

THE WHITFIELD



SPIRIT

For Members and Friends of Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church
December 4-December 10, 2016

Wonder in the Waiting

Dear Whitfield Family,

Hello to my brothers and sisters in Christ. On the first Sunday of Advent, we enjoyed a meaningful time of worship as we gathered for our annual Hanging of the Greens service. In addition to preparing the sanctuary, we prepare our hearts and wait for the advent of our Lord. In his book, *God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer shares the following words about the importance and wonder of waiting during Advent.

Celebrating Advent means being able to wait. Waiting is an art that our impatient age has forgotten. It wants to break open ripe fruit when it has hardly finished planting the shoot. But all too often the greedy eyes are only deceived; the fruit that seemed so precious is still green on the inside, and disrespectful hands ungratefully toss aside what has so disappointed them. Whoever does not know the austere blessedness of waiting—that is, of hopefully doing without—will never experience the full blessing of fulfillment.... For the greatest, most profound, tenderest things in the world, we must wait.... The only ones who can wait are people who carry restlessness around with them and people who look up with reverence to the greatest in the world. Thus Advent can be celebrated only by those whose souls give them no peace, who know that they are poor and incomplete, and who sense something of the greatness that is supposed to come, before which they can only bow in humble timidity, waiting until He inclines Himself toward us—the Holy One Himself, God in the Child in the manger. God is coming; the Lord Jesus is coming; Christmas is coming. Rejoice, O Christendom!

In our humanness, we are not inclined to wait. However, through the gift and power of the Holy Spirit, may we joyfully and expectantly await the coming of the Christ Child. Jesus Christ, the most precious and priceless gift humanity will ever receive, is worth the wait! As we journey through Advent, the wonder-filled season of preparation and expectant waiting, may you and I seek to find wonder in the waiting.

Waiting,

Carolyn

“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from His roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.”
Isaiah 11:1-2

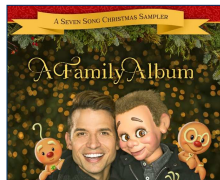
Weekly Focused Corporate Prayer: Please pray for our hearts to be open and responsive to opportunities to share God’s love with others during and following this Advent season.

New Christmas Cd's

The Kempters : Now available! Our latest CD - **The Season's Reason** - Christmas songs new and old. (order on their website www.thekempters.com)



Brent Vernon: Christmas CD, **A Family Album**, available the first week of December. (order on www.brentvernon.com)



Decorating Whitfield UMC for Christmas Saturday, December 3



We will have our annual “Whitfield Decorating for Christmas” on Saturday, December 3, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.

The large Christmas Tree is in place with white lights (thanks to Karen Mashburn), and Larry London has all of the decorations removed from the attic and ready for us to hang.

Please come join us in decorating our church for the Christmas Season!



POINSETTIAS!

It is time to order your Poinsettias! Order forms will be in the Sunday bulletins and in the church office or feel free to call Jennifer (281-2467) with your order. The cost of the plants is still \$10.00.

Staff Christmas Gift



It has been our tradition at Whitfield to give cash gifts to our staff at Christmas. We would like to do so again this year. We will collect gifts through Sunday, December 18 and give the staff the gifts prior to the Christmas break. If you would like to contribute, please designate on your check or envelope "Staff Christmas Gift." You can place your donation in the offering plate on December 4, 11 or 18 or drop it off at the church office. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Earl Heath, Lay Leader

The Holiday Season will soon be upon us. Please mark your calendars for these special services and events:

December 4 - Holy Communion, 10:00 am

December 4 - Interfaith Nativity Exhibit, LDS
(WUMC performs 5:00 pm)

December 8 - Kempters Christmas Concert, Frazer UMC
6:00 pm

December 11 - Children's Christmas Pageant, 10:00 am

December 16 - Kindergarten Program, 11:00 a.m.

December 18 - Chancel Choir Service of Lessons & Carols, 10:00 am

December 24 - Candlelight Communion Service, 4:00 pm

December 25 - Christmas Worship, 10:00 am NO Sunday School

January 1 - Fellowship Breakfast, 9:00 am New Year's Day Covenant Renewal Service, 10:00 am

January 8 - Epiphany Service, 8:15 & 10:30 am

Bold Sundays are Advent Schedule: 9:00 am Sunday School, 10:00 Worship

Attendance November 27, 2016

Sunday School 61 Morning Worship 95

Wednesday Night Suppers will resume January 11, 2017

The United Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon

December 12, 2016

Arrival Time: eleven."ish"

Time to Eat: Eleven thirty a.m.

Cost: \$12.00 each - payable to Louise Forrester

Look for our Offering Angels (& Shepherds) during our Advent Services.

Military Addresses for Holiday Cards:

Jacob Allen
PSC 80 Box 10063
APO AP 96367

MAJ, Tepley, Thomas
1st ID HHBN, Camp Union III
APO AE 09348

Holy Communion – Sunday, December 4, 2016

Holy Communion will be offered on Sunday, December 4th to our members who are unable to attend church at this time.

The elements will be consecrated at the worship service and volunteers will take Communion out between the hours of 2:00 and 4:00 pm. We plan to take Communion to all who received Communion on Sunday, October 2nd. If you did not receive in October, but would like to receive Communion on December 4th, please call the church office by Friday morning, December 2nd. This ministry is being sponsored by the A+ Council at Whitfield UMC.



ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar for December 4 are offered to the Glory of God and in memory of Joan Miller by Pete Miller.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sunday, December 4

Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
Choir Practice	10:00 a.m.
Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
UMYF	11:00 a.m.
Homebound Communion	2:00 p.m.
Handbell Practice	4:00 p.m.

Monday, December 5

Walking Group (M-F)	7:15 a.m.
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Tuesday, December 6

Prayer Group	7:15 a.m.
Last Ladies Bible Study of 2016	2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 7

Prayer Group	2:30 p.m.
Choir Practice	6:45 p.m.

Thursday, December 8

City/County Personnel Testing	7:00 a.m.
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Friday, December 9

City/County Personnel Testing	7:00 a.m.
Sew n sews	10:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 10

Youth News



Looks like the Holidays are upon us with Thanksgiving coming up this week! I know we have a lot to be thankful, I am especially thankful for my Whitfield Church family and the Christian fellowship we get to enjoy . Coming up , the Youth will welcome in the Christmas season with a trip to the Zoo on Saturday December 10 to see the Christmas lights and then the Youth Christmas party will follow the next weekend on December 18th. All Youth and College age folks are invited no matter how busy you have been lately!

Praise The Lord!

Beverly

2 Samuel 22:29-33

²⁹ Indeed, you are my lamp, O LORD, the LORD lightens my darkness.

³¹ This God—his way is perfect; the promise of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all who take refuge in him

³² For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?

³³ The God who has girded me with strength has opened wide my path.

You Are In Our Prayers!!

Whitfield Members

Vivian Rogers, Kirk Wood, Jay Byrd, Peggy Brown, Martha Parker, Henrietta Cusick, Elmer Rogers, Alma Reynolds, Jo Moody, Peter Brambir, Betty Woodson, Libby Richardson, Joan Rodgers, Thursa Brown, John Woodson, Dottie Suber, Charlotte Brambir, Mildred Jones, Betty Fuller, Kay Littlepage, Brownie Brown, Lib Cain, Tom Burns, Caryl Carrick, Elmer Stelk, Eloise Parsons, Bill Fischer, Allison East, Jim Solomon, Edna Kohn, Jim Vice, Helon Haack, Susan Richardson, Louise Gargus

Home Bound Members (in-town)

Lois Payne, Nealie Pruitt, Emmett Turner, Teresa Chavers, Rubye Solomon, Margaret Deacy, Wayne Read, Delores Dodson, Mitzi Warren

Home Bound Members (out of town)

Elaine McBride, Martha Payne, Juanita Pritchett, Katie Hopper

Friends of Whitfield

Wayne Russell, Verna Stevens, Mary Mellott, Bill Miller, Jeff Varner, Doug Dennis, Sharon Brugh, Margaret Ann Batley, Emma Hope Shaw, Joy Lushington, Marty Trawick, Doug Estes, Dan & Kate Lindsey, Myrtle Knight, Mona Pirsig, Kenneth Means, Nathan Hamilton, Mary Ellen Millis, Paul Lanier, Myles Wright, Ashley Dunwoody, Beverly Cornwell, Jean Cantey, Teresa Kempter, Mac Macready, Darlene Fox, Judy Snyder, JoAnne Westery, Wayne Merritt

Peace for the nations and protection for all those who live and serve in harm's way.

Note: Please submit any names you would like added to the church via telephone (281-2467) or e-mail (whitumc@bellsouth.net) All names submitted are kept on the prayer list for **four weeks** unless otherwise notified. *Those names in Italics are in need of long term prayers.*

Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church
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Phone: 334.281.2467 Fax: 334.281.2698
www.whitfieldumc.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WHITFIELD STAFF MEMBERS

Pastor

Reverend Carolyn Nelson
cnelson@whitfieldumc.org

Music Director

Angie Mitchell
amitchell@whitfieldumc.org

Youth Director

Beverly Brown
bbrown@whitfieldumc.org

Financial Assistant

Kristi Milano
kmilano@whitfieldumc.org

Nursery Director

Daisy Stelk

Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Andrews
whitumc@bellsouth.net

Program Director

Patty Macready
pmacready@whitfieldumc.org

Organist

Telsie Davis
tdavis@whitfieldumc.org

Kindergarten Director

Jane Ruud
jruud@whitfieldumc.org

Nursery Co-Director

Mary Stone

Custodian

Larry London

Phone: 334-281-2467; **Fax:** 334-281-2698

E-mail: whitumc@bellsouth.net

Church Office Hours:

8:15-12:30 and 1:30-4:15, M-Th

8:15-12:30 p.m. Friday

Sunday Services: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

**Worship Assistants - December 4
(Communion)**

Ushers: (10:00) Mary Thomason

Counters: Jan Heath,

Curtis Ingram

Van Driver: Ron Capel

Soundboard: (10:00) Steve Duffee

Readers: (10:00) Earl Heath

Children's Worship: Communion

Advent Wreath: The Hazen Family