



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

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December 18, 2022

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT WESLEY**

The title to the popular carol says it best, "O Holy Night." Apart from the Easter Sunday morning celebration, no other time of worship is as powerful and as popular as Christmas Eve. It is truly a holy night/day. Holy means to be set apart from the normal. We arrive to a beautifully adorned sanctuary, we sing the music that carries so much meaning and memory, we read the story of his birth, gather at the table remembering that God so loved the world He gave His only Son, and we end in glow of candlelight. All of it adds to the sacred solemnity of this day. Worship on Christmas Eve is also an important time to retain or regain perspective on what this day means when we are immersed in a world of commercialism. This is also one of the occasional years when Christmas Day is on a Sunday, so we will have the opportunity to lift our voices on Christmas morning singing "*Joy to the world the Lord is come, let earth receive her King.*" We hope you will set aside time for worship with us this Saturday and/or Sunday. The following will be our schedule for the days of Christmas:

**Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Communion Services**

- 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship and Communion with special music
  - 3:30 p.m. Child-Oriented Communion Service enjoyed by all ages
  - 5:30 p.m. A Service of Music, Word, and Table
- We return this year to our traditional Christmas Eve Service with the choir leading 30 minutes of music (Carols by Candlelight) from 5:30-6:00 p.m. and then the Communion Service beginning at 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 25**

- 11:00 a.m. Christmas Morning Worship
- No 8:45 Worship Service or Sunday School

A nursery will be available for all services.

**REMEMBER THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 26.**

*Ben*

## MORNING WORSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022

8:45 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

### 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. If needed, hearing devices and large print hymnals are available in the Narthex.*

**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.*

### Chiming of the Hour (11:00)

Cole Green

### Lighting of the Candles (11:00)

The Acolytes

### Opening Voluntary

Gloria Declamation

Michael Bedford

### Introit (11:00)

Fanfare

Martin Shaw

### Lighting of the Love Candle

Ken and Carolyn Griner (8:45)

Clayton, Donessa, Laurel, and Monroe Gattis (11:00)

### Congregational Response

"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

\* **Hymn No. 238** Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA

\* **Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed Jennifer Thompson

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** GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

### Baptismal Covenant (11:00)

Lily Costa Rogers

daughter of Savannah and Scott Rogers

### Congregational Response:

With love and thanksgiving we welcome Lily Costa as a member of God's family and Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church. By God's grace we will do all in our power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love that she may grow into a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ who walks in the way that leads to life.

## Children's Sermon

Charli Weeks

8:45 Children ages 3 - 3rd grade line up at the door on the right side of the sanctuary to go to Children's Worship on the second floor. Following the service, they can be picked up on the second floor.

11:00 Children ages 3 - 3rd grade leave through the doors at the front of the sanctuary and go to Children's Worship on the second floor. Following the service, they can be picked up from the Fellowship Hall.

## Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Jennifer Thompson

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. 219**                      What Child Is This                      GREENSLEEVES

## Offertory Prayer

Jennifer Thompson

## Offertory Voluntary (8:45)

arr. Mark Hayes

Sing We Now of Christmas

## Offertory Anthem (11:00)

arr. H. Walford Davies

The Holly and the Ivy

The holly and the ivy, When they are both full grown;

Of all trees that are in the wood, The holly bears the crown.

Refrain:

O, the rising of the sun And the running of the deer,

The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom As white as lily flow'r,

And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ To be our dear Saviour.

The holly bears a berry, As red as any blood,

And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ To do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a prickle, As sharp as any thorn,

And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ On Christmas Day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark As bitt'r as any gall;

And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ For to redeem us all.

## 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. 1, 34, 56, 91)

Matthew 1:1, Mark 1:1, Luke 1:1-4, John 1:1-5

## Sermon

"My Story, Our Story, The Story"

Ben Martin

\* **Hymn No. 218**

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

## Benediction

Ben Martin

## Closing Response (11:00)

AWAY IN A MANGER

Be Near Me, Lord Jesus

## Closing Voluntary

Felix Mendelssohn

Toccata on Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

\* *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 honor of the marriage of Mackenzie Shelton and John Kingston, Jr.

### **Just Born**

Congratulations to Lydia and Ashton Owens on the birth of a son, Anderson Basil Owens, on November 29, 2022. Grandson of Jennifer and David Thompson. A rose is by the altar today in honor of Anderson.

Congratulations to Karen Nickles on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Sophie Claire Nobles, on December 1, 2022. A rose is by the altar today in honor of Sophie.

Congratulations to Brooke and Tanner Powell on the birth of a daughter, Mary Elizabeth Powell, on December 9, 2022. Granddaughter of Gail and Bill Brannen. A rose is by the altar today in honor of Mary Elizabeth.

### **Stewardship Update**

Thank you to everyone who has turned in your estimate of giving cards for 2023. As of December 13, we have received 127 cards totaling \$950,702 in estimated giving for 2023. That compares to 142 cards totaling \$1,093,852.52 in commitments for 2022. You can return the cards to the office in person or by mail, or fill it out online on our website.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Family Bingo Night - January 20**

Join us Friday, January 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for our 2nd annual Family Bingo Night presented by the Susanna Wesley Circle. There will be dinner, dessert, bingo, and exciting prizes with proceeds benefiting charities within our community. Scan the code for additional details including pricing, ways to pay, and to register. 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).



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

**Children's Worship:** Charli Weeks

**Greeters:** TBD

**Offering Steward:** TBD

**Ushers:** TBD

**Partners in Prayer:** Britt Griffin

### **11:00 Service**

**Acolytes:** Will Haire, Cullen Dunn

**Greeters:** TBD

**Children's Worship:** Reanna Hamilton, Sarah Labrot

**Nursery:** TBD

**Sunday School:** Reanna Hamilton

**Offering Steward:** Chris Donegan

**Ushers:** Chris Donegan, Travis Thomas, Vin Thomas, Matt West, Mark Wilcox, Drew Wilkes, Glen Willard, Allen Williams, Brad Aiken

**Partners in Prayer:** Adam Kobek

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

### **Thank You**

Thank you Wesley Monumental for appreciating and encouraging all our choristers, young and old, throughout this year. Thank you to all choristers and church members who will be caroling and giving communion to shut-ins after church today.

### **Spread the Word**

Tell your friends and spread the word about our 130-children and youth who will be singing hymns with 33-piece orchestra on Sunday, February 26 at 5:00 PM. This is a huge evangelism opportunity. On top of that, we are proud of our kids and their parents. Thanks to our generous orchestra sponsors, every ticket dollar goes directly to the Building Fund for Children's and Music Ministry. The children are delighted to raise money for their own ministry area.

Tickets are \$35: [MonumentalMusic.eventbrite.com](https://www.monumentalmusic.com/eventbrite.com) or church office

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



**Scan for details and to purchase a gift. The deadline to purchase is today, Sunday, December 18. Cards and gift boxes may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall & Narthex today.**

### **"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.

### **Y'All Haul to Move Furniture will be Wednesday, December 21**

Please meet at the church at 1:00 p.m. Strong lifters needed. Sign up with 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.

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

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

**Nelle Bordeaux, Outreach and New Members Cont.**

**Packing Party!**

This 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.

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

**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**

**Merry Makers January Event**

All of us know that SCAD is a part of the fabric of Savannah. Katie Holderness, executive director of SCAD's new initiative, Friends of SCAD, will be our speaker for Merry Makers on January 9 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. She will share with us how SCAD continues to work toward connecting with the community and its plans for future ways to contribute to the city of Savannah. Katie often attends Wesley with her sister who is a Wesley member. Please email Jennifer Baker by noon, Friday, January 6, bakerj@wesleymonumental.org or contact Jennifer Thompson to RSVP.

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

**Christmas Eve Family Service**

Saturday, December 24 in the Sanctuary at 3:30 p.m. Join us for this family-friendly (and sometimes noisy!) service as the children bring the pieces of our beautiful non-breakable nativity into the Sanctuary. If your child would like to participate in this service, please send an email to charli@wesleymonumental.org.



**A Record of Our Faithfulness**

Sunday Attendance: (12/11/22)	
8:45 AM Worship	65
11:00 AM Worship	626
Online Worship Views	227
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>918</b>
Nursery	18
Children's Worship	59
Sunday School	16

**Finances: (12/11/22)**

Total Budget for the Year .....	\$2,022,708.12
Actual Revenues Year-to-Date .....	\$1,881,780.83
Actual Expenses Year-to-Date.....	\$1,976,640.43

**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 18, 2022**

**Sermon Extended**

Monday	Luke 1:5-38	How does this story speak to my own?
Tuesday	Luke 1:39-80	How does Luke enlarge the story of Jesus?
Wednesday	Luke 2:1-20	What does Luke want us to know about Jesus and why?
Thursday	Matthew 1:1-25	What does Matthew want us to know about Jesus and why?
Friday	John 1:1-18	What does John want us to know about Jesus and why?

**Sermon Notes**

**As a Praying Church...**

We ask You, Lord, to bless all of our members who cannot attend church at this time. Be with the choir and our ministers as they share Christmas joy through song and Holy Communion with these members.

**This Week at Wesley**

**Sunday, December 18**

- 8:45 AM   Worship Service, SNC
- 9:30 AM   Coffee, FH
- 9:45 AM   Sunday School, EB & OH
- 10:00 AM   New Member Class, OH 205
- 11:00 AM   Worship Service, SNC
- 12:00 PM   Choir Caroling Event,  
Lunch in FH, Followed by  
Caroling

**Monday, December 19**

**No Eli's Place This Week**

- 1:00 PM   Yard Work for Elderly Widow
- 7:00 PM   Savannah Trombone Christmas  
Celebration, SNC

**Tuesday, December 20**

- 9:00 AM   Drop In for Young Mothers'  
Bible Study w/Coffee and  
Muffins, OH 308
- 11:00 AM   Staff Mtg, OH 205
- 12:00 PM   Staff Christmas Luncheon, FH

**Wednesday, December 21**

- 11:00 AM   Grocery Packing Party,  
OH Lobby
- 1:00 PM   Y'all Haul, Meet at Church
- 7:15 PM   Chancel Choir Rehearsal,  
EB 4th Flr

**Thursday, December 22**

- 12:00 PM   Bible Study with Nelle, Zoom

**Friday, December 23**

**No Scheduled Activities**

**Saturday, December 24**

- Christmas Eve Communion Services
- 10:30 AM   Worship Service
- 3:30 PM   Child-Oriented Service  
(enjoyed by all ages)
- 5:30 PM   Carols by Candlelight,  
Worship Service

OH = Oliver Hall   EB = Education Building  
 SNC = Sanctuary   FH = Fellowship Hall  
 WG = Wesley Gardens Retreat

**Pastor on Call This Week**

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

**Wednesday Night Supper**

Our Wednesday Night Suppers and programming have ended for 2022. We will resume January 11, 2023.

**In Our Prayers....**

Aida Watts, Shari and Mel Hubbard, Bryan Vance (father of Chris Vance), 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), 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