

**First United Methodist Church
Canton, Mississippi
December 2023**

From the Pastor,

The first line of the hymn "I Stand Amazed in the Presence" says, "I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene, and wonder how He could love me, a sinner condemned unclean." In many of today's churches, there is a movement to eliminate the doctrine of original sin. In a recent article from Good News magazine it says, "People have abandoned the church because they want the God of love, but not the God of judgement. But if the Bible is right, the first human experience, is the experience of transgression/sin, thus creating the need for redemption." If we craft our sin to be okay because we don't want to face "judgement," then we fool ourselves into believing we don't need God, or a way of salvation. Because of God's love for the broken, fallen, and sinful, He sent His son Jesus. As another hymn says, "He (Jesus) breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free; His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood availed for me."

This world has many problems these days, and the first step toward making things right, is to admit that we can't "fix" a sinful culture by ignoring our sin or saying that it is not. God provided the way of salvation, redemption, mercy and grace through His Son Jesus. December is a celebration of His coming! Thanks be to God!

In Christ,
Bro David

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/4	Glenda Gilmer Ezell	12/9	Joy Lowery	12/26	Debbie Johnson
12/5	Megan McDonald	12/19	Christian Crocker	12/27	Laura Hendon
12/6	Shannon Fortenberry	12/19	Molli Cole	12/27	Daniel Spivey
12/8	Foster Penn	12/20	Brooke Chandler	12/29	Creede Mansell
12/8	Michelle Stubbs	12/26	Sue Lowe	12/30	Brooke Cooley

- ◆ **Communion Offering** for December – Contingency Fund. Christmas Eve Communion – Good Samaritan Fund March to the Manger.
- ◆ **Second Sunday Harvest** is the 2nd Sunday of every month.
- ◆ **If you ordered pecans, we still have a few left for pickup.**
- ◆ **Security Sign-Up Sheet** is available for volunteers to sign up for a Sunday in December. You can find the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ **Men's Club Breakfast & Christmas Carols** is Sunday, December 3rd at 8:00am.
- ◆ **Advent Service and Lunch** is Tuesday, December 5th, 12th, & 19th at 12:00pm. Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service.
- ◆ **Mature Years Bingo** is this Wednesday, December 6th at 2:00pm.
- ◆ **December 6th will be the last night for Children's Activities until we start back in January.**
- ◆ **Ruth Jones Circle** will meet the second Monday, December 11th at 10:00am.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Communion** is Sunday, December 24th at 6:00pm.
- ◆ **Office will be closed for Christmas Monday and Tuesday, December 25th and 26th, and for New Year's Monday, January 1st.**
- ◆ **Sara Nichols Circle** will meet the fourth Thursday, December 28th at 6:00pm.
- ◆ **The Christmas Trees** placed annually in front of our church provide an opportunity for members & friends to place a light in honor or memory of special people in their lives. Forms are located in the back of the church. Please make checks payable to the Sara Nichols Circle.
- ◆ **Please Look over our prayer list and let us know of any changes that need to be made.**
– Thank you.

**The newsletter has been emailed to the addresses we have on file. If you did not receive one and should have, email the office at office@fumccanton.org. Copies will be mailed if requested (shut- in's will be mailed a copy).*

**DECEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING
GOOD SAMARITAN FUND
CHRISTMAS EVE MARCH TO THE MANGER**

SECOND SUNDAY HARVEST FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Grace Episcopal Church partnered with the Mississippi Food Network to provide food to the neediest among us. Grace Food Pantry is open from 10:00am-1:00pm on the third Thursday of each month at Grace. They have a specific need for peanut butter and canned tuna fish. If you would like to provide nonperishable food items to the pantry, please place your donations in the baskets located in the sub-story.

CONCERNS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

LONG TERM

Ric Andreoli	Bobby Hall	Carl McKenzie	Bethany Hicks Sears
Gary Andrews	Karen Hall	Billie Jean McMullen	Philip Schmitt
Sherry Briggs	Toxey Hall	Chap McMullen	Sarah Schnulo
M.L. Burnside	Patricia Hammack	Clay McPherson	Sieger Lee Sims
Gloria Carter	Wendy Harms	Dorothy Measells	Anne Sory
Hope Coup	Carolyn Harris	Brianna Medina	Evelyn Springer
Jonathan Davis	Mike Harvey	Sue Lowe Owen	Lee Stewart
Jeff Dennis	Hazel Holmes	Alton Parker	Druscilla Thompson
David Fisher	Johnny Irvin	Mae Parker	Sophia Weems
Kathy Gardner	Judy Lambert	Jo Beth Ray	Mary Joe Wicke
Michelle Gardner	Guilda Madison	Carolyn Rice	Jackie Worthy
Mark Gilbert	Mattei Family	Christy Saxton	Geoffrey Yoste
Jessica Leigh Goolsby			

SHORT TERM

Sherry Briggs	Edward Hayes	Bill Reedy	Janie & Mat Tumminello
Sawyer Fair	Barbara Haynes		

If you know of someone that needs to be added to our Prayers Concern List, please fill out our Prayers Concern listed under Attendance Registration or if someone needs to be removed from the prayer list, please let us know.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 3	8:00AM	Men's Club Breakfast & Christmas Carols
	9:30AM	Sunday School Class
	10:30AM	Morning Worship
Tuesday, December 5	12:00PM	Advent Service & Lunch
Wednesday, December 6	12:00PM	Mature Years Bingo
	5:30PM	CA & Youth Supper
	5:45PM	CA & Youth
	7:00PM	Sanctuary Choir
Sunday, December 10	9:30AM	Sunday School Class
	10:30AM	Morning Worship
Monday, December 11	10:00AM	Ruth Jones Circle
Tuesday, December 12	12:00PM	Advent Service & Lunch
Wednesday, December 13	7:00PM	Sanctuary Choir
Thursday, December 14	10:00AM	Prayer Quilt Ministry
Sunday, December 17	9:30AM	Sunday School Class
	10:30AM	Morning Worship
Tuesday, December 19	12:00PM	Advent Service & Lunch
Wednesday, December 20	7:00PM	Sanctuary Choir
Sunday, December 24	9:30AM	Sunday School Class
	10:30AM	Morning Worship
	6:00PM	Christmas Eve Communion
Monday, December 25	CLOSED	HOLIDAY
Tuesday, December 26	CLOSED	HOLIDAY
Thursday, December 28	10:00AM	Prayer Quilt Ministry
	6:00PM	Sara Nichols Circle