



God is love and love lives here!

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Rev. Tommy Odum

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Sunday, December 31, 2023 ~ New Year's Eve

After Christmas

Every year the Advent Season comes and goes faster than we expect. We prepare ourselves the best way we know how spiritually and enjoy all the season's festivities.

The season is filled with excitement, anticipation, and reverent Joy like a child staring at all the lights as they ride through the Christmas scenes at Callaway Gardens. It's a magical yet mysterious time to celebrate; all God has done in our lives and what we hope He will do in the very near New Year.

It's hard to settle into the season sometimes because of the expeditious way we inadvertently go about the holidays. While we rush from one house to another or to the next neighborhood to see a few more lights there is a tendency to get in a "check the list twice" rhythm. We want to make sure we have done all the things and seen all the sights. Buy all the presents and stuff all the stockings. Yes, these are all good things but in a few days, the excitement and anticipation of those things will slowly fade away.

When I was a child in Cairo we would inevitably go to Walmart at some point. For context's sake, when they built the new one it was a big deal! We would round the grocery aisle and see the toy section way in the back of the store. We would go and at some point, I would ask for a toy; "I'll be picking it up off the floor in a few days because you'll forget it in a couple of days!" My mother would say. Quin and I had this same conversation a few days ago when he wanted a dinosaur from Walmart. Hearing the voice of my mother I told him "You won't remember it two days from now; no". We still left with a ball.

Like the toy we don't remember after the excitement fades away from Christmas morning; we may feel a tendency to do the same after we celebrate the Holiday Season. We've built up the excitement and waited for Jesus to arrive but what next? What happens after the gifts and celebrations have come to a close? I would suggest that this is when the true work of Christmas begins. The season doesn't end after December 25th but is only the start of the miraculous and mysterious work of Jesus. We've had the opportunity to connect with people and now we begin building relationships. We've been given some awesome gifts but now we get to share our gifts with others. We've witnessed the love of Jesus and now we have the opportunity to share it with the world with a fresh perspective. The baby is born, and now we tell it to the world around us.

I'm waiting until New Year's but on the second, before the kids return to school, I'll be taking down all our lights. I have plans for next year's decorations already and will wait for lights and blow-up decorations to go on sale. Even though the lights are going back into storage the season isn't over. No, I plan to continue to let His light shine today, tomorrow, before and well after Christmas. I hope you will too!

Keep The Faith,
Pastor Tommy

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

Scripture and Sermon:

Galatians 4:4-7

Post Game:
Interview and Preview
of 2024:
No Longer Children



New Concerns

Leon Hudson

Continue Prayers for:

Gabriel Blackburn
Suzanne Smith

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 24

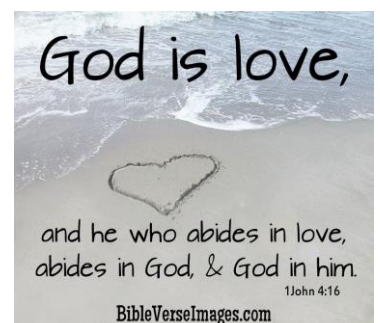
TBA

Worship Attendance

TBA

Sunday School

TBA





✓ 12-31-23 11:30a- 5th Sunday Lunch after Worship Service



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 26th and January 2nd... we will re-open January 9, 2024... Closet volunteers for 01-09-24 are Nancy Brechin, Lynn Mayfield, Marie Davis
- The Clothes Closet will be open 11a-1p on Food Pantry days, which is the 2nd and 4th 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 31th:	
Sunday.....	Revelation 22
Monday.....	Psalm 119:1-32
Tuesday....	Psalm 119:33-64
Wednesday-	Psalm 119:65-96
Thursday...	Psalm 119:97-128
Friday.....	Psalm 119:129-152
Saturday...	Psalm 119:153-176

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/>

5th Sunday Lunch

December 31 after Worship Service is 5th Sunday Lunch... the church will provide the meat and the congregation will provide all those delicious sides... let's kickstart our New Year's Eve with some good food, fellowship and fun!

Thank You!

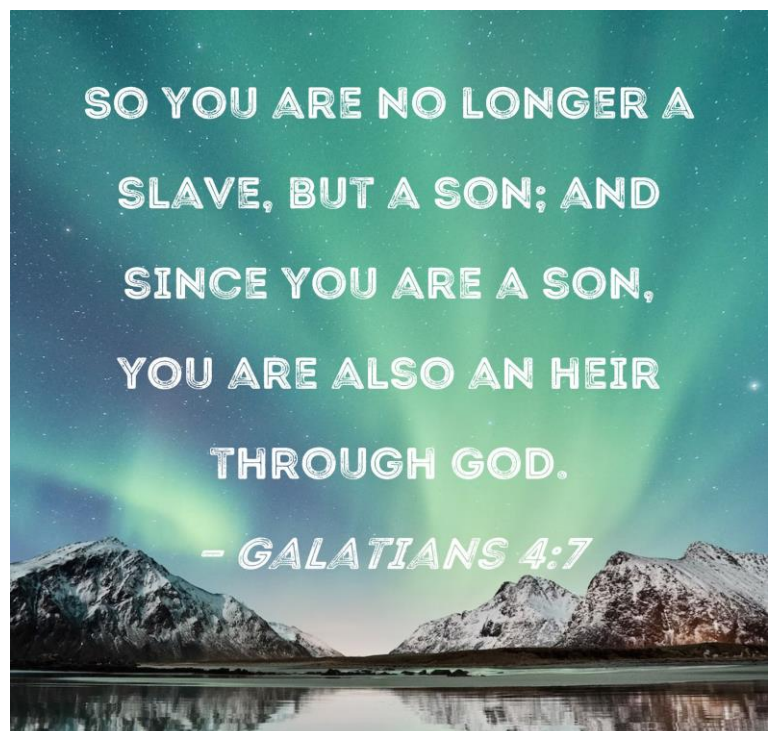
Thank you to everyone involved with the Blood Drive – all the volunteers and those donating their precious blood... we exceeded our goal this time and for that I am so grateful, especially with the short notice. We will see you in April! Thanks, again. ~~ Brenda ~~

Basic ERT Training & Chainsaw Safety Class

Saturday, January 27, 2024 | 8:00 a.m., Cordele First UMC, 302 East 12th Avenue | Cordele GA 31015

Register now at <https://sgaumc-reg.brtaapp.com/ERTChainsawCordele2024>

The basic ERT training will begin at 8:00 am with the chainsaw safety class to follow. Lunch is included. This training is a collaborative effort of the United Methodist Committee on Relief and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission.



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

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday- December 31

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

11:30a 5th Sunday Lunch

Greeters

10:30a Linda Blanton, TBD

Communion Servers

Sherrie Shell, Paula Williams
Amber Gamble, Nancy Hudson

Finance Stewards

Paula Williams, Sherrie Shell, Kelly Evans

Assisting with Children

Sunday- December 31

Nursery- Katie Odum, Dawn Wilkins
Laura McKenzie

Children- **No Children's Church**

Sunday- January 7

Nursery- TBD

Children- TBD

Monday- January 1

Office Closed

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday- January 2

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'

10:00a Partners in Prayer

10:00a Yoga

6:30p Miss Terry's Circle

6:30p Bass Club

Wednesday- January 3

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast

1:00p Life Group I "Under Construction"

6:30p Choir Practice

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday- January 4

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'

10:00a Yoga

5:30p Dulcimers

6:30p Handbells

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday- January 5

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday- January 6

7:30p . Narcotics Anonymous



United Women in Faith



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,
11a-2p; 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!