



## **Celebrating 154 Years 1868 - 2022**

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December 11, 2022

### **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 lifts your spirits when you are headed home, tired in the darkness, at the end of a busy day. The lights 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.

#### **Sunday, December 11 - The Third Sunday of Advent**

8:45 a.m. Rev. Nelle Bordeaux preaching  
11:00 a.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols  
5:00 p.m. Joyful Noise Choir Christmas Celebration & Dinner

#### **Wednesday, December 14**

6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Nativity Pageant

#### **Sunday, December 18 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:45 & 11:00 Services - "My Story, Our Story, The Story"

#### **Saturday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Communion Services - "To You a Child is Born"  
10:30 a.m. Communion Service  
3:30 p.m. Child-Oriented Service with Communion  
(enjoyed by all ages)  
5:30 p.m. 5:30-6:00 Carols by Candlelight followed by  
Communion Service at 6:00 p.m.

#### **Sunday, December 25**

11:00 a.m. Christmas Morning Worship  
(no 8:45 Service or Sunday School)  
Rev. Ben Martin preaching



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

**Offertory Prayer** Ben Martin

**Offertory Voluntary** Away in a Manger arr. Bill Wolaver

### **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.*

*To tithe, text wesleymumc to 77977 or place your offering in the offering plate. Online giving is also available on our website.*

\* **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. 57-58) Luke 1:57-66; 76-80

**Sermon** "Christmas--the Prequel" Nelle Bordeaux

\* **Hymn No. 234** O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELIS  
Stanzas 1-3, 6

**Benediction** Nelle Bordeaux

**Closing Voluntary** Variations on Adeste Fidelis Marcel Dupré

\* *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 and in loving memory of Sally M'Liss Williams, who in her walk of faith forever inspired all who knew her.

### **Usher Roses**

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

### **Stock Question**

On November 22, 2022, Wesley received 6 shares of United Health Group, Inc. stock at Charles Schwab. If anyone donated these shares of stock to Wesley, please notify Tom Anderson or Jennifer Brookins in the church office.

### **A Year-End Reminder**

All 2022 contributions to the church must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2022 in order to comply with IRS regulations regarding charitable deductions.

**Poinsettia Orders - Last Chance to Order - Deadline is Today!**

Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on Friday, December 16 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 11. Order forms may be found at all sanctuary entrances or you can order and pay online by visiting [bit.ly/WMPoinsettias](https://bit.ly/WMPoinsettias)

**December Administrative Board Meeting**

The Administrative Board will meet tomorrow, Monday, December 12 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. The main topic of the meeting will be to approve the 2023 budget. If you are a Board member and did not receive the Zoom link and agenda emailed to the Board on Friday, December 9, please email [jennifer@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:jennifer@wesleymonumental.org).

**Messenger Brigade**

The Messenger Brigade will meet this Thursday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m. in Oliver Hall.

**Family Bingo Night - Save the Date!**

Join us Friday, January 20 for our 2nd annual Family Bingo Night presented by the Susanna Wesley Circle. There will be dinner, desserts, lots of family fun, and a variety of prizes with all proceeds benefitting charities within our community. Additional details including prices and ways to sign up will be available in upcoming bulletins.

Also, if you would like to donate a prize, or maybe a gift card you received for Christmas that you may not have use for, please email [swcirclewm@gmail.com](mailto:swcirclewm@gmail.com)

**New Year, New Wednesday Night Enneagram Study**

The current Wednesday Night Enneagram study, led by James P. Owens, will continue to meet when Wednesday Night Suppers resume in January. The class will be reading "The Path Between Us" by Suzanne Stabile with the topic, "Enneagram and Healthy Relationships." If you are interested in the topic, James and the class would love for you to join them, even if you did not attend the fall class or have much knowledge about the Enneagram.

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**Assisting in Worship Today - 8:45 Service**

**Children's Worship:** Charli Weeks

**Greeters:** Lori Miller

**Offering Steward:** Jeff Miller

**Ushers:** TBD

**Partners in Prayer:** Henry Whitfield

**11:00 Service**

**Acolytes:** Charlie Kraeuter, Lincoln Kraeuter

**Greeters:** Michael Donovan, TBD

**Children's Worship:** Michaela Anderson, Courtney Davidson, Sarah Labrot, Lindsey Wiggins

**Nursery:** Amanda Prather

**Sunday School:** Courtney Davidson, Katie Knight

**Offering Steward:** Jason Pedigo

**Ushers:** Jason Pedigo, Richard Moore, Bobo Mullens, Jeff O'Connor, Aaron Pederson, Bart Rhodes, Peter Delves, Jacob Sigmon

**Partners in Prayer:** Sandra McGowen

### **Monica Dekle, Director of Music and Organist**

#### **Caroling with the Choir**

Join the Youth and Chancel Choirs caroling and giving communion to shut-ins on Sunday, 12/18 after church. To sign up, email [monica@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:monica@wesleymonumental.org). Lunch provided. All welcome.

### **Nelle Bordeaux, Outreach and New Members**

#### **"A Monumental Christmas" The Marketplace for Gifts in Service to Others**

Wesley is offering a creative way to give back this Christmas season. Through a print (see forms located at sanctuary entrances) and online catalog ([amonumentalchristmas.com](http://amonumentalchristmas.com)), you will have an opportunity to give alternative gifts to family and friends. An "alternative gift" is a donation you make to one of eleven Mission Partners with whom Wesley partners. You purchase an alternative gift in honor of someone for whom you would buy a gift. The church directs your donation to the Mission Partner that sponsors the gift you've chosen. Then we supply a card and description of your special gift for you to give to the recipient. These alternative gifts emphasize the love, peace, and grace that are at the center of the Christmas message. The deadline to purchase a gift is Sunday, December 18. Cards and gift boxes may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall and Narthex on Sundays, December 11 and 18.

#### **Urban Hope Christmas Supper Tomorrow for 75 Guests**

Please meet at 5:30 at Independent Presbyterian Church (please enter Fellowship Hall from lane). Sign up with Nelle to cook at home and bring dish (cut fruit, ham, sweet potatoes, punch, etc.), [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net).

#### **Skip the Gym and Bring Your Chain Saw to Do Yard Work for Widow**

Huge azalea bushes that are tree-sized need to be pruned; please sign up with Nelle, [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net). Monday, December 19 at 1:00 p.m. Trucks and chain saws are needed. Please bring a rake and pruning shears.

#### **Packing Party!**

Wednesday, December 21 from 11:00 a.m. to noon. Come help sack groceries for Old Savannah City Mission in the Oliver Hall lobby. Please bring a canned good or box of cereal. All ages are welcome! Sign up, Nelle, [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net).

#### **Mission trip to Santa Elena, Honduras - February 10-17, 2023**

Serving with Mission on the Move and Camino Ministries, Sharlene and Pat Monahan will be leading this return trip to Santa Elena, Honduras. With Mission on the Move, we will be working with their new community center, which Wesley helped fund, that is serving disabled children of the community. We will also be working with Camino Ministries who are building \$1500 homes for low income Hondurans. This work is led by a United Methodist pastor who is also planting new churches in the area. Our week will involve serving and encouraging children, maintenance work at their school, constructing low cost family housing and sharing in Christian fellowship, worship and study. All skill levels are needed - a servant's heart is most important. We will be staying at a lovely lakeside inn utilized by MOM, with private rooms that are safe, secure, comfortable and very sanitary. We have a team of seven signed up so far. No Spanish required - Sharlene, along with Sheila and Skip Watts will serve as our translators. If you would like to join the team, we will be buying our plane tickets through Delta soon. The cost for tickets is around \$700. If you have questions and are interested in joining the team, please call our missions chair, Scott Cleaveland at 912-598-8278 or email at [msctclv@gmail.com](mailto:msctclv@gmail.com). This can be a life-changing experience.

**James P. Owens, Director of Student Ministries**

**Youth Group Christmas Party Tonight!**

Sunday, December 11 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Wesley Gardens Retreat. All 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join us for dinner, fun games, and the infamous White Elephant gift exchange. There will also be prizes for the best "Ugly Christmas Sweater" or outfit.

**Ski Trip, February 2-5**

We're going to have an awesome ski trip in 2023! All 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join us from February 2-5 for our ski retreat to Winterplace, WV. The cost is \$350 which includes lodging, transportation, meals, and ski rentals and lift tickets for two days of skiing. To sign your students up, please contact James P. Owens (james@wesleymonumental.org).

**Jennifer Thompson, Congregational Life**

**Christmas Favorites with Claire Frazier and Bobby Hanson**

Tomorrow, Monday, December 12 at 11:00 a.m., our own Claire Frazier and her friend, professional harmonica player, Bobby Hanson (along as an accompanist on the piano) will entertain us with a selection of Christmas Favorites in the sanctuary. A festive lunch prepared by Suzanna will follow at noon in the Fellowship Hall. To RSVP, please email Jennifer Baker by 5 p.m. today, Sunday, December 11, bakerj@wesleymonumental.org.

**Charli Weeks, Director of Children's Ministry**

**Christmas Presentations**

The Joyful Noise Choir children will present their Christmas Celebration Program, tonight, Sunday, December 11 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The children's Nativity Pageant will be presented in the sanctuary following Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, December 14 at 6:15 p.m. Please note, if you are not on the permanent reservation list, or you plan to bring additional guests to dinner this Wednesday, please email Jennifer Baker in the church office, bakerj@wesleymonumental.org or call 912-232-0191.



**A Record of Our Faithfulness**

Sunday Attendance: (12/04/22)

8:45 AM Worship	84
11:00 AM Worship	383
Online Worship Views	118
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>585</b>
Nursery	XX
Children's Worship	XX
Sunday School	148

**Finances: (12/04/22)**

Total Budget for the Year .....	\$2,022,708.12
Actual Revenues Year-to-Date .....	\$1,789,745.65
Actual Expenses Year-to-Date .....	\$1,898,333.92

**CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Ben Martin.....Senior Pastor	Jennifer Baker.....Administrative Assistant, Reception
Rev. Nelle Bordeaux.....Outreach and New Members	Jennifer Brookins.....Administrative Assistant to Pastoral Staff, Media Communications
Rev. Jennifer Thompson.....Congregational Life	Ashley Higgins.....Communications Director
Dr. Monica Dekle.....Director of Music and Organist	Suzanna King.....Director of Hospitality
Julia Flowers.....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
Jimmy Flowers.....Church Administrator	Kenneth Hayes.....Wesley Gardens
Tom Anderson.....Financial Manager	

**Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church  
December 11, 2022**

**Sermon Extended**

Monday	Micah 6:6-8	What does God really want?
Tuesday	Luke 1:57, 58	How has He shown mercy to me?
Wednesday	Luke 1:76, 77	What do I need to do to get ready for Him?
Thursday	Luke 1:78, 79	How can I give His light to someone in darkness?
Friday	Romans 12:9-13	Am I truly joyful about His coming?

**Sermon Notes**

**As a Praying Church...**

We ask You, Lord, to be with our children as they present the Christmas message to our church. Open our hearts, and let each child who participates feel the depth of Your presence as they share Your story with us.

**This Week at Wesley**

**Sunday, December 11**

- 8:45 AM Worship Service, SNC
- 9:30 AM Coffee, FH
- 9:45 AM Sunday School, EB & OH
- 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 12**

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place
- 9:30 AM Eli's Place Chapel, SNC
- 11:00 AM Merry Makers Dec. Event, SNC
- 5:00 PM Nativity Pageant Dress Rehearsal, SNC
- 5:30 PM Urban Hope Christmas Dinner, Independent Presbyterian
- 5:30 PM Administrative Board Mtg, Zoom
- 6:00 PM Trombone Choir Rehearsal, SNC

**Tuesday, December 13**

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study, Holland Hse
- 9:00 AM Eli's Place
- 9:00 AM Young Mothers' Bible Study, OH 310
- 9:00 AM Bible Buddies, OH 308
- 9:30 AM Staff Mtg, OH 205

**Wednesday, December 14**

- 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 15**

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

**Friday, December 16**

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place
- 5:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal

**Saturday, December 17**

- 2:00 PM Jane Shirah Christmas Lunch, OH Parlor
- 7:00 PM Wedding

**Pastor on Call This Week**

Ben Martin .....912-547-1835

**Wednesday Night Supper  
& Nativity Pageant  
December 14**

To cancel or make a reservation, please email or call Jennifer Baker in the Church Office, 912-232-0191 or bakerj@wesleymonumental.org.

Menu: Baked Ziti

**In Our Prayers....**

Chad Gamble (brother of Kim Watson), Byron Boyd, John Burton, Oscar Cook, Gloria Eitel, Doris Rothenberger (mother of Susan Colgrove), Michele Bazemore, June Stevenson and Lynn Stratton, (mother and sister of Toni Olds), Jennifer Thompson, Suzette Parker, Edna Cooper (mother of Joellen Cooper-Pyles), Emily Perry (granddaughter of Joyce and Richard Zehl), Tim Mooney, Grace Bockes, Mark Thomas, Dale and Becki Fisher (cousins of Holly Conger), Bo Watts, Jan Pullin, Valery Hanks, Cindy Telljohann, Walter Sumner (brother of Rosanne Montjoy and uncle of Michael Montjoy), Sheila Kraeuter (mother of Scot Kraeuter), Shari and Mel Hubbard, Dewayne Barfield (brother of Shirley Turner), Jimmy Stephens (brother of Kathi Hodges), Camille Herring (sister of Wade Herring), Harriett Gattis (mother of Clayton Gattis), Rebecca Lewis, Marilyn Holleman, Pat Beasley, Matthew McClain, Paul and Connie Kurtz (parents of Dan Kurtz), Jane Bostwick (mother of Meb Ryan), Walter Thomas (brother of Mark Thomas), Bob Harman, Darin Aldinger, Sandrae McCorkle, Grant Kassinger (nephew of Peggy Jolley), Sally Polk (sister of Peggy Jolley), Anita Pringle, Danielle Robertson (granddaughter of Ceil Waters), David Heery, Palmer Hood (brother of Ge-Juan Wilkes), Louis Burnsed (brother of Marilyn Hitt), Diane Coleman (friend of Carmine Cowart), Carla Corn (mother of Sarah Shelby), Doug Stutzman, Alyssa Jones (granddaughter of Rusty Holt), Jerry Comunale (brother-in-law of Cynthia Willett), Jennifer Hodges, Ella Ealy (granddaughter of Carolyn Roth), Ryan Davis, Janice Dukeman (daughter of Erv Sloan), Martha Sloan, Fenton McEvoy

**At Home/Extended Care**

Olin Bockes, Lee Butler, Bella Grace Bartels, Edith Roszkowiak, Ruth & Elton Stuenckel, Harriet Bland, Roz Evans, Lois Wooten

**Military Serving Abroad/Stateside**

Daniel Ealy, Michael Sailors, Dajuan Monley, Jason Childers, Clint Guild, Yates Holleman, Chris Watson

*In Sympathy...*

Family of  
*Gloria Parker,*  
mother of Suzette Parker

Family of  
*Susan "Van" Robbins,*  
sister of Cheryl Allen

Family of  
*Sheila Smith,*  
mother of  
Haley Herrington