



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

The Messenger



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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

First United Methodist Church

146 College Avenue
P. O. Box 385
Jackson, Alabama

Telephone: 251-246-2224
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

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

Join Us for
LUNCH BUNCH
 Tuesday
 December 2nd
 11:30am

Everyone 50+ is invited to
 join us in the Fellowship Hall

Appreciation Dinner
**Sunday
 December 7th**

*Directly following the morning worship in
 the
 Christian Life Center*

A delightful meal of all your Mexican favorites

COME & JOIN US
 FOR THE

Children's Christmas Program

DECEMBER 14, 2025 | AT 11.00 AM | DURING WORSHIP

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Ladies Brown Bag Lunch

THIS MONTH, WE'LL HEAR FROM FRAUD
 EXPERTS ON WHAT NEW SCAMS ARE OUT
 THERE AND HOW TO BEST PROTECT
 OURSELVES.

12:00PM
 LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

JOIN US FOR A FUN TIME OF FELLOWSHIP
 WITH YOUR SISTERS IN CHRIST

www.fumcjax.com

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 WELCOMES

D Smooth & Friends
 as seen on "The Voice" for

THE
 SOUNDS OF
Christmas

DEC 21
 5 PM

146 College Avenue, Jackson, AL

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

12/02	Steven Weaver	12/22	Justin Brooks
	Karly Carpenter		Lee Conerly
12/04	Michael Breedlove	12/25	Betty Hentschel
12/05	Mary Lou Lancaster	12/27	Bill Chivers
12/16	Max McKee	12/29	Jennifer Butts
12/17	Vicki Burge	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	Robert Brown	Gail Sherman
Champ Bowling	John Will Kahlbah	Melvin and Lois Joiner
Melvin Joiner	Family of Joe DuBose	Barbara Hundley
Lois Joiner	Wesley Goss	Jim Fore
Patricia McKee	Sheila Overstreet	Elaine Carr
John Douglas McGowan	Lynda Wooten White	Armed Forces:
Patricia DuBose	Assisted Living/Home Bound:	Trey Conerly (US Army)
Michael Breedlove	Mary Lou Lancaster	Gracie Conerly (US Army)

December Servants in Worship

Church Lock-Up	Elementary Sunday School	Dec 21 Cherie Turner
Janet McCants	Dec 7 Elissa Brown	Dec 28 Volunteer Needed
Bill Pearce	Dec 14 Vicki Burge	Children's Church
Liturgist	Dec 21 Fortune Sheffield	Dec 7 NO Children's Church
Linda Breedlove	Dec 28 Terri Bolen	Dec 14 Vicki Burge
Ushers	Nursery Volunteers	Dec 21 Fortune Sheffield
Glenn Kelly	Dec 7 Elissa Brown	Dec 28 Terri Bolen
Pam Kelly	Dec 14 Martha Savage	



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 11:00am Sunday Morning Worship	1 8:00am Food Ministry Gathers	2 11:30am Lunch Bunch 5:30pm SPRC Meeting	3 8:00am Food Ministry Gathers 6:00pm Choir Practice	4 10:00am NOWW Committee	5	6
7 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Morning Worship 12:00pm Church Luncheon	8 8:00am Food Ministry Gathers 9:00am Piano/Organ Tuning	9	10 8:00am Food Ministry Gathers 9:30am Food Distribution 4:00pm Sonshine Club 6:00pm Choir Practice	11	12	13
14 Children's Program in Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Morning Worship	15 8:00am Food Ministry Gathers 12:00pm Ladies Brown Bag Lunch 5:30pm Trustee Meeting	16 5:30pm Finance Meeting	17 8:00am Food Ministry Gathers 5:30pm Leadership Coun- cil 6:00pm Choir Practice	18	19	20
21 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Morning Worship 5:00pm Sounds of Christmas Con- cert	22 8:00am Food Ministry Gathers	23	24 8:00am Food Ministry Gathers 9:30am Food Distribution 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED
28 OFFICE CLOSED 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Morning Worship	29 OFFICE CLOSED 8:00am Food Ministry Gathers	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 OFFICE CLOSED 8:00am Food Ministry Gathers 6:00pm Choir Practice	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3