



The Messenger

November 24, 2013

A SCRIPTURE FOR THANKSGIVING

“When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, ‘My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.’ But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the power to get wealth....”

Deuteronomy 8:12-18

THE CHURCH STAFF

Rev. James W. Smith Senior Minister
Rev. Noel C. Perez Hispanic Minister
Rev. David Warlick Minister of Worship Arts
Charles McLendon Director of Student Ministries
Valerie Duff Director of Children’s Ministries
Christi Barr Praise Team Leader
Alwen Young Pianist/Accompanist
Mark Watford Organist

Christie Umpleby Preschool Director
Mike Jones Church Administrator
Stephen Thompson Sound & Maintenance
Elaine Smith Finance Secretary
Anne Hunter Church Hostess
Connie Brodess Secretary
Lyn Dozier Secretary

Americus First United Methodist Church

MORNING WORSHIP

November 24, 2013 — 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Thanksgiving Sunday/Christ the King Sunday

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC	Frank Lowrey
WELCOME	Rev. Jim Smith
GREETING AND WELCOME CHORUS — <i>Surely the Presence</i>	
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rev. David Warlick
<i>(Please fill out your communication card and place it in the offering plate later in worship.)</i>	
LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES	Lainey Collier and Chandler Dragoin
BLESSING OF OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES	
* GLORIA PATRI #71 — <i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER #895	Rev. Jim Smith
CHORAL RESPONSE — <i>Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus</i>	(Helen H. Lemmel)
ANTHEM — <i>We Bring Thanksgiving</i>	(Pepper Choplin)
Chancel Choir	
<i>3K to 2nd Grade Children dismissed to Children's Worship with Christie Umpleby.</i>	
* HYMNS OF PREPARATION	
#131 — <i>We Gather Together</i> (Sing only stanzas 1 and 3.)	
#102 — <i>Now Thank We All Our God</i> (Sing only stanza 1.)	
SCRIPTURE READING — Luke 17:11-19	Rev. Jim Smith
THE MESSAGE — <i>Thank You Jesus</i>	Rev. Jim Smith
TITHES, OFFERINGS, COMMUNICATION CARDS	
OFFERTORY PRAYER	Rev. Jim Smith
OFFERTORY — <i>All Creatures of Our God and King</i>	(Mark Hayes)
Alwen Yeung, Pianist	
* DOXOLOGY #95	
* BENEDICTION	Rev. Jim Smith
* POSTLUDE	Mark Watford, Organist

Ricky Arnold, Audio Tech

Justin Arnold, Visual Tech

* Congregation stands.



Please see an usher for an assisted listening device.

Welcome, Guests, to Americus First United Methodist Church!

We are glad you are here and hope you worship with us again.

We invite you to join our congregation.

If you are interested in membership,
call Rev. Jim Smith at 924-3169.

Americus First United Methodist Church
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

November 24, 2013 — 9:00 a.m.

“Thank You Jesus”

Luke 17:11-19

Rev. Jim Smith

Blessing of the Shoeboxes

for

Operation Christmas Child

Praise Team

Charles McLendon, Leader
and
Students from the Wesley House

Travis Warlick, Visual Tech
Aaron Pinckard, Audio Tech

November 24, 2013 GREETERS AND USHERS

9:00 Greeters for November 24, 2013

Ginger and Sonny Pinckard

11:00 Greeters for November 24, 2013

Front Door - Joyce and Bill Perry

North Door - Eugenia Smith

South Door - Mara and Arnold Durham

11:00 Ushers for November 24, 2013

Captain Ginger Starlin, Karen Austin, Sherrell Bailey, Jan Bird, Mara Durham,
Carol Hudson, Anne Hunter, Nancy Jones, Pam Law, Ginny Powell,
Allene Reeves, Judy Tott, MaryLen Walker, Janis Webb, Liz Wilson

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Georgia Anne Arthur, Sherrell Bailey, Beth Carroll, Rickey Carter,
Freddie Dudley, Matthew “MJ” Benson-Dursse, Walt Grant,
Billy Horne, Anne Hurst, Yvonne Iverson, Cooper Kurth, Norinne Lowell,
Gene Malcom, Augusta Mathis, Ben McMahan, Bobby McNeill,
Rebecca McNeill, Colton Moore, Sandra Murray,
Casey Mason Norton, Chris Norton, Jack Partain, Ginger Perkins, Geri Smarr,
Brenda Stanfield, Betty Teasley, Liz Turpin, Rodney Vance, Thomas Wall,
Hazel Waller, Julian Webb, James Wiggins, Louise Wiggins, Justin Willis, and
Keith Wilson

Prayer Pager: Walton Grant 928-1482

FLOWERS IN SANCTUARY

The sanctuary flowers today are placed to the glory of God and in memory of **Lin Hardin** on his birthday, November 26, by Franklin and family.

UMW CANDLE

The UMW Candle in the sanctuary is lit in memory of **Beth Hunt** from Ann and Harry Entrekin.

COMMUNITY-WIDE THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m.
Central Baptist Church

All citizens of Americus and Sumter County are invited to join together to worship and give thanks to God for all we have been given. The service will focus on sharing God's blessings with others through the newly organized **Harvest of Hope Food Pantry**. Please bring a canned or boxed food item to the church for collection and delivery to the food bank. All monetary donations made during the service will be designated to support the Americus Harvest of Hope Food Pantry. Let us join together with thankful hearts.

For more information, call 229-924-4092

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Mark your Calendar

<i>December 4</i>	<i>4:30 pm</i>	<i>Deck the Halls</i>
<i>December 4</i>	<i>5:45 pm</i>	<i>Fellowship Supper and Christmas Songs by various choirs</i>
<i>December 8</i>	<i>11:00 am</i>	<i>Christmas Cantata</i>
<i>December 8</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Pastor's Membership Class</i>
<i>December 9</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>	<i>Christmas Cantata</i>
<i>December 11</i>	<i>6:15 pm</i>	<i>Paper Bag Christmas Pageant</i>
<i>December 18</i>	<i>2:00 pm</i>	<i>Birthday Party for Jesus</i>
<i>December 24</i>	<i>5:00 pm</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service</i>
<i>December 25</i>	<i>12:00 pm</i>	<i>Christmas Community Dinner</i>
<i>January 8</i>	<i>6:00 pm</i>	<i>Financial Peace Class Starts</i>

OUR RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS

Membership: 978

Total Worship Attendance: 391

9:00 Worship Attendance	77	Hispanic Worship Attendance	97
11:00 Worship Attendance	217	Hispanic Offering	\$503
Sunday School Attendance ...	174	Hispanic Offering YTD	\$35,191
UMYF	35	Growth Group (Nov. 10-16)	36
Benevolent Fund YTD	\$5,807		
Budget Giving	\$9,671		
Budget Giving YTD	\$689,180		

Reminder:

You may make donations to the church by automatic draft. To do so, just call Elaine in the finance office at 924-3169.

PRISON MINISTRY

The Annual Christmas Party for our local prison is just around the corner. Matthew 25 says we are to have compassion for those in prison. Some of you can help by baking cookies to show this Christian compassion. They need to know that there are people who care for them.



We will receive cookies on **Saturday, December 7**, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the church. Pray for our prisoners as you prepare these cookies.

A BIG THANK YOU

THANK YOU!! Because of our congregational support of the Country Store, we raised over **\$2,400**. The proceeds will be used to transform a storage room on the second floor into a nursery for our infants and toddlers. A special thanks to our Auctioneer Bill Harris and to Valerie Duff for creating the lovely quilted wall hangings from drawings created by our children of angels and heaven. And thank you to our children for entertaining us with their songs.

The Wesley Sunday School Class

OUR RESPONSE TO THE PHILIPPINES

In the wake of Typhoon Haiyan, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is actively mobilizing resources to respond to this latest and largest in a series of disasters to hit the Philippines over the past twelve months.

The initial response from UMCOR will involve the distribution of food and water purification tablets. In the coming weeks, UMCOR will assess the viability of longer-term rehabilitation projects.

Through the connectional system of the United Methodist Church, 100% of your donations made to UMCOR through *The Advance* will be given to the disaster - not to administrative costs. Monetary donations enable UMCOR to resource those affected in ways that are most useful.

Monetary donations can be made through our church. Please make checks payable to FUMC and note *The Philippines* or *Advance #982450* on your check.

PASTOR'S MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sunday, December 8, 4:00-6:30 p.m.

The next membership training class will look at what it means to be a Christian, to be United Methodist, and to be a faithful member of First United Methodist Church. It is required for anyone wanting to become a member of the church, but attending does not obligate one to join the church. Childcare will be available.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 24, 2013

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship in the Social Hall
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. College Students & Friends setup Chrismon Trees
2:00 p.m. Advent/Christmas Teams Decorate in Sanctuary and Social Hall
4:30 p.m. Youth Band
5:00 p.m. Prayer Connection in the Parlor
6:00 p.m. UMYF in The Foundry

Monday, November 25, 2013

Bright Beginnings Closed
11:30 a.m. Corinne Heys UMW Circle in the Social Hall
1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting in the Parlor
6:15 p.m. Warlick Growth Group in the Sanctuary (Decorate Chrismon Tree)

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

Bright Beginnings Closed
10:00 a.m. Nimble Fingers in the Sheffield-Wootten Classroom

Wednesday, November 27, 2013

Bright Beginnings Closed
No activities

Thursday, November 28, 2013

Thanksgiving Day
Church Offices and Bright Beginnings Closed

Friday, November 29, 2013

Church Offices and Bright Beginnings Closed

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

Poinsettias will grace both worship services beginning December 8.
If you wish to purchase a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please complete this form, include your check and drop it in the offering plate or mail to the church at 200 S Lee Street. We will order 80 poinsettias at \$15.00 each. Poinsettia sales are also used as a fund-raiser to help with flowers in Sunday services throughout the year.

Deadline is Monday, December 2.

Make checks payable to First UMC and note poinsettias on the memo line.

In **honor** of _____

By _____

In **memory** of _____

By _____

Will pick up after Christmas Eve ____

Use my check as a donation to the Flower Fund ____

In **honor** of _____ In **memory** of _____

By _____



Deck the Halls

Wednesday, December 4

Come help us decorate for Christmas!

4:30 — Decorate Classroom, Door, and Common Areas

5:45 — Regular Wednesday Night Supper

Menu: Barbeque Chicken, Rice Pilaf,
Green Beans, Rolls and Pie

**Please make reservations if you aren't on the permanent list.*

6:30 PROGRAM — Evening of Musical Entertainment

Featuring the Children's Choirs and other musical talent

CLASSES are asked to decorate their doors,
and of course inside their classrooms,
and another common area listed below:

Wesley Class - Noel's Office

Sheffield-Wootten Class - Stephen's Door

Epworth Class - Kitchen Door

Hazel Ansley Class - Visitor Information Area next to the Parlor

Faith Builders Class - Stairs

Choir - David and Stephen's Office

Children - Jim's Office

Awards will be given for the
Most Creative, Prettiest, and Grand Prize

For additional information, call the Church Office at 924-3169.

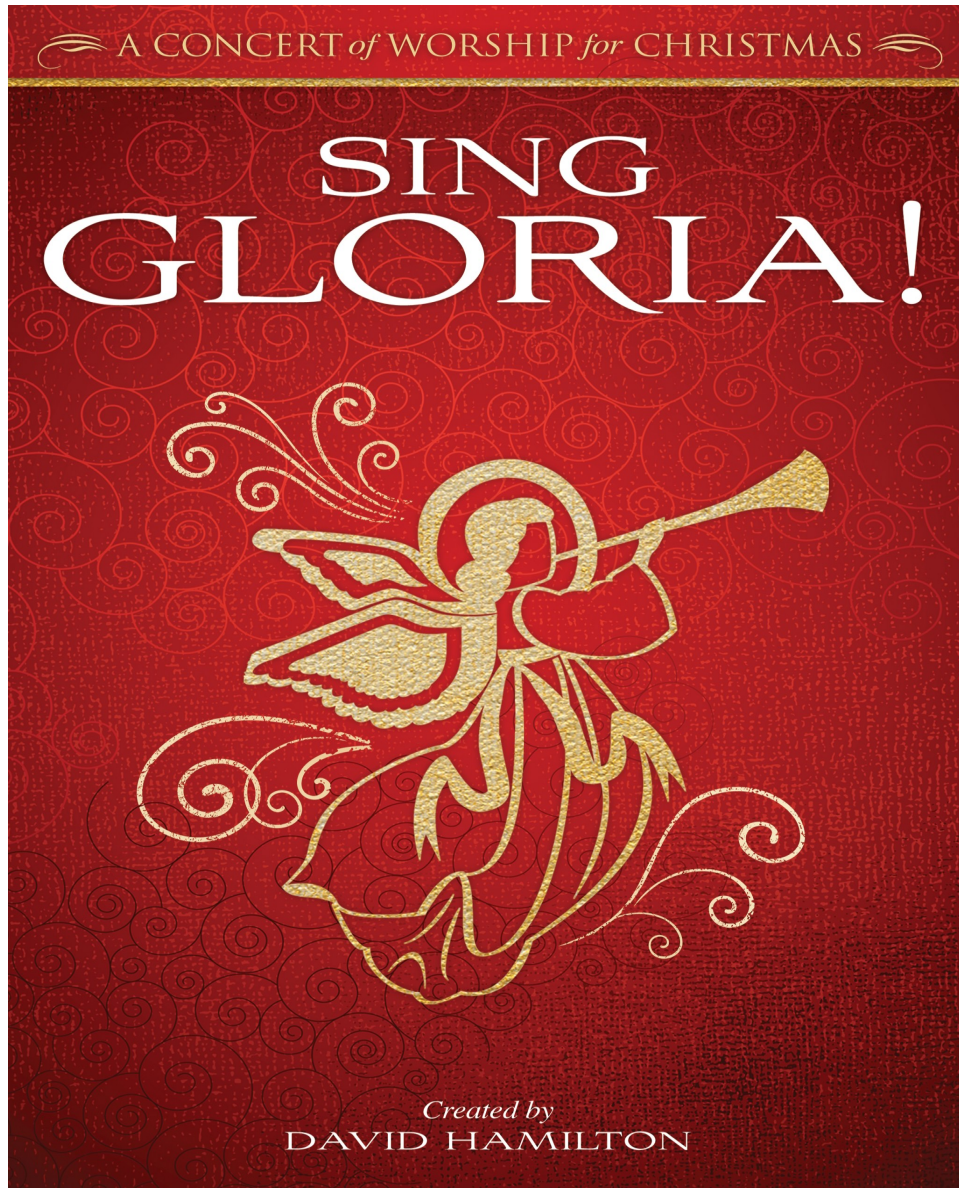
Church-Wide Christmas Program

*presented by the Chancel Choir,
Praise Team and Elementary Choir*

Sunday, December 8 at 11:00 a.m.

And

Monday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m.



Calendar Dates for 2013-2014

2013

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Deck the Halls

Choirs Sing Christmas Songs

*FUMC Sunday School Rooms
Sanctuary and Social Hall*

Sunday, December 8, 2013

Christmas Musical at 11:00 am

Sunday, December 8, 2013

Pastor's Membership Class at 4:00 pm

Monday, December 9, 2013

Christmas Musical at 7:00 pm

FUMC Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Paper Bag Christmas Pageant

FUMC Social Hall

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

Birthday Party for Jesus

FUMC Social Hall

Tuesday, December 24, 2013

Christmas Eve Communion

And Candlelight Service 5:00 pm

FUMC Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 25, 2013

Christmas Community Dinner

FUMC Social Hall

2014

January 26-29, 2013

Epworth Winter Camp Meeting

"The Least of These"

Epworth by the Sea

St. Simons Island, Georgia

January 24-26, 2014

February 10-12, 2014

February 24-26. 2-14

Woven Hearts Christian Women's

Quilting Retreat

Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island

Saturday, February 8, 2014

Valentine Banquet

Social Hall

March 14-15, 2014

Spring Consignment Sale

Bright Beginnings

FUMC Social Hall

July 14-18, 2014

Children's Music & Arts Camp

FUMC

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00a to 5:00p

Friday: 9:00 a.m. to noon

Friday is Jim's, David's,
and Charles' day off.

Finance Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: