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Love God. Serve People. Make a Difference.

# First United Methodist Church

## The Flame

### DECEMBER 2021

## A word from our pastor

### Rev. Dane Womack



Greetings Paragould FUMC!

Happy Advent and, before long, Merry Christmas! What a wonderful time of the year in our families, our community, and in our congregation. It is a blessed season of fellowship and worship as we remember and celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Last year at this time we were emphasizing the "Light in the Dark" as a reminder that Christ came to be with us even in our most trying state. Thankfully we are looking forward to a much more celebratory season this year! The light of Christ that is Jesus' birth has carried us through and brought us

again to another Advent and Christmas season. May you find hope, joy, and comfort as we worship the Christ child in the manger.

Of course, the Advent and Christmas season mean many activities for the church! I'll highlight a few here, though you can read even more details throughout the newsletter. On Sunday, Dec. 5, the 5th & 6th graders will enjoy a Sunday School Christmas party while the YOUTH will share in a holiday progressive dinner that evening. On Tuesday, Dec. 7, FUMC will join in the Downtown Christmas Parade, specifically Dixie Lawrence will be arranging a children's float! Next on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 6pm the choir and instrumentalists will present an evening of holiday music. This will be a lovely time of worship and celebration. On Monday, Dec. 13, all FUMC members and friends are invited to join in caroling under the care of Robin Patten. We'll begin at 5pm at church for a soup and chili dinner before proceeding to various locations to sing the songs of the season! Tues., Dec. 14 at 5:30pm in the Sanctuary is our Service of Grief and Hope with an emphasis on Grief and the Holidays. All who are grieving something (anything) are encouraged to attend. On Sunday, Dec. 19 at 5pm we will all enjoy the annual Children's Christmas Pageant (Worship Center) followed by the Kinders Concert (Gym). See Angela Newby for more information. Christmas Eve services will meet in the Sanctuary at 12noon, 5, 7, & 11pm. I know this worship service is the highlight of the year for many people and I look forward to seeing you there. Finally, note on Sunday, Dec. 26 we will have only

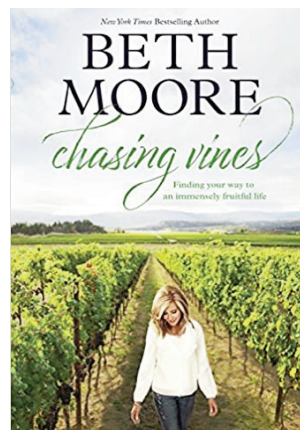
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## Women's Bible Study

Ladies of the church are invited to this time of fellowship and study. We will gather to watch a short video and read Beth Moore's latest book *Chasing Vines*. Remaining dates vary in accordance with local events and are:

- December 6 at 6pm
- December 16 at 6pm
- December 20 at 60pm

Contact Jill Womack at 870-613-2187 with questions or concerns.



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one worship service at 10am in the Worship Center. Sunday School will not meet that day.

I want to take just a moment to remind you that this season is a prime opportunity to invite others to church! Perhaps we have fallen out of this habit over the last 18 months. But let us get back to work including new people! I sincerely challenge you to invite a neighbor or friend to one of these holiday gatherings. Almost all church growth is due to a personal invite from a trusted friend. That's you!

There are many ways to serve and give in this season! Our Witt House is our primary agent of outreach and service. Its leadership is working to provide every Witt House client with a "Holiday Ham". These will be purchased for \$25/each and the Witt House invites your monetary donations in support of this effort.

With each monthly newsletter I offer you a brief update on capital issues and our financial health. First, with respect to facility matters, you may have noticed the Trustees have not yet moved forward with the roofing repairs on the east side of the Sanctuary. The reason for this is that the necessary materials have been unavailable. The worldwide supply-chain shortage comes in many forms. We hope to proceed with that work in the new year. You may have also seen that the parsonages and Witt House roofs have been replaced. This was due to hail damage back in April and was funded by an insurance claim. A portion of the shingled roof of the church will also be replaced under the same circumstances. With respect to our financial situation and outlook, our church is very strong! Including both general and building debt giving, year-to-date through October the church has taken in \$985,589 versus \$852,024 in 2020. This does not include other gifts such as memorials or monies tabbed for a certain cause. Our distributions year-to-date total \$940,020. We look to end the year in great shape. Many people make special financial gifts toward the church in December and I encourage you to do so. As it stands now, I think we will be able to make another significant and ahead-of-schedule payment toward our loan principal soon. This is wonderful news. I celebrate that our Finance meetings have generally been short and low-stress this year! Thank you for your constant support of First United Methodist Church and we will finish the year strong.

Included as an attachment in the newsletter is your '22-24 FUMC Leadership Roster. The individuals were approved to serve in these roles at our Church Council meeting in October. What a wonderful slate of leaders and servants. We also owe a debt of gratitude to those whose terms end this month. Thank you all for your service to and care for FUMC by serving in leadership roles formally and informally. Our Church Council will meet in January, date and details forthcoming.

As the Advent and Christmas season take us into 2022, I am thankful and optimistic regarding our church! There is no need to continue to rehearse the challenges of the past 18 months, but certainly those challenges have made this season all the more sweet! What a wonderful time to worship and fellowship as people of faith. Look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks!

Merry Christmas,  
Rev. Dane

# Hanging of the Greens

FUMC held its annual youth-led Hanging of the Greens service November 21, decorating the sanctuary and Chrismon tree in anticipation of Advent.



# Trunk or Treat

FUMC held its long-standing event on Halloween, passing out candy to hundreds of people from their trunks. The Randlemans were awarded best trunk. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event!



## Baptism



We celebrate in the baptism of Ryden Robbins, son of Kyle and Allie Robbins, baptized in November.

## YOUTH

December 5th: Progressive Dinner at 5:00 pm. Meet at the church.

December 12th/19th: In lieu of youth gathering, we encourage everyone to attend the seasonal church-wide events scheduled for those evenings.

### Looking ahead:

January: Senior Trip 15th-17th (Memphis Autobahn). Sign up through the planning center app or online at [www.fumcparagould.org](http://www.fumcparagould.org).

Youth Council Spring Planning Meeting on Sunday, January 23 at 5pm.

## INGATHERING

FUMC collected \$3,170 for buckets (enough for 42 buckets) and 90 books through Ingathering this year. We raised the most in the district for buckets, Harrisburg First brought in the most books, and Mt. Home First had the most raised for books and buckets combined.

## livestreaming:

### Find us online/Facebook

Our 9:00 and 11:00 worship services are live streamed each week on our website: [www.fumcparagould.org/worshiponline](http://www.fumcparagould.org/worshiponline). You can also find us live on Facebook on Sunday mornings.

## Mr. & Mrs. Gramling



We share our congratulations with Scott and Rose Gramling in celebrating their wedding. They were wed Thursday, Oct. 21 in the FUMC Sanctuary. Congrats Scott and Rose!

## WITT HOUSE FOOD PANTRY

October statistics reflected a record-breaking month for the Witt House initiative! During the month of October, the Witt House served over 795 individuals representing over 250 households with a YTD (Year to Date) serving of 5,487 individuals representing 1,683 households!

**Follow-up from Fill the Foodbank.** The Witt House portion received from the drive was 1607 pounds of cans along with credit for Food Bank Purchases.

**The Witt House** Holiday Ham donations will be collected through December 15th. In observation of the holiday season, the Witt House will be closed December 21 and December 24.

## Christmas Luminaries

We will be placing luminaries outside of the church on Christmas Eve. If you would like to have one (or more) luminaries placed in honor or memory of someone, please fill out a form located in the Narthex, Welcome Center and Great Hall and turn into the church office along with your donation. All donations will go to the Greene County Foster Parents Association.

# DECEMBER CALENDAR

### Wednesday, December 1

9:30 am Women's Bible Study  
5:00 pm Children's Christmas Pageant Practice  
6:00 pm Choir Practice  
7:30 pm Praise Band Practice

### Thursday, December 2

10:00 am Prayer Ministry  
6:00 pm Downtown Carolers

### Friday, December 3

10:00 am Threads of Faith  
9:30-11 am Witt House open

### Sunday, December 5

\*8:00 am Early Worship Service  
\*9:00 am Contemporary Service  
\*10:00 am Sunday School  
\*11:00 am Traditional Worship Service  
12:00 pm Finance Meeting  
4:00 pm Children's Christmas Pageant Practice  
4:00 pm Hospitality Committee Meeting

5:00 pm Youth Progressive Dinner

6:00 pm SPRC Meeting

### Monday, December 6

6:00 pm Women's Study "Chasing Vines"

### Tuesday, December 7

4:30-6:00 Witt House open  
6:00 pm Downtown Christmas Parade

### Wednesday, December 8

9:30 am Women's Bible Study  
5:00 pm Children's Pageant Practice  
6:00 pm Choir Practice  
7:30 pm Praise Band Practice  
Thursday, December 9  
6:30 am Breakfast Club-HS Juniors & Seniors

10:00 am Prayer Ministry

10:30 am Young at Heart "Goin' to Eat at Ron's Catfish"

Friday, December 10

9:30-11 am Witt House Open

10:00 am Threads of Faith

Sunday, December 12

\*8:00 am Early Worship

\*9:00 am Contemporary Worship

\*10:00 am Sunday School

\*11:00 am Traditional Worship

4:00 pm Children's Christmas Pageant Practice

6:00 pm Musical Christmas Celebration  
Monday, December 13

1:00 pm Movie Club for Young at Heart

5:00 pm FUMC Caroling

6:30 pm Cub Scouts

Tuesday, December 14

11:30 am Retired Teachers

1:30 pm Glenna Rose UMW Meeting

4:30-6:00 pm Witt House open

5:30 pm Service of Grief & Hope

Wednesday, December 15

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

5:00 pm Children's Christmas Pageant Practice

6:00 pm Choir Practice

7:30 pm Praise Band Practice

Thursday, December 16

10:00 am Prayer Group

6:00 pm Women's Study "Chasing Vines"

Friday, December 17

10:00 am Threads of Faith

9:30-11 am Witt House open

Sunday, December 19

\*8:00 am Early Worship

\*9:00 am Contemporary Worship

\*10:00 am Sunday School

\*11:00 am Traditional Worship

5:00 pm Children's Christmas Pageant

followed by the Kinders

Monday, December 20

6:00 pm Women's Study "Chasing Vines"

Wednesday, December 22

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

6:00 pm Choir Practice

5:30 pm Praise Band Practice

### Thursday, December 23

10:00 am Prayer Ministry

### Friday, December 24

12:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

### Saturday, December 25

Christmas Day—office closed

### Sunday, December 26

10:00 am Combined Worship Service

### Tuesday, December 28

4:30 pm Witt House open

### Wednesday, December 29

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

6:00 pm Choir Practice

7:30 pm Praise Band Practice

### Thursday, December 30

9:30 am Prayer Ministry

### Friday, December 31

10:00 am Threads of Faith

\*Nursery Provided

## YOUNG AT HEART

### Upcoming Activities

Goin' to Eat at Ron's Catfish  
Thursday, December 9; leaving the church at 10:30 am  
Sign up in Welcome Center or contact the church office

### Movie Club

Monday, December 13  
1:00 pm 3rd floor movie room  
"Around the World in 80 Days"  
Popcorn and candy provided (bring your own drink)

No game night in December

### The Kinders in Concert

-Stay after the children's pageant on Sunday, December 19 as the Kinders give a concert in the gym!



## Ready, Set, READ at the Park

FUMC hosted a special Ready, Set, READ event at Harmon Field on Saturday, October 23. Each child who participated was given three new books and participated in a short reading program. Adults were treated to a cooking show put on by college culinary students. Each family was given a bag of ingredients and could make the food presented that day. At the end, everyone joined in taking communion.



# Holiday CALENDAR

DEC. 5 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
5TH & 6TH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY  
YOUTH PROGRESSIVE DINNER

DEC. 7 CHRISTMAS PARADE @ 7PM

DEC. 12 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CELEBRATION @ 6PM

DEC. 13 CHRISTMAS CAROLING @ 5PM

DEC. 14 GRIEF AND THE HOLIDAYS SERVICE @ 5:30 PM

DEC. 19 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND KINDERS CONCERT @ 5PM

DEC. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES @ NOON, 5, 7, 11 PM

DEC. 26 COMBINED SERVICE @ 10AM

## Finance

**2021 Budget** 1,250,857

Month ending October 2021  
 General Contributions: \$74,359  
 Building Contributions \$10,830  
 Total year to date contributions: \$985,589

Month of November 2021 (through 11/15/21)  
 General Contributions: \$51,215  
 Building Contributions: \$2,610

Building Loan Balance: \$3,366,550  
 Dollar a week 2021: Total through 11/15/21: \$3,762

### Memorials

- Randall Jenkins** by Janice, Farrah, & David Wilcox, Robin Patten, Bill & Pat Phillips, Danny & Linda Futrell, Gary & Beverly Biggs, Debbie DaVault, Phillip & Paige Wooldridge, John & Ann Honeycutt, Bob Branch, John & Glenda Brownlee, Joe & Maggie Crockett
- Bernice Gibson** by Charles & Donna Brazil, Robin Patten
- Chris Stidham** by Kay & Herb Bland, Larry & Denise Chipman, Robin Patten, Charles & Donna Brazil
- Jan Parker** by Robin Patten, Reba Pillow, Joe & Jackie Barnett, Clifford & Beverly Gordon
- Richard Misenhimer** by Janice Wheelis Wilcox, Charles Wheelis, Judy Clift
- Brett Gibson** by David & Shirley Wilson
- Ann Black** by Sandra & Joe Wallace, Jr., Linda Black
- Glen Pillow** by Reba Pillow
- Carlene Lynn** by Bob Branch
- Kay Goodwin** by Bob & Carolyne Childress
- Debbie Stevens** by Mary Ann Stallcup

### Honorariums

- Rev. Dane Womack** by Herb & Kay Bland, Larry & Denise Chipman
- Rev. Chase Burns** by Herb & Kay Bland, Larry & Denise Chipman
- Iona Stone** by Mary Ann & Laura Stickler

### Christmas Memorials/Honorariums

Christmas Memorials and Honorariums are being accepted through December 17. You may make a donation in any amount to the fund of your choice. Forms are located in the Narthex, Welcome Center and Great Hall.

### Year End Contributions

The church office will be open December 27-30 for anyone who would like to drop their end of the year giving. A final bank deposit will be made the afternoon of December 30 so if you need your check deposited in 2021 please have it to the church by noon that day. Contributions for 2021 will be accepted through January 5 to be included on your 2021 giving statement. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Chipman.

**Bishop** Gary E. Mueller  
**District Superintendent** John Fleming  
**Pastors** Dane Womack  
 (william.womack@arumc.org,  
 Chase Burns (chase.burns@arumc.org)  
**Music Director** Brian Pearson  
 (eaglebandguy2@gmail.com)  
**Director of Children's Ministries** Angela  
 Newby  
 (angela.newby@fumcparagould.org)  
**Dir. of Media/Communications** Karoline Risker  
 (karoline.risker@fumcparagould.org)  
**Organist** Bernard Raley  
**Church Administrator** Denise Chipman  
 (denise.chipman@fumcparagould.org)  
**Custodian:** Greig Lynn

Office Phone 870-239-8541  
 Office Hours: 8:30-am- 4:30 pm  
 (Fridays close at noon)

*First United Methodist Church*  
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 8:30-noon Friday  
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