

Gray Weekly News



Week Leading to Sunday, December 19, 2021

Celebrate Christmas with us!

Sunday, December 19

11 am

Worship Service - Sunday before Christmas

Friday, December 24,

7 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 26

11 am

Worship Service - Day after Christmas



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5

Luke 1:46-55 (The Magnificat)

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45 (Mary to Elizabeth)

“The Advent of Love”

News and Notes

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 19

Please join us on Sundays at 11 am. If you don't feel comfortable coming in person, you can watch our livestream at graymemorialumc.org/facebook.com or graymemorialumc.org/youtube, at 11 am or any time after that at graymemorialumc.org/



If you have prayer requests, please contact Norma Adams, Jennifer Skinner or Gail Teems.

You may also call the church office at 850/385-6441 or send a text to 850/933-8469.

2021 Church Financial Report

Budgeted Amount thru 12/31/21 \$ 151,400

Giving Amount as of 12/12/21 \$ 133,997

Amount Needed thru 12/31/21 \$ 17,403

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE: For your convenience, we have established online giving through the church management program, Breeze. Here is the link:

<https://gmumc.Breezechms.com/give/online>

If you prefer, you can **text a contribution to 850/695-3434**. If you have questions regarding this, please call Anita Durham at the church on Tuesday or Thursday mornings. You can mail a check to 2201 Old Bainbridge Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32303. Thank you!

ADVENT POINSETTIAS



Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias in memory and honor of loved ones. Our sanctuary is made even more beautiful with this wonderful Christmas tradition!

Prayer Requests

All those who are suffering from accidents, illnesses and surgery

Brenna MacKinlay, 17 yr old with leukemia

Chris, Sarah, Rose, Nancy and George

Help all of those seeking employment to find it

Patsy Simpson at Health South recovering from fall

Betty Hair at Health South recovering from fall

PRAISES

Betty Hair's granddaughter Laura gave birth to a healthy baby boy on Monday, Dec. 13.

Welcome James Archer MacKinnon!

Praise God for our wonderful church family!

SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS

By Rose Taylor, www.ministrymatters.com

Most people are excited by a great celebration — particularly, those celebrations which include delicious food, party favors, decorations, games, door prizes and good company. However, excitement should not be confined to only celebrations with a party atmosphere. Christianity has many faith celebrations. Some are festive and some are solemn, but all should inspire excitement.

Some Christian denominations, such as United Methodists, celebrate the liturgical seasons and are excited to do so. For example, Advent is a time of anticipation and eagerness for Christmas to arrive. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. The liturgical Christmas season begins at sundown on December 24 and lasts through January 6 (Epiphany). These are the twelve days of Christmas.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent which lasts until Easter. Lent is not considered a festive celebration, but is a time of self-denial and self-examination. The beginning of the Easter season depends on when the first full moon after March 21 occurs, because Easter Sunday begins the first Sunday after that full moon. The Easter season lasts fifty days.

There are lesser emphasized liturgical seasons but actually all of them should be celebrated with excitement, because together they remind us of the life and mission of Christ.

Liturgical seasons are not the only faith celebrations to generate excitement. The sacraments of Holy Communion and baptism are celebrations of faith. Mission projects, whether hands-on or support-based, are also celebrations of our faith. Weddings, funerals, sick and shut-in visitations and many other activities are faith celebrations as well.

Think about it. Our celebrations of faith are celebrations of life. They are not only about the life of Christ but also our lives in Christ. Jesus stated in John 10:10b: “I came so that they could have life — indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.”

Let’s commit ourselves to living a “life to the fullest,” filled with excitement and passing on that excitement to the next generation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Dec. 15	5:30 pm 7 pm	Choir Practice Advent Bible Study via Zoom, led by Pastor Beth
Thursday, Dec. 16	8:30 am 10 am 5:30 pm 7 pm	Yoga Class Bible Study Yoga Class Blue Christmas Service
Sunday, Dec. 19	9:30 am 11 am	Advent Study with Pastor Beth Worship Service
Wednesday, Dec. 22	5:30 pm 7 pm	Choir Practice Advent Bible Study via Zoom, led by Pastor Beth
Thursday, Dec. 23	8:30 am 10 am 5:30 pm	Yoga Class Bible Study Yoga Class
Friday, Dec. 24	7 pm	Christmas Candlelight Service
Saturday, December 25		<i>MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!</i>
Sunday, Dec. 26	11 am	Worship Service