

Welcome In the Name and Love of Jesus Christ

Welcome! We are thankful for your presence as we share in the worship of God. We pray you will find the blessing of fellowship among us. If you are visiting, please know that no one is really a visitor. This is God's house and all are welcome. We invite you to pray with us, sing with us, rejoice with us, and hear Christ's call with us. Since we all have needs, during the closing hymn, the altar is open for you to pray, give thanks, dedicate or re-dedicate your life.

Worship Resources: A Nursery is provided during our service. We invite you to use this facility for infants and toddlers. Children's bulletins are available from the ushers. In the pews, you will find Prayer Cards that you are invited to use to share specific prayer concerns. Please place the card either in the offering plate or in the prayer boxes located in each entryway.

Order of Worship

Come in, chat, and take a moment to sign the blue hospitality pad and pass it to your neighbor. But when the prelude begins – prepare for worship in a spirit of prayer and expectation! As we begin worship, please silence and put away all cell phones and beepers! *Indicates people stand as they are able

The Gathering Music		
The Entrance of the Light		Acolytes
The Welcome and Announcements		Minister
*The Call to Worship – Children's Choir	Give A Gift This Christmas	Andrews
*The Invocation		Minister
* Hymn #211 vs. 1, 2, 5	O Come, O Come Emmanuel	Trad.
*The Fellowship Moment – Greet your brothers and sisters in Christ		
The Lighting of the Advent Candle –Patrick, Susette & John Michael Moore		
The Children's Time		Minister
The Sharing of Joys and Concerns		Minister
The Prayer Chorus #349	Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus	Lemmel
The Prayer Time including the Lord's Prayer		Minister
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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.		
The Worship with God's Tithes and Our Offerings		Minister
Offertory – Mary Did You Know - Liturgical Dance		Lowry
<i>Theresa Phillips, Ronna Wilson, Michelle Hockman, Sandra Hixson, Gielda Reese</i>		
*Doxology #95	Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above Ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.	
*Hymn #218	It Came Upon a Midnight Clear	Sears
The Scripture Lessons	Zephaniah 3:14-20, Luke 3:7-18	Minister
Anthem – Chancel Choir	Arise	Stan Pethel
The Sermon	Waiting for What? – Waiting for the Good News	Minister
The Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Faith Renewal		Minister
*The Hymn of Invitation #246	Joy to the World	Watts
*The Benediction		
*The Benediction Response #224 vs. 2	Good Christian Friends, Rejoice	Trad.
*The Taking of the Light to the World		Everyone
* Postlude		

Assisting with Today's Service

Pianist.....Gielda Reese Organist.....Charlotte Newman
Chancel Choir Director.....Dr. Nathan Windt Nursery Attendants.....Elaine and Cortney Davidson
Acolytes.....Dylan Carpenter and Tanner Collins

Church Calendar

10:00 AM Sunday: Sunday School
11:00 AM Sunday: Morning Worship
4:30 PM Sunday: Youth
7:00 PM Sunday: Children's Christmas Program
6:15 PM Wednesday: Prayer Ministry
7:00 PM Wednesday: Chancel Choir Practice

Our Stewardship Last Week

Sunday School	68	Church Budget	\$5,259.00
Morning Worship	169	Parsonage Fund	\$ 351.04
		Sunday School O/Reach	\$ 20.00
		Cook Book	\$ 30.00
		Slaw/Soup Mix	\$ 90.00
		Youth	\$ 5.00
		Bus Fund Maintenance	\$ 25.00
		Chili Luncheon	\$ 456.00

Announcements

Altar Flowers: The flowers today are given by John and Martha Penney to give thanks to God for His goodness and His grace of allowing them to celebrate 64 years of marriage on December 16th.

Children's Christmas Program: Our Children's Christmas program will be this evening at 7:00 PM. It is a musical entitled "Joyland" and in conjunction with this musical, everyone will have an opportunity to donate a new toy (\$10-15 at least – must be left in packaging and no stuffed animals can be accepted) to the "Toy Store" for needy children in our area. The toys we receive will be donated to the McMinn County Rescue Squad for their annual Christmas Toy Drive. Following the program we will have a time of fellowship in Wattenbarger Hall. Everyone is asked to bring a tray of finger foods. Drinks will be provided by the church.

Handel's Messiah: The Athens Area Community Chorus invites you to the presentation of Handel's *Messiah* (Part I, with orchestra) this afternoon at 3:00 pm at Athens Junior High. Tickets may be purchased at the door and are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students, and TWC students attend FREE!

Homemade Candies: Our little Christmas Elves have been at it again preparing some homemade goodies that you can purchase as gifts or tasty treats for yourselves. They have homemade candies including Coconut Bon-Bons, Chocolate and Peanut Butter Fudge, and Peanut Butter Balls, which will be for sale in the side vestibule following worship service. All proceeds will go to the Parsonage Fund.

Chancel Choir Cantata: Please join us for our Chancel Choir's annual Christmas Cantata next Sunday, at 5:00 PM. The Choir, under the direction of Dr. Nathan Windt, will present "The Wonder of His Love" by Stan Pethel. Please note this is our first attempt to have the Cantata in the afternoon. This is designed to allow people who don't drive after dark to attend as well as allow time for family celebrations that may be occurring later that evening. We hope that you will make plans to come and join us for this special presentation. We will have a reception following the service in Wattenbarger Hall.

Instrumentalists Needed: If you play a musical instrument and would like to be part of our celebration next Sunday morning, please let the Pastor know. We would love to include this dynamic in our service next week.

New Members: We will have several people joining the church next Sunday morning. If you have been thinking about becoming a member, you are encouraged to talk to the Pastor this week. There are three ways you can join the church: by Profession of Faith, by transfer from another United Methodist Church, or by transfer from a church of another denomination.

Mission Money: The children have been collecting quarters for their “M & M” Money and today is the last day we will take them up. The money will go to Friendly Fellows. If you have some quarters you would like to give, pass them to one of the children when they come for Children’s Time. Thanks.

Sunday School Outreach Offering: Today is the last Sunday to give to our Sunday School Outreach Fund. Each year we take the Sunday School offering and use it to help people at Christmas. If you do not attend Sunday School but would like to make a donation, mark your check or offering envelope for SS Outreach.

Free Christmas Cards: We still have a couple boxes of assorted Christmas cards and a few miscellaneous cards placed on a table in Wattenbarger Hall. Please help yourselves to these cards.

Newsletter: Any information you would like to have published in the January newsletter needs to be turned in no later than next Sunday. Thank you!

Altar Flowers: The 2010 flower chart is up and we especially need someone to provide flowers for the Sundays in January. If you would be willing to do any of the Sunday’s available, please sign your name to the chart.

Jesus Birthday Offering: Our annual “Birthday Offering for Jesus “will be received next Sunday during our morning worship time. The offering will be divided between our children and youth for their mission projects.

Christmas Eve Service: Join us on Thursday, December 24th at 5:30 PM for a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service. You are invited to come as you are. Bring your family and friends and make time for the true spirit and meaning of Christmas.

We are Praying For.....

Polly Anderson, Lynnette Baines, Nancy Barton, Chris Beaton, Darren Beckett, Bob Beech, Robert Bennett, Lin Birdwell, Samuel Bish, Pat Bishop, Randy Bishop, Reba Brown, Al Bryan, Michael Bryant, Rev. Jimmy Buckner, Bonnie Burmood, David & Jenny Byrd and their fathers, Teresa Carpenter, E.J. Castillo, Matt Clare, Tamera Coleman, John Cooley, Stacy Costner, Brett Currie, Kenny Davidson, Bruce Delmas Jr., Mike Dingus, Eva & Glenn Dockins, Vicki Estabrook, Bernadette Evans, Nancy Ferguson, Aline Fritz, Dee Gamble, Steve Garren, Janie Goines, Rebecca Gray, James Guffey, C.D. Hagerman, Brad & Lynn Hamblin, Bill Hanner, Garrett & Jason Henderson, Dan Herron, Diane Hicks, Gene Higham, Jaynee Holland, Greg Hughes, Don Hutsell, Jim Hyde, Larry Jackson, Mike Jackson, Barabara Jarvis, Jimmy Johnson, Cheryl Lambert, Gwen Lane, Raymond Latham, Eva Ruth Lawson, Charlie Littleton, Teresa Littleton, Freddy Malone, Glenn Mason, Zachery Mason, Will Matthews, Brooke Matthews, Patricia McDonald, David McKee, Randy McKeehan, Jerry McLemore, Matt Merker, Larry Messer, Nathan Murray, Tammy Nantz, Judy Ohman, Eileen Owsley, Patricia Parker, Theda Poplin, Vicki Raper, Yvonne Raper, Tom Reese, Jimmy Reeves, Jason Richards, Dennis Richeson, Jerry Roberts, Leona Richeson, T.L. Rollins, Paul Rose Family, Carol Russell, Gene & Sherry Sabo, Darlene Schenck, Danny Shannon, Bob Shugart, Bud Smidt, Mildred Smith, Nell Smith, Eric Sohmer, Britanite Stieb, Carol Tatum, Roy Thomas, Gloria Thompson, Tony Thompson, Debbie Tilley, Bruce Vincent, Mildred Vincent, Thursie Waddle, David Walden, Bryan Walker, Tylan Walker, Gladys Wallace, Jim Wallace, Preston Wallace, Ashley & Jackson Walters, Opal Watkins, Gretchen Watson, Bonnier Werner, Thelma West, Bill Wiggins, Larry Yetter, Sandy Yielding; *In nursing homes, assisted living or shut-in:* Evelyn Black, Lorene Ensminger, Nell Gambill, A.C. Lockmiller, Rubye Maupin, *Expecting Mothers:* Claire Murphy, Kym Wierman, Ashley Ziegler; *Missionaries or in Mission Work:* Boo & Phyllis Hankins, Neal Hicks & family, Steve King Family, Chris Russell Family, Mary Diana Samuel Orphanage, and Herbert & Mary Zigbuo, Pray for our Pastor, our District Superintendent, Mike Travis, our Bishop, James Swanson. *Pray for our Service men and women:* Brandon Carter, Joe Clark, Keith Coleman, Tyler Cooley, Taylor Creasman, Duane Diebold, Michael Dyer, Josh Gary, Taylor Gray, Brent Greer, Eric Greisenhaur, Brent Harbin, Brandon Hashe, Lee Hashe, Daniel Hickey, Derek Hickey, Tim Lammers, Wayne McKenzie, Will Nation, Klaus Ohman, Adam Randle, Alex Randle, Zach Roberts, Brittany Rupert, Raymond Shumate, Dwain Slinger, Bobby Smith, Brent Stephens.

If you know of someone who has improved and can be taken off the list or if we have removed someone from the list who still needs to be listed, please fill out a new card and give us an updated report. Thank You.

Church Prayer Focus for the Week: Pray for all hearts to be open to receive God’s Christmas message.



Third Sunday of Advent

Allen Memorial United Methodist Church

December 13, 2009

Ministers: The Members

Pastor: Rev. Jeff W. Wright

800 Decatur Pike

Athens, TN 37303

Phone: (423) 745-1560

www.allenmemorialumc@bellsouth.net