



## Wednesday Night Supper Menus

### December 4

Chicken enchiladas, pintos, rice, salad, and desserts.

Call or text Elaine Crouch at 706-506-7527 to reserve a plate.

### December 11

Bring your favorite sandwiches, soup, or dessert to share.

### December 18

Men's Club will cook. The menu is TBA. Contact Wes for reservations. At the same time, the Ladies Circle will have a Christmas meal at the home of William and Elaine Crouch. Let Elaine know if you plan to attend. Bring a side or dessert.

No supper on December 25th. *a cause will make it easier to cope with the situation. It won't. There always has been and always will be a frustrating degree of randomness to life's experiences.*

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Backpack Food Packing

December 3rd and 17th at 12:30 in Rome.

### Operation Christmas Child

delivers great joy and the good news of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. Each box packed full of quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items becomes a tangible expression of God's immense love for the child. For many, it is their first gift ever! We provided 32 boxes this year. We appreciate Gene, Susan and Megan McGinnis who delivered our boxes to the drop off location.



**Trip to Murphy Harpst for a  
Christmas Party hosted by  
SFUMC**

Many have volunteered to provide gifts to the foster children at Murphy Harpst. Gifts will be delivered on Saturday, December 14th. The party is 11 a.m. until noon. We are also responsible for light refreshments. Everyone is invited to attend. We will have Santa with us.

740 Fletcher Street, Cedartown, Ga.  
Cedartown, Georgia 30125

A sign up sheet to provide a gift is located in the Fellowship Hall. All gifts should be at the church by December 12th. Gifts should be \$20-\$25, wrapped and labeled with the child's information.



**Trip to the Tate House**

A trip to tour the Tate House and the Christmas decorations is planned for December 10. The cost of the tour is \$25 which will be paid upon arrival. If you plan to go, let Rita O'Neal know. Meet at the church no later than 9:30 a.m. to carpool. The group will stop in Calhoun on the way back to eat lunch.

*Mansion Tour Only*

No Reservation Needed

Tickets Sold in Gift Boutique

Monday - Saturday / 11:00am - 4:00pm

\$25 Adults / \$5 Child (5-10)

# *It's looking like Christmas at SFUMC*



Thank you to all of the volunteers who came to decorate the church on Nov. 29. Special thanks to Linda Archer for organizing the activity.



## November Circle Meeting

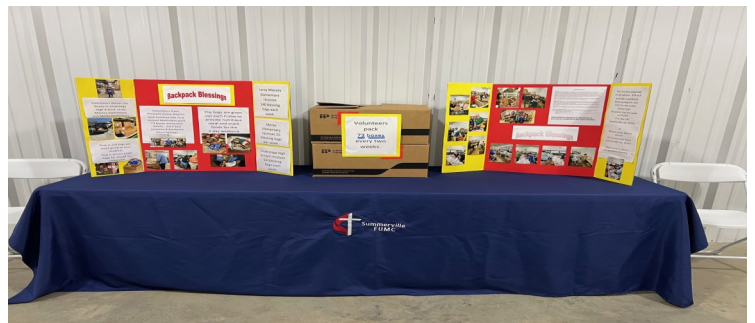
The Ladies Circle met at The Willow Tree Grill for lunch and returned to the Fellowship Hall for a presentation by Marybeth Housch. Marybeth shared her experiences with counseling . She offers counseling services in Chattooga County and meets with clients in the church annex.



# Community Thanksgiving Lunch at the Ag Center

The Three Circles Foundation provided a community meal on November 9th. The organizers asked that we set up a table telling about our backpack ministry. We deliver 219 bags of food each week to local children.

Three Circles also gives out lunches each Monday in Dowdy Park at noon.



# From the Pastor

Last Friday, one of the best friends I have in the world, went to be with Jesus. We knew Helen Jane was sick, we knew she was not doing well, and we were not able to get by to see her before she passed. There are two ways that I look at this. Helen Jane was one of the people that we all know who wanted to make sure the preacher came to visit her if she was in the hospital and she made sure to let the preacher know two weeks after she got out. She was that private a person she just didn't want anybody coming to see her in the hospital. She had lost a lot of weight due to her illness and I promise you she would not have enjoyed us seeing her during the last several months of her life

When I say that she was one of the best friends, I have in the world, I truly mean that. And I mean it, in spite of the fact that she and I disagreed on almost every major issue that came up in the United States in the 30 odd years that I have known her. Our differences did not keep us from being friends, precisely because politics occupied only a small portion of either of our lives. Helen Jane Wilson was one of the last people that I know of who did not shun you if you disagreed with her.

Christmas is rushing toward us like a freight train, and I am reminded of the reason for Christmas.

***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten / Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16 NKJV***

There is a saying that goes around, if God *didn't* talk to those who hated Him, He would have no one to talk to.

In the letter to the church at Rome, Paul says,

***"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." Rom 3:10-12 ESV***

One of the things I'm going to miss most about my friend is that we could have some of the most intense debate, discussions, arguments, whatever you want to call them and have dinner together right after. I enjoyed talking with her, because often I learned new things. I was able to learn new things because we exchanged ideas. I used to have hopes that Facebook and social media platforms in general would enable me to have those kind of discussions with people where we talked about things. I've been banned and blacklisted, and generally shunned on too many pages to think that anymore. But I don't give up hope for the possibility of some type of discussion like that. I like to talk to people who are completely different from me to learn why they think the way they do. On a comical note, however, on my last trip to Trade Days, I was looking at some Christmas ornaments and someone walked up and asked me if I thought Jesus was born in December. For what it's worth, no, I do not think Jesus was born in December, because the shepherds would not have had the sheep out in the fields in December. For me that's irrelevant because we don't know when Jesus was born so which ever day we pick to celebrate we have 364 possibilities of being wrong. Our conversation quickly devolved from, did I think Jesus was born in December, to did I think God wanted us to celebrate Christmas or Easter or Halloween, and I realized I was in the presence of a narrow minded person who could not get beyond the witness of Their belief.

I have said many times that growing up, the preacher in the church I went to was a hellfire and brimstone, preacher, who loved to say that you were going to hell if you did not change your ways. He almost scared me out of being a Christian as a little boy, because I didn't know what I had done to go to hell for. As a pastor, as a preacher, I cannot preach that type of God. The God I know, the God that I share, is a God of love, not primarily one of judgment.


I try to start all of my theological discussions from this perspective of grace. "We are saved by grace through faith, and that is not of ourselves. It is a gift from God, so no one may boast.

That's what Christmas really means to me at its heart. That God loved the world so much that he sent Jesus into this world, not to save the righteous, but to save sinners. I said at church last week that I didn't like Christmas as much as I used to precisely because it has been stolen from us by retail stores. I like Christmas as it was portrayed in the old Christmas movies. God moved so powerfully in the lives of ordinary people (at best), to the point that they were transformed by the love of God. That is what I want, and it is what I want for you all to have such a powerful interaction with the creator of the universe that you are transformed by that encounter.

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Wrapping it all up, I can miss my friend, I miss my mom and my dad, but I know as sure, as I know my own name that this is never the end. I will see them all again in the presence of the risen savior.

Merry Christmas to you all  
Wes



*Summerville First  
United Methodist Church  
Christmas Eve Service  
6PM December 24, 2024*



A night scene with a bright star in the sky, palm trees, and a nativity scene in the foreground. The text is overlaid on this background.

**Pleasant Grove Baptist Church**  
**Drive Thru**  
**Outdoor Nativity**  
**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:30pm - 8:00pm**  
**Gore Community, 900 Farmersville Road, Summerville**

The Chattooga High Choral Group will sing between 6 and 6:30 p.m. during the live nativity.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Gracee Prince (Accident), those who will stand in the Gap at Thanksgiving, Alice Cox (Oakview rm A 115), Mary Jones (Christine Hammitt's co-worker), Linda Bryant, Lynne Lee, Gail Allen is back at Riverwood, Dossie Privett, Loretta Self (procedure in December) Charlotte Persons (Rita's neighbor), Ellis Dawson, Theresa Hughes, Shooting victim in Chattanooga

### LONG TERM

CAROLYN ROGERS, GARY HYLANDER, AVIS SNOW, JIM MEDICI (Dossie's brother), JILL SPEARS, BECCA SLASON, JANE STOKES, GAIL ALLEN, ENRIQUE GRUNER (pneumonia), CARTER & LINDA BLACK, MARCIA BONEY, DIANE FULTON, LUCILLE HAMBY, BEN MCCOOL & FAMILY, JANE MCCOOL, KASSIDY MCCOOL, DIANE MCCONNELL, KIM SNOW, DOSSIE PRIVETT, JEFFERY FLOYD

### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The family of Helen Jane Wilson, the family of Bob Boob, the family of Cheryl Stevens, the family of Monte Best, the family of Darin Milner, the family of Micky Hughes

## Love Offering for the Spear's Family

**Randy and Dalton Spears have done our church lawn work for a long time.**

**Randy's wife, Jill, has had cancer and has just now gone back to work.**

**Randy has to have knee surgery on December 19. We will collect a "love offering" through Sunday, December**

**15. Please mark you donation as**

**"Spears' love offering".**

## BIRTHDAYS:

12/01 Allie Echols  
12/03 Erick Housch  
12/11 Tim O'Neal  
12/14 Liza Morgan  
12/19 Paul Irvin  
12/20 Elaine Crouch  
12/21 Gene McGinnis  
12/22 Henry Housch  
12/22 Lottie Housch  
12/23 Leigh Lindsay  
12/24 Ronald Crouch  
12/26 Linda Archer  
12/31 Johnnie Lewis  
12/31 Jim Echols

## ANNIVERSARIES

12/10 Parker and Chelsea McConnell  
12/17 Carter and Linda Black

# Financial Report

Financial Report January 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024

Receipts \$121,496 Expenditures \$124,766 Difference **(\$3,270)**

MISSIONS YTD:

Receipts \$8,122 Expenditures \$4,624 Difference \$3,498

*The finance team thanks those who have continued to financially support the church during this past year.*

Financial contributions should be mailed to this address.



Mailing Address: SFUMC  
P.O. Box 187  
Summerville, Ga. 30747

Morning Worship November (non-designated receipts)

General Funds: week 1 \$4,171

General Funds: week 2 \$795

General Funds: week 3 \$2,071

General Funds: week 4 \$757

Online Giving \$249

TOTAL \$8,043

**On-line Giving is NOW Available**

SFUMC now has online giving available. Just scan the QR Code to the right and it will connect you to the church page.



## Men's Club Meets on December 7

All Men are invited to meet at Jim's at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

## Friendship Circle Meets on December 18 for a Christmas Dinner

The Friendship Circle Christmas Luncheon will be on December 18 at 6:30. Meet at the church at 5:40 if you want to car pool. It will be at the home of William and Elaine Crouch. Chicken casserole, bread, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share. There will be no gift exchange.

Come for the food and fellowship! All ladies of the church are invited. Let Elaine Crouch know by December 15 if you plan to attend. You can text or call 706-506-7527.





## **Christmas Shop at Chattooga High School**

**The last day to donate Christmas fleece blankets and sweat pants will be December 15th. Your contributions have been greatly appreciated.**

As of November 22, we have delivered 51 blankets and 12 pair of sweat pants.

Dear Most wonderful “troop” of givers,

You have done it again: played a part in making our holiday give-away cozy and practical with lovely blankets:) Sweat pants have been addressing our every day needs—whether emergency or dress code related ones. Thank you all so much on behalf of our CHS students! Most of them know by now that merchandise we offer at the school closet is relevant, clean, in wonderful condition (brand new items are part of the assortment), and that it all comes from the most caring people in the community, like you all. I appreciate you intentionally blessing our students with what they need (or want) the most.

That’s what faith is all about; working itself through love. I feel the love of our Savior Jesus flowing through your giving and pray that students on the receiving and would experience it , as well!

May your Holiday Season be brighter from knowing you made it special for the “least of these”.

Love and Gratitude,  
Sveta Lewis (CHS)

# WHEN IT RAINS.....IT POURS.....BUT IT DIDN'T RAIN OUTSIDE.....

There was a pipe burst in the bathroom upstairs this week. The entire back hallway was flooded. Substantial damage was incurred.



## Feeding the Hungry

### SFUMC Partners with DFACS In Chattooga County

December needs are for everything.

#### Flowers On the Altar

If you want to place flowers on the altar to praise God for His unconditional love, or in honor or memory of someone, please sign up on the "Flower Calendar" in the Sanctuary.

#### Flowers On the Altar

*Dec. 1 - Carlton and Carroll Andrews*

*Dec. 8 - Available*

*Dec. 15 - Christine Crouch (Given in celebration of Elaine Crouch's birthday)*

*December 22 - The Jarrett's*

*Dec. 29 - Available*



Sharing a recent picture of Dr. Carter Black and his little friend. Take a close look underneath his vest. Don't forget to visit or send cards to those people that you miss seeing.

#### Church Staff and Contact Info

Pastor, Rev. J. Wesley Privett  
(478) 394-5575  
Email: wes.privett@ngumc.net  
pastorsfumc1906@gmail.com  
Organist, Gene McGinnis

