



*Love God, Love People and Serve Together*

**“As Shepherd Kept Watch”**

**December 17, 2023**

I am always amazed at the reading of Luke 2 and reliving the Christmas story. From the census that was to be taken to the Wisemen from the East, we see that this story did not take place all in one day. The birth of Jesus was a time that was meant to resonate in the hearts and minds of all who celebrate the Christmas story. I always find myself pondering on how amazing the star had to be in the night sky. Glowing for years to symbolize that the Messiah had been born. I cannot imagine the journey that Mary and Joseph had to make in such difficult circumstances or the concern of what it may be like to come to Bethlehem and not find a place to stay.

But I truly love to recount the story of the lowliest people that were given the greatest message on earth. It is hard to fathom what the shepherds were expecting that night to be like. I can only imagine that they had already planned what they were going to do and then everything was flipped upside down. Now to be honest with you, we never hear about what happened to the sheep that they were guarding. I mean if there was a bright light with a multitude of the heavenly host shouting glory to God in the highest, I could only imagine that those sheep were ready to take off and find a safe place to stay. But to the shepherds, God sent one of the greatest messages ever told to this world.

See, that is the message that came with the birth of Jesus. We are able to recognize that Jesus was ready to flip the story of how everything was to be perceived. For too long the world had determined the king to be the highest authority on earth, and God was ready to help us realize that was not in His plan. The message to the shepherds helps us to see that God was bringing the Good Shepherd into the world to help keep watch over us. God’s people had continually been seeking and praying for the Messiah to come and God was ready to deliver them, but not in the same way we were accustomed. God was born incarnate and brought into the world a completely new definition of King of kings and Lord of lords.

I hope and pray that as we continue to walk through this season of Advent, we recognize that the real reason that God sent Jesus to earth was to be our Shepherd and keep watch over His creation. God was willing to show such an amazing act of love that He gave to us the greatest understanding of true joy. Recognize that we are the sheep that Jesus was sent to watch. Even though there are times that we too go astray and seek a place of shelter, Jesus is right there to place us on His shoulders and watch over us throughout the day. Who would have ever thought at a Shepherd would be born in a manger? What a beautiful site that must have been.

In His grip,  
Jason

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**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

Our Finance Committee has designated our Christmas offering to go to Carpenter’s Way. You may make your gift any time in December in a worship service or by mailing it to the church office.

**LOVE OFFERING**

If you would like to contribute to a love offering as we farewell Meghan Gross, please send it to the church and earmark it, "Meghan Gross Love Offering." We wish Meghan blessings as she completes her seminary degree and pursues a career in ministry. We will present the gift to Meghan on Sunday, January 7.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Larry Spell** by William Noethling

In memory of **Louie Willett, Jr.** by Laura & Randy Cowart

In memory of **Eloise Willett** by Laura & Randy Cowart

In memory of **Louie Willett, Sr.** by Laura & Randy Cowart

In memory of **Minnie Clyde Balkom** by Laura & Randy Cowart

In memory of **Daniel W. Balkom** by Laura & Randy Cowart

## GIFTS OF LOVE

In honor of **Judy Davidson** by Monday Morning Bible Study

## CHILDREN'S LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING MINISTRY CENTER

Monday, January 8, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES Sunday, December 24 Sanctuary



**Morning Service**  
10:00 am



**Candlelight Communion Services**  
3:30 pm  
5:30 pm

## JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR! 🎵

It is poignant that this Holy Season we are focusing on ordinary people that played an extraordinary part in the Christmas Story. In terms of ordinary, the shepherds may be at the "head of the flock!" They watched, led, and guarded the sheep in their charge. Yet these ordinary shepherds are called from their fields to witness the birth of our Savior. Because God doesn't care about riches or status, He called humble people to witness the humble birth of Jesus, our Lord. Inspired by the Gospel of Luke, our Wynnton Choirs will sing anthems about the shepherds and the angels this Sunday.

Luke 2:8-14

*In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*

God's Great Peace to You!  
Diana B.



## CHRISTMAS CAROLING December 17, 2023 3:00 p.m.

Join us in celebrating the holidays with our homebound by Christmas Caroling. We will be leaving at 3:00 p.m. on December 17<sup>th</sup> to see as many of our homebound members as possible. After caroling, we will be returning to the church to gather around the table with hot soup to warm back up from our singing. Please contact Will Walley or the church office if you would be interested in singing with us, and if you would be interested in volunteering to make a pot of soup or bring a small dessert for the fellowship time afterward.

**\*ATTENTION ALL YOUTH PARENTS!!!**

- Sunday School 10 a. m. in the Basement
- Prayer Breakfast & Jesus this week; we will meet Friday 7:00-7:30 a.m. at Chick-fil-A on Whittlesey
- Winter Retreat Final Meeting is Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6 p.m. All payments due!



**BACKPACKS OF GRACE**

Backpacks of Grace needs your help! We have a record number of children we are serving this year of 101 kids! Backpacks of Grace is one of our weekly ministry opportunities. Each Thursday during the school year, we pack bags of food to send to Wynnton Arts Academy to hand out to children who need weekend meals. Each bag includes two breakfasts, two lunches, a fruit cup, and a snack. Donations toward this ministry are greatly appreciated. Donations include: pudding cups, fruit cups, individual oatmeal or grits packets, individual boxed cereals, individual servings of goldfish crackers, Scooby snacks, or other snack items. Please, no peanut products. There is a donation bin in the Ministry Center. You can also give a monetary contribution through the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Michaela Walley at [mwalley@wynntonmethodistchurch.org](mailto:mwalley@wynntonmethodistchurch.org).

**UPCOMING ADULT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

Join us every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Alpha building for a low intensity group fitness class. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Rev. Michaela Walley  
Director of Family and Adult Ministries

**READING THROUGH THE BIBLE**

Innkeeper and Shepherds: December 17-22  
Luke 2:1-7, Luke 2:8-20



This week we will be reading about the Shepherds and the Innkeeper. The innkeeper is often overlooked, because as you might notice when you read through the first set of verses, there is no mention of an innkeeper. But we know that there was no room for them in town, so what we attribute to one innkeeper could've been any number of residents who turned aside the mother of Christ. Everything turned out so the Savior of the World would be born in humble beginnings. We are also taking a look at the shepherds that take part in the Christmas story. Shepherds in ancient times were considered some of the lowest people in society; they were thought to be unclean, rough, or even dangerous. Yet, these were the ones God sent a chorus of angels to summon to the side of His Son.

**IN-DEPTH MARK BIBLE STUDY**

Our Sunday night Bible study will be taking some time off during December because of all the commitments at the holidays. We will return on January 7th at 6pm. Until then, if you would like to join us in preparing, we will be reading through Mark 4:34-5:20. With it being a long break, we will also be reading through the first four chapters as well to stay connected. Our goal is to read it through three separate times. The first time, we are simply reading through the verses. The second time, we are reading through with the intention of thinking about and journaling the who, what, where, when, why, and how of the passage. On the final sitting, we are thinking about and writing down questions we may have about the passage. Then, we will bring our notes and thoughts with us on Sunday the 7th to discuss them as a group. Please join us as we take a deep dive of the Bible together!

**BE A WYNNTON WELCOMER**

WE NEED YOU! to sign-up as a Sunday morning welcomer. We are looking for volunteers to fill open slots through the end of December. Check your calendars for a few Sundays you are available to help us greet our members and guests on Sunday morning. Sign-up sheets will be available in the main hallway this Sunday.



We're looking for volunteers for the Modern Worship Service. If you play an instrument or sing, feel free to join us at our practices every Tuesday from 5-8 p.m. in the Ministry Center.



Please use the QR code to sign up to volunteer to serve in the Modern service.

### 2023 END OF YEAR GIVING

Please be sure to send your end of year contributions before December 31. Submissions postmarked after Dec. 31 cannot be counted for 2023. Also, gifts of stock and online payments must clear by Dec. 31. Thanks for helping us meet our budget needs!

### COFFEE STATION VOLUNTEERS



December 17, 2023  
Genesis

### FREE HAY

Wynnton received four hay bales that we would like to donate. If you have use for them and would be willing to take them, please either contact the church or contact Meghan Gross at [mgross@wynntonmethodistchurch.org](mailto:mgross@wynntonmethodistchurch.org)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 17 Dorothy Batastini
- 18 Alice Bickerstaff, Andrew Carpenter
- 20 Andy Andresen, Martha Daffin
- 21 Dorothy Johnson, Mary Beth Mims

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

### 12-10-23

General Fund.....	37,149.00
Backpacks of Grace .....	525.00
Missions .....	50.00
Music .....	110.00
Christmas Offering.....	755.00
Loose Offering.....	132.00
Sunday School .....	44.00

## OUR ATTENDANCE

### 12-10-23

8:30 Service .....	54
Modern Service.....	7
11:00 Service .....	144
Sunday School .....	92

### WYNNTON SAFETY SQUAD December 10

**Team 7:** Eddie Cawthorne, Jeff Yates, Ed Annable

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP RETREAT

January 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 2024

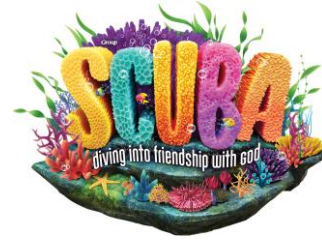
January 5<sup>th</sup>  
5:30pm-8:30pm  
Staff, Church Council & Other Committee  
Heads

January 6<sup>th</sup>  
9am-1pm

All members of ALL Committees.

Please put this on your calendar and plan to join us as we begin our training and vision casting for the future. Please look for more information in the weeks to come!

It is time to begin put our vision into action!



Help create coral reef décor for VBS!

### Needed

Empty wrapping paper tubes  
Paper towel tubes  
Drop off in the VBS bin in the  
Ministry Center/Fellowship Hall

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The nursery is available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. as well as Sunday School for grades K-12 from 9:45-10:50 a.m. The nursery for infants through age 3 is on the first floor of the Grimes building. Children's Sunday School for Pre-K-5th Grade is on the first floor of the Grimes building, and youth Sunday School is in the basement under the sanctuary. Children's Church will be offered for children through 5th Grade in the Children's Center in the Grimes building during the worship hour.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children in Pre-K through 4th grade are welcome to join us for Children's Sunday School from 9:45 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. in the Grimes Building on the first floor in the Children's Church room next to the nursery.

## Our Known Prayer Concerns:

Sue Rogers	Lexy McRae
Aubrey Walker	Jennefer Spell
David Woolbright	Frank Feagle
Pam Feagle	Richard Holmes
Betty Garrett	Shelley Montgomery
Jeanine Cotton	Robert Garrard
Michelle Foote	Jim Accordino
Kaye Hill	Sabrina Hart
Lynn Christenson	Frances Grell
Jarrod Hart	Reese Stallings
Vicki Ragan	Kay Hart
Virginia Bonner	Claren Hill
Susan Chriss	Bob Lowery
Jaleen Welch	Beverly McDaniel
Abraham Cook	

## SUNDAY'S SERMON

*The Ordinary Shepherd Carried an  
Extraordinary Message*  
Luke 2:8-16

Dr. Jason Wade 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.  
Rev. Will Walley - 8:30 a.m.



## NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

All of the staff have new email addresses which are as follows:

[jwade@wynntonmethodistchurch.org](mailto:jwade@wynntonmethodistchurch.org)  
[wwalley@wynntonmethodistchurch.org](mailto:wwalley@wynntonmethodistchurch.org)  
[mwalley@wynntonmethodistchurch.org](mailto:mwalley@wynntonmethodistchurch.org)  
[mgross@wynntonmethodistchurch.org](mailto:mgross@wynntonmethodistchurch.org)  
[gtincher@wynntonmethodistchurch.org](mailto:gtincher@wynntonmethodistchurch.org)  
[bwilson@wynntonmethodistchurch.org](mailto:bwilson@wynntonmethodistchurch.org)  
[tdorminey@wynntonmethodistchurch.org](mailto:tdorminey@wynntonmethodistchurch.org)  
[dboensel@wynntonmethodistchurch.org](mailto:dboensel@wynntonmethodistchurch.org)  
[modernworship@wynntonmethodistchurch.org](mailto:modernworship@wynntonmethodistchurch.org)  
[mderbypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:mderbypreschool@gmail.com)

Please check your spam or junk folder in your email to ensure that you haven't received something from the church.

## PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies December 15-17  
Dr. Jason Wade 770-289-4039

### Membership Card and Updates:

Please help us update our information by using this QR code or click the image. This is just another simple way to help us update your membership status. You can also pick up a card from the church office!



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 17

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary  
9:00 a.m. Modern Service - Ministry Center  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for adults, youth & children  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service – Sanctuary  
3:00-5:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling & Soup  
5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth - Basement

### Monday, December 18

9:00 a.m. Fitness Group - Alpha Building

### Tuesday, December 19

5:00-8:00 p.m. Modern Worship Practice - Ministry Center

### Wednesday, December 20

12:00-1:00 p.m. Prayer Time - Chapel (drop in)  
5:30-6:30 p.m. Prayer Time - Chapel (drop in)  
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, December 21 – December 26

OFFICE CLOSED

### Sunday, December 24

10:00 a.m. Combined Worship Service - Sanctuary  
3:30 p.m. Candlelight Service  
5:30 p.m. Candlelight Service