



**Celebrating 155 Years 1868 - 2023**

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December 17, 2023

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT WESLEY**

The title of 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 popular as Christmas Eve. It is truly a holy Day/Night. Holy means to be set apart from the normal. We arrive at 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 end in the 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 Eve is on a Sunday. All three services next week will be Christmas Eve Communion Services. We hope you will set aside time for worship with us. The following will be our schedule for the days of Christmas:

**Sunday, December 24**

- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship and Communion  
(no 8:45 Service or Sunday school)  
Refreshments available in the Fellowship Hall  
from 10:15 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
- 3:30 p.m. Children-focused Communion Service  
Enjoyed by all ages
- 5:30 p.m. A Service of Music, Word, and Table  
Our traditional Christmas Eve Service with the  
Chancel Choir leading 30 minutes of music from  
5:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. and then the Communion  
Service beginning at 6:00 p.m. Featuring brass  
quintet, timpani, and pipe organ.

A nursery will be available for all services.

**REMEMBER THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON  
MONDAY (12/25) AND TUESDAY (12/26).**

*Ben*



**Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer** Carolyn Hale Cubbedge

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** Nelle Bordeaux

**Offertory Solo (8:45)** arr. Mark Hayes

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella  
Jerome Elder, tenor

**Anthem (11:00)** I Saw Three Ships arr. John Rutter

**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, NT, pg. 44) Mark 9:2-8

**Sermon** "Back to Basics Part 18:  
The Son of God and God the Son" Ben Martin

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

**Reception into Church Membership (11:00)**

Bailey and Kyle Bedenbaugh  
Del and Rick Muller

**Benediction** Ben Martin

**Closing Voluntary (8:45)** arr. Keith Chapman  
Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

**Closing Anthem (11:00)** arr. Mark Hayes  
Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella  
Jerome Elder, tenor

\* *Please stand as you are able.  
Following the service, please take your bulletins, masks, and all belongings with you.  
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### **Usher Roses**

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

### **Just Born**

Congratulations to Kat and Josh Gardner on the birth of twin daughters, Juliet Anne Gardner and Lillian Jenny Gardner, on December 5, 2023. Granddaughters of Ann and Tom Thompson. Roses are by the altar today in honor of Juliet and Lillian.

### **Stewardship Update**

Thank you to everyone who has turned in your estimate of giving cards for 2024. As of December 6, we have received 122 cards totaling \$937,506 in estimated giving for 2024. That compares to 114 cards totaling \$783,247 in commitments for 2023. You can return the cards to the office in person or by mail, or fill it out online on our website.

### **Guest Speaker-Rabbi Haas**

Today, Sunday, December 17 at 9:45 a.m., Rabbi Robert Haas, spiritual leader of Congregation Mickve Israel, will be the Ivy Class's guest speaker in the Fellowship Hall. He will share his insight on the current situation in the Middle East. All adult and youth Sunday school classes are invited.

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

All 2023 contributions to the church must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2023 in order to comply with IRS regulations regarding charitable deductions.

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

(If you are interested in serving, contact Scott Cleaveland at 912-598-8278 by today, Sunday, December 17. The absolute cut-off for attendance is January 5.) 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 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:** Lori Miller, Becky Pullin

**Offering Steward:** Jeff Miller

**Partners in Prayer:** Dorie Gaskin

### **11:00 Service**

**Acolytes:** Virginia Carroll, Catherine Cheshire

**Children's Worship:** Sarah Labrot, Stephanie Parker

**Sunday School:** Volunteers Needed

**Greeters:** Joy Garvin, Linda Sapp

**Offering Steward:** Chris Donegan

**Ushers:** Chris Donegan, Dustin Hamilton, Michael Hasselle, Adam Hess, Dan Hoey, Rusty Holt, Bill Hunter, Ryan Kelly, Bobby Lee

**Partners in Prayer:** Sandra McGowen

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

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

Most needed this week are canned soups and stews. Please place donations in marked boxes in the Wayne/Gordon Street foyers and Oliver Hall.

#### **Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Babies Need Your Help**

Please bring premie or newborn baby clothes for Memorial NICU babies to the Oliver Hall lobby by January 3. Our youth will organize items at Youth Local Mission Week on Sunday night, January 7, during youth fellowship. Also needed are crocheted octopus toys and board books for the NICU babies.

#### **Grocery Packing Party**

Help sack groceries tomorrow, Monday, December 18, from 11:00 a.m. to noon in the Oliver Hall foyer. Sign up with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.

#### **The 2023 Christmas Offering - Addressing Hunger**

According to Healthy Savannah, a nonprofit focused on poverty - in the fall of 2023 - 17.6% of all residents and 21.8% of children in Chatham County are food insecure. If in doubt, check out the line of cars every Friday morning at the intersection of Harmon and Anderson. As a response, our 2023 Christmas offering will be used to fund dynamic food programs that are feeding those most in need. The funds received in this Christmas offering will be divided among PACK, who feed children while out of school, Old Savannah City Mission, who feed the homeless, and Fellowship of Love, who feed families and shut-ins. Each organization provides food directly to those in need with minimal overhead and partnership with Second Harvest. If you have any questions or would like to serve more directly, contact Rev. Nelle Bordeaux.

#### **Christmas Morning Visit to Hospitalized Children**

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

#### **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 "Woman of Endor" and "Rizpah," 1 Samuel 28:7-25 and 2 Samuel 3:7; 21:8-11.
- Thursday Noon Bible Study via Zoom. Thursdays from noon - 12:30 p.m. Verses this week will be Hosea, chapter 6. Sign up for either study with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.

### **Carolyn Hale Cubbedge, Senior Adults and Pastoral Care**

#### **Veterans Day Breakfast Video**

The November 11 Veterans Day Breakfast program featuring Army Ranger Ryan Davis can now be viewed on the Wesley Monumental YouTube page.

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

#### **Christmas Eve Family Service**

Sunday, 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.

**Youth Group**

**Tonight**

Youth group will not meet tonight. Sunday night youth will resume on January 7, 2024.

**Micah Sprünger, Wesley Gardens Property Manager**

**Spiritual Direction**

Spiritual Direction is an ancient, Christian art form dating back to the desert mothers and fathers from the 3rd century AD. It is a practice of holy listening with a trained director to name and notice the big questions you are holding and the stuck places with God, yourself, and others. A place to feel the pain, disappointment, curiosity, and honesty inside of your spiritual journey. It's a non-judgmental space to explore the deeper questions of the soul and get to the things you don't have the ability to in the frantic pace of life. There is no agenda, just a non-anxious presence listening you into the places that have been hidden for a while and meeting God there.



Wesley Monumental is now offering our members an opportunity to meet 1-on-1 with Christian Swails, MA, a trained Spiritual Director with a Masters Degree in Spiritual Formation, to see if this is a good fit for you in this season. If you would like to learn more about this ancient practice, you can set up a meeting with Christian at Wesley Gardens by following the QR code.



**Finances (12/10/23):**

Total Budget for the Year .....	\$2,083,655.68
Actual Revenues Year-to-Date .....	\$1,852,874.42
Actual Expenses Year-to-Date .....	\$2,018,027.29

**A Record of Our Faithfulness**

Sunday Attendance: (12/10/23)

8:45 AM Worship	62	Nursery	XX
11:00 AM Worship	621	Children's Worship	XX
Online Worship Views	330	Sunday School	52
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>1013</b>		

**CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Ben Martin .....	Senior Pastor	Jennifer Brookins .....	Administrative Assistant to Pastoral Staff, Media Communications
Rev. Dr. Nelle Bordeaux .....	Outreach & New Members	Ashley Higgins .....	Communications Director
Rev. Carolyn Hale Cubbedge .....	Senior Adults and Pastoral Care	Suzanna King .....	Director of Hospitality
Dr. Monica Dekle ....	Director of Music & Organist	David Lindquist .....	Maintenance Tech
Julia Flowers.....	Music Assistant	Betty Dudley .....	Housekeeper
Charli Weeks.....	Director of Children's Ministry	Micah Sprünger.....	Wesley Gardens Property Manager
Jimmy Flowers .....	Church Administrator	Ernie Banks .....	Wesley Gardens Groundskeeper/Maintenance
Tom Anderson.....	Financial Manager	Christian Swails .....	Wesley Gardens Spiritual Direction/Reservations
Jennifer Baker.....	Administrative Assistant, Reception		

**Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church  
December 17, 2023**

**Sermon Extended**

Monday	Mark 9:1-3	Have I ever had a "mountain top experience" with God? How did it affect me?
Tuesday	Mark 9:4-4-5	What do Moses, Elijah, and Jesus have in common? Do the Law and Prophets carry as much weight as the gospels? Why or why not?
Wednesday	Mark 9:6	Have I ever felt afraid of God? Why or why not?
Thursday	Mark 9:7	Do I think of Jesus as the Son of God or as God the Son? How do they seem different?
Friday	Mark 9:8	What does it mean that now they see "only Jesus"?

**Sermon Notes**

## This Week at Wesley

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

### Sunday, December 17

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 18

#### No Eli's Place This Week

11:00 AM Grocery Packing Party,  
OH Foyer  
12:00 PM Courtney Gaines Circle,  
OH Parlor  
5:00 PM SPRC Mtg, OH  
5:00 PM Yule-slide Trombone Concert,  
SNC

### Tuesday, December 19

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study, Sunny Side Up  
9:00 AM Young Mothers' Bible Study &  
Bible Buddies, OH 310/308  
11:00 AM Staff Mtg, OH 310  
11:45 AM Staff Christmas Luncheon,  
Mrs. Wilkes Dining Room

### Wednesday, December 20

11:00 AM Bible Study w/Ben, OH 310  
7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, EB 4th Flr

### Thursday, December 21

12:00 PM Bible Study w/Nelle, Zoom

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**

Our Wednesday Night Suppers and programming have ended for 2023. We will resume January 10, 2024.

## In Our Prayers....

Camille Searcy, Roger Lemay, Elaine Singletary, Gail Brannen, Jason Horton, Kevin Wilson, Archie Davis, Isaiah Benjamin Akrong (nephew of Deanna Sorrells), Tim Edwards, Ella Ealy (granddaughter of Carolyn Roth), 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, Georgia Kate Anderson, Lindsey Goldberg, Mary Hohnerlein (friend of Ken and Deanne Rimes), Heather Neisler, Carlyle Buelvas (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 (grand-daughter 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 Stuenckel, Mark Thomas, Cindy Telljohann, Lois Wooten

### Military Serving Abroad/Stateside

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