



Celebrating 153 Years 1868 - 2021

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December 12, 2021

A SEASON OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."
John 1:5*

It is appropriate that Christmas comes during the darkest days of the year. John described Jesus as the "light of the world" that came into the darkness and the darkness could not overcome his light. Surely one of the most enjoyable things about this season are the Christmas lights on homes, trees, in parks, and along the streets. There is something about those lights that lift your spirits when headed home tired in the darkness at the end of a busy day. They are a constant reminder of the presence of Christ in dark times.

While these are festive days, the festivities themselves can serve as a painful reminder for many of the darkness of grief, loneliness, and heartache that life sometimes brings. The Bible not only describes Jesus as the "light of the world," but Jesus also called his followers "the light of the world." While this is a season of giving, it may be that the best gift we can give is the light of our presence and love given through a gift of time spent with someone who may be lonely, grieving, or hurting. It can be so easy to get caught up in the rush and busyness of this season that we forget those all around us who are in the "darkness." Why not reach out to someone and offer to bring them to one of our Christmas Eve services or just go by and visit a shut-in or nursing home.

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| December 12 | Third Sunday of Advent
8:45 a.m. - Rev. James P. Owens preaching |
| December 12 | Third Sunday of Advent
11:00 a.m. - A Festival of Lessons and Carols |
| December 12 | 5:00 p.m. - Joyful Noise Choir Christmas
Celebration and Dinner |
| December 15 | 6:00 p.m. - Children's Choir Nativity Pageant |
| December 19 | Fourth Sunday of Advent
Rethink Christmas Part 3 - Rethinking our Plans |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Communion Services
Rethink Christmas Part 4 - Rethinking Our God
10:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. (child-focused), 5:30 p.m.,
7:00 p.m. with Choir |
| December 26 | The First Sunday of Christmas
8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Nelle Bordeaux preaching |

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer Ben Martin

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.

* **Hymn No. 230** O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

Offertory Prayer Ben Martin

Offertory Voluntary Masters in this Hall arr. Mark Hayes

Presentation of Tithes and Offering

During the 11:00 a.m. service, please remove the attendance sheets from the book and give to the acolytes as a symbolic offering of our presence in worship.

* **Hymn of Response** DIX

As they offered gifts most rare; At that manger rude and bare;
So may we, with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ! to Thee our heavenly King.

* **Scripture** (Pew Bible, pg. 2) Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon James P. Owens
"Re-Think Christmas, Part Two and a Half: Re-Think the Gifts"

* **Hymn No. 240** Hark! the Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

Benediction James P. Owens

Closing Voluntary arr. Bill Wolaver
Angels We Have Heard on High

* *Please stand as you are able.
Following the service, please take your bulletins, masks, and all belongings with you.
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Altar Flowers

The flowers by the altar today are given to the glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. John C. Watts, Jr.

The flowers in the Narthex today are given to the glory of God and in honor of the wedding of Joshua Gardner and Katherine Thompson Gardner, who were married on December 11, 2021. The couple would also like to devote these flowers to their beloved grandparents: Saralyn and Charles Overstreet, Nancy and Bobby Gardner, Frances and James Weekley, and Docia and John Thompson.

Usher Roses

The roses worn by the ushers today are given in loving memory of Bob Farrow by his children and grandchildren.

Christmas Missions Offering

If you would like to contribute to the Christmas Missions Offering, please place your donation in the marked boxes located in the Sanctuary.

Messenger Brigade

The Messenger Brigade will meet this Thursday, December 16 at 10:00 a.m. in Oliver Hall.

Joy Circle 2021 Note Card Sale Event

Today, during the coffee hour between Services, the Joy Circle will be selling beautiful, blank note cards in the Fellowship Hall. A variety of designs will be available including the new 2021 Christmas note card! All-occasion and Easter note cards along with two Christmas designs will be available. All proceeds support the many Joy Circle projects that support local needs.

Poinsettias - Orders Due Today!

Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary and may be taken home following the last Christmas Eve service. Please place your orders for plants in memory or in honor of loved ones by today, Sunday, December 12. Checks should be made payable to Wesley Monumental in the amount of \$15 per plant, marked "Altar Guild Poinsettias," or visit <https://pushpay.com/g/wesleymonumental> to pay online. Select "Give one time" and "Christmas Greenery & Poinsettias" as the fund. Once paid, email the poinsettia order form to daphne@wesleymonumental.org or deliver to the church office. Order forms may be found at all church entrances and on our website.

December Administrative Board Meeting

The Administrative Board will meet tomorrow, Monday, December 13 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. The main topic of the meeting will be to approve the 2022 budget. If you are a Board member and did not receive the Zoom link and agenda emailed to the Board on Friday, December 10, please email jennifer@wesleymonumental.org.

Stewardship Update

Thank you to everyone who has turned in your estimate of giving cards for 2022. So far we have received 114 cards totaling \$964,192 in estimated giving for 2022. That compares to 156 cards totaling \$1,136,404 in commitments for 2021. 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 2021 contributions to the church must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2021 in order to comply with IRS regulations regarding charitable deductions.

Grief Share

We are offering another 13-week session of Grief Share. If you, or someone you know, would like to participate in this beneficial ministry, please contact Jennifer Thompson at jennifert@wesleymonumental.org or go directly to the Grief Share website www.griefshare.org, enter your zip code, and register for the class that is hosted by Wesley. The only cost is the workbook which can be ordered at registration and mailed directly to your home. We will begin the group meetings on Monday night, January 10, through Monday night, April 4. Anyone can join us. You do not have to be a church member and, because we are hosting this first group via Zoom, you don't even have to live in Savannah or in the same time zone. If you have experienced grief in any way, prayerfully consider participating in Grief Share.

Assisting in Worship Today - 8:45 Service

Children's Worship: Charli Weeks & Haley Herrington

Greeter: Lori Miller

Ushers: Jeff Miller

Partners in Prayer: Ellie Tardif

11:00 Service

Acolyte: Charlie Kraeuter, Lincoln Kraeuter

Children's Worship: Charli Weeks & Haley Herrington

Greeters: Barbara & Johnny Phelps

Offering Steward: Jason Pedigo

Ushers: Jason Pedigo, Bob Cole, Sam Daniel, Peter Delters, Greg Dotson,

Mark Wilcox, Tim Edwards, David Gaskin, Mark Glidewell

Partners in Prayer: Mickey Rountree

Monica Dekle, Director of Music and Organist
May Concert with 42-piece Orchestra, Choir, and Organ

Saturday, May 14, 2022. 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace) – Ralph Vaughan Williams

Starring the Wesley Choir, soprano Alysa Smith, and internationally renowned baritone Nicholas Davis.

Tickets are \$35 and proceeds go to Wesley member and Purple Heart veteran Ryan Davis and his wife and son, Asia and Knox.



Tickets may be purchased by one of the following:

- Visiting [MonumentalMusic.eventbrite.com](https://www.monumentalmusic.eventbrite.com)
- Scanning the QR code
- From any choir member or the church office

Nelle Bordeaux, Outreach and New Members

Wesley Community Center Groceries

Most needed this week are sacks of dry beans or rice.

Urban Hope Christmas Supper

Tomorrow, Monday, December 13, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Please speak to Nelle if you want to help serve, tbordeaux@prodigy.net. We'll serve 75 Urban Hope children and families at Independent Presbyterian Church, Bull at Oglethorpe (please enter Fellowship Hall from the lane).

Y'All Haul

Newly arriving Afghan refugee family needs a sofa, dining room table and chairs, and dressers. Also needed are trucks and strong lifters. Flexible schedule. Please tell Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net. Please pray for this family with five children.

Urban Hope Christmas Presents

If you signed up to bring presents for a specific Urban Hope child, please bring the packages to Nelle's study or the Oliver Hall lobby today. Urban Hope just now is allowing us to meet our present recipient/Prayer Partner children, so if you want to meet your child one afternoon this week 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., please speak with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net

Charli Weeks, Director of Children's Ministry

Sunday School and Children's Worship Christmas Activities!

- ◆ Christingle Sunday! Today, Sunday, December 12 - Join us in Children's Worship (at 8:45 and 11:00) as we make and learn about Christingles!
- ◆ Jesse Tree Ornaments - Jesse Trees are a very old Christmas tradition and first started in medieval times. The ornaments on a Jesse Tree tell the story of Jesus' family tree and connect the Old Testament and the New Testament. We will be making ornaments to decorate our Jesse Tree during Sunday School today, Sunday, December 12 and next Sunday, December 19. Sunday school starts at 9:45 a.m. We will place the Jesse Tree with all of our new ornaments in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Presentations

The Joyful Noise choir children will present their Christmas Celebration Program, this evening, Sunday, December 12 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

This year's Nativity Pageant will be presented in the sanctuary following Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, December 15 at 6:15 p.m. If you plan to eat dinner in the Fellowship Hall (and you are not on the permanent reservation list), please make your reservation by emailing daphne@wesleymonumental.org by 5:00 p.m. tomorrow, Monday, December 13.

James P. Owens, Director of Student Ministries

Youth (Grades 6th-12th)

Youth Christmas Party, Today, Sunday, December 12

Join us for the annual Youth Christmas Party from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Wesley Gardens Retreat. We will carry on all of our favorite traditions such as the white elephant gift exchange and the "ugly" Christmas sweater competition. All 6th-12th graders are invited!

Jennifer Thompson, Congregational Life

Tomorrow, Monday, December 13

Encore! Back by popular demand, Wesley's own choir members will regale us once again with their very own Christmas program! Meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary (please use the front steps or the Gordon Street entrance for the elevator). A festive lunch prepared by Suzanna will follow in the Parlor on the second floor of Oliver Hall. Lunch is \$7. Let Jennifer Thompson know today if you plan to attend.



A Record of Our Faithfulness

Sunday Attendance: (12/5/21)

8:45 AM Worship	87
11:00 AM Worship	368
Online Worship Views	134
Total Worship	589
Nursery	16
Children's Worship	37
Sunday School	18

Finances: (12/05/21)

Total Budget for the Year	\$1,983,419.00
Actual Revenues Year-to-Date.....	\$1,690,097.26
Actual Expenses Year-to-Date	\$1,763,222.98

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
Rev. 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 12, 2021**

Sermon Extended

Monday	Luke 18:9-14	Jesus declares that the tax collector was unexpectedly justified. Why?
Tuesday	Luke 12:13-21	What does it mean to be rich towards God?
Wednesday	Matthew 25:31-46	Where is Jesus to be found? Is this where we usually look for him?
Thursday	Psalm 34:1-7	How has God delivered you from fear, affliction, or trouble?
Friday	Psalm 34:8-22,	How has God been close to you when you have been brokenhearted, hurting, or in pain?

Sermon Notes

As a Praying Church...

We thank you, Lord, as we are filled with joy this Advent because of the hope and peace you give us in Christ Jesus. Help us to share this joy with others. In Jesus' name, amen.

Daily Chronological Bible Readings for 2021

Please sign up with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net, to read the entire Bible; all are welcome.

Sunday, December 12	Philemon; Colossians
Monday, December 13	Ephesians 1-4
Tuesday, December 14	Ephesians 5-6; Titus
Wednesday, December 15	1 Timothy
Thursday, December 16	Catch-Up Day
Friday, December 17	1 Peter
Saturday, December 18	Hebrews 1-4
Sunday, December 19	Hebrews 5-8

This Week at Wesley

Sunday, December 12

- 8:45 AM Worship Service, SNC
- 9:30 AM Coffee, FH
- 9:45 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Lessons & Carols, SNC
- 5:00 PM Joyful Noise Christmas Celebration & Dinner, SNC/FH
- 5:00 PM Youth Christmas Party, WG

Monday, December 13

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place
- 11:00 AM Merry Makers Event, SNC, w/Lunch in OH
- 5:30 PM Urban Hope Christmas Supper, Independent Presbyterian Church
- 5:30 PM Administrative Board Mtg, Zoom

Tuesday, December 14

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study, Holland Hse
- 9:00 AM Eli's Place
- 9:00 AM Young Mothers' Bible Study, Zoom
- 11:00 AM Staff Mtg, OH 310
- 1:00 PM Eli's Place Teacher's Christmas Luncheon, FH

Wednesday, December 15

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place
- 11:00 AM Bible Study w/Ben, OH 310
- 4:45 PM Call to Prayer, OH Parlor
- 5:30 PM Dinner, FH
- 6:15 PM Nativity Pageant, SNC
- 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, EB 4th Flr

Thursday, December 16

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place
- 10:00 AM Messenger Brigade, OH
- 12:00 PM Downtown Bible Study, Zoom

Friday, December 17

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place
- 2:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal, SNC

Saturday, December 18

- 6:30 PM Wedding, SNC

Pastor on Call This Week

Ben Martin912-547-1835

In Our Prayers....

Ray Harrell (brother of Becky Pullin), Walter Thomas (brother of Mark Thomas), Dean Muenckler, Rev. Grover Bell, Joel Williams, Bob Franz, Michelle O'Neill Gergacs, Jan and Bob Harman, Mel Hubbard, Shirley Turner, Darin Aldinger, Sandrae McCorkle, Raine Rude, Grant Kassinger (nephew of Peggy Jolley), Sally Polk (sister of Peggy Jolley), Mary Odom, Anita Pringle, Danielle Robertson (grand-daughter of Ceil Waters), Paul White (father of Kim Pannell), Jenny Lynn Bradley, Richard Wilson, Pat Macomber, Eleanor Shurr, Ouida Smith (mother of Edward Smith), Fritz Scarborough (brother of Camille O'Neill), Bert Bell, David Heery, Palmer Hood (brother of Ge-Juan Wilkes), Joe Gold, Mark Lanier (son of Ellison Lanier), Louis Burnsed (brother of Marilyn Hitt), Frances Hughes (friend of Marilyn Holleman), Matthew Yost, Diane Coleman (friend of Carmine Cowart), Shirley Roberts, Carla Corn (mother of Sarah Shelby), Doug Stutzman, Sara Francis Thrasher (grandmother of Reanna Hamilton), Alyssa Jones (granddaughter of Rusty Holt), Jerry Comunale (brother-in-law of Cynthia Willett), Jennifer Hodges, Barbara Burnett, Joe Cain, Kim Rahn, Ella Ealy (granddaughter of Carolyn Roth), Claire Hayes, Ryan Davis, Andrew Brown (great nephew of Gaye Reese), Debby Warner, Adam Corey, Rita Gietzen (sister of Joyce Cole), Earl Goodwin (brother of Beth Adrich), Alison White (niece of Linda Sapp), Martha and Erv Sloan, Fenton McEvoy, Randy Warner, Janice Dukeman (daughter of Erv Sloan), Grace Crosby Utomo (friend of Jean Remley)

At Home/Extended Care

Marilyn Holleman, Olin Bockes, Nancy Birkheimer, Lee Butler, Edith Roszkowiak, Cecil Abarr, Ruth and Elton Stuenckel, Bella Grace Bartels, Harriet Bland, Grace Bockes, Virginia Davis, Roz Evans, Ann Lott, Ellie Tardif, Lois Wooten

Military Serving Abroad/Stateside

Doug Snelling, Derek Mills, Jason Childers, Daniel Ealy, Clint Guild, Yates Holleman, Joshua Laws, Austin New, Jerred Pyles, Chris Watson

In Sympathy....

The Smith and Spofford Families
on the death of *Tenella Smith*,
mother of Jo Ann Spofford

**Wednesday Night Supper:
12/15/21**

Menu: Baked Ziti, Broccoli

***If you plan to eat dinner (and you are not on the permanent reservation list), please make your reservation by emailing or calling Daphne in the church office by 5:00 p.m. tomorrow, Monday, December 13. Call 912-232-0191 or email, daphne@wesleymonumental.org