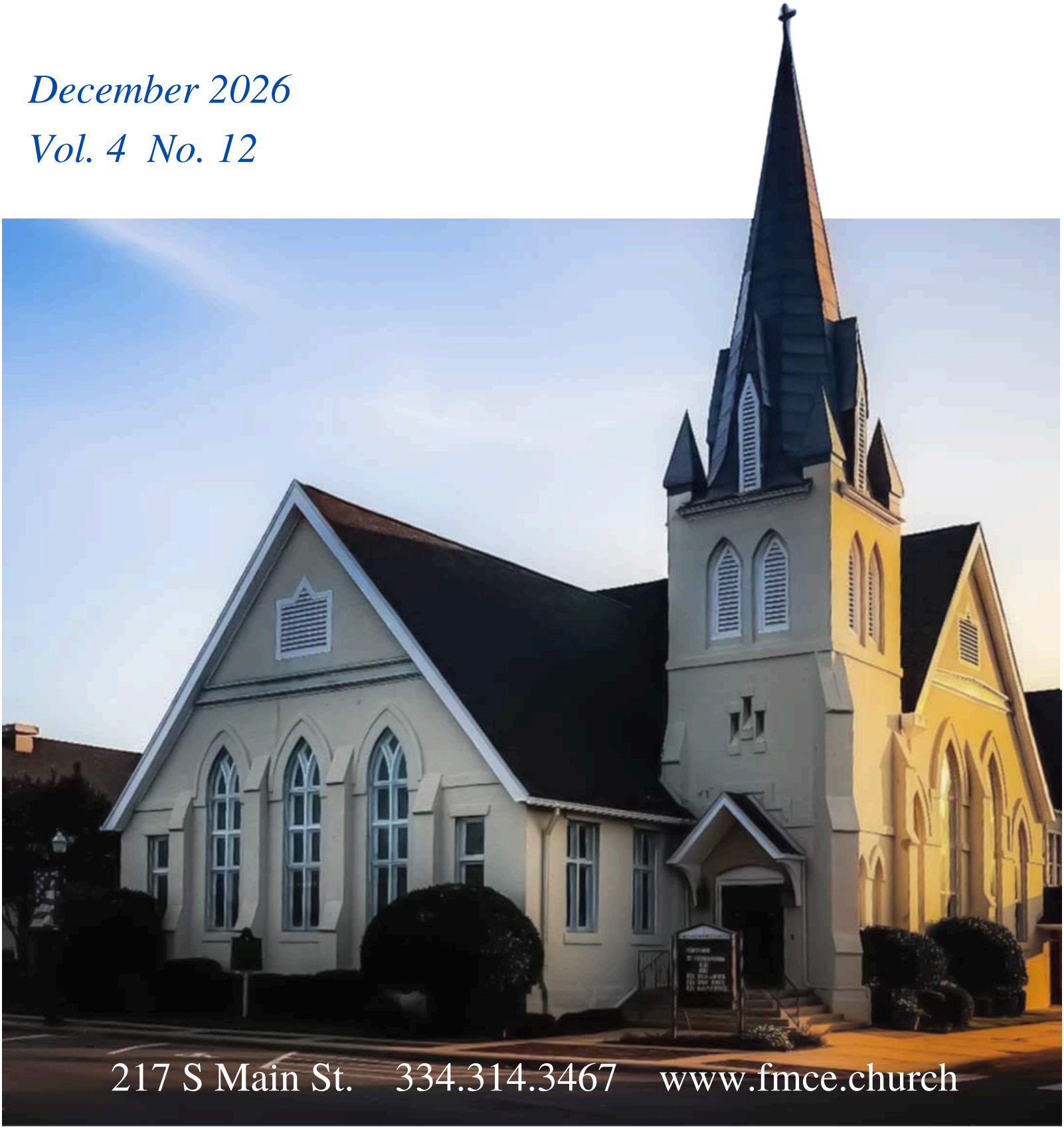
NEWSLETTER

First Methodist Church Enterprise

December 2026

Vol. 4 No. 12



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FMCE

December 2026|Vol. 4 | No. 12

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Rev. Dr. Amy Young
Family Ministries Pastor



Rev. Gary Daniel
Pastor Emeritus



First Methodist Church of Enterprise, AL

Our Vision

To transform the world with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to help people become disciples who know God, grow as Christ followers, and go live on mission.

RECORD OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

Due to our accounting software conversion, no numbers are available to report for the month of November 2026.
Thank you for your understanding.

In This Issue:

3| Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and Record of Faithfulness

4-8| Announcements

9| A Word from Pastor Matt
FMCE Veterans Honored

10| Pastor Billy's Notes
December Acolytes & Crucifer Schedule

11| FMCE Student Ministry News

12| FMCE Kids Ministry News

13| Mom's Day Out & Stepping Stones Preschool

14| FMCE Hospitality News

15| Celebrate Recovery News

16| FMCE Respite Ministry

17| Prayer List
December Birthdays

SIGN UP FOR FMCE PEW NEWS & NEWSLETTERS

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter and/or notifications via FMCE Pew News, email secretary@fmce.church, or call 334-347-3467, and you will be added to the distribution list.

Christmas

AT FIRST METHODIST ENTERPRISE

NOV 29

Hanging of the Greens
Family Advent Wreaths

DEC 4

Kids Handprint
Ornament Night

DEC 5

Whoville

DEC 6

Nativity Program

DEC 14

Angel Tree Party

DEC 16

Wednesday Night
Dessert and Devotion

DEC 20

Christmas Choir
Performances

DEC 21

Blue Christmas

DEC 24

Christmas Eve Services
5:00 Contemporary
6:30 Traditional

DEC 27

One Service
10:30 AM
Fellowship Hall


FMCE KIDS AND STUDENTS PRESENT
Nativity
SUN, DEC 7 AT 10:00 IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL


ANGEL TREE
GIVE TO SOMEONE IN NEED
Nov 15 - Dec 10
Angel Tree Party
Mon, Dec 14 at 5:30 PM


HANDPRINT NIGHT
Parents' Night Out
Kids Christmas Party
DEC 4TH 5:00-9:00 PM
$10 PER ORNAMENT
FMCE
Kids Ministry
Snow Ball Fight | PJs | Hot Chocolate
Deadline is Dec 1st. Contact Milesa to sign up.


Whoville
SATURDAY, DEC 5
10 AM - 4 PM
We need marshmallows, small candy canes, cookies/brownies, and volunteers.
Please bring items by Thursday, Dec 3.

The First Methodist Church Choirs Present

THE KING IS BORN



Sun, Dec 20, 3:00 and 5:30 PM. Dessert Reception at 7:00.

You Are Invited To A

Blue Christmas Service

Whether this is the first Christmas without someone you love, or you are still hurting from loss, we gather to worship God in the midst of mourning.

December 21 6:00 PM

Let us know you're coming.
Scan to Register

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER DECEMBER REGISTER TODAY

SCAN ME!

December 2



Chicken and Dumplings, Biscuit and Pie

December 9



Chinese Take Out

December 16





Join us for FREE Pizza and Dessert

One Body ~ One Faith ~ One Pledge

A Word from Pastor Matt

We've talked about pledges the past few weeks, and they are significantly important. However, what lies behind those pledges is even more important. These pledges aren't simply a reflection of our faithfulness in giving, but they are a commitment of faith to the ministries of our church. The church isn't just one body, one faith, and one pledge. It is Our body, Our faith, and Our pledge. As the year comes to an end please consider your pledge not in terms of financial stewardship, but in ministry growth. Think about the new children's ministry center erected in the next year, the smiling faces of kids across the campus, students serving in various roles and growing in discipleship, the senior adult choir visiting nursing homes spreading cheer, the first responders never running out of snacks in the rest stop, our congregation having access to thousands of free discipleship resources, increased ability to aide in recovery through Celebrate recovery, and so much more. When you make your pledge it is a commitment to the future ministry and growth of our church. One church, one pledge, one faith.

In Christ,
Pastor Matt



🇺🇸 A New Picture Has Been Added to Our Wall of Valor! 🇺🇸

Our FMCE Veterans were honored on November 2nd at our monthly S.T.A.R.S. Luncheon. Take a moment to stop by the Wall of Valor and check out our newest addition as we proudly recognize and honor our FMCE Veterans. We are grateful for their service, sacrifice, and dedication to our country.

Thank you to all who have served!

Pastor Billy's Notes

Don't Miss Christmas

One of my favorite Christmas hymns is Once in Royal David's City. There is a line in that hymn that says, "He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall. With the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our savior holy."

Why would the God of the universe choose to send his Son in such an unassuming way? Jesus was born in an animal pen on a cold, dark night, far away from home, a stranger, in a strange town. But God doesn't usually do things the way we would expect. For whatever reason, God chose this way to send the savior to the world. The people were watching and waiting for a Messiah, and His birth had been prophesied hundreds of years earlier. Yet for 400 years, Heaven was silent. No prophets. No word at all. Then John the Baptist came on the scene, telling everyone to get ready and prepare the way, for the Messiah was coming soon. So Jesus came, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, not with great fanfare, but as a little baby in a manger! After hundreds of years of waiting, hoping, and anticipating, He was finally here! Christmas had come! And most of the people missed it!

Two thousand years later, that same announcement is still being proclaimed, and we are waiting in expectation just like the people of that day. Jesus has come once, and He is coming again. This time He comes as King, Redeemer, and Judge of the world. Are we any better prepared or any more expectant than they were? This Christmas, slow down, make room for Him, and be ready, so you don't miss the one we have been waiting for.

"Sing"cerely,
Pastor Billy

December Acolyte & Crucifer Schedule

December 6:	Acolytes: Havana Lett & Zander Schlieger Crucifer: Harley Schlieger
December 13:	Acolytes: Grant Beall & Walt Stuart Crucifer: Claira Stuart
December 20:	Acolytes: Jackson Scott & Jon David Scott Crucifer: John Curry Lyons
December 24: (Christmas Eve)	Acolytes: Harley Schlieger & Zander Schlieger
December 27:	One Service - Contemporary



Thankfulness and Gratitude Fuel JOY

When the angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, they proclaimed, “I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people” (Luke 2:10, CSB). Christmas is a celebration of joy! But what makes Jesus' birth such joyful news? The answer begins with recognizing what God has given us.

In Jesus, God gave us the greatest gift we could ever receive: Himself. The Creator of the universe entered His creation not as a powerful king surrounded by wealth and luxury, but as a humble baby. Through Jesus, God revealed His love and made a way for us to be reconciled to Him.

Consider the shepherds who first heard the good news. They weren't particularly important in the eyes of society, yet God chose them to receive the announcement of the Savior's birth. After seeing Jesus, they returned to their fields glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen (Luke 2:20). Their circumstances hadn't necessarily changed, but their hearts were filled with gladness because they recognized what God had done. When we recognize the incredible gift of Jesus, gratitude begins to grow. And gratitude has a remarkable way of leading to joy. In Philippians 4:4–7, Paul encourages believers to rejoice always and approach God with prayer and thanksgiving. Writing from prison, Paul understood that joy doesn't require perfect circumstances. Instead, joy can flourish when our hearts are focused on God's goodness and faithfulness.

But gratitude isn't simply a feeling that comes and goes. Gratitude is something we can intentionally practice every day. We can begin each morning by thanking God for His presence, recognize His goodness in ordinary moments, and end each day reflecting on the ways we've experienced His faithfulness. We can express appreciation to others, choose generosity over selfishness, and remember God's blessings even when life is difficult. These simple practices train our hearts to recognize goodness and blessings we might otherwise overlook. Over time, gratitude can reshape our perspectives and strengthen our trust in God, which helps us experience joy that isn't dependent on our circumstances.

Christmas reminds us that even when life is difficult, we have reasons to be thankful and joyful. God has not abandoned His creation. He has come near to us through Jesus. This Christmas, may we look beyond the decorations, presents, and celebrations to recognize the greatest gift of all. And may our gratitude extend beyond December 25, becoming a daily practice that continually draws our hearts toward the joy found in Jesus Christ. Joy isn't always what makes us thankful. Oftentimes, thankfulness is what opens our hearts to joy.



Rev. Dr. Amy Young
Family Ministries Pastor
familymin@fmce.church
256.750.1771

FMCE Students

Sunday Morning Small Group 10:00 AM
The Gospel Project

Sunday Student Worship 5:00-7:00 Dinner & Bible Study
Clear Biblical Teachings / Advent

Wednesday Night MDWK 5:30-7:00 PM
Clear Biblical Teachings / Advent

Thursday AWAKEN 6:30 AM at The Daily Bread

Young Adults

The Young Adults Small Group, led by JoDee Norwood, meets on Sunday mornings at 10 in the Library.

After a little over a year, we finished our study of The Letter to the Church at Rome!!!

We learned:
All are in need of salvation.
Jesus is the only way to be saved and adopted into God’s family.
God has not forsaken His promises to His people.
And the Good News of Jesus changes how we live our daily lives at home and in community.

FMCE STUDENTS

KID MIN NEWS

DEVOTION AND COFFEE

Join me on Monday mornings at 8:40 in the church library. There's coffee, tea, and snacks. Our devotion will be peace under pressure, finding peace in Jesus even when we are stressed and overwhelmed.

SAVE THE DATES

Dec. 4 PNO Handprint Christmas Party
Dec. 5 Whoville
Dec 6 Nativity Program
Dec. 14 Angel Tree
Dec. 16 Dessert & Devotion
Dec. 20 Choir Performance
Dec. 21 Blue Christmaas
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services
Dec. 27 One Service

KID SPOTLIGHT



SOPHIE HANEY

Sophie is in 3rd grade and likes the color light blue and eating pizza. She likes playing Minecraft, and doing gymnastics and dance. At kids she is always ready to dance and sing our worship songs. Sophie's favorite Bible story is Jesus' resurrection and her favorite verse is Luke 6:31. When she grows up she has lots of decisions to make because right now she wants to be a famous musician, dancer, singer, artist and cook.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Milesa Eagan
Director of
Children's Ministries
children@fmce.church
334-389-1070



NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS













Children are a gift from the Lord.
Psalm 127:3

December 2026

First Methodist Church of Enterprise
334-393-2536
mdo@fmce.church

Dear MDO/SSP Families,

A big shout out to all of the students and teachers in the Bear, Bumblebee, Duck, Frog and Turtle classes for the wonderful job they did saying and singing Thanksgiving chants, songs and Bible verses.

Can you believe the holiday season is fast approaching? Are you ready? As our school begins celebrating the Christmas season, we will be decorating the classrooms and halls for the children to experience this joyous time!

We are looking forward to a **Christmas celebration** to be held on **Friday, December 11th at 9:30 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall**, this program will feature Christmas songs and Nativity Play. All classes will participate except the Bunny, Kangaroo and Lamb. **Friday, December 11th will be a** regular school day.

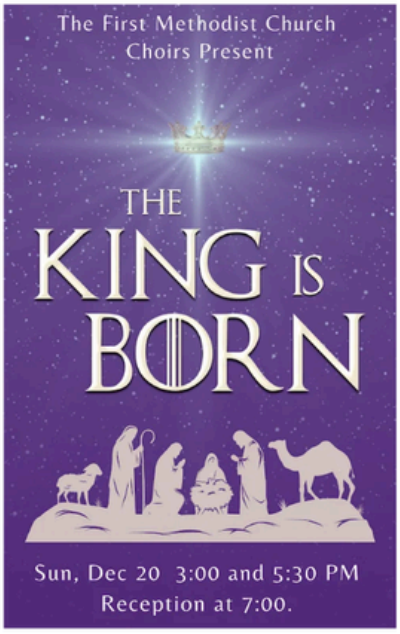
All students participating in the program must be in their classrooms by 8:45 A.M. to get dressed for the program.

Each class will celebrate with a **Christmas party on Thursday, December 17th in their classrooms.** More information will be sent home in your child's daily folder in the near future. If your child does not normally attend on Thursdays your child is certainly welcome to participate on December 17th.

As we come to the end of 2026 I thank each of you for the gifts of your children., your support, and your encouragement. May this Christmas season be meaningful for you in a special way and the New Year be happy for you and yours!

Serving his Children,
Ms. Tammy





FMCE Christma Eve Services

5:00 P.M. Contemporary service in the Fellowship Hall
6 P.M. Traditional service in the sanctuary

Remember.....
Christmas celebration - December 11th @ 9:30 A.M.
(This will be a regular school day)
Class Christmas Parties - December 17th
Christmas Break - MDO/SSP is closed -
December 18th @ Noon-January 5th
MDO/SSP resumes - January 6th
MDO/SSP class photos - January 13th & 14th
MLK, Jr. Holiday - January 18th
MDO/SSP is closed.



Happy Birthday

Camden M. 12/3
Gibson P. 12/8
Millie V. 12/14
RJ C. 12/14
Kit R. 12/31

Mission Statement: As an early childhood education center, our mission is to provide a healthy foundation for learning within a safe structured, stimulating and nurturing environment. We foster physical, social, spiritual and intellectual growth as we prepare children for the next step in preschool and ultimately kindergarten.



Volunteers Needed

FMCE Hospitality

Contact Deborah Owens
hospitality @fmce.church

We Need Volunteers for:

WHOVILLE 12/5/26 - Volunteer for shifts to pass out cookies, monitor activities, and help where needed.

NAVITY PLAY 12/6 - Refreshment Setup

Angel Tree - help wrap, distribute, and organize gifts.

ANGEL TREE Party 12/14/26 at 4:30 - help set up/organize.

Wednesday Night Dinner 3:30-5:00
Prepare and Set up for Wednesday Night Dinners



GOD WITH US

CELEBRATE RECOVERY
DECEMBER 2026

We often imagine peace as the reward for finally getting everything settled. Once the relationship is repaired, the grief is lighter, the temptation is gone, the bills are paid, and the family is getting along, then we will feel at peace.

But Christmas tells a different story:
peace did not wait for the world to get itself together

Jesus entered a story full of disruption. Mary and Joseph's plans changed suddenly. A government order sent them traveling at the worst possible time. The place they hoped would shelter them had no room. The Savior of the world arrived without comfort, ceremony, or ideal circumstances.

The first Christmas was not polished. It was holy because Jesus was there.

That truth matters deeply in recovery. December can magnify what hurts. Empty seats feel emptier. Family tension becomes harder to avoid. Financial pressure grows. Old memories return, routines are disrupted, and the expectation to be cheerful can make an honest struggle feel like failure.

Celebrate Recovery gives us permission to tell the truth: some parts of our lives are still unfinished. We may still be rebuilding trust, grieving a loss, learning new boundaries, fighting an old habit, or just taking recovery one day at a time. Christmas does not require us to deny any of that.

The name Immanuel means "God with us." Not God waiting at the finish line for us to become presentable. Not God standing at a distance until we conquer every hurt, habit, and hang-up. God WITH us HERE - in the middle of the tangled places, the unanswered questions, and the work still in progress.

This is the hope of Christmas: Jesus does not merely visit the parts of our lives that look good in a family picture. He enters the places we hide. He brings light into our shame, truth into our denial, grace into our failures, and companionship into our loneliness.

At CR, we do not celebrate perfection. We celebrate progress, honesty, surrender, and the faithful presence of Jesus. A difficult day does not erase the distance God has already carried us. An unfinished story is not an abandoned story.

So if your December feels joyful, thank Him. If it feels complicated, bring that to Him too. You do not have to manufacture holiday cheer or clean up your life before coming close to Jesus. The One born into an imperfect night is still willing to meet us in imperfect places.

Whatever remains unfinished, Immanuel is here. And because He is with us, there is hope for what comes next.

Celebrate Recovery meets Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

First Methodist Church Enterprise • A Place Where Hurts Find Hope

FMCE
Respite Ministry

First Methodist Church Enterprise
Where Your Loved Ones are Loved



Respite Ministry continues to reach out to those in distress due to difficult caregiver situations. Part of our outreach is the monthly Caregiver Support Group, which meets every third Tuesday in the Life Journey Sunday School room at 10:00 a.m. Experienced leaders meet with caregivers who need someone to talk to - someone who knows what it is like to be a family caregiver day after day. The Tuesday/Thursday Respite Ministry program is designed especially for those with mild to moderate dementia. We would love to have more people join us, because we volunteers enjoy the activities and we think you would, too, whether as a volunteer or an "early" participant. Someone mentioned that not everyone necessarily understands what Respite days are like, so this is what Respite is and what it is not:

Respite IS:

- a joyful gathering of friends of all ages who simply love spending time together in a lightly structured, no-pressure atmosphere
- helpful for stimulating our minds with activities that involve memories of "days of old" or special times in our lives that we feel nostalgic about - all done with laughter and great conversations
- a time to have a cup of coffee or juice with a special fruit bowl and breakfast cake options
- great for a light stretch and workout (seated workout, that is)
- uplifting with two music sing-alongs and/or concerts per day
- a delicious, well-balanced southern-style lunch (with dessert)
- game time with upbeat music and something we call balloon volleyball (Try it - you'll like it!)
- service projects or fun art projects
- a privilege and a joy for the volunteers
- an opportunity to find those wonderful moments with our friends when a close connection is made and we see a glimpse of what truly defines that person as unique and beautiful
- an opportunity to enrich the lives of our friends through stimulating interactions and activities
- considered a "calling" to our volunteers

Respite is NOT:

- about differentiating between those with dementia and those without (We all look alike, we are all about the same age, and we all wear identical name tags.)
- about children's level activities just to keep busy
- taking a condescending tone of voice as though talking to a child when helping one of our friends with dementia
- adult babysitting
- considered a "job" to our volunteers (It is considered a joy!)

We wish all of you a very blessed and beautiful Christmas. It is a time to reflect upon the greatest gift ever given to us, the gift of Jesus Christ, Son of God. God be with you and keep you safe.

Jean Johnson, Respite Ministry Director
334-406-7964

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers. If you know someone who should be added to this prayer list, contact the Church Office at 334-347-3467 or email secretary@fmce.church. If you notice someone who may need to be removed from the list, we would appreciate that information as well. Please continue to pray earnestly for those listed and for others who are on your hearts.

Unspoken concerns; The United States of America and all our leaders; Our US military; First Responders; Victims & families of natural disasters; Area City & County Schools; Jackson Bailey; Kamryn Bailey; Gayle Boyd; Herbert & Joyce Barr; Bennie & Geraldine Beckham; Starla Bryars; Chuck & Trish Bumgardner; Craig Cody; Kevin Cohee; Dallas & April Cross; Monica Delk; Lynn Dieckow; Perry Dillard; Tammy Ezzell; Shellye Foley; Ed & Robin Foy; Debbie Grimes; Gene Gullo; Regina Harper; Chris & Donna Holland; Judy Holmes; Carl Jackson; Peggy Jeter; Betty Johnson; Jamie Jones; Caro & Jack Kaiser; Travis, Jennifer & Baby Michael Konrath; Glenda Luttrell; Joann McCormack; Janet McHenry; Gene & Katie Marcum; Billy & Laurilee Mixson; Bonnie Morgan; Jordan Morrow; Dorothy Munns; Lynn Parks; Kathryn Peacock; Joan Ray; The Debbie Riviere Family; Mary Rollins; Dottie Schwartz; Will Searcy; Sis Sherling; Reggie Sorrells; Derek Tucker; Liam Tucker; Lynda Tucker; Walt Vickers; Sarah Williams; Pat Williams; Nancy Williford;
Cynthia Young; Marci Young.



DECEMBER

1 – None
2 – Jackson Bailey, Kamryn Bailey
3 – Wade Sharp
4 – Carole Johnson
5 – Todd Clark, Justin Ragland
6 – Hannah Moore
7 – Yale Easdale
8 – Patrick Coe, Parker Danner, Bill Gammill, Peggy Samuels, Paulie Thill
9 – None
10 – Helga Graham, Betty Johnson
11 – Tom Johnson
12 – Jennifer Coe, Ward Edwards
13 – Polly Carver
14 – None
15 – Joey Russell
16 – Addison Paul, Judy Winkler
17 – Robin Foy, Sis Sherling
18 – M J Danner, Deanna Dionne
19 – Kam Speigner
20 – Stephen Hines
21 – Jennifer Richards
22 –Tammie Renicker
23 – None
24 – Jeanette Cody
25 – JESUS
26 – Jim Humphreys
27 – Amy Jennings
28 – Lynda Tucker
29 – Dennis Ormsby
30 – None
31 – Joe Lassan, Lori Long, Joann McCormack

JANUARY

1 – None
2 – Jackson Bailey, Kamryn Bailey
3 – Wade Sharp
4 – Carole Johnson
5 – Todd Clark, Justin Ragland

A Christmas Story

Word Search







The story of Christmas is filled with hope, joy, and promise. Hidden in this puzzle are words from the biblical account—can you find them all? Search carefully in every direction, and let each word remind you of the true meaning of the season!

Y H D G V T Y K S H E P H E R D S M
M M T B L R N N R Y J Z F P X M M Z
G Y N L A F H E A V E N L Y H O S T
W N R M S I N M R L S H Z L F B L R
M V I R D T N Y O E U H K R N V R K
E R Y K H M A N I G S Q A E C A E P
J M E R D M C R V N N N T R R L J V
R D M S O X K Y A A K T T S B O Z M
P L X A I L M J S I N R W A S R E F
G O M W N A G X N P T E T E Q H G K
X G P I L U R C X V N S P N E N N R
C E N S U S E P B D L H I L M A I J
C T K E F N R L O T N G H K N T L T
M V G M S L E O Q K H T Y O J I D F
W L C E T K G G G T E L R M W V D L
D X R N F Z N Z R B N Z D W P I A O
T F I G C L A M E S S I A H L T W C
Y P N T M M M Z J L Z M D Z B Y S K

ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
CENSUS
EMMANUEL
FLOCK
FRANKINCENSE
GIFT
GLORY
GOLD
GOOD NEWS
HEAVENLY HOST
INN
JESUS
JOSEPH
JOY
KING
MANGER
MARY
MESSIAH
MYRRH
NATIVITY
NIGHT
PEACE
PRAISE
SAVIOR
SHEPHERDS
STABLE
STAR
SWADDLING
WISE MEN





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Christmas Edition
WORD SCRAMBLE

RREENEEVG _____

IGFYG UDGDNPI _____

AINSRFNEECNK _____

ETICAKFUR _____

KAJC SFOTR _____

AJLSEMEUR _____

SAIOTNITPE _____

SMALURGUP _____

TEIPPNERMP _____

ANEUTNNBMA _____

EILFZ IVDANAD _____

ANEVDT DALCRAEN _____

EHBEELTHM _____

NSTLEI NTGIH _____

ISHEGL DIER _____

TTLELI RMUERMD BOY _____

INEJLG LEBL COKR _____

SFOYTR HTE MWNONAS _____

IHWET HSARSCTMI _____

ASATN YABB _____

Merry Christmas!

"A Savior, born for us."



"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." — Isaiah 9:6

FROM

The FMCE Staff