



Celebrating 156 Years 1868 - 2024

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Website: www.wesleymonumental.org

December 1, 2024

A Season of Traditions

Today, we enter the season of Advent, which leads us to Christmas. It is a season where meaningful traditions remind us of the love of God revealed in Christ. Please make plans to join us for these meaningful events.

✦ **Advent Devotional Begins Today**

Pick up a copy of your Advent Daily Devotional in the sanctuary today at each entrance. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the devotions for each day and those who compiled and prepared them.

✦ **Advent Wreath Workshop at Wesley Gardens Retreat Today, December 1 at 3:30 p.m.**

Come to our retreat center (278 Shipyard Road, Savannah) for an afternoon of community and preparation for Advent.

✦ **Hanging of the Greens, Saturday, December 7, 9:00 a.m.**

Come help our Altar Guild adorn the sanctuary for the Advent-Christmas season.

✦ **Festival of Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 15, 11:00 a.m.**

On December 15, our 11:00 a.m. worship experience will be the traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels. Interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols and choral music, it is one of the great worship events of our year. Only the 11:00 service will be the Festival of Lessons and Carols. We will also have a regular 8:45 service.

✦ **The Joyful Noise Christmas Celebration and Dinner December 15, 5:00 p.m.**

On Sunday, December 15 at 5:00 p.m., our youngest children's choir will present its Christmas program. There will be a dinner following the play, please make a reservation by calling the church office so we will have plenty of food prepared.

✦ **The Children's Nativity Pageant, December 18, 6:15 p.m.**

One of the highlights of Christmas at Wesley is the Children's Nativity Pageant. It takes place Wednesday night, December 18, after Wednesday night dinner. Please make sure you make a reservation for dinner so we will be prepared for you. The Pageant will feature our children from 1st to 5th grade. They will share with us the Christmas story in drama and carols.

✦ **Christmas Caroling for our Homebound & Assisted Living Members Sunday, December 22, 12:30 p.m.**

✦ **Christmas Eve Communion Services**

Tuesday, December 24, 10:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.

MORNING WORSHIP
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024
8:45 & 11:00 A.M.
First 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 in the Fellowship Hall.*

Chiming of the Hour (11:00) Millie Shor

Lighting of the Candles (11:00) The Acolytes

Introit (11:00) I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
Ellen Muenckler, chorister
Jude Durkin, chorister

Lighting of the Hope Candle

Peter, Shirley, Arlene, and Elijah Roberts (8:45)
James, Jennifer, John, and Jarrett Shuttleworth (11:00)

Congregational Response

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

* **Hymn No. 718** Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending HELMSLEY

* **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

(Dismissal for Children's Worship)

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 in the Fellowship Hall. Following the service, they can be picked up in the Fellowship Hall.

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

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.

Pastoral Prayer

Nelle Bordeaux

- * **Scripture Lesson** (Pew Bible, OT pgs. 1, 638, 577-578)
Genesis 1:1-5, Isaiah 9:1-7, Psalm 139:11-12

Sermon "From Darkness to Light Part 1: In the Beginning" Ben Martin

Holy Communion

Invitation and Confession

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

All: Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law,
we have rebelled against Your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Pastor: Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
That proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Congregation: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge

Offertory Voluntary (8:45) arr. Joseph Martin
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Offertory Anthem (11:00) G. F. Handel from Messiah
And the Glory of the Lord

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.

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

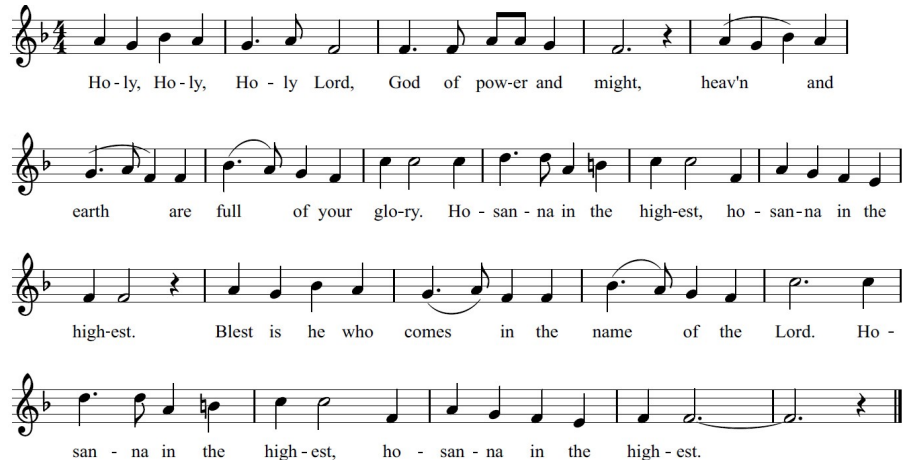
Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to our Lord and God.

Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth...

And so, with Your people on earth, and all the company of heaven we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho - san-na in the high-est. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ...

On the night in which He gave himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over He took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

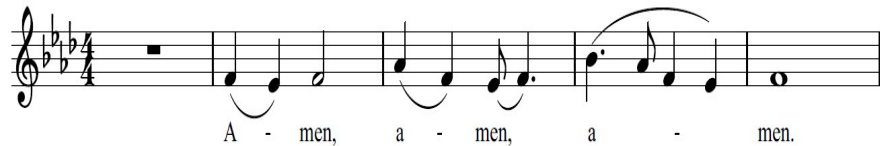


Christ has died; Christ is ri - sen; Christ will come a - gain.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, That we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood.

By Your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at His heavenly banquet.

Through Your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in Your holy church,
All honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.



The Lord's Prayer

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 that 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.

Breaking the Bread

(Gluten free bread is available. Please indicate your preference by raising your hand.)

Giving the Bread and Cup

We will take communion at the rail. Today's communion offering is designated for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. If you would like to give a donation, please place your offering in the chancel rail when you come to be served.

Communion Music (11:00)

E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come Paul Manz

Prayer After Receiving

All: Eternal God, we give You thanks for this holy mystery
in which You have given Yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of Your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

* **Hymn** No. 213 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates TRURO
Stanza One

* **Benediction** Ben Martin

Closing Response (11:00) Prepare the Way of the Lord

Closing Voluntary arr. James Vivian
Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

* *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 our son, David H. Butler, Jr., by David and Linda Butler.

Bible Studies

- Young Mothers' Bible Study, Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m., Oliver Hall, room 213 (parlor); the Bible Buddies nursery meets in room 207 (barrel-vault room). This week, meet at the Courthouse, 33 Montgomery Street, at 9:30 a.m. Babies and children are welcome!
- Thursday Noon Bible Study meets Thursdays from noon to 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. Currently studying "Paul," 1 Corinthians, chapter 11.

Grocery Items Needed This Week are canned fruit and rice. Please place donations in marked boxes.

Christmas Ornament Painting

Today, 12/1, 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 \$17 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.

January Meet and Mingle

Tickets for the Ghost Pirates game on 1/5/25, will be available until this Thursday, 12/5. Cost is \$30 per ticket. Your payment reserves your seat. Make checks payable to Wesley Monumental UMC and give to Carolyn Hale Cubbedge or drop them off in the church office.

Christmas Baking Day for 1st- 3rd Graders

On Saturday, 12/7, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m. to bake Christmas treats for our families and friends. We'll bake several different kinds of cookies and then try making our own personal mini gingerbread house. Pick up from the playground at 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Fun Day for Babies, Toddlers, Preschoolers, and Kindergarteners

On Saturday, 12/14, the nursery will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for Christmas Fun Day! We are providing lunch and plan to eat around noon. We'll make ornaments, bake cookies, play on the playground, and watch a Christmas movie. It is fine for the children to come for the whole day or for any part of the day. To register, send an email to charli@wesleymonumental.org with the time they will be arriving on the 14.

A Record of Our Faithfulness

Sunday Attendance: (11/24/24)

8:45 AM Worship	74	Nursery	14
11:00 AM Worship	303	Children's Worship	32
Online Worship Views	101	Sunday School	126
Total Worship	478		

Finances (11/24/24):

Total Budget for the Year	\$2,126,355.46
Actual Revenues Year-to-Date	\$1,828,106.47
Actual Expenses Year-to-Date.....	\$1,967,520.30

Assisting in Worship Today - 8:45 Service

Children's Worship: Charli Weeks

Communion Stewards: Diane & Byron Boyd

Greeters: Lori Miller, Ken Griner

Offering Steward: Jeff Miller

Ushers: Melvin Croft, Henry Whitfield

Partners in Prayer: Mark Lindsay

11:00 Service

Acolytes: Christopher Butler, James Butler

Children's Worship: Sarah Labrot

Sunday School: Volunteers Needed

Communion Stewards: Shayna Stancil-Wier & Allen Wier

Greeters: Kim & Mehmet Ergul

Offering Steward: Brian West

Ushers: Brian West, Mehmet Ergul, Rusty Holt, Jim Pannell, Jon Pannell, Johnny Phelps, Willie Roberds, Kenneth Spriggs

Partners in Prayer: Gaye Holt

**Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church
December 1, 2024**

Sermon Extended

Monday	Genesis 1:1-5	Why do we assume darkness is bad and light is good? What Biblical stories highlight a move from darkness to light?
Tuesday	Genesis 1:1-5	What new and creative part of my life began in a period of darkness?
Wednesday	Isaiah 9:1-7	When have I found myself in a place that felt like darkness? How did it feel?
Thursday	Isaiah 9:1-7	How have I experienced God bringing light into my darkness? Where can I be a source of light in someone's darkness?
Friday	Psalms 139:11-12	If God is comfortable in darkness and light, how can I better embrace either place?

Sermon Notes

A large empty rectangular box intended for taking notes during the sermon.

This Week at Wesley

**Visit wesleymonumental.org/events/
to view the calendar online.**

Sunday, December 1

- 8:45 AM Worship Service, SNC
- 9:30 AM Coffee & Refreshments, FH
- 9:45 AM Sunday School, FH & OH
- 11:00 AM Worship Service, SNC
- 3:30 PM Advent Wreath Workshop, WGR
- 4:00 PM Youth Choir & Handbells
- 5:00 PM Youth Group

Monday, December 2

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place, FH & OH
- 9:30 AM Eli's Place Chapel, SNC
- 12:00 PM Joy Circle, OH Parlor
- 5:30 PM Mission Comm. Mtg, OH 310
- 6:00 PM Pacesetters, OH Parlor

Tuesday, December 3

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study, Sunny Side Up
- 9:00 AM Eli's Place, FH & OH
- 9:00 AM Eli's Place, Coffee, OH Playground
- 9:30 AM Young Mothers' Bible Study,
Courthouse, 33 Montgomery St.
- 11:00 AM Staff Mtg, OH 205
- 5:30 PM Evangelism Mtg, Zoom
- 6:00 PM Adult Handbells, SNC

Wednesday, December 4

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place, FH & OH
- 9:00 AM Eli's Place, Coffee, OH Playground
- 11:00 AM Bible Study w/Ben, OH 205
- 4:45 PM Call to Prayer, OH Parlor
- 4:45 PM Youth Handbell Choir, SNC
- 5:30 PM Dinner, OH
- 6:00 PM Joyful Noise Choir
- 6:00 PM Children's Choir, SNC & OH
- 6:00 PM Youth Group Bible Studies, OH 4th Flr
- 6:00 PM A Long Obedience Study, OH
- 6:00 PM Mere Christianity Study, OH 205
- 6:00 PM Women's Small Group, OH
- 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, FH

Thursday, December 5

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place, FH & OH
- 12:00 PM Bible Study w/Nelle, Zoom

Friday, December 6

- 9:00 AM Eli's Place, FH & OH
- 12:00 PM Jane Shirah Circle, OH Parlor

Saturday, December 7

- 9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens, SNC
- 12:30 PM Christmas Baking Day for
1st-3rd Graders, FH

Pastors on Call This Week

All days except Wednesdays & Fridays
Ben Martin..... 912-547-1835
Wednesdays
Nelle Bordeaux 912-234-9245
Fridays
Carolyn Cubbedge.. 912-308-3385

<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday Night Supper December 4 Menu: TBD</p>

In Our Prayers....

Dan Bradley, Ed Derst, Khadra Turley (mother of Corie Turley), Anne Hawks, Adeline Hayes, Meghan Hitt, Joey Herndon (father of Erica Timmons), Jeralyn Wilson, Berta Botkin, Terry Franz, Vicki Worden, Lulu Gribbins, Barbie Lientz, Dolores Park (mother of Jeff Endsley), Jimmy Fincher (father of Amy Green), Aaron Berkebile, Harriett Gattis (mother of Clayton Gattis), Doug Moore, Debbie Andrews, Katie Townsend, Raine Rude, John Walter, Helen Weitz (sister of Bonnie Delvers), Melissa McDonald and Family, Courtney Fetz, Michael Baggott, Wayne Thomas, Family of Logan Spencer (friend of Charles Stewart), John Martin Sr., Rachel Spence, Jan Pullin, Dean Muenckler, Julia Holliday, Danielle Robertson, Roger Lemay, Jason Horton, Archie Davis, Ella Ealy (granddaughter of Carolyn Roth), Adam Corey, Saddle Kurtz (aunt of Dan Kurtz), Dolly Caylor (mother of Rhonda Radcliff), Sharon and Terry Knepper (parents of Holly Conger), Karen Nickles, Will Weeks, Lindsey Goldberg, Pat Monahan, Mary Hohnerlein (friend of Ken and Deanne Rimes), Byron Rogers, John Birkheimer, Eleanor McCurry, Connie Kurtz (mother of Dan Kurtz), Ken Brownfield, Oscar Cook, Doris Rothenberger (mother of Susan Colgrove), Tim Mooney, Walter Thomas (brother of Mark Thomas), Alyssa Jones (granddaughter of Rusty Holt), Ryan Davis, Martha Sloan, Fenton McEvoy

At Home/Extended Care

Bella Grace Bartels, Pat Beasley, Harriet Bland, David Chow, Roz Evans, Sandrae McCorkle, Toni Olds, Camille Searcy, Mark Thomas, Cindy Telljohann, Dick Wallace

Military Serving Abroad/Stateside

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

In Sympathy....

The Wall Family
on the death of *Suzette Parker Wall*,
wife of Andrew Wall

The Mayfield Family
on the death of *Joey Mayfield*

The Swails and McLean Families
on the death of *James McLean*,
grandfather of Hannah Swails

The Delvers and Hurt Families
on the death of *Betty Hurt*,
sister of Peter Delvers

The Lindsay and Caldiero Families
on the death of *Raymond Caldiero*,
father of Donna Lindsay