 - Christi Murray

JANUARY CALENDAR CONTINUED

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—January 23

- 23 SUNDAY - 10:00 AM Sunday School-all classes, ASSB-SB-JOS
10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal, CR
11:00 AM Worship Service, SAN
3:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal, HR
4:30 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal, CR
5:00 PM Children's Snack Supper & Fellowship, JOS-SB
5:30 PM Youth Snack Supper & Fellowship, JOS-YB
- 24 MONDAY - 9:00-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
1:00 PM Church Staff Meeting, SP
6:00 PM Youth/Parent Ski Trip Meeting, YB
- 25 TUESDAY - 9:00-10:00 AM Food Bank, ASSB
9:00-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study, ZOOM
- 26 WEDNESDAY - 9:00-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
5:30-5:50 PM CFD-WNS Pick Up, JOS
6:00-6:30 PM CFD-WNS Eat In, JOS
6:30-7:30 PM Children's Worship Arts, SB
6:30-7:30 PM Youth Cell Groups, YB
7:30-9:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, CR
- 27 THURSDAY - 9:00-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—January 30

- 30 SUNDAY - 10:00 AM Sunday School-all classes, ASSB-SB-JOS
10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal, CR
11:00 AM Worship Service, SAN
3:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal, HR
4:30 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal, CR
5:00 PM Children's Snack Supper & Fellowship, JOS-SB
5:30 PM Youth Snack Supper & Fellowship, JOS-YB
- 31 MONDAY - 9:00-10:00 AM Food Bank, ASSB
9:00-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB

Locations Key: ASSB=Adult S. S. Building, CFR=Children's Fellowship Room, CIR=Circle Room, CR=Choir Room, EBS=Ester 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

Members News

CONGRATULATIONS

The birth of Benjamin Dempsey, born to Nicole and Gallagher Dempsey on December 27, 2021

CONDOLENCES

Billy Gossett

September 26, 1946—December 1, 2021

BFUMC News & Announcements

LOVE VASHTI DAY

The BFUMC Youth are sponsoring building a Fire Pit and outdoor space as part of Love Vashti Month. We need help to build the area on Saturday, February 12, from 9:00 am -1:00 pm. Adults and youth are needed.

Vashti is having a month of various service opportunities. You can sign up here. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f45aaad2aa3fac52-vashti> Vashti is also asking for the following supplies for the youth:

Feminine Products, 3-in-1 Body Wash and Shampoo/Conditioner for Males, Chapstick (Carmex, Burt's Bees), Shampoo /Conditioner for Females, Hair Combs & Brushes, Bibles (The CEB Student Bible), Cantu Brand Hair Care Products (hair lotion, curling cream, gel), Toothpaste and Toothbrushes, Deodorant (non-aerosol), Bath Linens (wash cloths and towels), Laundry Baskets/Hampers, Bed Linens (Regular Twin Size), Comforter Sets (Twin Size), Pillows and Pillow Covers.

Please bring any donations to the church by Wednesday, February 9 so we can take them with us. Thank you for your support!

GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BEGIN

Godly Play is a Montessori-based approach to faith formation that aims to teach children to know God, not simply know about God. The class uses special storytelling methods to help children learn the stories of the Bible. Godly Play encourages children to play with God while acknowledging that play is the “work” of childhood and helps children grow. The class will serve children Kindergarten through Third Grade. The Godly Play class begins Sunday, January 9, at 10:00 am, in Rainbow Cottage room.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Fellowship Groups are small groups which meet together for a meal once a month. Fellowship groups are a great way to get to know other members of the congregation in a small, casual atmosphere. Fellowship Groups were delayed in forming in the fall and are beginning to meet now. It's not too late to sign up. Contact Lynn Walker (229-220-6426) to join.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP DINNER FORMAT CHANGES

We appreciate your patience over the last two years as we have changed our procedures during our Christian Fellowship dinner on Wednesday nights. Beginning in January, our eat-in procedures will return to pre-COVID procedures. The buffet line will open at 6:00 pm. Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches are available for kids. Everyone is welcome at Christian Fellowship Dinner. Plan to come to dinner to get to know new people and reconnect with old friends.

Meal pick-up will continue to be available from 5:30-5:50 pm.

LEARN ABOUT VASHTI

Come learn more about the Vashti Center for Children and Youth on Wednesday, January 19 at 6:45 pm in the J. O. Smith building. Over the past few years, BFUMC has been doing more to partner with Vashti both in Thomasville and in Bainbridge. Come learn more about the great ministry they do everyday.

LITURGISTS NEEDED

Liturgists assist in worship by leading the Call to Worship, Affirmation of Faith, giving the Offertory Prayer, and helping with the serving of communion. Liturgists serve three to four times a year on a rotating schedule. If you have a good speaking voice and are comfortable in front of people, please consider becoming a liturgist. A brief training session will be held for new liturgists on Sunday, February 13 at noon. The 2022 schedule is currently being developed. Please let Pastor Melissa or the church office know if you are willing to serve in this way.

REVIVAL BOOK STUDY

Beginning Tuesday, January 25, at 7 pm on Zoom, we will study the book, *Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It*, by Adam Hamilton. The sermons in worship will also be based on this book. You may join us on Zoom using the meeting ID: 229 246 1864 password 39819. Books are available on Cokesbury.com and Amazon.

NEW TITLE FOR DEBORAH JONES

For many years, Deborah Jones has ably served FUMC by caring for the facilities and cooking in the kitchen. Deborah does so many things behind the scenes that enable the ministries that take place each week. In recognition of Deborah's outstanding service and the more comprehensive nature of her responsibilities, the Staff Parish Committee voted recently to change her job title to Facilities and Kitchen Steward. When you see Deborah take a moment to express your appreciation for all that she does to serve the FUMC church family.

TRUMPET CONCERT BY CHIZ RIDER – February 23, 6:45 pm

We are pleased to welcome Chiz Rider to come and entertain us with music on Wednesday, February 23, at 6:45 pm in the sanctuary. Chiz Rider began playing the trumpet at age 4. He had his concert debut in his home church at seven years old. Chiz now tours the country as a ministry to encourage people and help people praise Jesus. "Ninety per cent self-taught, he began at a young age by imitating songs he heard on the radio. Now, Chiz' fresh musical style embodies a jazz/pop sound that has been influenced by such versatile jazz musicians as Wynton and Branford Marsalis, Maynard Ferguson, Louis Armstrong and Jon Faddis. Chiz Rider Ministries maintain an active national touring schedule of over 260 concerts a year as well as several international performances. Chiz' trumpet ministry appeals to a wide age range. From the heartfelt "Amazing Grace," which he played at a Billy Graham Crusade, to the high energy contemporary sounds of "SOS", which he plays at youth concerts, the music and ministry of Chiz Rider is reaching people for Christ." We are please to welcome Chiz Rider to Bainbridge First UMC. Come join us for a fun night of music!

THANK YOU

Thank you to Yuliia Billa, musicians, and singers whose hard work made the Christmas Season filled with music this year. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up recently to fill the choir loft and learn to offer new gifts. Others are invited to join in the new year.

COVID Precaution Reminders

We all wish that COVID concerns were long behind us, but alas, they are not. Please remember to help us look out for one another by staying home if you are sick from any illness. Our live stream capabilities have greatly improved. Please join us online when you are sick. Masks are encouraged when we gather and more strongly encouraged when there are higher levels of disease circulating in our community which may occur in the weeks ahead. We also encourage you to be vaccinated to protect yourself and others. If you need help finding a vaccine or a ride to get one let us know and we are glad to help.

PIANO PLAYER

We are looking for a piano player/accompanist. If you know of anyone capable or interested, let Yuliia or Pastor Melissa know.

OFFICE VOLUNTEER

We are looking for volunteers to answer the church office phones during staff meetings on Monday's at 1:00 pm. If you are willing, please contact the church office.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Beginning in January, the church office will open at 9:30 am.

FUMC FINANCE TEAM UPDATE

The Finance Team would like to share good news with a financial summary report to the congregation. With thanks to the many contributors within the church, the preliminary reports reflect that the operations of FUMC has generated a “profit” of \$9,600 for the calendar year 2021.

As of December 31, 2021, Pledged Donations are reported at 83% of budgeted collections and Unpledged Donations are reported at 118% of budgeted collections. Actual Expenses were 96% of Budgeted Expenses. All Apportionment payments have been made to the Conference and the District.

In summary, the Finance Team is pleased to report that Bainbridge First UMC has had another successful year of mission and vision, despite the economic setbacks caused by the pandemic. We continue to give thanks for our wonderful Pastor and dedicated staff who are successfully leading us through uncertain times.

In appreciation of our united service in His name,
Lee Bush, Finance Team Chair

Music Notes

Chancel Choir is back to regular rehearsals starting Wednesday, January 12 at 7:30 pm.

Children's Choir starts back as well on Wednesday, January 19 at 6:30 pm. We will start learning our new Spring musical “In the Image.”

Youth Choir begins on Sunday, January 23 at 4:30 pm.

Handbells will be back Sunday, January 23 at 3:00 pm.

Beginning early this year, Chancel and Youth choirs will work on preparing music for our Tenebrae Service and Easter Sunday Service. We will also begin preparing special music by our soloists and our Church Brass Ensemble.

We are so happy to have new singers joining the Chancel and Youth Choirs. We are still open for new members, especially in the Handbell Choir.

Children's Chat

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas!

During winter break we will have a movie night on Friday, January 7. We will begin at 7:00 pm and be ready for pick up at 9:30 pm. Please call or talk to Ms. Ida to sign up by January 6.

We will begin our spring musical rehearsal on Wednesday, January 19. That will be the first Christian Fellowship Dinner of 2022. Please make sure you are in the children's choir room ready to begin at 6:30 pm!

Children's Fellowship will start on Sunday, January 23. We will continue the Jesus League study. Hope to see everyone back and in the swing of things soon!

Youth News

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone has had some time to rest and spend some quality time with your family. I have missed you all. Wednesday Night Youth Group will start back on January 19. We will start Sunday night activities on January 23.

We are looking for more volunteers to help on Wednesday/Sunday nights beginning in January. If you would be willing to help, please let Lisa know.

Camp Connect Registration is OPEN— (Remember it fills quickly so be sure to register soon.) For more information about Camp Connect- <https://www.campconnectumc.org>. We are asking parents to pay \$185. The church will pay the balance of the camp costs for youth of church members. To register for Camp Connect at <https://www.campconnectumc.org/camps>

Click the category your child will be attending (middle or high school). On the bottom of the registration page, click to pay the \$335 fee. You will be taken to a PayPal page where you can choose to pay a \$185 deposit. After your child is registered, the church will send the balance. Please let me know you have registered so that we can plan for transportation.

Rising 6th graders are eligible for Camp Connect as well.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Snow Ski Trip Participants— We will have a brief meeting on Wednesday, January 12 at 6:00 pm to discuss the Spaghetti Luncheon to raise the remaining money for the bus cost. At this point the bus cost is an addition \$50. If you would like to just pay the \$50 and not have the luncheon, please let me know.

We will also have an informational meeting to fill out last paperwork and get final details on **Monday, January 24 at 6:00 pm** (not January 23) in the JO Smith building along with the FPC group.

Vashti Day— On February 12 we will be going to Thomasville for a work day at Vashti. We are going to build a fire pit gathering area for the students that reside at Vashti. We will need cordless drills, shovels, and all volunteers willing to put in a hard days work. It will be from 9:00 am-1:00 pm. I will be giving more information on this closer to time.

LOOKING AHEAD

January- Camp Connect Registration Opens (Fills quickly-You pay \$185 at time of registration)

January 12- Meeting for Spaghetti Lunch planning, 6:00 pm

January 18- Final Ski Trip payment due- \$150

January 19- Youth starts back

January 24- Parent/Youth ski trip meeting, 6:00 pm

February 6- Spaghettie Luncheon to raise money for ski trip bus

February 18-21- Snow Skiing Trip

February 25-27- DNow

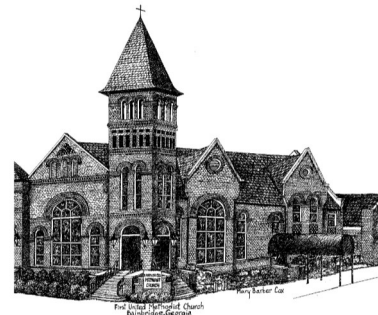
March 15- Remaining deposit due for Mission Trip (Total \$195)

June 13-17- High School Camp Connect

June 20-24-Middle School Camp Connect

July 10-14- Mission Trip

Memorials



General Fund In Memory of:

Billy Gossett
 Billy Gossett
 Lisa Bogle
 Billy Gossett
 Billy Gossett
 Billy Gossett
 Billy Gossett
 Billy Gossett
 Jeff Simpson
 Billy Gossett
 Billy Gossett
 Billy Gossett
 Betty Parker
 Stanley Steadam
 Harry Justus
 Pam Immendorf
 Edwin & Linda McCullers
 Dalton Harrell
 Butch Moseley
 Billy Gossett
 Edwin & Linda McCullers
 Billy Gossett
 Billy Gossett
 Billy Gossett
 Marian Sykes Johnson
 Harry Justus
 Stanley Steadam

In Honor of:

Pastor Melissa Traver
 FUMC Staff
 Sally Bates
 Joe Livingston
 Charles Walker

Food Bank

In Memory of:

Billy Gossett

In Honor of:

Jim & Patrice Rentz
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rozier
 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Whittle
 Sally Bates

Music Fund

In Memory of:

Homer & Vasta Yarbrough
 James & Mary O'Quinn
 Betty Parker
 Betty Parker

Sanctuary Fund

In Honor of:

Joe Livingston

Building Fund

In Memory of:

Billy Gossett

By:

Jane M Powell
 John Sissy McCown
 Mary T. Burch
 Mary T. Burch
 Michael & Phyllis McAlister
 David & Kathy Bryan
 Suzanne D. Alley
 Jason & Christi Murray
 Faye W. Park
 Charles & Elizabeth Murphy
 Edmond & Anita Gibson
 Frank & Suzy Loeffler
 Frank & Suzy Loeffler
 Frank & Suzy Loeffler
 Frank & Suzy Loeffler
 Frank & Suzy Loeffler
 Frank & Suzy Loeffler
 Frank & Suzy Loeffler
 Frank & Suzy Loeffler
 David & Kathy Bryan
 Don, Susan, Howey Gossett & Families
 George & Carole Floyd
 Vicki Morrow Gossett
 Sally Bates
 Mary Jo Dudley
 Jack & Joyce Leverett

By:

Mary T. Burch
 Mary T. Burch
 Cathy Cox & Mark Dehler
 Gary & Peggy Price
 Mr. & Mrs. Ramsay Simmons, III

By:

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Metcalf

By:

Edmund & Kathy Schrenk
 Jack & Joyce Leverett
 Jack & Joyce Leverett
 Greg & Pam Burch

By:

Leah McLain
 Leah McLain
 Hazel Westbrooks
 Bruce, Virginia, & Ellie Doriny

Roof Fund

In Memory of:

Lisa Bogle

By:

Sally Bates

Altar Fund

In Memory of:

Billy Gossett

By:

Gene & Elizabeth Cochran