



God is love and love lives here!

600 North Houston Lake Blvd., Centerville 31028

(478) 953-3090

[www.thewellatcenterville.com](http://www.thewellatcenterville.com)

Office Hours: Mon-Thur 8:30a-12:30p

Rev. Tommy Odum

[pastortommy@thewellatcenterville.com](mailto:pastortommy@thewellatcenterville.com); 478/397-9491

## Sunday, December 24, 2023 ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent

### Context of a Silent Night

Throughout the year the idea of understanding the context of scriptures is discussed on a regular basis. We need to understand why, when, and under the circumstances of which something is written. Christmas Carols are the same; the why, when, and circumstances are of great importance to the writer and should be to those who gather to the familiar songs this time of year.

Silent Night is one of my favorites and I think one of which we should consider the context in which it was written and first performed. Josef Mohr, a priest of humble means, and Franz Xaver Gruber, Mohr's choir director, performed this song for the first time in 1818. The country was torn from war, hunger, and lost. The small Austrian village was in need of hope in uncertain times. The young Mohr needed a song for his Christmas Eve mass and went to his friend, Franz Gruber, to ask for help composing a song to the words of a poem he had written during a walk late at night. That walk where he observed the stillness of the night would change the lives of millions who would eventually sing the now famous carol in over 300 different languages. The song spread around the world over the course of the next several hundred years. Today and even this week it's a favorite carol for believers as they usher in the spirit of Christmas on Christmas Eve. What was born in uncertainty brought hope and peace for so many around the world.

While we may face difficulty and uncertainty it is important to remember that we cannot allow the context of our circumstance to dictate our attitude of worship. Sometimes our goal should be to focus on the stillness of where we are and how the good gift of a newborn child that has changed the world. It doesn't mean that God doesn't care about our context or that it doesn't matter. The opposite is true, he cares deeply about the matters of your heart. However, we are compelled to remind ourselves that God not only uses the good things in our life for our benefit but also the uncertainty and hardships we face. We are encouraged not to focus on just the busyness and ugliness but to see the world through the eyes of a young priest in a war-torn country. We are reminded as we sing the words of Stille Nacht Heilige Nacht to be still and see His goodness in the silence.

Keep The Faith,  
Pastor Tommy

### Gifts Given to the Glory of God

- \* In honor of us, The Well at Centerville by Debbie Gray
- \* In memory of Ann Stafford by Sara Colbert

### Souper Saturday

Souper Saturday will be another opportunity for us to serve those in our community by providing clothing and food to those in need. This event will occur on **Saturday, January 13, 2024 from 9:00am until 1:00pm** so please mark your calendars. Volunteers are needed to furnish crock pots of soups and/or chili and to be present to assist with shopping. **Help is also needed on Friday, January 12, 2024, beginning at 9:00am** to set up tables and bring in clothes from the Yak Shack. Please sign up on the sheets posted on the church bulletin board if you are available to help. Thank you so much for all your support for our Open Door Mission Closet. Brenda

**For the Kiddos**- Christmas Eve, come to 10:30a Worship Service in your PJs!

### Scripture and Sermon:

Titus 2:11-14

Game Time:  
Life Through Advent:  
Grace Appeared



### New Concerns

Leon Hudson

### Continue Prayers for:

Gabriel Blackburn  
 Suzanne Smith  
 Family of George Knowles  
 Keith Mobley  
 Family of Virginia Bearden  
 Hubert Hudson

Sonny Watson  
 Warren McDow  
 Christa Avret  
 Michael & Jennie Walston  
 Warren McDow  
 Betty Byrd  
 Leon Hudson  
 Mary Prater  
 Jim & Mary Leary  
 Virginia Eadie  
 Bill Reedy  
 Sarah Mayer  
 Cary Martin  
 Mac McNeal  
 James McNeal  
 Our Country, Leaders, Military

### Finance Report for December 17

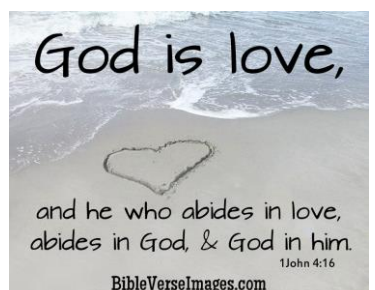
Operating Budget..... \$6,359.27  
 Local Mission..... 1,040.00  
 Total..... \$7,399.27

### Worship Attendance

146

### Sunday School

48



BibleVerseImages.com



- ✓ 12-24-23 at 6p- **Christmas Eve Service**
- ✓ 12-25/01-01-24- **Office Closed**
- ✓ 12-31-23 11:30a- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lunch after Worship Service



No more Birthdays for December

### Community Missions

- December totals for the Food Pantry: families served- 467; people served- 1,689; portions given out- 645; weight of food distributed- 16,280 lbs; all these numbers for December are a record. The yearly totals: families served- 8,305; people served- 28,971; portions given out- 11,287; weight of food distributed\_261,570 lbs. That is awesome! Hands and feet of Jesus!
- The next Food Pantry is **January 10, 2024**... come on out and volunteer! You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- Our Clothes Closet will be **closed December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>**... we will re-open **January 9, 2024**.
- The Clothes Closet will be open 11a-1p on Food Pantry days, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month.
- Thank you for your generosity to the Open Door Clothes Closet. Each week we see more and more clothed and cared for because of your gifts of love. **Winter is Coming** and we will be in need of several items. If you're cleaning out your own closets or looking to donate items, please consider donating to the Clothes Closet. We also ask you to look for some of the specific items listed below as you are preparing for the change in season. Thank you again for all you do to support our ministry!
- Winter clothes/coats/jackets/sweaters/hoodies/pants/shoes/socks/scarves/hats/gloves; linens/sheets/blankets/throws/comforters; towels/washcloths; personal needs items; toys.
- Workers are needed in the Clothes Closet Mondays Tuesdays from 9a-12 noon.

### Bible Reading Plan

#### Week of December 24<sup>th</sup>:

Sunday.....	Revelation 15
Monday.....	Revelation 16
Tuesday.....	Revelation 17
Wednesday....	Revelation 18
Thursday.....	Revelation 19
Friday.....	Revelation 20
Saturday.....	Revelation 21

### Toy Giveaway

During our Toy Giveaway, we gave out over 200 toys to children who otherwise might not get anything else. They were so happy to pick out their toy. I am so blessed and grateful to be a part of this family of God. ~~ Brenda ~~

### Family Promise

If anyone is interested in being a volunteer please contact J.O. or Lynn, this is a very blessed ministry of our church... check out their website at <https://www.familypromisehoustonco.org/>



### Poinsettias Given to the Glory of God

- ~ In memory of Evelyn Hunnicutt by Brenda Craw
- ~ In memory of Bert Craw by Brenda Craw
- ~ In honor of Don Schall by the Christian Fellowship SS Class
- ~ In honor of Charles & Sabrina Williams by the Christian Fellowship SS Class
- ~ To the Glory of God and in memory of Mr & Mrs. Reedy by Bill Reedy
- ~ To the Glory of God and in memory of Mr & Mrs Wheeler by Suzanne Smith
- ~ In honor of Bill Reedy & Suzanne Smith by Leon & Nancy Hudson
- ~ In honor of Mary Frances Logue by Leon & Nancy Hudson
- ~ In honor of Dawn Wilkins by Leon & Nancy Hudson
- ~ In honor of Eric Nelson for helping the Hudson family/friends in having a cherished Thanksgiving by Nancy Hudson
- ~ In honor of family by Marie Davis
- ~ In memory of Cecil Colbert by Sara Colbert
- ~ In honor of family by Sara Colbert
- ~ In memory of Tom Brechin by his family
- ~ In memory of Dottie Leisey by Stan & Carin Decker- check in the mail
- ~ In memory of Ethel Gearn by Stan & Carin Decker
- ~ In memory of our parents by Don & LaWanna Porter
- ~ In honor of our family by Don & LaWanna Porter
- ~ In memory of my parents, David & Chloe Weeden by Carolyn Nettles
- ~ In memory of my husband, Leslie Wayne Nettles by Carolyn Nettles
- ~ In memory of Connie Cross by Amber Gamble
- ~ In honor of my great grandson, Spencer Ryan Morris by Amber Gamble

Please remember to take your poinsettias after Worship Service... any that are left behind will be taken to our shut-ins.

# Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

## This Week's Schedule:

**Sunday- December 24**

### Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier  
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Roy Carter  
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen  
Joy Fleming, Sherrie Shell

9:15a Sunday School

10:30a Worship

6:00p **Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Communion Service**



### Greeters

10:30a Cheri Cox, Marie Davis

### Communion Servers

Sherrie Shell, Susan Howdeshell  
Tomas & Joy Fleming



### Finance Stewards

Paula Williams, Sherrie Shell, Kelly Evans



### Assisting with Children

**Sunday- December 24**

Nursery- Brooke McKeever, Lynn Miller,  
Dawn Wilkins

Children- **No Children's Church**

**Sunday- December 31**

Nursery- Katie Odum, Dawn, Laura  
Children- **No Children's Church**



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Monday- December 25**

**Merry Christmas**

**Office Closed**

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Men  
at the  
Well



**Tuesday- December 26**

**Office Closed**

**Wednesday- December 27**

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast

**Office Closed**

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



**Thursday- December 28**

**Office Closed**

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



**Friday- December 29**

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



**Saturday- December 30**

7:30p . . Narcotics Anonymous



## Sunday School at 9:15a

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

### Sunday School Class

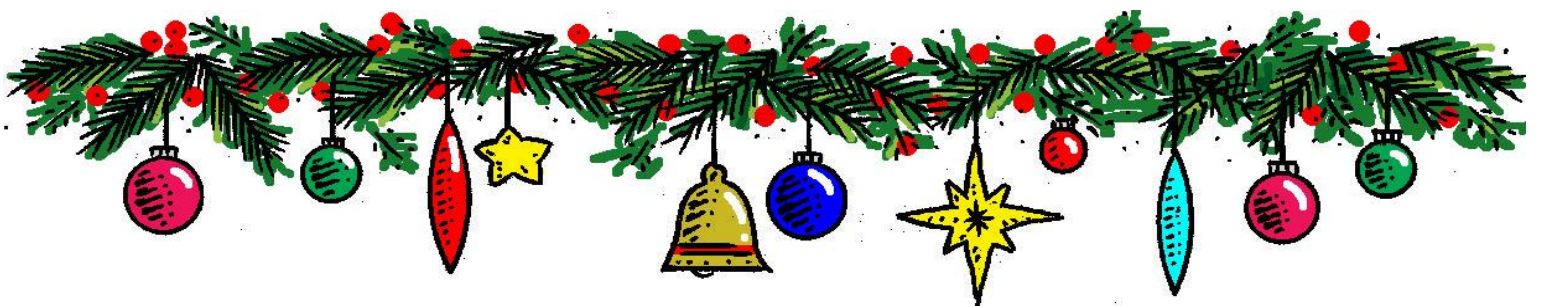
Seekers  
Issues & Answers  
New Beginnings  
Christian Fellowship  
Youth  
Pilgrims

### Studies

Christmas Story  
Matthew  
Revelations  
Almost Christmas  
The Nativity  
Acts

### Teacher

Kathy Rutke  
Katie Odum  
Nancy Hudson  
Don Schall  
Eric & Gloria Nelson  
Kathy Blanchard





# SOUP'S ON!

*The Well at Centerville*

600 North Houston Lake Rd

Centerville, GA 31028

478-953-3090

Coming soon!! Souper Saturday, January 13, 2024,  
9a-1p; free soup/sandwich lunch and clothing.

Everyone is welcome. Due to people's  
generosity, we have an overabundance of  
clothes in our Clothes Closet storeroom. We are  
going to pull the clothes out, put them on tables  
in the fellowship hall for those interested in  
going through them and taking what they'd  
like... AND we're going to feed you, too! So,  
mark your calendars and come on out!