

# THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

First Methodist Church of Trussville  
120 North Chalkville Rd. Trussville, Al. 35173  
205-655-3259 | trussvillefirst.com



## BETHLEHEM OR BEDLAM

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### ADVENT 2024

Let's face it, every year we say that we are going to slow down and take it easy during Christmas. Every year we are going to cut back on our spending. We promise ourselves that we are going to decommercialize Christmas and return it to the simplicity of a simple child in a simple manger born to a simple couple. Let's just make this admission - Christmas in most communities means uproar, busyness, and total confusion. It is absolute bedlam (a scene of uproar and confusion)!

Merry Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem, or bedlam: What will you choose this year as we enter the Holiday season? Well, we do not have to choose because the truth is that Christmas happens right in the middle of the chaos just like it did when Christ was born. So, this sermon series will be about finding love, joy, peace, and kindness right in the middle of the bedlam and chaos. Let's remember when Jesus came into the world, the chaos did not subside. Jesus taught us how to worship in the middle of the chaos

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# SCHEDULES

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Rev. Shan Odom's  
Advent Sermon Series:

December 3 | "Hope" | Luke 1:8-17  
December 10 | "Peace" | Luke 1: 26-33  
December 17 | "Love" | Luke 2:22-33  
December 24 | "Joy" | Luke 2:8-20



Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal  
Schedule:

- December 6th - Trussville Methodist Men's Fundraiser
- December 13th - Missions Pancake Fundraiser
- December 20th - Fundraiser
- December 27th - No meal
- January 3rd - No meal

\*Menus subject to change\*

Meals will be served at 5:30 pm in the Christian Life Center, followed by small group studies. Donations for meals gratefully accepted!

## ADVENT SERMON SCHEDULE

Dr. Steve Strange

December 3, 2023  
Title: Born to Set Us Free  
Scripture: Galatians 5:13-15

December 10, 2023  
Title: Love Came Down  
Scripture: I John 4:4-7

December 17, 2023  
Choir Cantata

December 24, 2023 (Morning)  
Title: Christmas Reminders  
Scripture: Luke 2:1-21

December 24 (Evening)  
Title: Definitely Bethlehem,  
not Bedlam  
Scripture: Luke 2:8-14

## CHURCH EVENTS & CLOSINGS

- Monday, December 18, 2023

Live Nativity

5-7 pm on the front lawn

- Sunday, December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve Services

—8:30 am:

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

& Grace Vision Contemporary Worship in the Christian Life Center

—5:00 pm:

Grace Vision Contemporary Worship in the Christian Life Center

—6:30 pm:

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

- Sunday, December 31, 2023

New Year's Eve Services

8:30 am Traditional and Grace Vision services

(no 11 am services)

Church office closings:

- December 25 and 26, 2023

Christmas

- January 1, 2024

New Year's Day



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

· WE HAVE 3 ANGEL TAGS LEFT!! Don't miss out!

**The Angel Tree for the Church Without Walls** is up by the Front Doors (next to the Fellowship Hall). Be sure to pick up your tag(s) as soon as possible. Please return your new, unwrapped gifts in large trash bags to the church office. Minimum spending for the gift(s) is \$100. Don't forget to include THE ANGEL TAG with your gift(s). The deadline to return gifts is December 10th.

You are invited to come and join our HANDBELL CHOIR. If you are not an experienced ringer, we can teach you. Everyone can learn and you will enjoy playing. We rehearse on Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm in the Handbell Room. Please see Joe Faughender for more information.

The Missions Team volunteers this month at the **Community Food Bank of Central Alabama** from 9:00 to 11:30 am on Thursday, December 21, 2023. We welcome ALL who wish to help! If you would like to join the team, please call Charlene Sharp at 205-835-2691 or email at [csharp@bellsouth.net](mailto:csharp@bellsouth.net) to register.

- **The Annual Lovelady Center Christmas Toy Drive** is underway. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for any age boy or girl to the bin located next to John Wesley's portrait outside the Fellowship Hall by Wednesday, December 13. These will be collected by Lovelady and given to the Lovelady Santa Shop to give to Lovelady Clients' and Graduates' children. Over 1,000 toys are given away each year. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Smith, Lovelady In-Kind Resource Director at 256-570-8176.

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**Don't forget about live Nativity on Monday, December 18th. 5-7pm on the church front lawn!**



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## ANNUAL POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER

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This Christmas season Missions is selling poinsettias to help support our Church missions. You can order a poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone special to you. Order forms are in the Transept, Welcome Center and Church office. Poinsettia Sunday will be December 17.

Please leave poinsettias in the church until after our second service. Orders may be placed until Sunday, December 3. Please place orders, along with your payment, in the offering plate or turn in to the Church office. An 8-inch pot is \$20.00. Make checks out to FMCT and please put Poinsettia on the memo line. You will need to indicate on your order where you would like your poinsettia displayed, either the Sanctuary or Grace Vision.

Our poinsettias are grown by Rainbow Omega, a residential home to 79 adults ranging in age from 18 - 79 years old, with developmental disabilities. Rainbow Omega means "hope in the end". For more information call Louise Jensen at 205.907.2723.



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## TRUSSVILLE METHODIST MEN

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- **The Trussville Methodist Men** will conduct their next monthly meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2023. Breakfast will be served at 7:00 am in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the meeting. This month's speakers are our Youth Minister, Phillip McEvoy and our Children's Minister, Megan McEvoy. They will be discussing our Youth and Children's programs in 2023 and 2024. Please remember that wives and children are welcome at the breakfast. Notify Allen Hatcher by phone or text at (205) 773-9591 if you will be attending the meeting.



### **DON'T FORGET!**

The Methodist Men are also preparing Baked Ziti, Salad, Bread and Dessert for the **Wednesday, December 6 Fundraiser Dinner** - come and join us for a delicious meal and help the Methodist Men raise funds for their upcoming projects. All donations are greatly appreciated!



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY



We have finished raising money for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. The grand total is \$9,250 for 37 beds. Praise the Lord!

I want to thank our church family for coming through for this worthy cause, but it's not over yet. We need all men, women and children (10 and over) to come out on **Saturday, December 16th** to help put the beds together. All you need are work gloves, as they provide everything else. Let's get these children in beds for Christmas!

For more information, contact Kim Cooper at 206-655-8616. Visit Sleep in Heavenly Peace's website at <https://shpbeds.org>



**NO KID SLEEPS  
ON THE FLOOR  
IN OUR TOWN!**

– We are still asking for monetary donations for specifically requested hygiene products to be purchased for Lovelady Center and Brother Bryan Ministries. Please make your donations to the church and put "HYGIENE PRODUCTS" in the memo section of your check. Thank you for your help with this new ministry!

– **Save the Date:**

Women's Day Retreat: "Better Together" - **Saturday, February 3, 2024** from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Guest Speaker is Laura Joseph. More information to follow.

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# KIDS FIRST DAY SCHOOL

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Kids First Day School parents and family members were welcomed to our Family Thanksgiving Feast on Thursday, November 2. A special thanks to our First Methodist Church staff for helping us create such a successful event.

Join us for our Christmas Program "A Marvelous Plan in Bethlehem" on Thursday, December 7th at 6:00 in the CLC. Children in our 3K, 4K, and School Age Program will be performing.

Kids First Day School Parent Night Out is December 1st from 6:00 - 9:00 for infants through 5th grade. Dinner, crafts, and games will be provided for the children. Please contact the center office at 205-655-0583 or email [amy@trussvillefirst.com](mailto:amy@trussvillefirst.com) for more information.



# GRINCHMAS!

**PJ Party & Parent's Night Out**

**December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

**6:00-9:00 PM**

**Infant-5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Join us for some Holiday Fun!**

**Crafts, Games & Pizza, The Grinch movie**

**Wear your PJ's & Bring your favorite pillow and blanket**





# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Church family,

We have so much to be thankful for this holiday season. This past month our children were able to pack baskets that our youth delivered to some of our shut-ins during their Thanksgiving break. The kids helped measure out ingredients for a soup mix, sorted out goodies so that everyone's baskets was the same, and made cards for each basket. They loved every minute of serving! This month we will continue learning about the different fruits of the spirit on Wednesday nights finishing just before Christmas. In Sunday school, we are going to learn all about the birth of Jesus and the events that led up to it.

We have some special dates upcoming so please make note of them.

–December 2nd we will host our annual Breakfast with Santa. This year we are asking everyone bring an item or two for our Blessing Box when you come to enjoy breakfast and get pictures with Santa.

–December 10th our Cherub, Children's, and SWAG choir will be singing in the Traditional Services.

Our current schedule is:

Sundays

8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Nursery

9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Fellowship

Dinner

6:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Cherub

Choir/Elementary Lesson

7:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Children's

Choir/PreK Lesson



We are still in need of volunteers for the Nursery, Sunday Schools, and Wednesday nights. If you are interested in committing to one Sunday or Wednesday a month, or would like to be added to our sub list please contact me.

Megan McEvoy | [kidsministry@trussvillefirst.com](mailto:kidsministry@trussvillefirst.com) | 205-739-8579

# SWAG TWEEN MINISTRY

SWAG continues to meet every Sunday at 9:45 AM for Sunday school and at 5:30PM for devotion, dinner, and fellowship. SWAG also meets on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 PM for Bible study and devotion. We welcome all 4th- 6th grade students to join us!

SWAG enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Sharp's farm this October. We are so grateful for their generous hospitality! Fun was had by all.



Our current mission project is making care packages to be mailed to military members overseas. SWAG will have its annual Christmas party on December 17th from 5:30-7:00 PM at the Hatcher's house.



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## MEMORIALS & HONORARIA

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<b>Honorarium For:</b>	<b>By:</b>	<b>Fund:</b>
Youth & Children's Ministry	Larry & Dorothy Willingham	SHP Beds
Friendship Class Choir Members	Friendship Class	Choir
Ben Cook	Friendship Class	Choir
Michael King	Friendship Class	Choir
Choir	Lee Roy & Doreen Lee	Choir
Friendship Class Teachers	Lee Roy & Doreen Lee	General Fund
<b>Memorials For:</b>	<b>By:</b>	<b>Fund:</b>
Terry Thurmond	David & Patricia Winklbauer Bill & Carol Alverson	Celebrate Recovery Celebrate Recovery
Jacob S. Hawkins	LaRue Meadows	Choir

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# HYMNAL DEDICATIONS

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## IN HONOR OF:

Rev. Shan Odom by Judy Dawson  
Amelia Marie Asbury by Papa & Gigi Fuller  
Audrey Elaine Asbury by Papa & Gigi Fuller  
Miles Allen Kirkpatrick by Papa & Gigi Fuller  
Jelly Lepper by Meals on Wheels Volunteers  
Teri Freeman by Kevin & Anne Miller  
The Sam Miller Family by Kevin & Anne Miller  
Rick & Sybil Barber by Kevin & Anne Miller  
Louise Jensen by Kevin & Anne Miller  
The Brett Miller Family by Kevin & Anne Miller  
The Jordan Miller Family by Kevin & Anne Miller  
Peggy Estock by Melissa Howell

## IN MEMORY OF:

Watson Gaither by Margaret Gaither  
Mary Lynn Cooper by Sandra Long



He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

- Psalm 147:3

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# STEPHEN MINISTRY

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## Do You Hear What I Hear?

by: **Garey Morrison**



It is easy to feel overwhelmed during the “holiday” season. Our calendars have several major events before we welcome 2024. Thanksgiving, Black Friday, Christmas, Happy New Year. How do we celebrate Thanksgiving when we hear and see news coverage of two wars and nonstop political infighting? I understand feeling lonely or even depressed during this season. Maybe celebrating Jesus’ birth comes at the perfect time for the world.

In October 1962 "Do You Hear What I Hear?" was written by Noël Regney and Gloria Shayne. They wrote the song as a plea for peace during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The last verse asks us to pray for peace.

Said the king to the people everywhere  
Listen to what I say! (Listen to what I say!)  
Pray for peace, people, everywhere  
Listen to what I say! (Listen to what I say!)  
The Child, the Child sleeping in the night  
He will bring us goodness and light  
He will bring us goodness and light

If you are experiencing a period in your life where you need someone to help you through this season, please let us or your pastors know. Your Stephen Ministers are always available to provide support. Discussions with your Stephen Minister are always confidential. We will meet with you for as long as you need.

Remember, you are part of a family, First Methodist Church Trussville. When a life event affects you or someone you love, please let us know. You are not alone. Blessings to you, Garey Morrison

### **First Methodist Trussville Stephen Ministers**

Stuart Garner	Martha Cusimano	Garey Morrison	Bob Murray
Linda Hester	Curtis Garner	Betty Frankl	
Will Northern	Teri Freeman	Kim Cooper	



# FIRST METHODIST TRUSSVILLE

The Neighborhood Watch  
December 2023

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Subscribe to our MailChimp Email List. With MailChimp, you will receive information through your inbox, including prayer lists, upcoming events and reminders. If you would like to subscribe, use the scan code below, select SUBSCRIBE and complete the online form.



## CONTACT US AT:

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120 N. Chalkville Rd. Trussville AL. 35173  
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## YOUR STAFF

### PASTORAL STAFF

Dr. Steve Strange  
Senior Minister

Rev. Shan Odom  
Executive & Recovery Minister

### MINISTRY STAFF

Amy Gulledge  
Kids First Minister

Jeff Coe  
Modern Worship Minister

Megan McEvoy  
Children's Minister

Ben Cook  
Music Minister

Phillip McEvoy  
Youth Minister

Michael King  
Pianist

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Candy Strickland  
Office Administration Minister

Matthew Smith  
Assistant Custodial Minister

Bob Murray  
Finance Minister

Brett Fulton  
Doorkeeper

Melissa Smith  
Communications



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