

Children's Ministry Director of Children's Ministry: Tracey Landreth
923-3737 ext. 107 tlandreth@fumcwrgea.org

It's a NEW Children's Church! I am excited to tell you about the exciting new adventure that the Children's program has in store for the New Year! Since becoming the Children's Director in 2007, I had visions of doing a children's church for a larger group of children (up to 5th grade) and extending the time on Sunday morning that the children are participating in the program. As you've likely noticed, we've already started taking steps to make this a reality by starting the program earlier in the service. Our next steps are to shake things up in the program itself!

We have some great things in store. First, we are moving the program to a new location. Our new space will be upstairs across from the choir room. The Bridge has been working very hard renovating and updating the room. Secondly, we will be changing the curriculum to a standardized program that is video based, but a lot more up to date. Finally, we will be opening the program up to include up to 5th graders at the parent's discretion.

We are excited for this new adventure and can't wait for the new format to begin. Our projected start date is January 14th. Mark your calendar with the new date and get ready for some exciting fun in Children's Church!!!

Would you like to be part of this exciting change in the children's ministry? Now is the time to jump on board! We are always looking for volunteers who want to make a difference in the life of a child. If you are interested in volunteering please contact me by either emailing or calling.

Scarlet Movement (6th -12th) Director of Student Ministries: Ben Lee
923-3737, ext. 111 youth@fumcwrgea.org

Sunday Evening Schedule There will be no Scarlet Movement from Sunday until January 7th.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study There will be no Wednesday Scarlet Movement until January 10th.

The Space Between (18-25 yr. old) Director: Ben Lee
923-3737, ext. 111 blee@fumcwrgea.org

Thursday Evening Meeting Come out and join us at 7:00 pm for a great night of study and worship as we continue in a series called, "Why Not?"

Music Ministries Director of Music Ministries: Dana Allen Smith
478-397-7927 9voice9@gmail.com

The Wednesday night activities resume **Wednesday, January 10th**. All children's choirs and children & youth ringers will start back at their regularly scheduled times! We look forward to seeing everyone in their places! Happy New Year!

Organ Restoration Project We have received \$203,000!! Praise the Lord! We are now ready to take the next step with the repair for the organ restoration. We encourage continued giving to help us reach the full goal of \$212,000. All gifts are appreciated in order to help us fully underwrite this major undertaking. We trust that all of our members will be prayerful about how they will be led to participate in this project.

New Monday Morning Bible Study A new Bible study series will begin on **January 8th** at 9:30 am in the Joyful Noise SS room in Carter Hall. The series is entitled, *The Quest: An Excursion Toward Intimacy With God* by Beth Moore. The study will run for 6-weeks. Bring your Bible and a friend!

Electronic Tithing First United Methodist Church is offering a convenient way to tithe. You may authorize us to automatically debit your bank account for your gifts to the church. Electronic tithing eliminates the paperwork and allows your tithe to be consistent, even when you are unable to be present at church. You may also consider using the electronic bill pay feature on your bank account to initiate your offerings to the church. Contact Donald Rhodes at 478 923-3737 x 104 for more information on these options.

2018 Flower Calendar The 2018 flower calendar has been posted outside the office door. We have many dates that are open at this time. If you would like to place flowers in our Sanctuary in memory of or in honor of someone special in your life, please go by the church office and sign up on the church flower calendar.

Thank You! Thank you from all us, your staff, for the gifts, goodies, cards, and warm Christmas blessings for the holidays! We are very thankful to be a part of this wonderful church family called "First"! May God bless you all as we travel into the year of 2018!!

Snax Sax Ministry We are still in need of donations of peanut butter, small juice boxes, small boxes of cereal, granola bars, small boxes of raisins, sugar free pudding cups, and cheese & crackers. We appreciate everything that we receive and also welcome monetary donations to fill in the gap! Thank you for helping make a difference in our community!

Prayer List Update Beginning the first week of January, we will begin again with a new Prayer List in the Newsletter. Please notify the church office if you have a name/names to be put on the new Prayer List. Thank you.

WRCCA presents David Burgess, world renown classical guitarist, in concert **Sunday, January 21st @ 3:00 pm** at First. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Students are free.

Wednesday Night Supper

January 10th @ 6:00 pm

Program: _____

Menu: Baked Pork Chops, Potatoes, Broccoli, Rolls & Dessert

Adults \$6.25/Children (3-12) \$4.25 /Toddlers under 3 - \$1.00 (Family max. of \$26). Reservations must be made/cancelled by 4:30 pm, Monday by completing the form located in the pew on Sunday morning or call Tracey at 923-3737, ext. 107. If you do not cancel your reservations, you are responsible for payment.

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'Making a difference ... here and around the world'

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CELEBRATING MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN 2017!

As we begin 2018, it is a great time to reflect on 2017 and remember the amazing ways we have seen Jesus alive in and at work through our church family here at First UMC!

*The Soup Kitchen ministry continues to serve every Monday and Friday between 55-85 people. Every time a meal is served, it provides a safe place for people in our local community to be fed physically through a hot meal and feed spiritually through the kindness of Jesus' love in those who serve.

*The Food Pantry is open weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays helping to provide groceries to individuals and families all around our local church and city. Through this ministry our volunteers shower the love of Jesus to those praying to make it to the next day.

*The Snax Sax program is making a difference in the lives of 166 students weekly at Lindsey Elementary. This brown snack sack is a powerful sign that there are people in this community who sincerely care for them and believe God's best for their lives.

*When natural disasters devastated our nation, we responded by raising significant financial support in connection with the United Methodist Church to offer hope in the midst of disaster. When natural disaster impacted Middle GA, we took action by gathering water, food, and clothing to support the families of one the South GA Hispanic UMC's in Albany. We had several teams that went on day trips to take part in the cleaning up of yards for families in these areas. Our presence was a representation of the presence of Jesus to those in need.

*Throughout 2017, consignment sales raised funds for a variety of local missions, babysitting was provided so Foster Care parents could receive a date night and their children could have a night of fun, youth took part in the rebuilding of homes in North Carolina, college students as well as men in our church served the homeless in Atlanta, materials were put together for shoes for Sole Hope, shoes were collected for Soles4Souls, 125+ Christmas shoeboxes were donated for Operation Christmas Child, and over 100 white gifts, as well as a substantial love offering were given to support White Gift Sunday. The list and more importantly, the testimonies, could go on and on of the many ministries the Holy Spirit has empowered us to take part in throughout this year in Making His Difference Here and Around the World!

God's blessings to you,

Ken

Sunday Servants

TV Crew: Producer: Terry Landreth; Camera: Zach Simpson; TV Sound: Donna Bartoe; Sanctuary Sound: Kevin Simpson; Character Generator: Bill Meilinger; PowerPoint: 9:00: Ellen Griffith & 11:00: Lori Gorny

Ushers: Captain: Jack Culpepper; Ted Clements, Ed Harris, Mark Hess, Ken McCall, James Phillips

Greeters: Helen Echols, Tracey Wright, Daniel Aaron

Shepherds: Patrick Barber & Terry Price

Acolytes: Joey Poth & Ben Waits

Children Check-In: Laurie Meilinger

Children's Church: _____

Nursery: _____

News of Our Members

Birthdays this Week: Dec. 28: Lynn Barber, Margaret Lanier; Dec. 30: John Williams; Dec. 31: Sandra Childs; Jan. 1: Denise Duke; Jan. 2: Jimmie Willis; Jan. 5: Ann Ray, Kristy Sylvester; Jan. 6: Kurt Moller, Ken Morgan, Gracie Wilkes

In the Hospital:

Navicent Health-Macon: Fred Gilliland
Scottish Rite Hospital: Evie Bass

Home from the Hospital:

Lisa Hartley

Independent, Assisted Living & Nursing Home Residents:

Antebellum Grove: Joan Warren, Carolyn Reeves

Southern Heritage: Barbara Jansky

Summer's Landing: Marie Nelson, Marjorie Girmsey

Magnolia Manor/Americus: Odessa McMinn

The Lodge: Mary Duke

Greeters Ministry *You only get one chance to make a positive first impression!* We have open spaces in our Greeters ministry. If you have a heart to see people come and feel welcomed and loved at our church, and want to serve at First it's very easy! Contact Ken Morgan or Christine James if you would like to be a part of this very important ministry in our church.



Prayer List

*Barbara Davis (sis. of Sharon Tallet)

*Olivia Davidson (Sis. of Theresa Rhodes)

*Vernon and Jan Gillis (Fr. of Theresa Rhodes)

*Fred Gilliland

*Lisa Hartley (d-i-l of Hartley's)

*Bobby Morris (bro. of Yvonne DeKalb)

*Charles Stevenson (g.son of W. Wisse)



Prayer List Update

Beginning this week, we will begin again with a new Prayer List in the Newsletter. Please notify the church office if you have a name/names to be put on the new Prayer List.

Thank you.

In Case of Emergency

In the event of an emergency after hours, you may call the church at 923-3737 and press 5 during the greeting. Follow the instructions to leave a message. The phone system will notify the pastors. You may also call them at home.

Prayer Chain:

Windy Smith	922-4923
Dot Moore	929-1348

Church Happenings

Sunday, January 7th:

9:00 AM	Early Worship
10:00 AM	Sunday School
10:30 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
11:00 AM	Worship Service
12:30 PM	The Table Worship in C/H
2 PM	Hispanic Worship in C/H
5:00 PM	Praise Band Rehearsal
5:30 PM	Scarlet Movement
6:00 PM	Sunday Bells

Monday, January 8th:

9:30 AM	Ladies Bible Study
12:30 PM	"The Kitchen"
7:00 PM	Trustees

Tuesday, January 9th:

10:30 AM	UMW Circle in Conference Room
2-4:00 PM	Food Pantry
6:00 PM	Disciple Fast Track

Wednesday, January 10th:

5:00 PM	Bellatonix
5:15 PM	Little Angels (3-4 yr. olds)
5:15 PM	Cherub Choir (5K - 1st grade)
5:15 PM	Praise Kids (2nd-6th grade)
6:00 PM	Wednesday Night Supper
6:30 PM	Scarlet Movement
6:40 PM	_____
6:40 PM	Solid Rock Ringers (3rd - 5th grades)
6:40 PM	Good Times Chimes (1st - 2nd grades)
7:30 PM	Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 11th:

2-4:00 PM	Food Pantry
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Friday, January 12th:

12:30 PM	"The Kitchen"
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Our Faithfulness

Attendance: Dec. 31:

Early Worship:	21
Sunday School:	101
Worship:	117
The Table:	7

Our Tithes & Offerings:

Needed Monthly for Budget:	\$ 70,598.00
Budget Receipts for 12/31:	\$ 77,168.28
Organ Restoration Fund:	\$203,000.00

Wednesday Supper Reservations

Name: _____ Permanent? Y N
 Adults _____ Children (3-12) _____ Toddlers (under 3) _____ If you have a permanent reservation and will NOT be at supper, you **must** cancel by **4:30 pm on Monday or you will be responsible for payment.** *First time visitors are free. Please make reservations.*