

<b>OUR STEWARDSHIP</b> . . . December 13, 2009	
S. S. Enrollment.....229	<b>OUR GIVING...</b>
Church Membership .....651	Budget .....594,868.00
Early Worship.....55	Needed.....571,988.00
Morning Worship.....180	Sun. Offering.....13,984.36
Evening Worship .....45	Date .....507,767.86
Sunday School.....164	Over/Short..... (64,220.14)

**CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

Read Your Bible Daily

Wed., Dec. 16. . *The one of peace* Micah 5:2-5a  
 3:00 p.m. J-Crew: Play practice  
 3:30 p.m. Children's Program Practice (grades 1-6)  
 4:45 p.m. Blood Pressure Check / Sunshine  
 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Supper  
 6:00 p.m. J-Crew: *A Christmas Down Under*  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, December 17. . *Mary's song of joy* Luke 1:47-55

Friday, Dec. 18 . . *Restore us, O God* Psalm 80:18-20, 26

Sat., Dec. 19. . *Sanctified through his offering* Hebrew 10:5-10

Sunday, Dec. 20. . *4th Sunday of Advent* Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

8:45 a.m. Early Worship  
 9:00 a.m. Men's Chorus Practice  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
 5:00 p.m. Hand bell Choir  
 J-Crew: Snack Supper & Games  
 5:15 p.m. Children's Choir & UMCF (ages 3-grade 6)  
 6:00 p.m. Children's Program:  
 7:00 p.m. J-Crew: Christmas Party

Monday, Dec. 21. . *Established in righteousness* Ps. 126

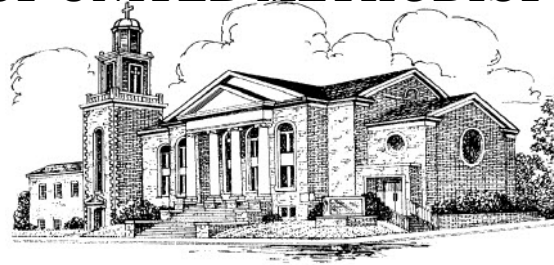
2:00 p.m. Seekers Prayer Group / Prayer Room  
 6-8 p.m. UPWARD practice  
 6:30 p.m. Circle of Friends / Eating Out

Tues., December 22 . *Preparing for the King* Psalm 24:7-10

7:00 a.m. Breakfast of Champions @ Mary Lou's  
 12 Noon Men's Bible Study

REMEMBER: Blood Drive  
 January 5 2-6 p.m.

**Louisville**  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST**



*"The Church in the Heart of the City  
 with Christ's Mission at Heart"*

**SERVING SUNDAY, December 20, 2009**

**Ushers and Greeters:** William Smith (Chmn), Rev. Bo Mills , Dotty and Betty Sullivan, Mike and Cathy Stevenson, Josh and Natalie Hatcher, Britt and Samantha Bookout, Don and Samantha Dickerson, Harry Kemp, James and Carolyn Sharp, Sheila Hickman

**Altar Guild:** Barbara Kemp and Kristi Stapp

**Acolytes:** Clay Mercer and D. J. Baxter

**Children's Supper:** Carol Clark

**Blood Pressure Check Wed Dec. 16:** Susan Sanders

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55

Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Live broadcast of the Morning Worship can be seen every Sunday on Channel 5 at 11:00 a.m. Rebroadcast of this service can be seen every Sunday at 7:30 p.m. and heard at 6:00 p.m. every Sunday on WLSM-FM 107.1.

**Helping Hands Number:** 773-8064

**Prayer Chain Numbers:**

773-3594, 773-6104, 773-5178

**Starkville District web site:**

[www.stkdis.org](http://www.stkdis.org)



Christmas Programs

J-Crew

presents

*A Christmas Down Under*

Wednesday, Dec. 16

6:00 p.m.



FUMC Children

(ages 3- grade 6)

presents

*On Our Way to Bethlehem*

Sunday, Dec. 20

6:00 p.m.



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

P. O. Box 523

Louisville, Mississippi 39339

Telephone 662-773-8064

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Rev. Mike Childs, Pastor

Mr. Jerry Nance, Minister of Music

Mr. Jeff Walton, Director of Youth & Children

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### From the Pastor:

A priest was inspecting his Church early one Christmas morning before the morning service. Everything was in order until he looked at the beautiful nativity scene. The priest was shocked at what he saw. Baby Jesus was missing. He had been stolen.

The priest never imagined that someone would steal from a nativity scene at a church. It was sacrilege, and the priest was angry. The priest reported the theft to the police.

That afternoon the disheartened priest went for a walk. Looking down the road, he saw a little boy pulling a new wagon that he must have gotten for Christmas. The priest smiled. He knew Jimmy's parents were poor, and they must have sacrificed to buy it for the boy.

As Jimmy approached, the priest was stunned at what he saw. In that wagon was the missing figure of the Christ child. The priest scolded the boy for his crime, and the boy began to cry. The boy said, "I wasn't trying to steal the Christ child. I had prayed for this wagon. Since Christ answered my prayer, I wanted to give Him the first ride."

The boy was responding to God's wonderful Christmas gift from a heart of love.

One of our special Christmas traditions at First Methodist is the Christ Child Offering. The Christ Child Offering is a way to respond to God's wonderful gift of His Son. We will receive the Christ Child Offering this Sunday morning, December 20<sup>th</sup> during our (11:00 a.m.) worship service. You will be invited to place your offering in a manger. What could be a better way to remember that Christmas is His birthday, and not ours?

If you cannot be here on this Sunday, you may still participate in the Christ Child Offering. You may designate your Christ Child Offering and place it in the collection plate this week, or you may simply mail it to the Church office.

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15)

### J-CREW NEWS

- J-Crew will also **practice** today at 3 p.m. The **performance** of the play will be tonight at 6 o'clock.
- J-Crew's **Christmas party** will be on Sunday, December 20, at 7 p.m. We'll play Dirty Santa and have a scavenger hunt. Bring a gift worth no more than \$10, and try to make it something someone would actually want to receive this year.
- J-Crew will be going **Ice Skating** in Tupelo on Sunday, December 27. The cost is \$7.

### WINDOWS OF OUR HEARTS ON WLSM

If you were unable to attend the "Windows Of Our Heart" concert and would like to hear the audio, WLSM will broadcast the concert on Sunday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m.

### ON OUR WAY TO BETHLEHEM

Our Children's Choir (ages 3 - grade 6) will present their play *On Our Way to Bethlehem* on Sunday, December 20, at 6 p.m. Children grades 1-6 will practice this afternoon at 3:30 p.m. There will be no pick up at Winston Academy because the children will be let out at noon. There will be pick up for the children at Fair and Louisville Elementary. Cherubs (ages 3-5K) will not meet this afternoon, but they will have a part in the program Sunday night.

### UMW News

The **Circle of Friends** will meet on Monday, December 21, to go out to eat in Starkville at *Umi's*. Bring an ornament to swap.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We will have our Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service on at 5:30 p.m. We hope you will make this special service a part of your family's Christmas tradition.

### PRAISE

We are getting very close to being able to ransom our windows!

### THINKING OF YOU

Being apart from loved ones anytime is hard, but it is especially difficult this time of year. Please keep those who are deployed in far away places as well as their loved ones at home in your prayers. We have one such family in our church -- The David Mitchell Family. Below is David's address. Let him know you are thinking about him this Christmastime -- and continue throughout the new year.

You can email David at [loridave39339@yahoo.com](mailto:loridave39339@yahoo.com) or snail mail him at:

David Mitchell  
C Troop 1/98 Cav  
COB Speicher APO-AE 09393

### THE NEW YEAR IS COMING!

2010 will soon be here. And as we prepare for the New Year, there is something with which we need your help. Does the church have your correct info? Phone number? Address? Birthdays and anniversaries? (We want to celebrate with you!) Emails? (We are able to send notices, prayer requests and updated information as well as the midweek newsletter by email.) We will be publishing our new church program booklet soon and we want to make sure we have all the right contact information. If we don't have this information for you, please let us know! Second, chairpersons of age level ministries and work areas should get their 2010 Ministry Goals and updated committees to the church office as soon as possible. These need to go in the new program booklet that will be published in January.

### GETTING CHRISTMAS RIGHT

Prevent us, O Lord, from letting our Christmas be spent foolishly. Remind us that it is Christ's birthday we celebrate and not our own. Keep us from wanting our own desires to be fulfilled and from being angry or hurt when they are not. Make us mature in our thoughts and actions. Especially stir up such great love within us, that we may carry the blessed glow of Christmas with us now and through the days of life to come. In the name of the Christ child. Amen.