



From the desk of Pastor Ann

I still remember the time Kim and I played Joseph and Mary in a live nativity at church. I was dressed in a blue robe, with a white head scarf, and rode toward the nativity scene on a donkey as Kim led the way. Our daughter played the part of a shepherd. I think that is why she loves animals so much, even today.

Next Sunday our Union Chapel children will tell the Christmas story in our own Christmas pageant. It is the story of the greatest gift we have ever been given, the gift of a Savior. I hope you will come and invite another family to join you!

It seems appropriate to begin our Advent journey with Luke 1:26-38, with the news of the Word made flesh, knit together in Mary's womb. In reading about Mary's call to ministry, Luke portrays her as an excellent example of what it means to live as a disciple of Christ.

An angel appears to Mary and greets her saying, "The Lord is with you." Scripture says Mary pondered the angel's words. She may have been afraid, because the angel says, "Do not be afraid."

Then the angel reveals God's plan. You will conceive a child, his name will be Jesus, he will be the Son of the Most High, he will be given the throne of David, and will reign forever. Of his kingdom there will be no end.

Mary's response is an honest one, "How can this be?" She has never been with a man, so how can she bear a child? And the angel tells the story of how Elizabeth is bearing a child in her old age, reminding us that "Nothing is impossible with God."

A popular Christmas song addressed to Mary asks what she knew when she said yes to God's call: "Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?"

We have no way of knowing exactly what Mary knew.

Scripture tells us she knew he would be the son of God. She could not possibly have understood exactly what life would look like. Like others, she may have expected an earthly king.

My guess is that like us, she knew just enough to get started. She knew just enough to say yes.

My guess is that the work of bearing God into the world had a steep learning curve, and required her to say yes over and over, just as it does for us today.

So, church, will we say yes to Jesus, as Mary did?

What is God calling us to do? How is God calling us to step out in faith? Whatever it is, God is with us, too. We don't have to be afraid. Because nothing is impossible with God. May it be so in our lives today.

I hope to see you in church this Sunday, either in person or online. As we begin this season of Advent, I encourage you to read through Luke's gospel, one chapter a day. By Christmas Eve, you will be reminded of why we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Blessings, Pastor Ann.

- Greetings from
Pastor Ann
- Prayer Requests
- Thankful
Tuesday
- Weekly
Attendance
- Upcoming Church
Dates
- Weekly Calendar
- Celebrations
- Giving

Union Chapel UMC
2625 Pannell Rd.
P.O. Box 622
Monroe, GA 30655
770-267-7844
unionchapel@

Prayer Requests this week: John Head, and Blaine Huff.

The family of: Gayle Carithers.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Friends, we want to be in prayer for each other, without ceasing. Since we are not all meeting in person, please email your prayer request directly to: ann.mann@ngumc.net. Please submit your request by noon on Saturday.

Upcoming Worship Dates

December 5th at 11 am Worship: The children will present their Christmas Pageant.

December 19th at 11 am Worship: The adult choir will present their Christmas Cantata, "Noel: Jesus is Born".

December 21st at 6 PM in the Main Sanctuary we will have a Service of the Longest Night. This is for people who may find it difficult to experience joy at Christmas.

December 24 at 5 pm: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service in the Main Sanctuary

December 26 at 11 am: We will have one worship service in the main sanctuary.

December 28 at 1:30 pm: We will be taking down the decorations in the Sanctuary.



Our children perform their Christmas musical, "God's Gift To Us" during the 11am worship service this Sunday. I invite everyone to attend and bring a friend. If you would also like a sermon during this season of Advent, I will be preaching on Elizabeth and Mary from Luke 1:39-45 during the 10am service. We will finish in plenty of time to make it to the 11am service. The Sunday our Adult choir performs its Christmas Cantata, December 19th, at 11am, I will be preaching another sermon in "The Greatest Gift" series at 10am. We have something for everyone! A message in word, and/or a message in song. Hope to see you Sunday!

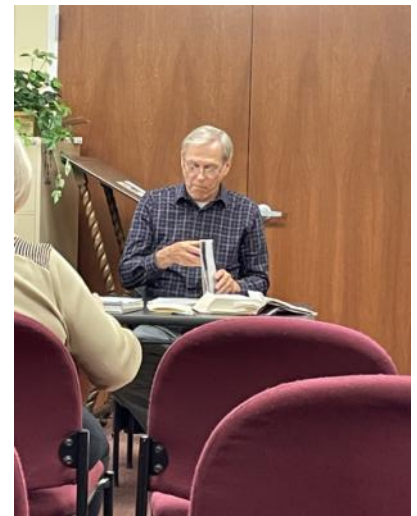
Thankful Tuesday



This weeks Thankful Tuesday was submitted by a church member and a member of the Young at Heart Sunday School class. The class is thankful for Carol Ashford and Don Oakley who alternate Sundays for teaching. Sunday School teachers take time to prepare their materials weekly for the upcoming Sunday lesson.

Make sure you thank your teachers for their dedication.

Thank you Carol and Don!



All Call for Video Ministry Volunteers

A little over a year ago Union Chapel did not have a video ministry. When COVID threatened to shut us down in March of 2020 we started live-streaming our services using Jake’s video equipment. Out of our desire to stay in touch with our people, our video ministry was launched. Jake Raby has experience in video technology because of his world-class work in the automotive industry. He brought in some experts, and along with many others, helped make the dream a reality. By July we had purchased our own equipment and have been online ever since.

Now, here we are, 20 months later and Jake continues to work tirelessly in the video booth. **It is time to get him some help.** Jake will continue to lead the ministry he helped bring to life. What we need are people he can train to join him in this vital ministry.

In December, we will be adding an audio board to enhance the sound of our video ministry. We would like to have a team of four or five volunteers in place so that everyone can learn this system together. Then Jake will create a rotation of lay servants so that no one person bears the full load. Are you willing to serve? Jake has made it very easy to operate, so don’t let your fear of technology stop you. There are some easy to follow steps, and voila, our service is being broadcast live.

If you are interested, please let Jake know. Once we have a list of volunteers, he will have a training session. He is also willing to shadow our new recruits until they are comfortable in this new role. Praying you are willing to say YES to this vital ministry. Jake and I, and our homebound members will be so grateful for your service.

Weekly Attendance

Date	Attendance	Online	Sunday School
11/28/2021	76 (4 Visitors)	39	34
11/21/2021	67	50	21
11/14/2021	65	44	20
11/7/2021	68	83	19



You are Invited to the
Union Chapel
UMW
Christmas Dinner

Monday, Dec 6, 2021
at 6:00 pm

Please join us at:

Madison Chophouse
Grille
202 S Main St
Madison, GA 30650

Bring a \$10 gift to participate in a fun
gift exchange.

The church bus will be available for transport,
leaving the church at 5:30 pm.

Please RSVP to
Patty Wright @ 678-895-3067
or the church @ 770-267-7844

The United Methodist Men will be having their Christmas Dinner
 Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 7 PM .
 Journey's End Restaurant and Buffet in Loganville.

 A photograph of the exterior of Journey's End Restaurant. The building is a single-story structure with a brown roof and large windows. The name "Journey's End Restaurant" is visible on the front facade. The photo is framed by a decorative border of green Christmas trees.

November 30, 2021 - December 12, 2021

Weekly Happenings

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

7 PM Youth Bible Study @ Cindy & Kenneth Little's

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

7 AM Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

7 PM Choir Practice

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Children's Christmas Pageant

9:15 AM Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

10 AM Sunday School (main Sanctuary Classrooms)

10 AM Contemporary Worship (theChapel)

11 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

4 PM **Calendar Planning Meeting** (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 6, 2021

5:30 UMW Christmas Dinner @ The Chop House in Madison, bus leaves at 5:30 pm or meet at 6 PM at the restaurant.

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study @ the Elsmore's

7 PM Youth Bible Study @ Cindy & Kenneth Little's

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

7 AM Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

7 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, December 9, 2021

7 PM United Methodist Men Christmas Dinner @ Journeys End in Loganville

Sunday, December 12, 2021

9:15 AM Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

10 AM Sunday School (main Sanctuary Classrooms)

10 AM Contemporary Worship (theChapel)

11 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

7 PM Choir Practice

**Tithes and Offerings can be given either online from our website or mail a check to
Union Chapel UMC Finance
P.O. Box 622, Monroe, GA 30655**



- 1st Cindy Weaver
- 2nd John Jordan
Ava Raby
Carolyn Towler
- 4th Samantha Blankenship
- 7th Emily Ruchti
- 8th Cathy Meadows
- 9th Kenneth Little
- 10th Valerie Malcom
Raegan Camp
Reese Camp
- 12th Betty Middlebrooks
- 13th **Bruce & Patty Wright**
- 15th Anne Marie Camp
- 16th Phil Aycock
- 17th Deloris Barton
Amberlee Melendez
- 19th JT Little
Bryant Olson
Dustin Taylor
- 20th **Bruce & Charlotte Ford**
- 21st Jon Dial
Tony & Jane Peters

Anniversaries are in red

*****Administrative Information*****

Church Office Hours

**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9 AM - 2 PM**

***Please note, messages are not picked up during non office hours. If you have an emergency outside office hours, please call:**

**Pastor Ann, 70-256-4556 or
James Johnson, 678-767-2712 .**

******Newsletter Submissions******

Please submit any information , prayer requests or articles that you might have for the newsletter to the church office by Tuesday at noon, as the newsletter will be published on Tuesday. Also, as a reminder, please have prayer requests submitted by noon on Thursday for the Sunday bulletin. The church office email is: unionchapel@windstream.net.