



BAINBRIDGE

First United Methodist Church

BFUMC Staff

Rev. Melissa Traver
Senior Pastor
pastor@bainbridgefumc.org

Michael Inlow
Interim Director of Music
music@bainbridgefumc.org

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)

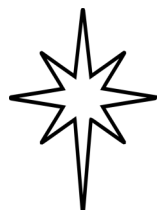
Follow the Star

We are very familiar with the seasons of Advent, Lent, Christmas and Easter in the life of the church. Yet, our lives are lived between the big moments of life. Most of life takes place between birthdays, graduations, vacations and retirements. The season in between Christmas and Lent is the season of Epiphany.

Like Christmas and Easter, Epiphany is both a day and a season. The day of Epiphany is always January 6, twelve days after Christmas. Some Christian traditions around the world do not celebrate Christmas until Epiphany. For us, Epiphany marks the coming of the wise men to visit the Christ child. The wise men followed a star to find the place where the baby was born. The wisemen are an interesting part of the birth of Christ for many reasons. First, the wisemen are outsiders, they are not Jewish people looking for the messiah. Yet they are looking. The scripture tells us that they saw the star at its rising. They were also curious and trusting enough to follow the star.

The word Epiphany means a sudden realization or revealing – as in “I’ve had an epiphany.” During the season of Epiphany our tasks as followers of Christ is to look for the revelation of God, to trust enough to follow, and to seek to shine the light of Christ before others. Throughout the season of Epiphany, we will be following Jesus from his baptism through his transfiguration. Along the way we will learn more about who we are by learning more about whose we are. I pray part of your New Year’s resolutions will be to join us on this journey as we watch for what God will reveal among us.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Melissa



JANUARY

Services of Worship

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

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

Scripture

January 1

Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

January 8

Isaiah 42:1-9
Matthew 3:13-17

January 15

Isaiah 49:1-7
John 1:29-42

January 22

Isaiah 9:1-4
Matthew 4:12-23

January 29

Micah 6:1-8
Matthew 5:1-12

Liturgists

1-Grayson Griffis
8-Melissa Traver
15-Pauncho Hufstetler
22-Carla Robinson
29-Linda Lott

Calendar

NOTE: Calendar Schedule may be affected by unexpected changes

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—January 1

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1 SUNDAY | NEW YEAR'S DAY
EPIPHANY SUNDAY
10:00 AM Sunday School, ASSB-SB
11:00 AM Communion Worship Service, SAN |
| 2 MONDAY | CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED |
| 3 TUESDAY | 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Food Bank, ASSB |
| 4 WEDNESDAY | 12:00 PM-1:00 PM Keenagers, JOS |

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—January 8

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 8 SUNDAY | 9:45 AM Confirmation Class, ASSB
10:00 AM Sunday School, ASSB-SB
11:00 AM Worship Service-Rev. Doreen Smalls, SAN
4:00 PM Bishop Graves Celebration Service, MACON
4:00 PM-5:00 PM Youth Music/Service Prep, CR
5:00 PM-5:30 PM Children & Youth Snack Supper, JOS
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Children's Fellowship, SB
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Youth Fellowship-MYF, YB |
| 9 MONDAY | 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB |
| 10 TUESDAY | 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Food Bank, ASSB
9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
1:30 PM-3:00 PM Church Staff Meeting, SP |
| 11 WEDNESDAY | 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
5:15 PM-6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal, HR
6:00 PM-6:30 PM CFD-WNS, Eat In, JOS- Pick Up @ 6PM
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 Acts Bible Study, SP
7:30 PM-9:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, CR |
| 12 THURSDAY | 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB |

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—January 15

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 15 SUNDAY | 10:00 AM Sunday School, ASSB-SB
11:00 AM Worship Service, SAN |
| 16 MONDAY | CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
NO MMO-TLC |
| 17 TUESDAY | 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Food Bank, ASSB
9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB |
| 18 WEDNESDAY | 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
5:15 PM-6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal, HR
6:00 PM-6:30 PM CFD-WNS, Eat In, JOS- Pick Up @ 6PM
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 Acts Bible Study, SP
7:30 PM-9:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, CR |

Ushers

1-Wheat Kirbo
Brown Moseley
Al Collins
Johnny Reynolds

8-Greg Burch
Mike Kraft
Charles Griffin
Charles Bowles

15-Jason Murray
Tyler Dalton
Wendell Hall
Paul Johnson

21-Ansley Yarbrough
Butch Yarbrough
Bolton Yarbrough
Todd Mills

29-Greg Burch
Mike Kraft
Charles Griffin
Charles Bowles

Acolytes

1-Marissa Brantley &
Emslee Cantley
8-Ani Dempsey
15-Thomas Hufstetler
22-Sam Moye
29-Ellie Scruggs

Video Technician

1-Beau Hatcher
8-Philip Moore
15-Beau Hatcher
22-Philip Moore
29-Beau Hatcher

Children & Youth Snack Supper

8-Julie Brantley
22-Meg Smith
29-Meredyth Earnest

19 THURSDAY 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB

21 SATURDAY 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Church Leadership Training, JOS

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—January 22

22 SUNDAY 9:45 AM Confirmation Class, ASSB
10:00 AM Sunday School, ASSB-SB
11:00 AM Worship Service, SAN
4:00 PM-5:00 PM Youth Music/Service Prep, CR
5:00 PM-5:30 PM Children & Youth Snack Supper, JOS
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Children's Fellowship, SB
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Youth Fellowship-MYF, YB

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

24 TUESDAY 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Food Bank, ASSB
9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
1:30 AM-3:00 PM Church Staff meeting, SP

25 WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
5:15 PM-6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal, HR
6:00 PM-6:30 PM CFD-WNS, Eat In, JOS- Pick Up @ 6PM
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 Acts Bible Study, SP
7:30 PM-9:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, CR

WEEKLY SCHEDULE—January 29

29 SUNDAY 9:45 AM Confirmation Class, ASSB
10:00 AM Sunday School, ASSB-SB
11:00 AM Worship Service, SAN
4:00 PM-5:00 PM Youth Music/Service Prep, CR
5:00 PM-5:30 PM Children & Youth Snack Supper, JOS
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Children's Fellowship, SB
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Youth Fellowship-MYF, YB

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

31 TUESDAY 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Food Bank, ASSB
9:00 AM-12:00 PM MMO-TLC, SB
1:30 AM-3:00 PM Church Staff meeting, SP

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

Missions

Our January mission focus will be Friends with Jesus Ministries. More information on their outreach can be found on their website, <https://www.friendsministriesga.org/>.



Christian Fellowship Dinners

January Menus

January 11

Soups
Sandwiches
Salad
Dessert & Drink

January 18

Chili
Cornbread
Salad
Dessert & Drink

January 25

Shepherd's Pie
Mixed Veggies
Rolls
Dessert & Drink

MEAL COST

Adults (≥ 11-64) \$8.00
Seniors (≥65) \$6.00
Children (4-10) \$6.00

MEAL RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.

When making reservations, state if they are eat-in or pick-up. 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 at 6:00 pm in the lane behind the J.O. Smith building.

EAT-IN for will be in the J. O. Smith Building beginning at 6:00 p.m.

BFUMC News & Announcements

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will close at 12:00 noon on Friday, December 30 and be closed Monday, January 2 for the New Year's holiday.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

Welcome Interim Music Director, Michael Inlow. See the Music Notes for his introduction.

KEENAGERS

Keenagers will meet on Wednesday, January 4, at 12:00 noon. Lauren Harrell with Gentiva Hospice will present our program. The menu will be a traditional New Year's Meal. Come and enjoy the fellowship!

WELCOME REV. DOREEN SMALLS

Rev. Doreen Smalls, Southwest District Superintendent, will preach at Bainbridge FUMC on January 8, 2022. She will also lead us in a remembrance of baptism service. It is always a privilege to have Rev. Smalls in worship with us. You won't want to miss it.

CELEBRATION WORSHIP SERVICE FOR BISHOP DAVID GRAVES

On Sunday, January 8, 2023, the South Georgia Conference will host a celebration service and reception for South Georgia's returning episcopal leader, Bishop David Graves. It will be held at 4 p.m. at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church in Macon.

The special service is a time for our Annual Conference to gather for worship and to welcome back Bishop Graves and Mrs. Nancy Graves and to give thanks for his assignment to the South Georgia Conference.

Bishop Graves will preach, the Mulberry Street UMC choir will perform, and the service will feature laity and clergy from different areas of service and ministry. The service will be followed by a reception. All are invited and encouraged to attend. Childcare will be available.

For those not able to travel to Macon, the service will be streamed live. A link will be available on the conference website, www.sgaumc.org.

Bishop Graves was elected bishop by the 2016 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and was assigned to the Alabama-West Florida Conference. In addition, he has been serving South Georgia since September 2021 following the retirement of Bishop Lawson Bryan. At the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference held Nov. 2-4, 2022, at Lake Junaluska, NC it was announced that Bishop David Graves has been reassigned to the South Georgia Annual Conference and will serve as the Episcopal leader for the next two years. He will continue giving oversight to the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference as well.

PROPERTY STEWARD

We are blessed with a wonderful facility to support the ministries of Bainbridge First United Methodist Church. The facility has many doors, windows, faucets and appliances. A property steward is needed to regularly inspect and secure our facilities. This task takes 30-45 minutes once a week. Please let Pastor Melissa know if you are willing to help.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

A Training Session for all leaders of the church will be held on January 21, 9 am – 12 noon in the J. O. Smith Building. Leaders received a letter of invitation in the mail in late December. Look for an email with more information. Please let your chairperson know if you are unable to attend. During the training, we will explore the purpose and function of various committees and teams in the church, evaluate successes and areas of improvement for 2022, set goals for 2023, and receive an update on the issues facing our denomination and how they impact us here at Bainbridge FUMC.

VIDEO/SOUND VOLUNTEERS

We need a few people to help produce the live stream worship service on Sunday morning. We have a number of members who depend on this online service to stay connected to our church. Training will be provided. Volunteers serve on a rotating basis. No previous video or audio experience is necessary. Basic computer skills are a plus. Speak to Pastor Melissa if you are willing to serve.

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

Thank you for your patience over the last few months with our online services. We are grateful that many of our members and friends in other communities connect with us weekly through our online worship. Over the last few months, we have had to replace several pieces of equipment that involved waiting for warranty replacement and supply chain issues. These equipment issues as well as a learning curve for the new equipment created some problems in our ability to live stream our services in the way we desire. The good news is that all of these issues have now been resolved. Thank you for your patience.

We are live on YouTube each Sunday at 11 am. In the event, something happens to the live stream, we record each service. If you miss the 11 am live stream, you may access that same service later in the day. However, by Tuesday a lightly edited version of the video is available. (You will know you are watching the edited version if you see a picture of the church and the date at the beginning of the video.) If the livestream has technical difficulties, we will attempt to get the recorded version uploaded to YouTube by Sunday evening. We value feedback. If you are a regular participant in online worship and have helpful suggestions about sound, camera angles or improvements that could support your worship, we welcome them. Please send Pastor Melissa a note. Also, let us know you are watching. We are encouraged in this effort when we know it helps people connect with their church family.

VIKTOR BILLA AND THE TABERNACLE ORGAN VIRTUOSO PERFORMANCE SERIES

Viktor Billa, Yuliia's husband and organist for Trinity UMC in Tallahassee, has been invited to perform a solo recital at Temple Square in Salt Lake City, UT. It will be the fourth concert of the new Tabernacle Organ Virtuoso Performance Series. Plans for the series include concerts once each quarter during the year on Fridays at 7:30 pm.

Mark your calendars on Friday, February 3rd, at 7:30. You are welcome to Salt Lake City to attend in person or watch online. This performance on the Tabernacle organ is open to the public at no charge. (<https://www.thetabernaclechoir.org/events/tabernacle-organ-virtuoso-performance-series.html>).

Few organs anywhere have such a storied history, and are as well-known or highly regarded as the Tabernacle Organ on historic Temple Square in Salt Lake City. This world-renowned, iconic pipe organ with five manuals (keyboards) and 206 ranks of organ pipes is among the world's largest instruments, and one of the most heralded. Its' famous golden pipes, made of wood staves fashioned from Utah timber and visible on the front facade, still add to the sound of the famous instrument even today.

Since 1901 organists have showcased the remarkable Tabernacle organ in free noon recitals. What began as a twice-a-week free event soon became a daily program and that tradition continues today. The organ is also featured in a series, Piping Up: Organ Concerts at Temple Square, and the newly started Tabernacle Organ Virtuoso Performance Series, to which Viktor is invited. This is exciting, and Viktor is looking forward to playing there and welcoming you.

Members

CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to Ben Dempsey who received the Sacrament of Baptism on December 25, 2022.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the family and friends of Hazel Westbrook who passed away on December 19, 2022.

Members to Visit, Call or Send a Card

Marcia Barber	1633 Wesleyan Drive, Unit 122, Macon, GA 31210	
Elon Gossett	1804 Lake Circle Drive, Bainbridge, GA 39819	
Steele Malone	1808 Woodridge Drive, Bainbridge, GA 39819	229-246-1381
Billie Maestas	c/o Wayne & Sandra Haines, P.O. Box 815, Bainbridge, GA 39818	
Ruth Sansom	c/o Anne Sansom, 161 Redwood 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	

Music Upcoming Events

January

HANDBELL CHOIR
Wednesday's
5:15-6:00 pm rehearsal

WORSHIP ARTS-
CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Wednesday's
6:30-7:30 pm rehearsal

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL
REHEARSALS
22 4:00-5:00 pm
29 4:00-5:00 pm

CHANCEL CHOIR
Wednesday's
7:30-9:00 pm rehearsal

Music Notes

I hope everyone has had a Merry Christmas and now gearing up for the new church year in 2023! I began my journey here at FUMC last January, after serving as Choirmaster at First Presbyterian for the last twenty four years. I am returning to my Methodist roots. I grew up in the West Bainbridge Methodist Church as a child and after schooling in Atlanta, returned back to Southwest Georgia and joined the Cairo UMC music staff for three years, and then onto Hand Memorial UMC as Choir Director for six years before going on to First Presbyterian.

Following my time at First Presbyterian, I returned to singing here in the BFUMC Chancel Choir and being a participant, rather than the leader. But God was calling me to help out with the pianist position and now with Yuliia leaving, I will step up to be the Interim Choir Director. I love church music and it has been a part of my life since I was 12 years of age. My goal is to continue great sacred music in the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir and Children's Choir. I taught public school choral music for 30 years in Decatur and Grady Co Schools, and have 34 years of church music experience in Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches. This church has always had a stellar music program and we will continue to hold up those standards and continue to grow in participation.

A quote from John Wesley's Select Hymns, 1761, "Sing Spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven."

Love in Christ,
Michael Inlow

Children's Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAYS

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

6:00-6:30 PM. Christian Fellowship Dinner
6:30-7:30 PM. Children's Choir

SUNDAYS

CHILDREN'S FELLOWSHIP

5:00-5:30 PM. Snack Supper
5:30-7:00 PM. Children's Fellowship

Youth Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAYS

CELL GROUPS

6:00-6:30 PM. Christian Fellowship Dinner
6:30-7:30 PM. Youth Cell Group

SUNDAYS

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

4:00 PM. Youth Music
5:00-5:30 PM. Snack Supper
5:30-7:00 PM. Youth Fellowship

Children's Chat

Happy New Year to us all!! Our activities will begin soon. Children's Fellowship will resume on Sunday, January 8th. We will pick up our Bible study Bible Science with an explosive experiment. Our memory verse for this study is from the book of Job. It is, "He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted" Job 5:9.

Children's Worship Arts will start back on Wednesday, January 11th. We will be preparing for Easter and our Spring Musical.

Looking ahead, we will have an outside movie night with the youth!

Youth News

Happy New Year! I am looking forward to a fresh new year. We will have Sunday school on January 1 for all. The entire group will meet in the regular Sunday school room because we will not have confirmation.

We will kick off the new year activities on January 8. We will be preparing for the Youth Sunday at 4pm and have dinner at 5pm. Youth Sunday is scheduled for February 12. Wednesday nights will start back January 11.

The youth guys fish fry has been rescheduled for Thursday, January 12 so mark your calendars. Let Lisa know by January 9 if you plan to attend.

Registration for DNow is now open. DNow will be February 17-19, 2023. Registration forms are available in the office or on our website. Cost is \$35. You must be signed up and pay by January 30 to be guaranteed a t-shirt. Sign up here: <https://www.bainbridgefirstumc.org/sign-up-for-youth-activities.html>

Registration forms and deposits for the Mission Trip are due January 11. Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/NyAvo2MWQgmjiRaT7> We will be going to Hayesville, NC again. The trip will be July 9-13, 2023. A nonrefundable deposit of \$150 is due by January 11. Spots are limited so sign up asap. Payment is due when you sign up. Hard copies of the sign up forms are in the office or you may fill out this online form. An additional \$150 will be due by March 1, 2023. If you have 2 or more children participating, the 2nd child is 1/2 price but the \$150 deposit will still need to be paid by January 11. The remaining balance for 2nd child will be \$50, that is due March 1.

LOOKING AHEAD:

We will return to our regularly scheduled evening activities on January 8, 2023

January 1- Regular Sunday School
January 8- Music 4pm; Dinner and youth 5pm
January 11- Mission Trip Deposit and registration due; Dinner 6pm Youth 6:30pm
January 15- Holiday weekend no youth
January 18- Dinner 6pm Youth 6:30pm
January 22- Music 4pm; Dinner and youth 5pm
January 25- Dinner 6pm Youth 6:30pm
January 29- youth activities

December Memorials

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of:

Hazel Westbrook
Hazel Westbrook
Frank Metcalf
Frank Metcalf
Dale Murray, Sr.
Minor Cochran

By:

Martha Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Lane Bush
Mr. & Mrs. Lane Bush
Sally Bates
Mary T. Burch
Eugene & Elizabeth Cochran

In Honor of:

Sally Bates
Dr. J. Sydney & Carol Cochran
Al & Marilyn Collins

By:

Cathy Cox & Mark Dehler
Edward & Jenny, Charlotte, Vivian, Ben & Ruby Cochran
Laura S. Bridges

ALTAR FUND

In Memory of:

Minor Cochran

By

Eugene & Elizabeth Cochran

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of:

Homer & Vasta Yarbrough
James & Mary O'Quinn

By:

Leah McLain
Leah McLain

FOOD BANK

In Honor of:

Ken & Suan Whittle
Charlie & Glennie Rozier

By:

Jack & Joyce Leverett
Jack & Joyce Leverett

