



**Celebrating 155 Years 1868 - 2023**

429 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31401  
Telephone: 912-232-0191 Fax: 912-236-4247  
Website: [www.wesleymonumental.org](http://www.wesleymonumental.org)

November 26, 2023

**ADVENT**

It is Thanksgiving weekend, but like the culture making the sudden jump from Thanksgiving to Christmas in the wee hours of the morning on "Black Friday," today, the church makes the sudden shift to the season of Advent. In many ways, Advent, the season of waiting, preparation, and expectation, is the lost season in our rush to get to Bethlehem. For the church and the liturgical calendar, Advent is the four weeks leading up to Christmas. The word literally means the arrival of something (or someone, in our case) notable. We think of it as preparation for the celebration of the arrival of "baby Jesus" at Christmas, but you might say the season "begins at the end" with a reminder that we are waiting for the return of Jesus. The reality is that we live in a perpetual season of Advent, one day at a time, not knowing what tomorrow holds for us. But, for people of faith, our hope is in the gospel message: "God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son." Because of this, we can pray during Advent John's simple prayer at the end of Revelation, "Come Lord Jesus."

I want to say a special thanks to Carolyn Cubbedge, Evonne Mobley, and the Joy Circle for preparing our Advent Devotional Book. And a special thanks to all who wrote the devotionals. The theme for the 2023 Advent devotional is "A Name Above All Names." Books will be available in the sanctuary on December 3, the first Sunday of Advent. It will be a great way to celebrate Advent and keep our attention on Jesus.

**Our worship and special event schedule for Advent:**

|         |                   |                                    |
|---------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dec. 2  | 9:00 a.m.         | Hanging of the Greens              |
| Dec. 3  | 8:45 & 11:00 a.m. | First Sunday of Advent Worship     |
| Dec. 10 | 8:45 a.m.         | Second Sunday of Advent Worship    |
|         | 11:00 a.m.        | Festival of Lessons and Carols     |
|         | 5:00 p.m.         | Joyful Noise Christmas Celebration |
| Dec. 13 | 6:00 p.m.         | Children's Nativity Pageant        |
| Dec. 17 | 8:45 & 11:00 a.m. | Third Sunday of Advent Worship     |
|         | 12:00 p.m.        | Christmas Caroling with the Choir  |

**Christmas Eve Sunday Services:**

|         |            |  |
|---------|------------|--|
| Dec. 24 | 11:00 a.m. | Communion Service<br>(no 8:45 a.m. service or Sunday school)               |
|         | 3:30 p.m.  | Child-focused Service with Communion<br>(enjoyed by all ages)              |
|         | 5:30 p.m.  | 5:30-6:00 Carols by Candlelight followed by<br>6:00 p.m. Communion Service |

*Ben*

## MORNING WORSHIP

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023

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

*Christ the King Sunday*

### 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)

Benjamin Simpson

### Lighting of the Candles

The Acolytes

### Opening Voluntary

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

March Triomphe on Now Thank We All Our God

### Introit (11:00)

King of Kings

Hebrew Folk Song

- \* **Hymn No. 715** Rejoice, the Lord Is King DARWALL'S 148th  
King of Kings and Lord of Lords; Glory, Hallelujah!  
Jesus, Prince of Peace; Glory, Hallelujah!

- \* **Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed Carolyn Hale Cubbedge  
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.

### 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

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.

- \* **Hymn No. 694** ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR  
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

**Offertory Prayer** Carolyn Hale Cubbedge

**Offertory Voluntary (8:45)** arr. Joel Raney  
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

**Offertory Anthem (11:00)** Simple Gifts arr. Ryan Murphy  
Penny Hendrix, pianist

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,  
'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,  
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,  
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
to turn, turn will be our delight,  
till by turning, turning we come round right.

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be strong,  
'tis the gift to raise a voice in cheerful song.  
And when the brightest day turns to darkest night,  
the gift to be simple will lead us to light.

### **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.*

- \* **Doxology No. 95** OLD HUNDREDTH  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

- \* **Scripture** (Pew Bible, pg. 43) Mark 8:22-25

**Sermon** "Back to Basics Part 16: If at First You Don't Succeed..." Ben Martin

- \* **Hymn No. 706** Soon and Very Soon VERY SOON

**Reception into Church Membership (11:00)**  
Joshua Gardner  
Lizzie and Blake Grimsley with children, Mary and James

**Benediction** Ben Martin

**Closing Response** Amazing Grace 19th Century American Melody  
Choir and Congregation

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

**Closing Voluntary** Grand Choeur Dialogué Eugène Gigout

- \* *Please stand as you are able.*  
*Following the service, please take your bulletins, masks, and all belongings with you.*  
*All music reprinted under OneLicense.net No. A-719387 and CCLI No. 11046193.*

### **Altar Flowers**

The flowers by the altar today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of James and Claudine Hill by their family.

### **Washer/Dryer Needed**

We are in need of a gently used washer/dryer for a local family. Please email [jennifer@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:jennifer@wesleymonumental.org) if you can help.

### **Grocery Items for Old Savannah City Mission**

Most needed this week are soft cereal bars.

### **Christmas Greenery Orders**

Orders will be available for pickup in the Oliver Hall courtyard this Friday, December 1, from 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m., Saturday, December 2, from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., and the following week during the church's normal business hours. (Please note, we are subject to possible shipping changes and will notify you, the best we can, if there are changes to delivery dates and times.) Thank you for your orders!

### **Calling All Advent Decorators!**

The Wesley Monumental Altar Guild is in need of additional volunteers to help decorate during the Advent and Christmas season. We have brass to polish, greenery to hang, trees to decorate, and so much more. The transformation of our beautiful sanctuary on December 2 at 9:00 a.m. takes many hands, so if you enjoy decorating or would love to learn more about the Altar Guild, please contact Caroline McDermott, [wesleymonumentalaltarguild@gmail.com](mailto:wesleymonumentalaltarguild@gmail.com).

### **Poinsettia Orders**

Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on Friday, December 15, and may be taken home following the last Christmas Eve service. Please place your orders for plants (\$16) in memory or honor of loved ones by Sunday, December 10. Order forms may be found at all sanctuary entrances, or you can order and pay online by visiting [www.wesleymonumental.org/poinsettias/](http://www.wesleymonumental.org/poinsettias/)

### **February Mission Trip to Santa Elena Honduras, February 11–18, 2024**

A Wesley team will serve with Mission on the Move (MOM) in Santa Elena over St. Valentine's week. In addition to working with the children and providing maintenance support for MOM facilities, we will build houses again with El Camino. The days are peppered with times of reflection, Bible study, and song. While we have some folks skilled at framing buildings, all you need is a loving heart, open mind, and helping hands to be a great team member. Our accommodations are clean and comfortable, the food is good, and we serve in a safe community. Attendees are expected to cover their Delta Airlines ticket, currently running around \$600, and a portion of room and board. **If you are interested in serving, contact Scott Cleaveland at 912-598-8278 by Sunday, December 17.** The absolute cut-off for attendance is January 5. If you have questions about Mission on the Move, speak with Sharlene Monahan, Will Faulk, or Sheila Watts. Rusty Holt and Jake Coakley are well-versed in our home construction with El Camino. Please consider serving, you will be blessed by the experience.

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

**Children's Worship:** Charli Weeks

**Greeters:** Linda Butler, Sharlene Monahan

**Offering Steward:** David Butler

**Partners in Prayer:** Britt Griffin

### **11:00 Service**

**Acolytes:** Jordan Hess, Charlotte Williams

**Children's Worship:** Sarah Labrot

**Sunday School:** Volunteers Needed

**Greeters:** Nancy and Woody Brown

**Offering Steward:** Jim Willis

**Ushers:** Jim Willis, Jon Boothe, Tom Bordeaux, Fred Bozeman,

Chandler Brannen, Doug Carroll, Christopher Cay, Jake Coakley, Jerry Cohn

**Partners in Prayer:** Sue Ellis

**Monica Dekle, Director of Music and Organist**  
**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

Mark your calendar for the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 10, at 11:00 a.m. This service is over 100 years old. It follows traditional readings from the King James Version of the Bible, starting with the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden read by a young chorister, going through the promise of the coming Messiah, and the birth of Jesus. The readings are interspersed with Christmas carols that bring each scripture to life. Unforgettable is Ms. Camille O'Neill's recitation of the seventh lesson.

**Nelle Bordeaux, Outreach and New Members**  
**Bible Study Topics**

- Young Mothers' Bible Study. Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., in Oliver Hall room 310; nursery provided. Currently studying "Women in the Bible." Verses this week will be about "Ruth and Naomi," Ruth 1-4; Deuteronomy 25:8-10; Matthew 1-5.
- Thursday Noon Bible Study via Zoom will not meet November 30; will meet December 7, from noon - 12:30 p.m., to study Hosea, chapters 3 and 4. Sign up for either study with Nelle, [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net).

**Urban Hope Christmas Supper**

Monday, December 11 at 5:30 p.m. Dishes needed are: ham, macaroni and cheese, green beans, sweet potato casserole, rolls, lemonade, cut fruit, salad, cookies, paper plates, cups, plastic cutlery, and napkins. Sign up with Nelle at [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net)

**Christmas Morning Visit to Hospitalized Children**

Please sign up with Nelle, [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net), to visit children from 7:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day. Ages 12 and older.

**Charli Weeks, Director of Children's Ministry**  
**Christmas Ornament Painting Today**

Today, Sunday, November 26, we'll be painting pottery ornaments in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 11:00 service. These ornaments can be hand-painted by your child and then they are glazed and fired by professionals. Ornaments are \$12 each and come with a ribbon for hanging. No need to make a reservation. The ornaments will be ready for pick up the week before Christmas.

**Nativity Pageant and Christmas Celebration - Ways to Help**

With over 140 children participating in our choirs, this year's Nativity Pageant and Christmas Celebration program will be extraordinary! Lots of hands are needed to encourage and help the children enjoy and grow through this experience. You don't have to be a singer to be a part of the fun. Look through the list below and let Charli or Monica know how you would like to help.

- ◆ Help children choose their costume
- ◆ Alter, repair and hem costumes
- ◆ Sew new costumes
- ◆ Help children with costumes at dress rehearsal
- ◆ Help children with costumes the night of the pageant
- ◆ Clean and store costumes after the pageant
- ◆ Gather and label props
- ◆ Make new props
- ◆ Help children with props the night of the pageant
- ◆ Help set-up for dress rehearsal
- ◆ Help take down and store sets and props
- ◆ Help with lunch for children on Sunday, December 3rd
- ◆ Help with dinner for children on Monday, December 11th

**Youth Group**

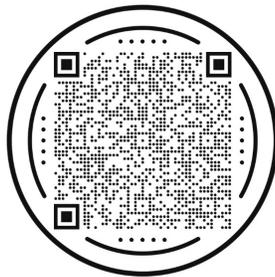
**Youth Group and Youth Choir - Sunday, November 26**

Youth Group will not meet tonight, Sunday, November 26; however, the Youth Choir will meet tonight from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and then go to dinner after rehearsal.

**Upcoming Events**

- Join the Youth on December 3 for Youth Mission Night, the Christmas Edition, from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Rev. Nelle Bordeaux and Neilie Dunn will lead the youth in mission projects for Urban Hope and Union Mission. Dinner will be provided. All students 6th-12th grade are invited to attend.
- The Youth Christmas Party will take place December 10 from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Wesley Gardens Retreat. Tacky Christmas Sweaters are encouraged, and students should plan to bring a gift for the White Elephant Gift Exchange.

**Micah Sprünger, Wesley Gardens Property Manager**



**The Sacred Journey Retreat**

A wonderful success in the spring, this retreat at Wesley Gardens is back. The retreat will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 30, and end by lunchtime on Sunday, December 3. We will explore the spiritual journey, new ways to engage in ancient spiritual practices, and experience abundant rest. Your ticket includes ALL MEALS during your stay, lodging, spiritual direction, materials, and a special gift.

**Carolyn Hale Cubbedge, Senior Adults and Pastoral Care Christmas Event**

Merry Makers and Wanna-Be Merry Makers are asked to save this date for our annual Christmas gathering on Monday, December 11. We will gather for brunch at 11:00 a.m. at Wesley Gardens Retreat. Our own Claire Frazier will provide the entertainment, and we will be treated to a mini-Christmas bazaar by those who participated in the church-wide bazaar in November. Merry Makers are asked to bring a favorite holiday treat to share. You may sign up by calling the church office or by registering online, [wesleymonumental.org/merry-makers-christmas/](http://wesleymonumental.org/merry-makers-christmas/) Cost is \$7 per person. Questions? Call Carolyn Hale Cubbedge at 912-308-3385.

**Finances (11/19/23):**

|                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Total Budget for the Year .....    | \$2,083,655.68 |
| Actual Revenues Year-to-Date ..... | \$1,735,377.68 |
| Actual Expenses Year-to-Date.....  | \$1,865,330.72 |

**A Record of Our Faithfulness**

Sunday Attendance: (11/19/23)

|                      |            |                    |     |
|----------------------|------------|--------------------|-----|
| 8:45 AM Worship      | 103        | Nursery            | 12  |
| 11:00 AM Worship     | 310        | Children's Worship | 47  |
| Online Worship Views | 171        | Sunday School      | 120 |
| <b>Total Worship</b> | <b>584</b> |                    |     |

**CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Ben Martin.....Senior Pastor  
 Rev. Dr. Nelle Bordeaux..... Outreach & New Members  
 Rev. Carolyn Hale Cubbedge..... Senior Adults and Pastoral Care  
 Dr. Monica Dekle.....Director of Music & Organist  
 Julia Flowers ..... Music Assistant  
 Charli Weeks ..... Director of Children's Ministry  
 Jimmy Flowers.....Church Administrator  
 Tom Anderson ..... Financial Manager  
 Jennifer Baker ..... Administrative Assistant, Reception

Jennifer Brookins.....Administrative Assistant to Pastoral Staff, Media Communications  
 Ashley Higgins..... Communications Director  
 Suzanna King..... Director of Hospitality  
 David Lindquist.....Maintenance Tech  
 Betty Dudley .....Housekeeper  
 Micah Sprünger ..... Wesley Gardens Property Manager  
 Ernie Banks..... Wesley Gardens Groundskeeper/Maintenance  
 Christian Swails..... Wesley Gardens Spiritual Direction/Reservations

**Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church  
November 26, 2023**

**Sermon Extended**

|           |                                      |   |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Monday    | Mark 8:22-25                         | What surprises you about this episode?                              |
| Tuesday   | Mark 8:22-25,<br>I Corinthians 1:18  | What is the difference in "been saved" and "being saved"?           |
| Wednesday | Mark 8:22-25,<br>Philippians 2:12-13 | How am I "working out my salvation"?                                |
| Thursday  | Mark 8:22-25,<br>Romans 5:1-5        | Where can I see God growing me through adversity?                   |
| Friday    | Luke 15:11-32                        | What are the stages of the journey of salvation for the "prodigal"? |

**Sermon Notes**

## This Week at Wesley

**\*\*Visit [wesleymonumental.org/events/](http://wesleymonumental.org/events/)  
to view the calendar online.\*\***

### Sunday, November 26

- 8:45 AM Worship Service, SNC
- 9:30 AM Coffee, FH
- 9:45 AM Sunday School, EB & OH
- 9:45 AM New Member Class, OH 205
- 11:00 AM Worship Service, SNC
- 12:15 PM Ornament Painting, FH
- 4:00 PM Youth Choir, EB 4th Flr
- 5:00 PM Youth Choir, Mellow Mushroom

### Monday, November 27

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place
- 9:30 AM Eli's Place Chapel
- 10:00 AM Joy Circle, OH Parlor

### Tuesday, November 28

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study, Sunny Side Up
- 9:00 AM Eli's Place
- 9:00 AM Young Mothers' Bible Study & Bible Buddies, OH 310/308
- 11:00 AM Staff Mtg, OH 310
- 6:00 PM Pacesetters Meeting, FH

### Wednesday, November 29

- 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
- 6:00 PM Joyful Noise Choir, EB
- 6:00 PM Children's Choir, EB & OH
- 6:00 PM Youth Bible Studies, EB 4th Flr
- 6:00 PM Nelle Bordeaux Teaching, FH
- 6:00 PM Book Study, Led by Ben, OH 310
- 6:00 PM Women's Small Group, Led by Katie, OH Parlor
- 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, EB 4th Flr

### Thursday, November 30

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place

### Friday, December 1

The Sacred Journey Retreat Thru 12/3, WG

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place
- 2:00 PM Greenery Pickup, OH Courtyard

### Saturday, December 2

- 9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens
- 9:00 AM Greenery Pickup, OH Courtyard

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

### Pastors on Call This Week

All days except Wednesdays

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

Wednesdays

Nelle Bordeaux ..... 912-234-9245

### **Wednesday Night Supper**

**November 29**

Menu: Beef Stroganoff

*In Sympathy...*

The Burton Family  
on the death of *John Burton*,  
husband of Cindy Burton

The Garcia-Melendez Family  
on the death of *Manolo Garcia-Melendez*,  
husband of Jo Anne Garcia-Melendez

The Cole Family  
on the death of *Marjorie Buchanan*, sister of Bebe Cole

## In Our Prayers....

Jason Horton, Kevin Wilson, Archie Davis, Isaiah Benjamin Akrong, Carolyn Donovan, Tim Edwards, Ella Ealy (granddaughter of Carolyn Roth), Roger Lemay, Philip Fritts (brother of Lynn Fritts), Gloria Eitel, Adam Corey, Saddle Kurtz (aunt of Dan Kurtz), Tommy and Harriett Gattis (parents of Clayton Gattis), Dolly Caylor (mother of Rhonda Radcliff), Sharon and Terry Knepper (parents of Holly Conger), Karen Nickles, Lloyd Chapman, Mary Odom, Richard Zehl, Will Weeks, Mercedes Brenne and Jack Carman (friends of Anne Tyree), Georgia Kate Anderson, Lindsey Goldberg, Mary Hohnerlein (friend of Ken and Deanne Rimes), Heather Neisler, Carlyle Buevas (sister of Madge Edwards), Pat Monahan, McCarthy Family, Byron Rogers, John Birkheimer, Eleanor McCurry, John Beal (brother-in-law of John Birkheimer), Palmer Hood (brother of Ge-Juan Wilkes), Sara Hardwick (sister of Cassie Beckwith), Dennis Deal (cousin of Patricia Jacobs), Lynn and Dan Kurtz, Connie Kurtz (mother of Dan Kurtz), Ashley Post, Angela Chancey (niece of Cynthia Willett), Katie Adrian, Ken Brownfield, Shari and Mel Hubbard, Cindy and Oscar Cook, Doris Rothenberger (mother of Susan Colgrove), Michele Bazemore, Suzette Parker, Tim Mooney, Dale and Becki Fisher (cousins of Holly Conger), Valery Hanks, Dewayne Barfield (brother of Shirley Turner), Camille Herring (sister of Wade Herring), Matthew McClain, Jane Bostwick (mother of Meb Ryan), Walter Thomas (brother of Mark Thomas), Grant Kassinger (nephew of Peggy Jolley), Sally Polk (sister of Peggy Jolley), Alyssa Jones (granddaughter of Rusty Holt), Ryan Davis, Martha Sloan, Fenton McEvoy

### At Home/Extended Care

Bella Grace Bartels, Pat Beasley, Harriet Bland, Olin Bockes, Roz Evans, Bob Harman, Marilyn Holleman, Sandrae McCorkle, Toni Olds, Edith Roszkowiak, Elton Stuenkel, Mark Thomas, Cindy Telljohann, Lois Wooten

### Military Serving Abroad/Stateside

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

The 2023 Advent Devotional Book will be available on December 3, the first Sunday of Advent. This entry by Judy Gelaude is just a foretaste of what you can expect as we explore **A Name Above All Names.**

“Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil for Thou art with me. Thy rod and Thy staff,  
they comfort me.” Psalm 23 (KJV)

### **The Good Shepherd**

On January 22, 2023, I was waiting for my husband, Dave, to join me for our online church service when he walked into the room and said, “I’m turning off the coffee pot. Call 911. I’m having a heart attack.” Thirty minutes later I was following the ambulance and then waiting for the doctor who I thought was putting in another stent.

My prayer, which I shared with the cardiologist and heart surgeon, was “Lord, You only can see the future. If Dave can have 5-10 more years as husband, father, and grandfather, then that is what we would love to happen. But if not, then please open Your arms and welcome him home!”

When the two doctors came in to talk, they explained that they could not do a stent as there was a fairly large aneurysm that they would need to bypass. Because Dave was filled with blood thinners, they could not do surgery until Tuesday morning. The surgery went well, but that night he was bleeding out (18 units of blood), and I received a call at 7:00 am the next morning saying they had to open him up again to find the problem. They were able to install a bigger drain tube and mopped up the blood in his chest cavity which solved the problem.

By Thursday late afternoon he was showing signs of coming around. Our oldest daughter, Anne, leaned over the bed and said, “Dad, this is Anne. If you can hear me, wiggle your eyebrows!” Lo and behold, he raised his eyebrows several times! Two weeks followed in the cardiac intensive care unit, followed by a week on the rehab floor. Then we were sent to their sister hospital for ten more days of rehab before going home for a long recovery.

I have learned to look for God in the details to know how much He cares. The first morning in the hospital, the physician’s assistant, Mackenzie Kingston, introduced herself as a new member of our church. She watched over us every day at the hospital. When we went to another hospital for ten days of rehab, we were given a physical therapist who introduced himself as a member of our church. He recognized Dave’s name when Ben asked for continued prayer support. Elisha Odum did a great job getting Dave in shape to come home!

Leave it to God to surround us with church members! We are so grateful for our ministers and church members who reached out to us through cards and texts and who faithfully prayed for Dave’s recovery. Every day and before going to sleep, I would recite the Twenty-third Psalm for it truly led me to “green pastures” and “still waters” during a very challenging time. The peace that comes from a relationship with the Lord is truly God’s gift to us!