

THE LINK

TO BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH LOVE, WORSHIP, SERVICE, AND EVANGELISM

Oh little town of Bethlehem how still we see the lie...(UMH 230)

As a child/young adult I would attend the Christmas Eve candlelight service with my family. We would sing the Christmas carols, we would light our candles and it was always lovely. Afterward, we would drive to my grandparent's house and we would celebrate the Eiland family Christmas there. Those times are absolutely times that I will always treasure. The memories of those times are wonderful.

But, for some reason, I always remembered the drive home afterward. You need to understand that it takes no more than 5 minutes to get anywhere in Andalusia (a city roughly half the size of Selma). In fact, I grew up roughly 5 blocks from my grandparents. You need to understand that because the drive home typically took at least half an hour.

We would drive through the town, and look at the decorations that the city had put up. We would look at the houses that were lit up. We never stopped anywhere, and I can remember sitting in the seat,

looking at all of that stuff - the Christmas lights, the blow-ups in the yard, the manger scenes - and I would reflect on the reflecting lights. My family drove in a peaceful silence through our city, marveling at all that people had done to prepare for Christmas. That was always when it became real for me.

And that's what advent is. A season of preparing; of creating a time when Christmas becomes real for us. We prepare our homes and offices. We listen to the music, and partake in the parties. Let me encourage you to use the time of worship, amidst the busy-ness of the season to prepare your hearts as well. Do a devotion for advent. Light the candles at home. Give a votive offering. Pray. Fast. Do something to make this time special. Remember the words of the writer of Hebrews: "For yet "in a very little while, the one who is coming will come and will not delay..." Are you ready?

O Come, O Come Emmanuel...(UMH 211)

Grace and Peace,
Lance J. Eiland

Church Street Staff

Rev. Lance J. Eiland

Pastor

Rand Smith

Dir. of Youth Ministries

Kayla Smith

Dir. of Children's Ministries

Gordon Welch

Dir. of Music Ministries

Organist

Kathy Harrison

Secretary

Ann Adams

Financial Secretary

Joy Thompson

Dir. Of Facilities

Lesia Canty

Housekeeper

Michael Steele

Custodian

Contact Information:

Rev. Lance J. Eiland

(334) 296-5095
lance@churchstreetumc
selma.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru
Thursday
8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Friday
8:30 am to 2:30 pm

Music Ministry Notes From Gordon

Kudos to our Young Musicians for singing so beautifully for November 12th worship. It is my joy and pleasure to meet with these fine “young musicians” for singing, fun, moving, and a bunch of other stuff. I look forward to the Church Street family hearing their Christmas selection entitled *Do You See the Christmas Star?* presented on December 10th.

The final month of 2017 is here! This year has quickly passed. This has been a great year of music ministry events, but there is more to come in this special month of December.

Please note the following -

Sunday, December 10th - 10:30 a.m. Worship - Young Musicians (Grades 1-6) Singing

Sunday, December 17th - 10:30 a.m. Worship - Chancel Choir presents
Silent Night, Wondrous Sight

Sunday, December 24th - 10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Worship
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Vespers

There are many music opportunities at Church Street during the final weeks of 2017, including the singing of our beloved Christmas carols!

Gordon



We will have a
Longest Night Service,
Thursday, December 21st,
at dusk, in the Sanctuary.



We will have our regular
Worship Service at 10:30 am.
We will also have a Christmas
Eve Candlelight Service at
5:00 pm.

Living Treasures

will meet Thursday, December 21, 2017, at 12:00 noon in Windham Hall, for Christmas fun with Gordon.

The cost of the catered meal is \$6.00 and reservations are not required.

Bible Study Groups

The TUESDAY Bible Study Group led by Martha Jackson and WEDNESDAY Bible Study Group led by Suzanne Stringer will resume meeting after the first of the year.

Circle Meetings

Monday, December 4th

Catherine Revel Circle
5:30 pm at Michele McNeill's

Monday, December 11th

Berrey Plant Circle
10:00 am at Cedar Hill
Roberta Sample Circle
6:00 pm at Helen Edward's

Emmaus will meet

Tuesday,

December 5th, at 6:30 pm, in Windham Hall.

Meals-on-Wheels

For the week of
December 4th

Monday:

Julie Ford

Tuesday:

Anita Williams

Wednesday:

Joy Beers

Thursday:

Pat Deavor

Friday:

Jim Sims

Please pick up your meals between 9:30 and 10:00 am. If you are unable to deliver on your assigned day, please find someone to take your place and notify the Church Office of the change.

Meals-on-Wheels Volunteers

We have been notified that the local disbursement of hot meals will end effective December 22nd. Frozen meals will be mailed from Montgomery directly to recipients. CSUMC would like to thank our volunteers for their many years of service delivering to those in our community.

December Meetings

All December meetings for Trustees, Finance and Church Council have been cancelled.

Memorials

Mrs. Diane Rainer

By: Mrs. Judy Moore

United Methodist Men

*will not meet in
December.*

Christmas

**Decorating began
November 27th.**

If your class is responsible for decorating the Church or Sanctuary, please have it completed by Friday, December 1st. The first Sunday of Advent is December 3rd.

Gift Collection

If you would like to thank the Church Staff for their work and support during 2017 with a monetary Christmas gift (individually, as a class, or as a group), please have your gift in to the Church Office by Sunday, December 10th.

The Communion Offering on December 3rd, will be given to the Selma Area Food Bank.

| Stewardship October - Month End | | Year to Date | | <i>Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back. Luke 6:38 NRSV</i> |
|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Pledge Offering | 42,823.67 | Total Revenue received | | |
| Non-pledged Contributions | 7,455.00 | Jan. - Oct. 2017 | 404,352.00 | |
| Loose Collection | 659.15 | Total Expenses | | |
| Sunday School | 33.00 | Jan. - Oct. 2017 | <u>454,714.00</u> | |
| Breakfast | 279.00 | Excess of Expense | | |
| Capital/Sanctuary Funds | 50.00 | Over Income | | |
| Windham Hall | <u>0.00</u> | Jan. - Oct. 2017 | (50,362.00) | |
| Total Receipts | 51,299.82 | | | |
| Worship Attendance | 112 | | | |
| Sunday School | 76 | | | |



Stewardship Update

As of this letter, all of the saddlebags are in and the total estimated giving is \$476,000.00. We expect that there will be some more pledges from out of town members and others contacted by mail. We would like to thank all the trail bosses and everyone who brought the food for the celebration supper. It was GREAT!

This was the third year for the Pony Express drive. We were pleased and pleasantly surprised that every member that was asked to help said yes, and got the job done. This program is outstanding in that it is an every member outreach that involves every member. Thank you all.

If we as a Church can keep the spirit of the Pony Express going and growing in all areas of our church activity great things are possible. I know that Rev. Lance will give us the leadership and direction in accomplishing the goals of our Church.

In closing, God blesses and multiplies all we give and all we receive. Thanks to all!

Amy and Jim Sims

Thank you!

The Facilities Staff would like to thank Tom Lang for removal of the bush by the front porch and Janie and Raymond Maples for a new curtain for the stage in the Harbor.

**In Christ's Service this Week
December 3, 2017**

Acolytes: Lala Plummer & Colleen Jones

Nursery Workers: Beau & Laura Beth Boyd

Children's Church: Randall & Alicia Beers

Breakfast Cooks: Charles Pollack, James McNeill, Steve Smitherman, Jon Stewart, and Larry Justice

Greeters: Cornerstone

Lay Leader: Frank Speed

Ushers: Wayne Vardaman, Captain, Dick Dunaway, Ed Livingston, John Nettles, Tom Lang, Butch Jones, Joe Newton, Scoop Rivers, and Bart Adams

Worship Stewards: Evelyn Register, Cora Smith, and Em Moore

Collection Counters: Linda Haskell and Eleanor Reynolds

Sunday School Superintendent: Leonard Ingram

Sound Technician: Rand Smith

College Ministry

Please remember to continue to encourage all of our college students especially during the upcoming holiday seasons!

12/3 Harrison Adams is a Sophomore at University of Alabama majoring in Economics and Finance, minor in Social Innovation and Leadership. His mentor is Frances Turner. His contact information is: 925 Parkview Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401, bhadams1@crimson.ua.edu, (334) 419-7332.

12/10 Jessica Boyd is a Senior at Auburn University majoring in Exercise Science. Her mentor is Katie Nichols. Her contact information is: 730 W. Magnolia, Building 3, Apt. 202, Auburn, AL 36849, jhbo032@auburn.edu, (910) 824-4520.

12/17 Kayla Boyd is a Sophomore at Auburn University majoring in Media Studies. Her mentor is Dawn Wendland. Her contact information is: 721 Aspen Heights Lane, Apt. 728, Auburn, AL 36830, knbo042@auburn.edu, (334) 300-5443.

12/24 Chase Cammack is a Senior at Auburn University majoring in Agricultural Economics and Finance. His mentor is Ann Thomas (blonde). His contact information is: 217 Cook Street, Auburn, AL 36830, czco068@auburn.edu, (334) 412-6492.

12/31 Benjamin Jones is a Junior at Auburn University majoring in Pre-Pharmacy. His mentor is Caroline Anderson. His contact information is: 501 Webster Road, Lot 63, Auburn, AL 36832, bjonesball@yahoo.com, (334) 267-1282.

**December is
Votive Offering Month**

Normally the Church has one offering of gifts and tithes per week. We are told that "offering" is a symbol of faith, compassion, and Christian unity.

Herb Mather wrote,

"One reason for giving is that giving is for the sake of the giver...Giving helps people on their pilgrimage toward wholeness."

Our church fulfills so many ministries and missions, each of which blesses someone. Once again this year, we are pursuing a special, additional offering.

A "votive" offering is a gift of gratitude and devotion. Such a gift is especially needed right now in order to properly support all of our wonderful missions, and the operations of the church.

Please pray for our church, and consider making a "votive" offering to God.

The date of the Votive Offering is Sunday, December 10th. *please indicate "votive offering" on your check.

Children's Ministry News

It has truly been a joy to continue to get to know your children. Thank you to all who have graciously volunteered on Sunday nights, Sunday mornings, and the Fall Festival. Speaking of Fall Festival, what a huge success! We had children from over 10 schools in the Dallas County area represented. I was blown away by the participation in everyone from the youth to the adults. The winners for best decorated trunks were Candy Land (Rex and Kimberly Jones) and Jonah and the Whale (Steve and Erika Smitherman). Again, a big thank you to everyone who participated!

With Christmas coming, it is time for traditions, time with family, and time to reflect on the blessings our Heavenly Father has poured out on us. Since having children, I have found myself enjoying Christmas a little more each year. Per Phillip's request, this year I did something I've never done before, we put our Christmas tree up before Thanksgiving. Phillip and Daniel's excitement of the seeing lights twinkle is something that will never get old. As adults, I feel like sometimes we let that childlike excitement get pushed back by our to-do lists. As we move into the Christmas season, I pray that we take time to have that childlike belief. I pray that we take time to stand in awe of the twinkling lights, but more importantly stand in awe of the love that came down from heaven that was wrapped in swaddling clothes.

I look forward to seeing you and your children throughout the Christmas holidays whether it be Sunday mornings, December 3rd to shop for angel trees, December 9th for breakfast with Santa, or anywhere else around town!

Looking into the New Year:

Confirmation Class will take place on the following dates during Sunday School (9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.) All 6th graders are invited to participate.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 14 • January 21 • February 4 • February 11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 18 • March 2-4: Confirmation Retreat • March 11 |
|---|--|

Also, acolyte training will be January 21st and 28th, starting at 4:00 p.m. All 4th - 12th graders who have not received acolyte training are asked to come. This is such a great opportunity for our children and youth to serve our church by participating in the worship services.

I hope you and your family have a Merry Christmas filled with lots of love.

Miss Kayla

**CELEBRATE
JESUS'
BIRTHDAY!**



The Church Street United Methodist Men are hosting a Breakfast with Santa Saturday morning, December 9th, from 9-11 a.m. We need help with crafts for the children. If you would like to help us this year, please contact Tom Lang at 327-9294, or Kayla Smith at the Church Office at 872-1401.



Leika's children gave 40 shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child. If any of you would like to track their destination, feel free to contact Joy Green.



The Youth and Children will be meeting at the Church at 3:00 pm, next Sunday, December 3rd, to go shopping for the Angel Tree.

Parents please pick up your children at 6:00 pm, at the Church.

Youth and College News

As we quickly approach the Christmas season we are bombarded by things we must check off the to-do list. Our time is stretched paper thin. Through it all, we hope our focus will remain on the One who saves.

Our youth will be sharing the love of Christ through providing gifts through the Salvation Army Angel Tree project, Dec. 3. We will also join together with our college age friends to celebrate the gift of Jesus, Dec. 17.

I pray that all of us will not allow our to-do lists to hinder us from loving others in the way Christ loves us.

In His love,
Rand

PRAYER NEEDS

HOMEBOUND:

Barry Blanton
Mary Blanton
June Calame
Jean Johnson
Alma Moore
Ann Pegues
Helen Rogers
Lucille Sellier
Eloise Trammel
James Charles Utsey
Nell Woodward

ONGOING:

Alice Gray Butler
Lee Calame
Steve Campbell
Lesia Canty
Mary Elizabeth Chatman
Hermine Cohen
Roger Coleman
Shannon Miller Cook
Sharon Craig

Peggy Cross
Bob Culpepper
Reita Sample Davis
Michelle Dorough
Ann Edwards
Helen Edwards
Lance Eiland
(recovering from surgery)
Sara Elam
Baxter Ellzey
Blake Flanagan
Russ Foster
Kay Friday
Bill Gardner
Dale Gates
Jeanne Green
Ed Greene
Virginia Guarino
Chrissy Harrison
Kathy Casey Hobbs
Claudette Holley
Edith Hughes
Lynda Johnson
Danny Jordan
Faith Lendner

Charles & Martha Maurer
June McLaughlin
Dan and Yvonne Mielke
Anthony Mims
James Morgan
Jane Lyle-Morgan
Doris Moultrie
Emme Nichols
Kevin and Connie Parr
David Pearce
(recovering from surgery)
Henry Pitts
Anne Porter
Marsha Powe
George Register
Ed Sanderson
Frances Smith
Arthur (Deedle)
Sullivan
Rex Waldrop
Jean Walker
Ted Waterman
Samantha Wilson
Quintilla Wood
Jon Clarke Woodward

(recovering from surgery)
Aubry Wright
Tim & Barbara Young
Marilyn Zeigler
John and Carol Young
(Gwen & Buc Shaw's
friends)

OUR MILITARY

OUR NATION

**Please help us
update the prayer
list by calling the
church Office with
additions or
deletions**

Church Street United Methodist Church
214 Church Street
Selma, AL 36701
Phone: 334-872-1401
Email: csumc@churchstreetumcselma.org
www.churchstreetumcselma.org

Return Service
Requested

**Breakfast
8:30 a.m.
Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Worship Service
10:30 a.m.**

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