

# The Church at Worship

December 3, 2017

11:00 A.M.

*First Sunday of Advent*

*Hope for God's Presence*



† Indicates the congregation shall stand.

## We Gather To Meet God

Chiming of the Hour  
News of the Church 10:55 a.m.  
Ed Scheff  
Prelude Organ  
Robert J. Powell  
*Love One Another*  
† Greetings & Hymn of Praise No. 89 Ed Scheff  
*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY  
† Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed  
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.  
\* universal  
† Gloria Patri MEINEKE  
*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.*  
Prayers for the People Ed Scheff  
Lighting of the Advent Candle John, Suzy,  
Drew and Katie Wilson  
*Today we light the first candle, the candle of hope.*  
Scripture and Reflection  
O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

With great excitement, Isaiah, speaking on behalf of his people,  
anticipates the coming of the LORD.

Along with anticipation comes a renewed awareness of sin  
that which separates the people from God.

In an attitude of confession, Isaiah calls  
the people to remember who they are -  
the created, and who God is -the Creator.

**Holy God, you prove your love for us time and time again.  
We are the work of your hand. Continue to shape us  
into your image.**

**Together, we look for the coming Christ, our hope. Amen.**

Stewardship Campaign Ken Bibb  
† Offertory Hymn No. 549 Pastor Stan  
*Where Charity and Love Prevail* ST. PETER  
Offering of Our Tithes & Gifts Organ  
† Doxology OLD 100th  
**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.**

Children's Message Caroline McDaniel  
(Children Pre-K, Kindergarten & First Grades are invited to Children's Church.)

## God Speaks Through His Word

Act of Praise Adult Choir  
Scripture Reading Pastor Stan  
I John 3:16-18  
Sermon Pastor Stan  
"Love Makes A Difference"

## We Respond To God's Word

Invitation to Christian Discipleship  
† Closing Hymn No. 566 (v. 1 & 5) Pastor Stan  
*Blest Be the Dear Uniting Love* EVAN  
Postlude Organ  
*P. Rasmussen*



## Altar Flowers

If you would like to place flowers in the  
sanctuary in 2018, please contact  
Polly Tompkins at 552-2051.

**We will not have our 9:00 a.m. services during  
the month of December please join us for  
our 11:00 a.m. services.**



**Don't forget to turn your commitment card  
in by Sunday, December 10.**

## Sandersville United Methodist Church Foundation, Inc.

We extend an invitation to remember family and friends  
through a donation to the Sandersville Methodist Church  
Foundation, Inc. The Foundation was established in  
1944 to manage a trust that would earn income designated for  
maintenance and repairs of our church facility. The principal  
amount remains intact and only the interest income is  
available to pay for these needed projects.  
The Foundation receives no funds from the annual budget  
and relies solely on gifts and donations to grow the  
corpus of the trust. These gifts are tax deductible and  
can be made at any time.

## Angel Fund

*Church family, while planning your end of the year giving, please  
don't forget the "Angel Fund". As you know this fund is in place for  
the benefit of church members who are in need, while the "Altar  
Fund" is there for the community at large. All contributions and  
recipients are always confidential. Please make your checks payable  
to SUMC "Angel Fund".*

## Upcoming events in December

**Dec. 3, 4:00** - Fine Arts Club concert  
**Dec. 10,** - SNL with Santa  
**Dec. 12, 6:30** - Asbury Christmas party in Heritage Hall.  
**Dec. 17, 11:00** - Christmas Cantata  
**Dec. 19, 5:30** - Youth Progressive Dinner  
**Dec. 24, 5:30** - Christmas Eve service Holy Communion  
will be observed.  
**Dec. 22 & 25** - Church office will be closed  
**Dec. 27** - Children's ice skating trip  
**Dec. 29** - Youth ski trip

## Flowers for Worship

The flowers in the sanctuary  
are given to the glory of God  
and in memory of

**Hilda Etheridge and  
Bertha Cummings**

By: Roy Etheridge



In memory of  
**Margaret Carr**  
given by  
Kelly & Michael Atkinson  
to the building fund.

In memory of  
**Will Westbrook**  
given by  
Kelly & Michael Atkinson  
to the building fund.

In memory of  
**David Wickersham**  
given by  
Kelly & Michael Atkinson  
to the building fund.

In memory of  
**Julia Wood**  
given by  
Kelly & Michael Atkinson  
to the building fund.



### Next week at Sandersville UMC

#### Sunday, December 3

10:00 a.m. Sunday School\*  
11:00 a.m. Worship-Sanctuary\*  
5:30 p.m. SNL

#### Tuesday, December 5

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
12:00 p.m. Friendship Fellowship  
4:00 p.m. Fine Arts Club concert - Sanctuary

#### Wednesday, December 6

6:00 p.m. Small Groups  
7:00 Adult Choir Practice

#### \*Nursery Provided

#### Sandersville UMC Staff

**Rev. Dr. Stan Littleton**  
Pastor  
slittleton@sandersvilleumc.org

**Felicia Glenn**  
Administrative Secretary  
felicia@sandersvilleumc.org

**Eric Hindmon**  
Minister to Children & Youth  
ehindmon@sandersvilleumc.org

**Jessalyn Alexander**  
Choral Director  
jalexander@sandersvilleumc.org

**Richard Gress**  
Organist  
rgress@sandersvilleumc.org

**Beverly Biggins and  
Saundera Haywood**  
Nursery Workers

**Debbie Sanford**  
Housekeeper

**Ricky Pinkston**  
Custodian

#### Assisting in Worship

#### Worship Leader

Ed Scheff

#### Lay Reader

John Wilson

#### Usher Captain

John McCarty

#### Acolytes

Kate Atkinson

Carrie Wright

#### Children's Church

Caroline McDaniel

Anna Frances Alexander

#### Children's Message

Caroline McDaniel

#### Infant Nursery Volunteer

Leia Giddens

#### Toddler Nursery Volunteer

Mary James Wright

#### Oliver's Outreach

Jon Moore, Bradley Tarbutton

Will Wright

## In Our Prayers

### Our Church Family

Tarver Averett	Brenda Hollingsworth
Edna Bailey	Ray Hollingsworth
Pete Booth	Carolyn Sheppard
Danny Craft	Tripp Tollison
Ronnie Dorman	Billy Veal
Billy Kay	Tommy Walker
Lynn Miller	Sarah Wilson
Dean McCaskill	Mary James Wright

#### ECF Residents:

Alice Carlson                      Barbara Turner  
Sue Durden

#### Home Bound:

Frances Miller  
Carolyn Craft

#### Heritage Inn:

Idanne Buhler

#### Tennille Assisted Living:

Carol Raines                      Vera Mimbs

Debbie Stanley

#### Pruitt Magnolia Manor (Moultrie GA):

JoAnn Marshall

### Friends & Family of the Church

Larry Mathis  
Beverly Thompson  
*(Beverly Biggins' mother)*  
Pam Stewart  
Adam Smith  
*(Brittany Price's friends' son)*  
Charles Lee  
Betty Brett  
Tristan Butcher  
*(Mary Jean Moore's grandson)*  
William Hood  
*(Leslie Meeks' father)*  
Mary Jean Wilson  
*(Martha Armstrong's sister in law)*  
Sheriff Thomas Smith  
Shannon Everett  
Jessie McWhorter  
*(Jessalyn Alexander's grandmother)*  
Casey Ogden  
Cecilia Ashley  
Sissy English Cooper  
*(Ted English's sister)*  
Allyson Maffett  
*(Patti Hitchcock's friend)*  
Joy Lord  
*(Brownie Barksdale's friend)*  
John Dickey  
Tom Siepp  
Pat Wolfe

### Attendance & Stewardship

#### November 26, 2017

Sunday School	96
9:00 a.m. Worship	20
11:00 a.m. Worship	160
Total Worship	180
Weekly Need:	\$ 9,920.85
Given This Week:	\$ 8,289.25
Year to Date Need:	\$ 466,279.95
Given Year to Date:	\$ 472,266.92
Pledged:	\$ 515,884.20

# The Messenger

Sandersville United Methodist Church  
202 West Church Street  
P.O. Box 611  
Sandersville, GA 31082  
(478) 552-3374 (phone)

[www.sandersvilleumc.org](http://www.sandersvilleumc.org)

December 3, 2017

## Christians Give More



Christians put their money where their mouth is when it comes to giving. That's according to a study from Syracuse University published by Arthur Brooks. "If you asked me, I would have expected to find that religious conservatives are stingy," said Brooks. "That's what we are told all the time." What he found instead was that Christians give more in "every measurable way," from writing checks to volunteering time to donating blood.

Brooks attributes the difference to several factors: church attendance, two-parent families, and a Protestant work ethic. Of those, church attendance is the most telling. Ninety-one percent of regular church attendees give to charity each year, compared with 66 percent of those who said they do not have a religion. The gap adds up-the faithful give four times more money per year than their secular counterparts. While most of that money is given to churches, religious people also give more to a secular charity such as the Red Cross or to their alma mater.

Religious people also donate twice as much blood and are more likely to "behave in compassionate ways toward strangers," Brooks said. For example, they are much more likely to return extra change to a cashier when they are accidentally given too much.

Generous giving is part of the religious conservative identity.

-Christianity Today