



Celebrating 150 Years 1868 - 2018

429 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31401
Telephone: 912-232-0191 Fax: 912-236-4247
Website: www.wesleymonumental.org

December 20, 2020

"T'was the Night Before Christmas"

Few nights generate more excitement and expectation than the "night before Christmas." That is true in homes with children and families, but it is also true in the life of the church. On Christmas Eve, we bring the Advent season of waiting and expectation to a close by lighting the Christ candle and celebrating, once again, that Christ is born. We sing the carols of our faith like Joy to the World, Hark the Herald, O Come All Ye Faithful, Away in a Manger, hear again the story of Christ's birth, and gather at the communion table to remember that this child would "save his people from their sins." While COVID has changed the way we are able to worship, we are still going to gather to remember this holy night.

We will have five Christmas Eve Communion services at 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The 11:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. services are designed primarily for our young families and children. Instead of a sermon, we will read/tell the Christmas story with some visual reminders, have a brief devotion, and share in communion. The other services include special music, a sermon, and communion. All services will feature communion and a candlelight conclusion in Calhoun Square. Please make a reservation for the service you would like to attend. (The 5:30 and 7:00 services are currently full.) If you feel more comfortable viewing from home, the 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. services will be livestreamed.

This is also a night in which we think about the giving of gifts. Once again we are receiving our Christmas missions offering, which will support people who are in need locally because of the pandemic. Below are two ways you can give.

- 1) Check (earmarked "Christmas Mission Offering" on the memo line.
 - Place in offering boxes located in the Sanctuary
 - Bring to the Church Office or mail to Wesley Monumental UMC, 429 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31401
- 2) Online
 - Visit <https://pushpay.com/g/wesleymonumental>Select "Give One Time" then "Christmas Mission Offering" as the fund.

Also, remember that we are coming quickly to the end of our 2020 budget year. December is typically a month that more than doubles our normal giving and is needed to meet our annual budget. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity that enable us to carry out ministry and touch the lives of people in our church, community, and world.

Ben

MORNING WORSHIP
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020
8:45 & 11:00 A.M. Sanctuary
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Opening Voluntary (8:45) arr. Andrew Unsworth
Ding Dong! Merrily on High

Welcome and Announcements Ben Martin

Welcome to worship. Thank you for joining us. Please remember to silence your cell phones and refrain from flash photography during the service. We pray this hour will be a meaningful and grace-filled encounter with God through music, word, and fellowship.

Nursery & Children's Worship: *If needed, the nursery for infants to 3 years old is located on the first floor, and Children's Worship for ages 3 to 3rd Grade is located on the second floor.*

Please register your attendance: *If you are a Wesley member or regular attendee, text @wmumc316 to phone number 81010 to join the Worship Service Attendance thread. If you have already joined, you will receive a text message each Sunday morning reminding you to text the total number of household members worshipping and the service you are attending or if viewing online. If this is your first time using Remind, you may be asked to complete your name, phone number, and select "parent.") If you are visiting, please text your name and total number of attendees to Rev. Ben Martin, 912-547-1835.*

Offering: *To tithe, text wesleymumc to 77977 or place your offering in the offering/tithe box located at the main Sanctuary entrance. Online giving is also available on our website, wesleymonumental.org*

Prayer Requests: *Please email your prayer requests to Rev. Ben Martin, ben@wesleymonumental.org*

Lighting of the Candles (11:00) The Acolytes

Opening Voluntary (11:00) Joy to the World
Julia Grabowski, pianist and Michael Grabowski, pianist

Opening Hymn Traditional English Carol

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Ephesians 5:19 (KJV)

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east,
beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, born is the King of Israel.

(Luke 2:8, Matthew 2:1-2)

Jerome Elder, tenor

* **Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed Nelle Bordeaux

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day He rose from the dead;

He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Gloria Patri

Anna Owens, chorister

Lighting of the Love Candle

Bobby, Megan, Heather, and Millie Haubein (8:45)
Christian, Kristy, Cole, and Caden Valdez (11:00)

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Nelle Bordeaux

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory;
For ever. Amen.

Read the Entire Bible in 2021 (11:00)

How Reading the Bible Helped Carolyn & Danny Carolyn Roth

Anthem

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

CAROL

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
from Heaven's all gracious King!
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

(Luke 2:8-14)

Jerome Elder, tenor

* **Scripture**

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

"A COVID Christmas Part 3:
Dealing with Disappointment"

Ben Martin

Closing Hymn

Traditional English Carol

And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Noel, born is the King of Israel.
Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in His presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Noel, born is the King of Israel.

(Matthew 2:9-11)

Jerome Elder, tenor

Reception Into Church Membership (11:00)

Nancy Barnwell
Mike Pope
Judy and Gary Witbeck

Benediction

Ben Martin

Closing Voluntary

Pyotr Tchaikovsky

Waltz of the Flowers from The Nutcracker Suite

* *Please stand as you are able.*

Following the service, please take your bulletins, masks, and all belongings with you.

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Just Born

Congratulations to Holly and Jay Thaw on the birth of a daughter, Anne Hendley Thaw on November 2, 2020. A rose is by the altar today in honor of Annie.

Congratulations to Ashley and Alex Walker on the birth of a daughter, Hayden Elizabeth Walker, on December 2, 2020. Granddaughter of Tricia Lewis. A rose is by the altar today in honor of Hayden.

Congratulations to Cameron and Frank Schmitz on the birth of twin sons, Dawson James Schmitz and Chandler Scott Schmitz on December 3, 2020. Roses are by the altar today in honor of Dawson and Chandler.

Stewardship Update

Thank you to everyone who has turned in your estimate of giving cards for 2021. So far we have received 113 cards totaling \$827,066 in estimated giving for 2021. That compares to 139 cards totaling \$959,258 in commitments for 2020. You can return the card to the office in person or by mail, or fill it out online on our website.

A Year-End Reminder

All 2020 contributions to the church must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2020 in order to comply with IRS regulations regarding charitable deductions. You can check your Pledge/Giving History online. Visit wesleymonumental.org, if viewing on your desktop, click on "Member Login" in the gold banner at the top. If viewing on your phone, visit wesleymonumental.org, click on "Member Directory" under the main menu. Forgot your ACS password or need help creating an account? Please call or email Jennifer Brookins in the Church Office, 912-232-0191 or jennifer@wesleymonumental.org.

Assisting in Worship Today - 8:45 Service

Children's Worship: Charli Weeks, Haley Herrington

Greeters: Lori Miller

Ushers: Jeff Miller

Partners in Prayer: Britt Griffin

11:00 Service

Acolyte: Andrew Wilkes

Children's Worship: Charli Weeks, Haley Herrington

Greeters: Carolyn and James Cubbedge

Ushers: Brian West, Jeff O'Connor, Jim Pannell

Partners in Prayer: Sue Ellis

Jennifer Thompson, Congregational Life

Save the Date: Merry Makers - Cooking with the Stars!

Monday, January 11, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Cost \$7.00. Our very own celebrity chef, Suzanna King, will be demonstrating her cooking prowess and allow us to TASTE her creations for our Merry Makers program! She will be preparing a meal in front of us while sharing with us her "tricks of the trade." She is also interested in what you would like to know about the culinary world. Would you like to know such things as: how to better cook for 1 or 2 people; how to prepare inexpensive, healthy meals; what substitutions can be made in recipes; or even how to cut an onion? Email Suzanna King or Jennifer Thompson ahead of time with your cooking questions and curiosities! Please know that we will continue our commitment to social distancing, mask wearing, and safe meal service. RSVP to Jennifer Thompson by Friday, January 8 at jennifert@wesleymonumental.org or by texting her at 229-726-7735. Or, you can let Daphne know in the church office. Cost \$7.00

*Please look forward to entry and exit instructions for that day as we will have to "skirt around" the Eli's Place kids per COVID ordinance.

2021 Wednesday Night Bible Studies for Adults

Come join us for a great start to the new year! Wednesday night adult Bible studies will return on January 13 with two classes. The Rev. Ben Martin will offer a class called *Answers to the Big Questions: A study of Genesis 1-3, Job 1-3, Ecclesiastes 1-3, Matthew 5-7*. The Rev. Jennifer Thompson will lead her class through a 12 week study called *The Epic of Eden: Understanding the Old Testament*. Be on the lookout for more information!

Nelle Bordeaux, Outreach and New Members

Family Mission Project - Sack Groceries for Needy Children

Tuesday, December 22 from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Please bring a peanut butter jar or other canned good. Oliver Hall lobby or East Wayne Street, weather permitting. Sign up, Nelle.

Read the Bible Chronologically in 2021

Today's Minute for Mission by Carolyn Roth invites all to read the entire Bible. Sign up with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net or 912-234-9245.

Amen Handymen

Help do minor home repairs in teams for senior adults. Sign up, Nelle.

Young Mothers' Bible Study

Will Meet December 22 and 29 at 9:00 a.m. Both Days

"Angels in the Bible," with 5-minute Bible puppet show at the start for children. Sign up, Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net

Downtown (Well, Actually, Zoom from Anywhere!) Bible Study, Thursdays, Noon

"First and Second Corinthians." Join a lunch time Bible study!

James P. Owens, Director of Student Ministries

Youth (6th-12th Grade)

Confirmation

Our 2020-2021 Confirmation class has begun! The Confirmation class is meeting once a month. Classes cover the basics of the Christian faith and our Methodist heritage, leading up to students making a profession of faith in front of the church. Each month, we're offering a Sunday and a Wednesday option to attend Confirmation class. See James P. Owens for more information.

Youth Sunday School In-person or via Zoom

Join us each Sunday morning for youth Sunday school in person or via Zoom. Email james@wesleymonumental.org for the Zoom details.

No Youth Group Today

All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us for Youth Group Sunday afternoons beginning January 10 from 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. and Youth Choir from 5:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.



A Record of Our Faithfulness

Attendance: (12/13/20)	
8:45 AM Worship	157
10:00 AM Worship	57
11:00 AM Worship	151
Online Worship Views	395
Total Worship	760
Nursery (All 3 Svcs)	X
Children's Worship (All 3 Svcs)	XX
9:45 AM Sunday School	XX

Finances: (12/13/20)

Total Budget for the Year	\$1,983,419.00
Actual Revenues Year-to-Date	\$1,655,944.41
Actual Expenses Year-to-Date	\$1,765,162.10

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Ben Martin.....Senior Pastor	Tom Anderson.....Financial Manager
Rev. Nelle Bordeaux.....Outreach and New Members	Daphne Burrows.....Administrative Assistant, Reception
Rev. Jennifer Thompson.....Congregational Life	Jennifer Brookins.....Administrative Assistant to Pastoral Staff, Media Communications
Dr. Monica Dekle.....Director of Music and Organist	Suzanna King.....Director of Hospitality
Skip Watts.....Music Assistant	Nathaniel Legree.....Custodian
James P. Owens.....Director of Student Ministries	Betty Dudley..... Housekeeper
Charli Weeks.....Director of Children's Ministry	Micah Sprünger..... Wesley Gardens Property Manager
Haley Herrington.....Children's Ministry Assistant	Kenneth Hayes..... Wesley Gardens Groundskeeper/Maintenance
Jimmy Flowers.....Church Administrator	



Follow us on social media @wesleymonumental and use our hashtag #wesleymonumental when sharing your Wesley moments!

To assist with our website, publications and social media; please email your Wesley photos to wesleymonumentalphotos@gmail.com. All photos are appreciated and do not need to be recent, "throwback" pictures encouraged!"

Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church

December 20, 2020

Sermon Extended

Monday	Matthew 1:18, Luke 24:13-21	Has God ever disappointed me?
Tuesday	Matthew 1:19, Matthew 5:43-48	How do Joseph and Jesus understand being "righteous"?
Wednesday	Matthew 1:20	What would Joseph be "afraid" of if he marries Mary?
Thursday	Matthew 1:21-23	What are the different ways Jesus "saves" us?
Friday	Matthew 1:24-25	Have I ever been challenged to choose obedience to God over fear?

Sermon Notes

As a Praying Church...

Lord, on this week of Advent that focuses on love, we ask you to help us be true reflections of your love to others. Let our actions, attitudes, and words please you. Thank you for demonstrating your ultimate love for the world through Jesus.

This Week at Wesley

Sunday, December 20

8:45 AM Worship Service, SNC
9:45 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Confirmation Class
10:00 AM New Member Class, OH 205
11:00 AM Worship Service, SNC
6:00 PM Trombone Choir, SNC

Monday, December 21

Eli's Place Out for Christmas Break
6:00 PM Trombone Choir, SNC

Tuesday, December 22

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study, Zoom
9:00 AM Young Mothers' Bible Study, Zoom
11:00 AM Staff Mtg, OH 310
12:15 PM Staff Christmas Luncheon, FH
1:00 PM Family Mission Project, OH Lobby

Wednesday, December 23

No WNS or Programs

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve

10:00 AM Christmas Eve Service, SNC
11:30 AM Christmas Eve Service, SNC (Child-Friendly)
4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service, SNC (Child-Friendly)
5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service, SNC (5:30 Service is now Full)
7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service, SNC (7:00 Service is now Full)

Friday, December 25

Christmas—Church Office Closed

Pastor on Call This Week

Ben Martin 912-547-1835

Wednesday Night Supper

Our Wednesday Night Suppers and programming have ended for 2020.

We will resume January 13, 2021.

If you have a "permanent" reservation, you will not need to renew for the Winter-Spring session. If you wish to cancel the permanent reservation, please notify the church office, 912-232-0191.

In Our Prayers.....

Jennifer Hodges, The Family of Oscar and Donna Cook, Rodney Powers, Jack Coakley (infant son of Alice Ann and John Coakley and grandson of Anne and Jake Coakley), Jared Holt (son of Rusty Holt), Lucy Driscoll, Wesley Woods, Dean Muenckler, Barbara Burnett, Ken McDuffee (son of Annelle McDuffee), Joe Cain, Joel Williams, Carol Ebel, Dallas Hunter, George Durden (brother-in-law of Gary Kornegay), Will Hamilton, Ceil Waters, Bill Gardner, Richard Wallace (son of Susan and Dick Wallace), Dave Fleiner (father of Derek Fleiner), Virginia Davis, Kim Rahn, Bob Harman, Beth Aldrich, Liane Willard, Craig Hanson, Theresa Fields, Grace Bockes, Ella Ealy (granddaughter of Carolyn Roth), Carla Thomas, The Family of Meaghan Wylie, Ellen Atkins, Stephen Oden (nephew of Cameron Schmitz), Rosemary Beasley, Claire Hayes, Vera Mobley (mother of Christina Varnedoe), Bryan Bost, Katie Bennett (cousin of Meb Ryan), Ryan Davis, Andrew Brown (great nephew of Gaye Reese), Debby Warner, Norma Day (mother of Dorie Gaskin), Louise Page, Bob Franz, David Burke, Adam Corey, Jan Nyborg, Bourke Cannon, Diane Wells, Rev. Matt Hearn, Patsy Robinson, Rita Gietzen (sister of Joyce Cole), Kathy Delaigle, Earl Goodwin (brother of Beth Adrich), Alison White (niece of Linda Sapp), George Vail, Rev. John Martin, Sr., Spencer Davis, Caroline Moore, Martha and Erv Sloan, Fenton McEvoy (son of Kate and Brian and grandson of Ron and Judy Freeman), Jim Gietzen, Randy Warner, Janice Dukeman (daughter of Erv Sloan), Chuck Brown (brother of Gail Rountree), Grace Crosby Utomo (friend of Jean Remley), Sammy Reesman, Vivian Wilson, Richard Bartels, Mandy Hawkins and Family, Cheryl Richardson and Family

At Home/Extended Care

Peggy Murphy, Roz Evans, Harriet Bland, Ann Lott, Bill Taylor, Ann Ernst, Bella Grace Bartels, Georgia Dickerson, Lois Wooten, Michael Mamalakis

Military Serving Abroad/Stateside

Jason Childers, Austin New, Jerred Pyles, Matt and Melinda Allen, Yates Holleman, Daniel Ealy, Dan Barton, Joshua Laws, Shea Murray, Charles Smock, Chris Watson, Clint Guild

In Sympathy....

Rusty Holt
on the death of his father,
Hoyt Holt

Alison Clay
on the death of her father,
Dan Talbot