

THE WHITFIELD



SPIRIT

For Members and Friends of Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church
December 18-December 24, 2016

“Look for and Find Jesus at Christmas”

Dear Whitfield Family,

Hello to my brothers and sisters in Christ. Last year, Jackie Sheppard shared the following poem with me. God is using these words to speak to my heart. May He use these words to speak to your hearts, as well.

If you look for me at Christmas, you won't need a special star. I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me amid the celebrations. You'll have to look beyond the stores and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment from your list of things to do, and listen to your heart, you'll find I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with; you're the reason that I came. And you'll find me in the stillness as I'm whispering your name.

Love,

Jesus

This message is echoed by author David McCasland, who states, “Look for Jesus in the manger, on the cross, risen from the dead and in our hearts. That’s where we can find Jesus at Christmas....Christmas is a wonderful time to celebrate the presence of Christ in us and the change He brings to all who invite Him in.” During this busy season, may each of us take the time and make the effort to look for and find Jesus. He longs to commune with us, His beloved children for whom He came from heaven to earth. Thanks be to God for the most precious and priceless gift of Himself to all humanity, including each of us!

Looking and Finding,

Carolyn

"If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me." Jeremiah 29:13

Weekly Focused Corporate Prayer: Please pray for people to experience the presence and peace of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, during and following this Christmas season.

P.S. I received the following message from T.J. Tepley on December 6. Please continue to pray for T.J. and the Tepley family as he continues to serve (Army) in Iraq. Please continue to pray for Jacob and the Allen family as he continues to serve (Air Force) in Japan. Thank you for your expressions of love and care to T.J., Jacob and their families during their deployment.

Just wanted to send a quick update to you and the Whitfield Family. I am doing good here, staying busy, but I like it that way because it helps the time go by....I also wanted to let you know that I received several pieces of mail from Whitfield. I plan on writing everyone back individually at some point, but wanted at least to relay to you that I am getting it. The outpouring of love and support has been incredible. The Whitfield Family is alive and strong....Please give everyone there my love and tell them I appreciate all the care and prayers. Please know that I have attended the Protestant church service every Sunday since my arrival—even had Communion Sunday this past service....God is alive and strong too. I'll be in touch again shortly. Hope all is well in Montgomery and at Whitfield. You all are in my thoughts.

Respectfully,

T.J.



OCC Update

Whitfield UMC donated 70 shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child, part of the 5,766 boxes collected at Heritage Baptist Church,

Prattville. The South Central Alabama area collection totaled 43,007! Thanks for sharing the love of Christ with so many children longing to know Jesus. Well done!

New Artwork

FUMC Montgomery has given us a copy of the *Sistine Madonna*, by Raphael Sanzio. This picture hung in their chapel for years, but needed a new home. It was gifted to WUMC because its dedication plaque reads "In Memory of Willie Vandiver Whitfield". The Madonna and Christ Child are flanked by Saint Sixtus and St. Barbara. Raphael's cherubim at the bottom of the painting are famous in their own right, seen on everything from t-shirts to postage stamps. We are grateful for this beautiful gift from our sister church.

The Holiday Season events:

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



Best Children's Christmas Program EVER!

Thank you kids (and parents/grands) for all your hard work and the wonderful presentation on Sunday. You all did a fabulous job, and I am exceedingly proud of each and every child. This continues to be a beautiful Advent season, and you are such a big part of our celebration.

Thank you, thank you. And all the angels say, "Hallelujah!"

Young People's Free Concert

featuring *Peter and the Wolf*

Saturday, January 14, 2017

3:00 p.m., Lanier HS Auditorium

Church Office

Christmas Season Dates

Dec 23-26 Office Closed

Dec 27-29 Normal office Hours

Dec 30-Jan 2 Office Closed

Jan 43 Standard weekly schedule resumes

M-TH 8:15-4:15, Friday 8:15-12:30

2016 Contributions

All contributions to be included in the 2015 tax year must be received in the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2016.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The poinsettias on the altar December 18 are offered to the Glory of God in memory and in honor of our friends and loved ones.

Attendance December 11, 2016

Sunday School 75 Morning Worship 112

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sunday, December 18

Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
Choir Practice	9:30 a.m.
Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
UMYF	4:30 p.m.

Monday, December 19

Walking Group (M-F)	7:15 a.m.
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Tuesday, December 20

Prayer Group	7:15 a.m.
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Wednesday, December 21

Prayer Group	2:30 p.m.
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Thursday, December 22

Holy Cross Basketball Practice	4:30 p.m.
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Friday, December 23 - Office Closed

No Events Currently Planned

Saturday, December 24

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	4:00 p.m.
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Sunday, December 25 - Merry Christmas!

Christmas Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
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Monday, December 26—Office Closed

No Events Currently Planned

Youth News

The Youth will be volunteering for the Salvation Army during this Christmas season to help be bell ringers . If anyone else is interested in this kind of community service please let me know. We don't have our date yet but will let you know when we get one. As you know, the Salvation Army is one of the few places that feed and house homeless people daily, and help with toys for kids at Christmas. Among the many other services they provided in the community.

Reminder to Youth we will be doing Movie night this Friday at 4 pm!

Praise The Lord!

Beverly

Jeremiah 29:11-13

¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.

You Are In Our Prayers!!

Whitfield Members

Vivian Rogers, Kirk Wood, 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, Caryll Carrick, Elmer Stelk, Eloise Parsons, Bill Fischer, Allison East, Jim Solomon, Edna Kohn, Jim Vice, Helon Haack, Susan Richardson, Louise Gargus, Helen Maples, Bob Haack, Jay Byrd

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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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 18
(3rd Sunday)**

Ushers: (10:00) Steve Duffee, Neet Duffee, Emma Duffee, Vic Bradsher

Counters: Jeannie Anderson, Brownie Brown

Van Driver: Ron Capel

Soundboard: (10:00) Vic Bradsher

Readers: (10:00) Barbara Reed

Children's Worship: Patty Macready

Advent Wreath: The Blackwell Family