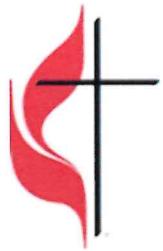




*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

# The Messenger



Volume 27 Issue 12

December 2025

## Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Philip McVay  
Pastor

Georgiann Lewis  
Pianist

Amanda McLain  
Organist/ Music Director

Christie Outlaw  
Nursery

Anja Outlaw  
Office Volunteer

Pam Kelly  
Secretary

Dara Walker  
Administrator

## Philip's Focus

### “Whiplash Sunday and into to Advent...Here we Come”

This Sunday is the last day of November, and I nicknamed this Sunday...

“Whiplash Sunday.” Why this nickname? In just a period of 48 short hours, we move from all the wonderful Thanksgiving tables to the first Sunday of Advent. And even the 48 hours between Thanksgiving and the First Sunday of Advent are packed with activity including family visits, Black Friday, and the Iron Bowl! These upcoming days seem like “spiritual whiplash” to me as we take in so much in such a short time!

One of the ways we reorient our focus through the blur of wonderful activities is through worship. This coming Sunday we may still be on a “sugar high” from the Thanksgiving Table –Sunday we suddenly shift our focus. When we hear the Advent reading and see the first candle (HOPE) lit on the Advent Wreath we will begin a wonderful journey to prepare our hearts to worship Christ the Newborn King!

Last Sunday, many wonderful volunteers adorned the sanctuary and campus with wreaths, the Chrismon Tree, and greenery! We thank all these volunteers for the labor of love to prepare FUMC for the upcoming Advent Season. The sanctuary is prepared and ready for Advent and now it is time to prepare our hearts!

One of the ways we prepare our hearts is worshipping throughout Advent. This year I will be preaching a special series for Advent... “INTRODUCING JESUS.” Each Sunday we will hear how each Gospel writer introduces Jesus. On November 30, we will hear Mark’s introduction. The following three Sunday’s we will hear from Matthew, John, and Luke.

On December 21, there will be a most special highlight event “THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS.” This will feature D Smooth, a native of Montgomery, who was second place runner up on The VOICE. This community event will be at 5PM. Of course, ALL ARE WELCOME!

Thanks, you for being such a kind, serving, and loving congregation. What an inspiration you are to all who are on the radar of FUMC’s Kingdom sphere of influence! I’m looking forward to Sunday as we prepare our hearts to worship Jesus the newborn King!

Shalom,

Philip

## First United Methodist Church

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P. O. Box 385  
Jackson, Alabama

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Fax: 251-246-2239

Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Email:  
fumcjacksonal@gmail.com

Website:  
fumcjacksonal.org

Facebook:  
Facebook.com/groups/  
JFUMC



### Meetings in December:

SPRC	Dec 2	5:30pm	Trustees	Dec 15	5:30pm
NOWW Comm	Dec 4	10:00am	Finance	Dec 16	5:30pm
			Leadership	Dec 17	5:30pm

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays

12/02 Steven Weaver  
Karly Carpenter  
12/04 Michael Breedlove  
12/05 Mary Lou Lancaster  
12/16 Max McKee  
12/17 Vicki Burge

12/22 Justin Brooks  
Lee Conerly  
12/25 Betty Hentschel  
12/27 Bill Chivers  
12/29 Jennifer Butts  
12/31 Myra DeWitt

### Anniversaries

12/06 James & Bridget Weaver  
12/17 Jim & Betty Howell  
Bill & Earline Pearce  
12/19 Mike & Kathy Brown  
12/21 Champ & Jenny Bowling

## Special Prayer Needs

Audra Weaver  
Champ Bowling  
Melvin Joiner  
Lois Joiner  
Patricia McKee  
John Douglas McGowan  
Patricia DuBose  
Michael Breedlove

Robert Brown  
John Will Kahlbah  
Family of Joe DuBose  
Wesley Goss  
Sheila Overstreet  
Lynda Wooten White  
Assisted Living/Home Bound:  
Mary Lou Lancaster

Gail Sherman  
Melvin and Lois Joiner  
Barbara Hundley  
Jim Fore  
Elaine Carr  
**Armed Forces:**  
Trey Conerly (US Army)  
Gracie Conerly (US Army)

## December Servants in Worship

Church Lock-Up  
Janet McCants  
Bill Pearce  
Liturgist  
Linda Breedlove  
Ushers  
Glenn Kelly  
Pam Kelly

Elementary Sunday School  
Dec 7 Elissa Brown  
Dec 14 Vicki Burge  
Dec 21 Fortune Sheffield  
Dec 28 Terri Bolen  
Nursery Volunteers  
Dec 7 Elissa Brown  
Dec 14 Martha Savage

Dec 21 Cherie Turner  
Dec 28 Volunteer Needed  
Children's Church  
Dec 7 NO Children's Church  
Dec 14 Vicki Burge  
Dec 21 Fortune Sheffield  
Dec 28 Terri Bolen

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**Sonshine Club**  
PRESENTS  
**Santa's Snack Shop**  
**DECEMBER 10TH**  
**4:00-5:00**



PICTURES AND SNACKS  
WITH SANTA  
CANDY CANE RIDES  
SNOWBALL FIGHTS  
COOKIE DECORATING  
AND MORE!



## December



30	9:45am Sunday School	1	8:00am Food Ministry	2	11:30am Lunch Bunch	3	8:00am Food Ministry	4	10:00am NOWW Committee	5	6
	11:00am Sunday Morning Worship		Gathers		5:30pm SPRC Meeting		Gathers		6:00pm Choir Practice		
7	9:45am Sunday School	8	8:00am Food Ministry	9	8:00am Food Ministry	10	8:00am Food Ministry	11	11	12	13
	11:00am Sunday Morning Worship		Gathers		Gathers		Gathers				
	12:00pm Church Luncheon		9:00am Piano/Organ		9:30am Food Distribution		4:00pm Sunshine Club				
			Tuning		6:00pm Choir Practice						
14	Children's Program in Service	15	8:00am Food Ministry	16	5:30pm Finance Meeting	17	8:00am Food Ministry	18	19	20	
	9:45am Sunday School		Gathers		Gathers		Gathers				
	11:00am Sunday Morning Worship		12:00pm Ladies Brown Bag Lunch		5:30pm Leadership Council						
	5:00pm Sounds of Christmas Concert		5:30pm Trustee Meeting		6:00pm Choir Practice						
21	9:45am Sunday School	22	8:00am Food Ministry	23	8:00am Food Ministry	24	8:00am Food Ministry	25	OFFICE CLOSED	26	OFFICE CLOSED
	11:00am Sunday Morning Worship		Gathers		Gathers		Gathers		OFFICE CLOSED		OFFICE CLOSED
	5:00pm Sounds of Christmas Concert				9:30am Food Distribution						
					6:00pm Choir Practice						
					6:00pm Christmas Eve Service						
28	OFFICE CLOSED	29	OFFICE CLOSED	30	OFFICE CLOSED	31	OFFICE CLOSED	1	OFFICE CLOSED	2	3
	9:45am Sunday School		8:00am Food Ministry		8:00am Food Ministry						
	11:00am Sunday Morning Worship		Gathers		Gathers						
					6:00pm Choir Practice						