

OUR STEWARDSHIP ... December 8, 2019

Church Membership.....307	Budget.....600,000.00
Morning Worship.....130	Needed..... 565,385.00
Early Worship 53	Offering Sunday.....10,409.00
Sunday School.....	To Date.....476,961.78
Contemporary Worship45	Under Budget.....(88,423.22)
Choir Concert.....155	

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Read Your Bible Daily

Wednesday, December 11 Hosea 5-8; Revelation 2

- 7:00 a.m. Emmaus Men's Prayer Group
- 5:00 p.m. Board of Directors
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
- Children: Christmas Play Practice
- Youth Christmas Party @ Legion

Thursday, December 12 Hosea 9-11; Revelation 3

- 11:00 a.m. Backpacks for Hope: Pleasant Ridge MB

Friday, December 13 Hosea 12-14; Revelation 4

Saturday, December 14 Joel; Revelation 5

Carl Jackson Home for Christmas

Sunday, December 15 Amos 1-3; Revelation 6

- 8:45 a.m. Early Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program Practice
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program

Monday, December 16 Amos 4-6; Revelation 7

Tuesday, December 17 Amos 7-9; Revelation 8

- 11:00 a.m. Backpacks of Hope: Whitehall
- 1:00 p.m. Duplicate Bridge

UPCOMING EVENTS IN JANUARY

- Escape Room (Youth Fundraiser) – December 27-January 4
- Equip Conference – January 11
- Dnow – January 17-18

*It is your responsibility to notify the office of schedule changes.
Monday noon is the deadline to get something in the newsletter.*

Louisville FIRST METHODIST CHURCH



“The Church in the Heart of the City
With Christ’s Mission at Heart”

SERVING Sunday, December 15, 2019

Ushers and Greeters: Al Porter (Chmn.), Wade Baskin, Don and Jan Brantley, Richard Caperton, Joe Clark, Brian and Jennifer Collier, Cliff and Ann Hudson, Barbara Kemp, Patrick Morgan, Rob and Melanie Yates

Altar Guild: Maria Hartness and Nan Hartness

Acolytes/Crossbearer: Reed, Luke, and Mary Flynn Yates

Lay Reader: Taylor Harris

Children’s Time: Kay Crowson

Live broadcast of the Morning Worship can be seen every Sunday on Channel 18 at 11:00 a.m. **Rebroadcast** of this service can be seen every Sunday at 7:30 p.m. on Channel 18 and heard at 6:00 p.m. every Sunday on **WLSM-FM 107.1**.

You can watch the **Live streaming** of the 11 a.m. service at **Louisville First Methodist Church** on Facebook. You can listen to the delayed broadcast of the previous Sunday’s **Contemporary Service** each Sunday at 12:00 noon on **WLSM-FM 107.1**.

Church Email: 1stmethch@bellsouth.net

Pastor's Cell: 662-542-1862

Pastor's Email: mikechilds54@att.net

Facebook page: Louisville First Methodist Church

Remind: Text @fmclms to 81010



**Sunday, December 15
6:00 p.m.**



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

P. O. Box 523

Louisville, Mississippi 39339

Rev. Mike Childs, Senior Pastor

Rev. Newlie Long, Associate

Pastor & Youth

Mr. Jerry Nance, Minister of Music

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A TALE OF THE CANDY CANE

The account of the candy cane's origins circulates every Christmas season and is more likely a fun story than historical fact. No matter; tales often contain truth. This tasty treat can convey important elements of our Christian faith.

The stripes remind us of the heart of Christmas, our Savior, Jesus: white for his purity; red for his blood shed on the cross. The candy cane resembles the curved staffs of the shepherds — the first people to visit the Christ-Child and worship at the manger. And when the cane is turned upside down, it becomes a letter J, for "Jesus."

Indeed, Jesus turns our lives upside down and inverts our presumptions: A poor baby born in a stable becomes King of kings and Lord of lords; enemies aren't for hating but loving; blessings aren't for hoarding but sharing; the world works for war, but Jesus calls us to live in peace; giving is better than receiving; sinners are made saints; and death is conquered as God grants us eternal life.

PERFECT AS IS

Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that he gave his only Son. The only requirement is to believe in him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.

—Corrie ten Boom

UPSIDE DOWN?

Even amid increased secularization, God makes the core Christmas message known. Take, for example, the story of a "winter pageant" a mother attended at her son's grade school. Songs of reindeer, snow and Santa included one titled "Christmas Love," in which the youngest performers held up letters as the song progressed: "C," "H," etc.

When a little girl unknowingly held her "M" upside down, the older kids snickered and the adult audience smiled acceptingly. But as the song drew to a close and all the letters were revealed, surprised recognition struck the Christians in the room.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors will meet briefly in Friendship Hall tonight at 5:30 p.m. to approve our 2020 Lay Leadership.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Youth Christmas Party is tonight at 6 p.m. At Legion State Park! The van will leave the church parking lot at 5:30 p.m.

Girls bring a dessert and guys bring a veggie side. Ham is provided.

Also bring a canned good for the food pantry and a dirty Santa gift worth less than \$10!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PRACTICE & PROGRAM!!!

We're excited about our kids presenting their Christmas Program C.A.K.E. (Christian Acts of Kindness Experiment) this Sunday, December 15, at 6 p.m. We hope you will come out and bring someone with you to enjoy this program! They have worked really hard!

BACKPACKS OF HOPE

We are collecting pudding cups and Pop Tarts for December. Please leave your donation in the box in Friendship Hall. Pleasant Ridge MB Church will pack the bags this Thursday and Whitehall will pack them Tuesday, December 17.

POINSETTIAS

The Altar Guild invites you to place **Poinsettias** in the sanctuary on December 15 & 22. You can place them in honor or in memory of someone. They should be wrapped in green foil with a red bow. Your information for the bulletin should be in the office by Wednesday. The Poinsettias should be delivered to the church by Friday.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION & CANDLELIGHT

Mark your calendar! We will have out traditional Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. This is a very special time for our church families as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Let us be intentional in making Christ the center of our celebration, lest we find ourselves, like Bethlehem's Innkeeper, with no room for the Savior.

CHRIST CHILD OFFERING

The Christ Child Offering has become a tradition at First Methodist Church. It is a way to give a birthday gift to Jesus.

This offering will be received on Sunday, December 22, in a special way. 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? What a wonderful lesson this will be for our children.

If you cannot be here on Sunday morning, December 22, you may still participate in the Christ Child Offering. You may designate your Christ Child Offering and place it in the collection plate at any service, or you may simply mail your Christ Child offering to the Church office.

The Christ Child Offering is important to our church. This offering is essential for us to catch up on our budget, support important ministry, and meet our obligations. Because you love Christ, you love His church. I know you will want to participate.

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

FEDERAL LAW

Please note: **Federal law** requires that all donations given to the church for tax purposes must be submitted by December 31.

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER CHANGE!

The FMC Board of Directors has decided that **beginning January 2020 the Midweek Newsletter will no longer be mailed unless you specifically notify the church office that you need it continued that way.** Those with email addresses will continue to receive it that way. Please make sure we have your current email address! There will also be printed copies available at the church.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who called and sent cards at the passing of my son Scott. I have been blessed to be a part of such a loving church family.

Betty Mills