

Love God, Love People and Serve Together

“Tis the Season”

December 3, 2023

I know that we have all made the shift from Thanksgiving to the Advent Season. I always find such great joy and excitement as we step into Advent. We have the opportunity to be reminded of the things that are to come and celebrate with our family and friends, new opportunities to find a deeper meaning for Christmas. However, did you know that 'tis the season' comes from one of the most famous Christmas carols, "Deck the Halls". The song functions culturally as a constant earworm for many people during the month of December. Its tones ring out from radios and store speakers alike, and chances are, if you listen carefully, you will hear someone humming it at any given moment in the days leading up to the year's close. And right there, in the song's best-known lyrics, are the words "'tis the season."

While the song is centuries old, the phrase hasn't been the stuff of cheery headlines and chirpy titles for as long as one might think, given its current (seasonal) ubiquity. In fact, it wasn't really until the 1970s that we started to see it popping up in magazine and newspaper articles. But it has come to give us some actual feelings of joy; but why do we say it? The simple answer is that it is the season--the time of the year that is also known broadly as the holiday season and more narrowly as the Christmas season. The statement "'Tis the season" is simply a way of drawing focus to the festive time of year when it's currently underway.

But for us, it can mean so much more. I pray that we never say those words and think that we are simply celebrating just a season, but that we are willing to dive deeper into the heart of Christmas. I pray that we recognize that we are capable of so much more when we tell the story of Jesus than just leaving it to a season. Rather, our understanding of the Christmas story impacts our lives on an everyday basis. We prepare for Advent as we engage the time of year where the world was seeking an answer from God. We watch as God was able to use ordinary people to tell extraordinary stories about the coming of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

We do not come into this season to celebrate it and move on, but to engage the impact of the coming of Christ as it pertains to every area of our lives. We recognize that the impact that Jesus has in our lives is not just for a season or a moment. As Christians, we are in a season of preparation that is marked by the opportunity to show the world that Christmas is more than presents, lights, and a man dressed in a red suit with a reindeer-pulled sleigh. Tis the Season to once again pause and step back as we discern the power of the First Noel that came into the world and showed us the fullness of God's love. I pray that you will join me in stepping into this season as a time to prepare us for the days to come.

In His grip,
Jason



GOOD SAMARITAN LEAF

A Good Samaritan Leaf has been placed on the Endowment Tree of Life in honor of Joan Colquitt by her family.

**CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE
& COVERED DISH DINNER**

December 6, 2023
5:30 p.m.
Ministry Center

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Joe Batastini** by Oz White;
Vicki & Billy Ragan

In memory of **Larry Spell** by Oz White; Joanne &
Sherrell Taylor; Mary & Terrance Bowman

In memory of **Judy Chancellor** by Oz White



CHANCEL CHOIR CANTATA The Seven Noels (songs to light the world)

GENESIS CLASS FUNDRAISER

Pick up wreaths on Wednesday between 6:00-7:30
p.m. and Sunday between 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

WYNNTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

A big THANK YOU goes out to all who contributed food to the Wynnton Neighborhood Network this month. With your help, the network provided food throughout the month of November. Then the Network provided 250 individuals and families a turkey and plenty of food during our annual Thanksgiving Giveaway. Thank you for your ongoing support to this very important community organization as it continues to help those in need.



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 17th 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.

JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR! 🎵

Matthew 1:22-23

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin shall be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us.")

This Sunday, as we welcome the season of Advent, we have the opportunity to share hope as we reflect on the promise of salvation. Hope is the prominent theme in our music this Sunday. Through scripture and song, we wait for the Lord's coming as we now live in His forgiveness. The Chancel Choir anthem, *Prayer for Emmanuel* by Pepper Choplin, reminds us that we live and wait in hope and faith for the coming Messiah. The choir will be joined by violinist Ben Campbell. The violin adds a sublime and graceful texture to the contemplative harmony.

"Prayer for Emmanuel" by Pepper Choplin
Life is beautiful, life is sad. O come, O come, Emmanuel. We thrive through the good, we survive through the bad. O come, O come, Emmanuel. Some have plenty and blessings overflow. O come, O come, Emmanuel. Many will struggle and hunger's all they know. O come, O come, Emmanuel. The future's a mystery, hidden and sealed. Lord, come and let Your will be revealed. We pray for the time when humanity is healed. O come, O come, Emmanuel. O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Now we are praying, holding on to faith. Move in the world as we work and wait. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

God's Great Peace to You!
Diana B.

PECAN SALE

The Joyful Noise Sunday school class is selling pecans again. Call on any member of the Joyful Noise class to order yours. A final order will be placed on **December 3rd**. Thank you for supporting this mission project!

Prices

1 lb. halves \$12.00

1/2 lb halves \$7.00

1 lb. pieces \$12.00

1/2 lb. chocolates \$9.00



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

- Sunday School 10 a. m. in the Basement
- 211 Faith Connection this Sunday 5-7p.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
- Youth Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec. 10th. Please connect with us through our GroupMe App. AOC Basement
- Winter Retreat Final Meeting is Dec. 17th



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.

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.

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

Weekly Scripture Reading



Mary: December 3-9
Luke 1:26-55

This week we will be reading about Mary, mother of Jesus. As she encountered an angel of God, Mary was told she would be giving birth to the Son of God. Mary was young, she was engaged to be married but still unmarried. And here she was, being told she would give birth by an angel of the Lord. This was a lot to put on her. She was going to give birth to the Son of God. There would be difficult times ahead. Difficult conversations with her betrothed, Joseph. But, at the end of this walk, she would hold the child who would grow into the Savior of the world.

IN-DEPTH MARK BIBLE STUDY

Our Sunday night Bible study continues! All are welcome to attend. We meet in the Alpha Building Community Room Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. This week we are reading through Mark 3:31-34 and 4:1:20. 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 3rd to discuss them as a group. Please join us as we take a deep dive of the Bible together!



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

CHRISTMAS TREE ASSISTANCE



If you would like help putting up and tearing down your Christmas tree, please contact Michaela Walley at mwalley@wynntonmethodistchurch.org or 304-439-4202.

If you would like to be a blessing to someone in the church by helping them set up and tear down their Christmas tree, contact Michaela.

BLESSING NOTES

We want to show families that we are actively praying over them with a tangible reminder. Help us write blessings over our preschool, VBS, and Sunday morning families! Check your Sunday school envelopes or contact Meghan Gross for more information about this service project and how you can participate.



to: our families
from: Wynnton

DECEMBER 10TH



WYNNTON ARTS ACADEMY

The unwrapped Christmas gifts for the students must be delivered to the school no later than December 13. Thank you for all you are doing.

Tissues and bandaids are needed all year for teachers to keep available for students in their classrooms. Place these items in the bin in the Ministry Center.

Call/text Shirley Richey @ 706-332-6890 if you have any questions.

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

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.

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!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday, December 24
Sanctuary

Morning Service
10:00 am

Candlelight Communion Services
3:30 pm
5:30 pm

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	Mailyn McConnell
Kaye Hill	Sabrina Hart
Lynn Christenson	Frances Grell
Jarrold Hart	Reese Stallings
Vicki Ragan	Kay Hart
Virginia Bonner	Claren Hill
Susan Chriss	Bob Lowery
Jaleen Welch	Steve Tincher

Christian Sympathy for loss of loved one:

Family of Pat Kelley
Family of Diana & Marc Boensel



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.

WYNNTON SAFETY SQUAD December 3

Team 5: Jesse Kelley, Comer Alexander

Welcomer

9:30 a.m. Brenda Wilson

COFFEE STATION VOLUNTEERS



December 3, 2023
New Beginnings

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies December 1-3
Dr. Jason Wade 770-289-4039

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5 Martha Smith
 7 Maria Bannon
 8 Kenny McLaughlin, Fred Wise
 9 Mike Blasingame, Jenny Collins,
 Ann Hartin, Carole Sears

OUR STEWARDSHIP

11-26-23

General Fund	7,185.00
Backpacks of Grace	50.00
Bereavement	100.00
Endowment	100.00
Missions	50.00
Loose Offering	81.00
Other Contributions	1.00
Thanksgiving	50.00
Sunday School	30.00
Wynnton Neighborhood Network	130.00

OUR ATTENDANCE

11-26-23

8:30 Service	34
Modern Service	20
11:00 Service	104
Sunday School	70

SUNDAY'S SERMON

*From Ordinary to Extraordinary:
 Mary Did You Know
 Luke 1:26-38*

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 3

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
 6:00 p.m. Bible Study on Mark -
 7:30-9 p.m. The Bridge College Bible Study - Basement

Monday, December 4

9:00 a.m. Fitness Group - Alpha Building
 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Library
 5:30 p.m. Bible Study - Home of Beth Hendrickson

Tuesday, December 5

10:00 a.m. Quilting Group - Alpha Building
 12:00 p.m. Christmas Staff Luncheon - Wynn House
 5:00-8:00 p.m. Modern Worship Practice - Ministry Center

Wednesday, December 6

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Alpha Building
 12:00-1:00 p.m. Prayer Time - Chapel (drop in)
 5:30 p.m. Charge Conference & Covered Dish Dinner - Ministry Center
 5:30-6:30 p.m. Prayer Time - Chapel (drop in)
 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 7:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study - Ambassadors of Christ
 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 7

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Alpha Building
 9:45 a.m. Backpacks of Grace

Friday, December 8

7:00-7:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast & Jesus at Chick-fil-A on Whittlesey Rd.
 12:00 p.m. Goodwill Class Party - Wynn House
 5:30 p.m. Emmaus Gathering - Ministry Center

Saturday, December 9

6:00 p.m. Genesis Class Christmas Party - Home of Dom & Alyssa Edwards

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!

