

REQUESTING THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

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|---|---|
| Ada Reed Rogers | Jerry McLeary |
| Anna Oliver | Jim Kizer |
| Bart and Jean Ann White | Kurt Rodenberger |
| Becky Crabtree | Larrabee Kirkland |
| Carol Ullrich | Landon Matheny and Family |
| Chuck Calhoun (Pat Capps' brother) | Mae Workman (<i>Don and Gale Bevis' granddaughter, Tim, and Selle Shanks's niece</i>) |
| Deborah Jolley Johnson | Millie Brown |
| Edie Tanner | Mike Prince (<i>Becky Baldridge Prince's husband</i>) |
| Grant Everage | Nanci Daniels |
| Hailey Jackson | Our nation and world |
| Hunter Winstead (<i>Pat Capps' grandson</i>) | Patsy Coates (<i>Carolyn Crouch's sister-in-law</i>) |
| James Allen | Susan Parr |
| James Hudson (<i>Janet Calfee's father</i>) | Suzy Freeman |
| Jean Miller (<i>Pamela Whitlow's mother</i>) | Whit Buter |
| Jerry and Betty Wiggins | |

HOSPITALIZED, AT HOME, OR IN REHAB/NURSING FACILITIES

Hospital: None at the time of printing.

Home: Sharon Barnes, Carolyn Crouch, Charles and Cindy Cowell, Joe

Burns, Lenora Stephenson, Mike George, Rick Smith

Gadsden Health & Rehab, Gadsden, AL: Ina Davis

OC Nursing Home: Janice Diane Stephens

UC Manor: Hal Jernigan, Jerry Miller, Joyce Overall, Peggy Burnett,

The Etheridge House: no one at time of printing

THOSE WHO GRIEVE

Family and Friends of Judith Estlow.

OUR MILITARY

Capt. Ian Garrigan, MD – Tacoma, Washington

Capt. William Benjamin Barkley – Okinawa, Japan

Lt. McLean Panter – Bogota, Colombia

Lt. Colonel Bart Doyle – Miramar Beach, Florida

Maj. Marc Wuerderman, MD Savannah, GA

ADVENT, A BOOK OF DEVOTIONS & THE UPPER ROOM



Copies are available in the literature rack at the Guest Services Desk and the sanctuary windowsills. They are free of charge. Take one and give one to a friend, neighbor, or co-worker!

Scan the QR Code to the right and be taken directly To our online giving page.



December Is A Month Full of Mission!

HOME-BOUND CHRISTMAS BAGS: Bountiful Christmas Bags filled with treats and other small items will be prepared for delivery to our 15 church members who are homebound, in nursing homes, and in assisted living facilities again this year, on **Tuesday, December 15th at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

(Please do not send homemade treats, nor opened toiletries items due to COVID-19) The church is accepting your donations of small hygiene products and toiletries, individually-wrapped snack cakes, crackers, candies, and other appropriate and decorative items that others would enjoy. You're also invited to help assemble and deliver these items that same day! If you have questions related to this project or would like to volunteer to assemble and/or deliver the Bags, please call **Janey Fowler at 885-9452.** Thank you!

CHRISTMAS EVE TRAFFIC ATTENDANTS NEEDED

Thursday, December 24th (*Christmas Eve*) from 6-8 pm

With the upcoming *Drive-Thru Christmas Eve* event, traffic attendants are needed to help drivers navigate their way through the church's back parking lot and ramp.

Therefore, we are looking for...

- male and female servants who are at least 16 years old & older,
- willing to wear reflective vests,
- able to work, play, and speak well with others, and...
- able to assist drivers & other attendants in directing the flow of traffic for this unique opportunity.

Smiling, helpful attendants would need to arrive at the church by 5pm (*we expect people to start arriving early and lining up their vehicles early*) and stay for most (if not all) of the event, if you are able. And we invite attendants to bring a solid, blinking flashlight to be used during the evening (*we will have spare batteries as needed*). Please Note: the event actually begins at 6pm, but we would need you to arrive early to get your gear, your reflective vest and flashlight, and your assigned space in the parking lot.

Please dress warmly. Coffee and/or hot chocolate breaks will be available that night for your help (*All church buildings will be locked that evening, but you can get inside for bathroom breaks. Additionally, no Nursery services will be provided on Christmas Eve*).

If you still have questions and/or would like to be part of the **Merry Christmas Parking Brigade** (or, some other "catchier" name), please contact our Director of Discipleship at 731-858-3573. Thanks for your interest.

A PRAYER FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT



I lift my heart up to you, Lord, to thank you for the blessings you shower on me each day. You are the 'joy of my soul.' I know that in your great love, I am held and protected by you. I pray and listen to the good news you send; I ask and feel the healing. I am freed by you from the things in this world that let me hide from you. I rejoice, I rejoice, down to my soul. Help me to prepare my heart to be open and able to receive your immense love. Amen.

A prayer will be printed each Sunday in Advent for you to include in any materials you may already be using in your personal devotional time.

The Order of Worship for the Lord's Day

December 13, 2020

Third Sunday in Advent

10:50 a.m.

Anticipation: Christmas Fruit



First United Methodist Church

420 East Main Street

Union City, Tennessee 38261

Phone: 731.885.3573

Website: www.fumcuc.org

Facebook: [fumcuc/facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/fumcuc/)

Rev. Dr. Douglas N Norfleet, Pastor

The Order of Worship

THE GATHERING

THE CHIMES

At the ringing of the chimes, please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices, then turn your hearts and minds toward God in a posture and spirit of prayer and worship.

WORDS OF WELCOME AND PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Terry Hailey, Organist
PRESENTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST Annie Beth Cruce, Acolyte

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE (seated)

[Light the two purple candles of the Advent wreath.]

LEADER: *If Jesus comes to us again at Christmas this year, and if Jesus dwells within each of us, shouldn't that make a difference in who we are and how we live our lives? Hear these words from 1st Thessalonians:*

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

"Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of the prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil."

"May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

"The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this."

**ALL: If we seek Jesus who is born in the manger, shouldn't we:
...be at peace among ourselves?
...help the weak and the poor?
...not repay evil for evil, but always do good to one another.
...in all circumstances, give thanks?**

[Light the third purple candle of the Advent wreath.]

LEADER: *As we light this third candle, let us remember that this is the will of God in Christ Jesus, who comes to us.*

ALL: COME, LORD JESUS. AMEN.

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (seated; to be sung by all)



HYMN (standing as you are able) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1-O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Refrain:

[Refrain] Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2-O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go. Refrain

3-O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times did give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

4-O come, thou root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be; before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call. Refrain

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER (standing as able)

Compassionate God, all around us we hear of peace and yet only as a dream; a dream we would love to be part of, a dream we long to have in our hearts, in our homes, in our neighborhoods, and even in our churches. We pray this morning, for that day when we will experience that peace that passes all understanding; and that in doing so we may experience you, the Peace of the world. Let that day quickly come Lord God. O come, O come, Emmanuel. Amen.

5-O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home. Make safe for us the heavenward road and bar the way to death's abode. Refrain

CHILDREN'S HUDDLE (seated) Mr. Robert Weatherall
Director of Discipleship

THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (seated)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

THE HYMN (seated) Nothing But the Blood

1-What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Refrain:

[Refrain] O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow; no other fount I know; nothing but the blood of Jesus.

2-For my pardon this I see: nothing but the blood of Jesus. For my cleansing this my plea: nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]

3-Nothing can for sin atone: nothing but the blood of Jesus. Naught of good that I have done: nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]

4-This is all my hope and peace: nothing but the blood of Jesus. This is all my righteousness: nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]

ACT OF PRAISE (seated) Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella
Grant Larcom, Pianist

THE GOSPEL READING (seated) Luke 3:7-18

Liturgist, Tim Shanks, Finance Team Leader
7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

⁹Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?'

¹¹In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.'

¹²Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?'

¹³He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.'

¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation and be satisfied with your wages.'

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

¹⁷His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Reader: *The Word of God, for the People of God*

People: **Thanks be to God**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD Rev. Dr. Douglas N Norfleet
Advent Sermon Series: Anticipation of Christmas Fruit

THE CLOSING HYMN (standing as able) I Need Thee Every Hour
1-I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord; no tender voice like thine can peace afford. Refrain:

[Refrain] I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee! O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

2-I need thee every hour, stay thou nearby; temptations lose their power when thou art nigh. [Refrain]

3-I need thee every hour, in joy or pain; come quickly, and abide, or life is vain. [Refrain]

4-I need thee every hour; teach me thy will; and thy rich promises in me fulfill. [Refrain]

TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE