

Tunnel Hill United Methodist Church

The Messenger

December 2019



Inviting God into your Christmas

Go back in time with me. Way back. Back before the angels sang, back before the shepherds and the wise men show up, and before Mary was told that she was going to give birth to Jesus.

Let's actually go back to ancient Israel seven hundred years before Christ was born. You see, that's when the Christmas story actually begins. It begins with a prayer uttered by the prophet Isaiah that's recorded in the first verse of Isaiah 64. Isaiah is pouring his heart out to God and he says, *"Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!"*

We typically begin the Christmas season by remembering Isaiah's prayer because he's the first person we know of who invited God to step into the world. You see, that was Isaiah's request. It's pretty incredible to think about. The Christmas story actually begins with this invitation, this prayer that Isaiah lifted up to God seven hundred years before Christ was born.

The good news is, his prayer was answered. Obviously it wasn't answered during Isaiah's lifetime. Actually, what he prayed for took place seven centuries later. That's when God show up. That's when He broke into the world and gave us His Son. What I want to ask you is this, are you willing to begin the Christmas season with a prayer like Isaiah's? Are you inviting God to break into your world?

It's important to think about. Every Christmas we sing, *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"* but the question is, do we really mean it? Are you truly longing for God to show up this Christmas? I hope you are. I hope we all are.

But at the same time, if that's what you're praying for, if you're begging God to show up in a big way this Christmas, you also need to be ready. Be careful because you might just get what you pray for and God may show up and rearrange some things in your life. He might just lead you to some places that you don't really want to go and He might call you to make some changes that you don't want to make. And that's a good thing.

That's just the way God works, when we invite Him in, everything about us will start to change. God always brings change and healing into our lives but He won't come barging in uninvited. And that's why a holy and meaningful Christmas doesn't start at the mall. It starts with prayer just like Isaiah's. It starts when we beg God to show up in our hearts and homes again. It starts when we invited Him in.

Grace & Peace,
Jay



Kathryne Middleton, Margaret & Jim Doyle, Ray & Pat Anderson, Barbara Vaughn, Shirley Gribble, Vera Nations, Frank Moody
THUMC's Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
Agnes Sutton-Kay Henderson's Mother
Raya Owens-Friend of Jada Barton
Gabarb Vaughn Summers
Breanne Locklear-Jo Anna Davenport's niece
Marge Fox-Cindy Fehd's mother
Orallia Hernandez-friend of the Middletons
Richard Sharp-Friend of Stephanie Loggins
Dolly Hamby-friend of Kay Jernigan
Eddie Mac Sanders-Friend of Kenny Gowin
Kyler Bass-Friend of Wendy Voiles
Alyssa Talley
Brecklynn Allgood
Doug Mitchell
Virginia Campbell
Scott Hannah-Friend of Todd Middleton
Arlene Hooker-Friend of Gwen Maddox
James & Lynda Quarles-Friend of Gwen Maddox
Marilyn Brown-Friend of Gwen Maddox
Mrs. Barbara (Bobbie) Phillips-Mickey Reed's sister
Mrs. Dorothy Grimes-Friend of Erin Watson
Jack Rhodes-Grandson of Linda & Gerald Pack
Ray & Leona Trotter-Friends of Macoy Griffin
Ronnie Burgess – David Helton's Brother-n-law
Gerald Watkins- Friend of Janice Helton
*Rick Everett
Jean Bates
Zack Webb – Susie Webb's Son
*Donna Hooper – Jerry Hooper's wife
*Ed Bates

(*Denotes new additions)

To add/remove a friend or loved one to the Prayer List, please contact the church office at 706- 673-4022 or thumc@optilink.us. Thanks!

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 1

9:00 AM Choir Practice (S)
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship

Monday, December 2

5:30 PM Cub Scouts (FH)

Tuesday, December 3

1:30 PM UMW Group II Meeting
5:30 PM Juniors - GS (CB)
6:00 PM UMW Christmas Party (FH)
6:30 PM Boy Scouts (Church)

Wednesday, December 4

6:15 PM Oasis Student Ministry
6:15 PM GLOW Nights (Children's Ministry)
6:15 PM Sharing of Devotionals (FEL CL)
7:00 PM Administrative Board Meeting (FH)

Thursday, December 5

6:00 PM Grief Support Group (Fel CL)

Friday, December 6

6:00 PM Fellowship Class Christmas Party (FH)

Sunday, December 8

9:00 AM Choir Practice (S)
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
12:00 PM OASIS Lunch Fundraiser (FH)

Monday, December 9

5:30 PM Cub Scouts (FH)

Tuesday, December 10

5:15 Girl Scouts-Cadette (CH. Room)
5:30 PM Juniors-GS (CB)
6:30 PM Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, December 11

6:00 PM Christmas Caroling
6:15 GLOW Nights (Children's Ministry)

Thursday, December 12

6:00 PM Grief Support Group (FEL CL)

Sunday, December 15

9:00 AM Choir Practice (S)
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
6:00 PM Church Conference/Disaffiliation Vote (Sanctuary)
6:30 PM Oasis Christmas Party

Monday, December 16

5:30 PM Cub Scouts (FH)

Tuesday, December 17

5:15 Girl Scouts-Cadette (CH. Room)
5:30 PM Juniors-GS (CB)
6:30 PM Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, December 18

6:00 PM Children's Christmas Musical
6:45 PM THUMC's Christmas Party (FH)

Thursday, December 19

6:00 PM Grief Support Group (FEL CL)

FH-Fellowship Hall
CB-Church Bldg.
FEL CL-Fellowship Classroom
FC-Friendship Class Rm
S-Sanctuary



Opportunities to Celebrate Christmas at THUMC

Christmas Caroling, Wednesday, December 11th, 6pm
Glow Kids Christmas Musical, Wednesday, December 18th, 6pm
Church Christmas Party, Wednesday, December 18th, 6:45pm
The Songs of Christmas Celebration, Sunday, December 22nd, 11am
Candlelight Communion, Christmas Eve, 6pm



Christmas time! Oasis will be meeting through December Wednesday's, Fundraiser on the 8th, caroling on the 11th, and will have our Christmas Party Sunday December 15th at 6:30!
Everyone in Oasis wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas!!
Garrett Teems, Youth Pastor



Glow Kids Christmas Musical

Jesus Means Christmas to Me Presented by the Glow Kids (Go Light Our World)
Tunnel Hill United Methodist Church December 18, 2019 6:00 PM
Christmas Celebration immediately following the Play in The Fellowship Hall

*** The Glow Kids will continue to practice for the Children's Christmas Musical each Wednesday night from 6:15-7:30pm after Thanksgiving until the night of the Musical

United Methodist Women's Christmas Party



All women of the church are cordially invited to the United Methodist Women's Christmas Party scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be catered by Lisa's Café and the menu will feature pot roast, Southern style green beans, roasted potatoes, salad, bread with peach cobbler and/or chocolate delight for dessert.

After dinner we'll enjoy a time of fellowship and play Christmas bingo! Each person attending is asked to bring several items for Bingo prizes (these can be little "white elephant" goodies you may already have on hand or some small useful gift or food item). The cost of the dinner is \$14. Please give your money and RSVP to Ann Kuzniak (706.581.8231) or Tarah Horne (706.280.4476) by Sunday, Dec. 2th.

We encourage you to bring one or more unwrapped child's toy (\$20 value or more) for our Community Christmas project – Sharing is Caring. This will be delivered to the Fairgrounds to be placed in a "store" where qualified parents who have participated in three educational classes may "shop" for 3 gifts that they give to each of their children on Christmas.

Young at Hearts Dinner in December

THUMC's "Young at Hearts" group will be meeting at the church at 3:30p.m. on Thursday, December 12th to go to Tony's Pasta Shop in Chattanooga for dinner. If you are over the age of 50 and looking for a great evening out with a great group of people, please contact Larry & Evelyn Defoor at 706-673-2030 to reserve your spot.

Christmas Caroling - Save the Date!

Everyone is invited to come and go caroling to some of the senior adults and homebound members of our church on Wednesday, December 11th from 6-8pm. We will divide into several groups and each group will each go to four or five homes to sing and spread the love of Christmas. We hope that you and your family will take part!

Save the Date

2020 Devotional Sharing, Fellowship Classroom, December 4th, 6:30pm
Administrative Board Meeting, December 4th, 7pm
Church Conference - Disaffiliation Vote, December 15th, 6pm

P.O. Box 146
Tunnel Hill, GA 30755

U.S. Postage
Tunnel Hill, GA 30755

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PAID
Permit No. 5



SUNDAY, December 8

USHERS: Chuck Davidson, Bob Ault,
Kenny Gowin & Aaron Sewell

NURSERY: Delilah Sharp

Journey Land:

3yrs-K: Janice Helton **1&2:** Jeanine Clark

OFFERING TEAM: Brenda Hampton, Chuck Davidson

SUNDAY, December 15

USHERS: Chuck Davidson, Bob Ault,
Kenny Gowin & Aaron Sewell

NURSERY: Judy Middleton

Journey Land:

3yrs-K: Erin Watson **1&2:** Jennifer Bollwerk

OFFERING TEAM: Brenda Hampton, Chuck Davidson

SUNDAY, December 22

USHERS: Chuck Davidson, Bob Ault,
Kenny Gowin & Aaron Sewell

NURSERY: Anne Monk

Journey Land:

3yrs-K: Tammy Horne **1&2:** Jill Lowery

OFFERING TEAM: Brenda Hampton, Chuck Davidson

SUNDAY, December 29

USHERS: Chuck Davidson, Bob Ault,
Kenny Gowin & Aaron Sewell

NURSERY: Jada Barton

Journey Land:

3yrs-K: Brenda Hampton **1&2:** Kathy Blackwell

OFFERING TEAM: Brenda Hampton, Chuck Davidson

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Weekly Budget Needed: \$5,130.00

GIVING FOR October 27

GENERAL BUDGET: \$3988.64
DESIGNATED GIVING: \$1943.43

Attendance:

Sunday School: 66

Worship: 141

GIVING FOR November 3

GENERAL BUDGET: \$4201.31
DESIGNATED GIVING: \$230.00

Attendance:

Sunday School: 52

Worship: 142

GIVING FOR November 10

GENERAL BUDGET: \$2663.09
DESIGNATED GIVING: \$510.00

Attendance:

Sunday School: 47

Worship: 114

GIVING FOR November 17

GENERAL BUDGET: \$2900.06
DESIGNATED GIVING: \$606.00

Attendance:

Sunday School: 42

Worship: 144

GIVING FOR November 24

GENERAL BUDGET: \$3635.50
DESIGNATED GIVING: \$5.00

Attendance:

Sunday School: 47

Worship: 155