



Dec. 6, 2023

Clemmons

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ACTS... All Care to Share



Christmas Eve Services

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

9:45 a.m. ~ Connect Contemporary Worship ~ Ministry Center

11 a.m. ~ Traditional Worship Service ~ Sanctuary

**4 p.m. ~ Family-Friendly Christmas Service
Glowsticks and Communion ~ Sanctuary**

**6 p.m. ~ Candlelight Christmas Service
Candles and Communion ~ Sanctuary**

Come worship with us!

The Christmas Eve "loose offering" will benefit the Guatemala Mission Team.



In order for our childcare staff and volunteers to enjoy the Christmas services with their families, we will not offer a nursery or Worship Care at the Christmas Eve services. All children are welcome at all worship services.

Living the Fullness of Christ

Sunday Preaching Schedule

December 17	"Mary and Elizabeth"	Rev. John Fitzgerald Luke 1:46-56
December 24	"A Great Light" (9:45 & 11 a.m.) See cover page for evening services There will be no 8:30 service this day.	Rev. John Fitzgerald Isaiah 9:2-7
December 31	"Teachers Needed – No Experience Required "	Dave Lee John 4:1-29, 39-42
January 7 communion	"Baptism of the Lord"	Rev. John Fitzgerald Mark 1:1-11
January 14	"Factions"	Rev. John Fitzgerald Galatians 5:16-26



We extend our Christian sympathy to the following upon the death of a loved one:

- Nancy Dameron, and family upon the death of her brother on November 15.
- Chad Chadwick and family upon the death of his mother, Carolyn Magruder, on November 18.
- Lynn McIntyre and family upon the death of her brother, George Clauer, on November 19.
- The family of Timothy Ogburn upon his death on November 24.

Service of Comfort & Hope

The Stephen Ministers of CUMC invite those dealing with grief and loss during the holidays to attend our Service of Comfort & Hope on Tuesday, December 12 at 7 p.m. in the Prayer Chapel. This special event is centered on keeping memories of your loved one alive and offering our support. It is our hope that you will find strength and comfort by attending this service. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the service.



We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Diane McGee for the beautiful Thanksgiving arrangement she created for our altar last month. It was stunning!

Living the Fullness of Christ

Sunday, December 10

Please bring your Angel Tree gifts to the church by 10 a.m.

8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary ~ Pastor John will preach "It's Not Your Birthday."

9:30 a.m. in the Ministry Center ~ The Connect Service invites the congregation to join them for a potluck breakfast and a Christmas carol sing-along before our Christmas Cantata. Please bring something breakfast-y to share.

11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary ~ Join us for our Christmas Cantata, titled **ANGEL BAND**, featuring carols from the Appalachian shape-note tradition as well as Moravian and Celtic songs. This unique and beautifully written cantata is guaranteed to enrich your faith during this Advent season.



Message from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee

It is with a heavy heart that SPRC is sharing that Amanda Batten has tendered her resignation from CUMC after serving as the Youth Minister since 2019. Amanda's official last day was Dec. 2. Amanda's service to CUMC is immeasurable, as shortly after her arrival she took on the task of leading the youth through the pandemic, and since the re-opening of the church, growing the ministry to over 90 youth! Amanda's gifts and passion will be missed dearly, and CUMC is incredibly grateful to have been a part of her life these last four years. We'd like to thank her for the lifelong impact she has had on so many of our youth and the building of their faith foundation. Wherever Amanda's next journey takes her, we are confident she will continue to share her love of Christ with everyone! Thank you for everything!

With heavy hearts, SPRC is sharing that Karen Stutzman decided to leave CUMC. Sunday, November 12, was her last service. Karen has done an incredible job of forming and growing our praise team and Connect service, and for that we are extremely grateful. We feel confident that her musical talent will take her far and are grateful for the three years of service during which she dedicated herself to the mission of our church.



While Amanda and Karen will be difficult to replace, SPRC is extremely happy to announce that Jennifer Rogers has agreed to step in to support the Connect service in an interim capacity. If you have questions about our Connect Contemporary Worship service, please contact Jennifer by email at rogersj@clemmonsumc.org or by phone at 336-830-1927.

Upcoming Ways to Explore and Grow Your Spirituality

TASTE AND SEE! For those seeking to go deeper with God, there will be a seven-week immersion in spiritual practices designed to open one's mind, heart, and soul to hear the small, still voice of God. Sessions will begin with a half day retreat at Starrette Farm Retreat on Saturday, January 6, from 9:45 a.m. until 2 p.m., followed by five weekly 90-minute sessions on Tuesday evenings (time and place to be determined by attendees). The sessions will end on Saturday, February 24 for a half-day retreat at Starrette Farm Retreat from 9:45 a.m. until 2 p.m. Psalms 24:8 NIV "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." For more information, please contact George Stewart at (336) 414-7403 / geohenstew@yahoo.com.

THE CYCLE OF GRACE: LIVING IN SACRED BALANCE is a six-week study using the book and videos with the same title written by Trevor Hudson and Jerry Haas. Our deep desire to live in Sacred Balance will serve as our inspiration as we open to God's grace. Jesus faced amazing pressure and overwhelming demands throughout his ministry, but he did not experience the burnout so common in our culture, especially among Christian leaders within churches and nonprofits. Despite a very demanding lifestyle, Jesus stayed spiritually strong.

Using contemplative and creative practices, we will explore:

- Burnout, Jesus & Grace
- Sustaining Grace
- You Are a Sign
- Fruitfulness & the Cycle of Works
- A Grace-Filled Way to Live
- Congregational Vitality and the Cycle of Grace

Sessions start on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, from 10-11 a.m. in Room A-213. Please contact Kathy Giff with any questions and to sign up for the study at giffk@clemmonsumc.org. Sessions will be led by Nancy Bellamy, who was trained by the authors themselves.

A Timely Excerpt from a Shared Article: Deliverance Through Thanksgiving by Maxie Dunnam

One of our big failures as Christians is our continual refusal to discipline ourselves in living with the word of God. We need to study the Bible. It is the shaping source of our Christian faith and way. In it we find the revelation of God which God provided through God's Son, Jesus. It is food for our souls, direction and strength for our journey. But not only do we need to study the Bible, we need to read the Bible devotionally, and there is a difference. Here's the way I do it. In a time of quietness, reflection and prayer, I simply begin reading a pre-selected passage of scripture. With an open mind and heart, I read until some word grabs my attention. I stay with that word, allowing it to tumble around in my mind. I seek to taste the word by reflecting upon it in my mind and heart. I ask the word questions and I allow the word to ask me questions. Then in that moment and out of that reflection, I form the prayers I want to offer to God in response to his word.

Ways to Live Out Your Call to Care for Others



Christmas Cards have been added to the other congregational care cards in the Commons Area. Please take the time to write a note to someone you have not seen in a while! Your caring words and recognition that you have missed them may be just what they need during the holiday season. The cards and directory will be visible as you enter the Commons Area. Place addressed cards in the labeled basket for mailing.



The Angel Tree is full of angel wishes from families in our community. Please come to the Commons Area and pick one or more! Let's help make these families' Christmas a special one! Gifts need to be returned by 10 a.m. on Sunday, December 10.

CLASS Lunch Buddy Program: January Recruitment

Want to impact the life of a child in our community? Then, we want you as a mentor!

- Who:** Any caring adult who wishes to impact the life of a child with love, guidance, and friendship in our Clemmons/Lewisville community. Tutoring is not required, and no experience is necessary! The best part about being a Lunch Buddy...it's actually a lot of fun!
- What:** Option for 1:1 or 1:3 mentoring program that meets once a week during the lunch period. Flexibility on day and time. Training and support are provided! The January training is Thursday, January 18, from 7-8 p.m. in Room A-213.
- Where:** Programs take place at Morgan and Ward Elementary in Clemmons and Lewisville Elementary in Lewisville.
- How:** Please contact Lexi Scoggin, CLASS Community Engagement Facilitator, at ascoggin2@gmail.com or 330-881-0969 for the WSFCS Volunteer application.

"Every kid is one caring adult away from a success story." - Josh Shipp

The Clemmons and Lewisville Action for Student Success is a coalition of faith-based and community organizations and schools that work together to benefit school-aged students, their families, and the school staff who support them.



Men's Guatemala Work Trip | April 6-14, 2024

Register by Jan. 1 by contacting Bart Shaw at 336-817-7325

60+ Adults

The last official function, The Veterans Celebration/Chicken Stew, is over. It was, very simply, wonderful. I can't thank the 60+ Team enough for all of their dedication, hard work, great ideas and ability to "git-r-done." Janie Hackney has a gift of organization, calmness, and ability to explain and navigate ideas without getting flustered. She did a superb job with communication on all levels – keeping the 60+ Committee always in the know and on the same page and letting the congregation know of upcoming events through flyers and communication with Ed Fisher, our tech person in the balcony. Janie, THANK YOU. Our new "fearless leader" is Bobbie Thacker. Bobbie is a native of this area and, in turn, has connections in every area we can think of. If you need something, Bobbie knows where to get it. If you want it done, Bobbie can call on a multitude of people to help. She took over the job of making our Veterans Celebration chicken stew. She had someone who was going to come to the church and make it. Two days before the celebration, he called and said he had the flu. Bobbie, in her usual efficient way, "knew people," and this year, we had the best-tasting chicken stew we've ever had. We're going to be in good hands going forward. We will miss Janie as our leader, but welcome Bobbie with open arms. Janie will still be on our committee, and between the two of them and all of our wonderful volunteers, 2024 is going to be a stellar year. Thanks to each and every person who has served on the 60+ Committee. See you again in 2024!

–Barbara Turner, 60+ Adults Ministries (bturner1@triad.rr.com / 336-408-0522.)



Clemmons United Methodist Church 2023 Financial Update Operating Fund Account

Donations Received through 11/30/23	\$866,690
Expenses Paid through 11/30/23	944,136
Net Loss 11/30/23	-77,446

For more detailed information on the church's finances, please visit our website to see the current Treasurer's Report. This report will also show balances of Special Funds.

End-of-Year Contributions

If you would like to make an end-of-the-year contribution to the church, you may drop your check in the offering plate or through the back door mail slot of the church office by Sunday, December 31. All 2023 contributions sent through the U.S. mail must be postmarked by Saturday, December 30 to receive credit for 2023. For more information about end-of-the-year giving, please contact Scott Seagle at 336-287-2876 or Waynette Adamczak at 336-766-6375 ext. 122.

Living the Fullness of Christ

Calendar of Events

Wed, Dec 6	10:00 a.m. Sisters in Christ Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir 6:00 p.m. Connect Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Divorce Care 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. PAL Meeting	Wed, Dec 20	6:00 p.m. Connect Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. PAL Meeting
Thurs, Dec 7	4:30 p.m. Bible Study with Dave Lee	Thurs, Dec 21	4:30 p.m. Bible Study with Dave Lee
Sat, Dec 9	9:30 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal	Sun, Dec 24	9:45 a.m. Connect Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service
Sun, Dec 10	8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Potluck Breakfast & Carol Singing 11:00 a.m. Christmas Cantata	Mon & Tues, Dec 25 & 26	Church Office Closed for Christmas
Tues, Dec 12	9:00 a.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Service of Comfort 7:00 p.m. Pastor John's Bible Study	Wed, Dec 27	7:00 p.m. PAL Meeting
Wed, Dec 13	10:00 a.m. Sisters in Christ Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir 6:00 p.m. Connect Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Divorce Care 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. PAL Meeting	Mon, Jan 1	Holiday – Church Office Closed
Thurs, Dec 14	4:30 p.m. Bible Study with Dave Lee	Tues, Jan 2	9:00 a.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Pastor John's Bible Study
Tues, Dec 19	9:00 a.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Pastor John's Bible Study		

Sunday Service Times

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service ~ Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Connect Worship Service ~ Ministry Center
9:45 a.m. Sunday Schools
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service ~ Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Sunday School ~ Room A-103

Clemmons:One Youth: stay connected with our youth at their via their social media pages (Facebook: Clemmons:One / Instagram: clemmonsoneyouth).

Sisters in Christ



Sisters in Christ is a women's group that meets on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They participate in many community service projects as well as Bible study. Their current study is "Signs and Wonders" by Amy-Jill Devine, a study about the miracles of Jesus. Please call Linda Morgan at 336-416-6814 to learn more about Sisters in Christ.



Clemmons

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The next newsletter will be sent out Jan. 10 and the deadline for articles to be submitted is Monday, Jan. 1. Please bring your articles by the Hunter House or email them to griffinA@clemmonsumc.org. If you would like to receive the newsletter, please email office@clemmonsumc.org with "ACTS" in the subject line. In the body of the email indicate how you would like to receive "ACTS" by writing "email only," "postal mail only" or "both email and postal mail." Remember that receiving email copies saves the church postage and helps us all be better stewards of the resources that God provides.

The staff of Clemmons United Methodist Church wishes you a



CLEMMONS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 829 / 3700 Clemmons Rd., Clemmons, NC 27012

www.clemmonsumc.org

Church Office 336-766-6375

Preschool and Kindergarten 336-766-9593

Church Staff

Senior Pastor	John Fitzgerald	Ext 123
Discipleship, Missions, Congregational Care	Kathy Giff	Ext 145
Preschool Ministries	Tammy Clapp	Ext 135
Interim, Children's Ministries	Chris Fitzgerald	Ex. 141
60+ Adult Ministries	Barbara Turner	336-766-5972
Music and Worship Arts	Bryon Grohman	Ext 129
Interim, Contemporary Worship Ministries	Jennifer Rogers	
Office Manager	Waynette Adamczak	Ext 122
Office Assistant	Amy Griffin	Ext 121
Facilities Manager	David Mooneyham	Ext.125
Media Ministries	Ed Fisher	

Leadership Board: cumcleadershipboard@clemmonsumc.org

Prayer Concerns: prayers@clemmonsumc.org

Give: online at www.clemmonsumc.org/give or text ClemUMC to 73256