

The Methodist Messenger

JANUARY 2021

Whiteville United Methodist Church

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Holy Communion Service/Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

Mission Statement of Whiteville United Methodist Church

As people of the body of Christ, we will gather for and be strengthened by Word and Sacraments, participate in loving fellowship, grow in discipleship, and serve our community and the world in Christ's name.



*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,
for those who are called according to his purpose. - Romans 8:28*

Is life something that happens to you, or are you actively engaged in giving direction to your life's path? If I am not careful a great part of my life can take on the shape of the next crisis or issue that pops up. Now do not get me wrong, those types of issues need attention, however, they should not be what gives direction to my life. There should be a larger context in which my life is lived.

As each of us enters this New Year of 2021, we have a choice to make: Which story will give shape to your life? What are possible stories that narrate how you live your life? Where do you find these over-arching narratives that can give context and shape to the trajectory and daily activity of our life? Well, some possible sources are the media, career, family, tragedy, or political/sociological ideology. However, I want to suggest to you that while these are all valid parts of life, and can be truly influential, perhaps they are not the best areas to look for the story that will narrate your life on a day-to-day basis.

There is a greater narrative into which all the rest actually fits – God's story. In the Bible we find the God who created you is the one who wants to be the source of your story. Once you embrace God as the source of the story that will narrate all the rest of your life, then everything else begins to take on a different shape. Priorities change. Direction changes. Fulfillment is found in that which transcends this world, instead of in that which ends with this world.

This year why not allow the story of your redemption to be that which narrates the rest of your life's activities. It will permeate all parts of your life – your work, your family, and your leisure time. And as you find new direction, may you find blessings as well.

Blessing for the New Year

*I said to the person who stood at the gate of the year
Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.
He replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand
Into the Hand of God.*

*That shall be to you better than any light and any known way.
So, I went forth and I put my hand into the Hand of God
And trod safely into the night.*

I offer those words to you as my blessing to you for this New Year of 2021. In the face of any uncertainty that may threaten to consume your heart, may you always know that the safest and wisest position to be in is with your hand firmly grasping that of the Hand of God.

Pastor Terry

BIBLE STUDY/HOLY COMMUNION

The Wednesday evening Holy Communion Service/
Bible Study begins at 6:00. p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Adult Sunday School: Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m.

Children's Sunday School (ages 3-12):

Upstairs classroom at 9:00 a.m.

Christians Under Construction Sunday School:

Via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. (Receive a link to join by emailing
Carolyn Hankins at carolynjhankins@msn.com)

CALL MULTIPLIER

We hope you are enjoying receiving messages from the church on the Call Multiplier! One of the favorite features offered is the Message Playback. If you picked up the phone and listened to the message, but didn't quite get all of it, **you can call 877-333-9336 to listen again.** Please keep this number close by, it's sure to come in handy!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The WUMW will meet on Monday, January 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. The program will be presented by our own Vickie Pait. It will be a positive and uplifting program to start off the new year. Also, we are planning to have our soup fund-raiser probably in February. We will be taking orders only - no soup and sandwich meal after a Sunday service. We will be providing order forms sometime in January or early February.

BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

4 th	Florence Marlowe
5 th	Grant Merritt
9 th	Alan Pait
10 th	Hannah Deans
14 th	Greg Williamson
17 th	Sabra Allen
18 th	Carol Worrell
19 th	Emily Sauls
22 nd	Kyle Hood
27 th	Carly High
31 st	JoAnne Biser

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!

Let's pause . . . It's certainly been a roller coaster of a year, but as we enter 2021, it would do us well to pause and reflect on the many blessings we have received during this Christmas season. In addition to a beautifully decorated sanctuary, the music has been outstanding! A sincere "thank you" to Gus Cothorn and Nan Leggett as they led members of the Chancel Choir and the Jane Wyche Schulken Handbell Choir, as well as several other guests, in the presentation of "A Service of Lessons and Carols."

Also, at our annual Christmas Eve Service, Gus, Nan, and Sara Painter shared their musical talents with us. These are truly gifts from God, and we appreciate you sharing them with us! During this season, many of you participated in many ways in the overall Christmas celebrations. Thank you!

Many thanks also to Gloria and Dr. Terry Hunt, in their first Christmas season with us, for their leadership, encouragement, and participation. To all of you, your faithfulness is a real blessing to this congregation!

– Betty Gray, Worship Committee

CHRISTIANS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The class spent time with daily Advent readings and in lighting, in their own homes, an Advent wreath each Sunday. With music, we celebrated Hope, Love, Joy and Faith. The Christ candle was in the midst of our wreath on December 27, supported by an hour-glass with the sands of time. The candle was short to signify that Jesus came into this world as a baby and would grow to show us how to live. The waiting and anticipation for the birth of Jesus is complete for 2020. Now it is time for the work of Christmas to begin!

– Bob Hankins

A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION:

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel which began in Bethlehem. I believe in the One whose Spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming the Shepherds saw the sign, but for whom there was no room in the inn.

I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history, for whom Kings of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud. I believe in the One to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind, the leprous gave welcome and accepted as Lord and Savior. I believe in the One who, with love, changed the hearts of the proud and with his life showed that it is more important to serve than to be served, and that the greatest glory is giving your life for others.

I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of the gospel. I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change, if with humility and with faith, we kneel before the manger.

I believe that I must be the first one to do so.

OUTREACH TEAM

All of the specified giving for 2020 was enabled with the generosity of our church family. Not all budgeted funds were expended as gatherings were reduced and mental health work with Trillium was free. We were glad to financially contribute toward Families First fulfilling its mission of assistance to victims of domestic violence, even as our church helped provide Christmas gifts of clothing, toys and books for children whose lives have been impacted by violence. The stresses caused by Covid-19 and isolation can increase such situations. A variety of other local, national and global projects have been received gifts.

In a pre-Christmas email from Mozart Avedu, our missionary in Ghana, he shared that his missionary project will not be continued when his current term is completed in June 2021. Mozart has been successful over the last 20 years in teaching Sustainable Agriculture. His forethought will help the work continue with trained lay leaders. However retirement was not something Mozart had planned into 2021. He is already seeking God's guidance in the path to follow for his life and service. Of concern to his family is funding the last two years of his daughter's medical school. Selma has finished three of the five years and is in the top ten percent of her class. WUMC has budgeted \$1,000 for her in 2021. Tuition and fees for the year are about \$6,500. (Obviously she is training in Ghana, not the United States!) That amount does not include living expenses; she shares an apartment with another student and that cost is paid until October 2021.

As we learn more about support from other churches toward her education, we'll update you and share an opportunity to do more if needed.

Hope, Love, Joy and Peace be yours in 2021 as we work together to reflect the love and power of Jesus in our world.

– Carolyn Hankins, Outreach Team leader

WITNESS COMMITTEE

The 2021 Witness Committee will meet in January for a planning session. We're really excited about some of the new things we are planning for 2021 that we will share with the congregation as they happen.

Our committee helped two families at Christmas for a total of six children.

- Sylvia Walters

WUMC PRESCHOOL

Classes will resume after the Christmas holiday break on January 5. Please be mindful that our Covid guidelines are continuing. We ask that all parents remain faithfully on guard for their families. If your child sneezes, coughs or has a fever, please do not send them to school.

For icy or snowy winter weather, please know that we follow Whiteville City schools schedule for late openings or closings.

We are blessed to guide and instruct our students in developmentally appropriate academic skills. We also guide and instruct them in God's holy word and how God would have us to live. Thank you to Dr. Hunt for praying with the children each morning

- Karen Dawsey, Director

JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Happy New Year!	2
3 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	4 6:30 p.m. WUMW/ Parlor 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	5 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	6 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	7	8	9
10 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	11 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	12 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	13 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	14	15	16
17 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	18 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	19 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	20 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	21	22	23
24 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	25 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	26 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	27 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	28	29	30

Acolytes: 3rd - Grace High; 10th - Peyton Hunt; 17th - Anna and Sophie Bivens; 24th - Emily McLam; 31st - Andrew Bullard.

Soundboard: 3rd - Lynne Inman; 10th - Suzanne Hall; 17th - Terry Simmons; 24th - Robert Page; 31st - Lynne Inman.