



DECEMBER 2024

MINOR MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Guiding and encouraging people to take their next steps following Christ



Greetings Church Family!

The holy season of Advent is finally upon us and it is once again time to pause and reflect as we gather together to expectantly wait for the arrival of the Exalted One, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The journey through Advent to Christmas is here and you're both invited and encouraged to join us!

I am excited to be introducing our Advent schedule for December. Our worship focus is called "Exalted: A Journey Through Advent." It is based on Paul's letter to the Philippians 2:9-11, whereby he writes, "Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

What does it mean when we describe Christ as "exalted?" We often hear this word as something that happens to Christ after the Resurrection and Ascension. While Scripture does indeed tell us that Christ is exalted by God to sit at God's right hand, as Paul writes in Philippians, it is also true that Christ was exalted by God even before the moment the angel told Mary what was about to happen (Luke 1: 30-35). The prophet Isaiah describes it in these beautiful words: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day: 'Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted'" (Isaiah 12:3).

Advent is a season of anticipation. We await the celebration of Christ's birth, but also His triumphant return. The exaltation of Jesus is not just a distant event; it is a present reality. His name is above every name. Every knee will bow—some in joyful surrender, others in awe—and every tongue will confess His Lordship. In fact, Christians all over the world recognize that the season of Advent is all about the expectant waiting for Jesus, the Exalted One. Over the course of this month, we will be exploring the narrative surrounding the expectation and the birth of Christ through the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Perhaps during this time you will create a new relationship with Christ, nurture an existing one, or introduce your friend, neighbor, stranger, the poor, the sick, the downtrodden, or anyone else in your life to the one whose name is above all names.

Remember, Advent is a time for us to wind down the worries of the world and to open our hearts for a new hope, a new peace, a new joy, and a new love. That, my friends, is how we should exalt Christ as the Lord of our hearts. This holiday season, how will you allow Jesus Christ to fill your heart?

All of this culminates in our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service which will be held on Tuesday, December 24th at 6pm in the Sanctuary. It is such a special time for us as believers to relish in the singing of carols, hearing the message, and ending our service with only the light of Christ shining as we welcome the Christmas season. We encourage each and every one of you to make plans to attend. Also, if you haven't had a chance to pick up a copy of our church-authored Advent devotional, "Exalted: A Journey Through Advent," please let us know.

On a personal note, Rosemary and I want to wish each and every one of you a wonderful and joyous Advent and Christmas season. Know that you are so much more to us than church family. God bless each and every one of you!

Advent Blessings,
Rev. Sam

Christmas Music Program

This year the Choir of Minor Memorial will join with the choir and instrumentalists of sister churches in DeSoto county for a Service of Lessons and Carols. There will be nine scripture readings, each followed by cherished Christmas carols. This program will be held on Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 pm at Maples Memorial UMC in Olive Branch. We hope you will make plans to attend this special presentation of Scripture and music! If you would like to carpool that afternoon, please sign the sheet in the Narthex or contact the church office.



Greetings from the Finance Committee

Merry Christmas!!!

The Advent season is now. "O come let us adore HIM Christ the Lord"

We will have our Thanks & Giving Tree up the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Every day we should Thank God for all the Peace, Hope, Joy and Love he showers on us. Help us decorate our Thanks & Giving Tree as a way to publicly acknowledge all we are thankful for. Consider ordering an ornament (\$25/ea) or light (\$10/ea) for a person or special gift God has placed in your life that you are thankful for. The ornaments you order will be yours to keep after Christmas. We will have Christmas cards that can be sent to people for which you have placed an ornament or light in honor or in memory of someone.

There will be an Information Table set up on Sunday, November 24th in the Narthex with order forms, cards and ornaments after our Fellowship pot luck and will be ready to assist you. We hope to have the actual ornaments available shortly after 11/24. What a wonderful way to honor & remember the many people and gifts the Lord has provided. The greatest gift being Christ.

I always want to say "Thank you" in each newsletter to everyone who thru their tithes, offering and gifts are supporting Missions and Ministries here at Minor Memorial. As members of Minor Memorial, we are all called to support our Mission and Ministries as we Guide and Encourage people to take their next steps following Christ. My prayer for myself & to all of you is that I come to Adore Him by focusing on Christ each day and that by His example, I become the person God designed me to be.

Thank you all for your faithful support of Minor Memorial.

Thank you in advance for the many blessings to come to you and to Minor Memorial.

Thank you!

God Bless and Merry Christmas!

Ilene Hogan



MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

In Memory of Barbara Adams

John & Ilene Hogan; Jim & Anna Holland;
(General fund)

Richard & Barbara Hite; Ron & Judy James; Ann Jolley; Daris Patrick;
Ladies from Renew Church, Heber Springs
(Feed My Lambs fund)

In Memory of Bill Greenslade

Wade & Betty Carter; John & Ilene Hogan; Jim & Anna Holland;
Sandy Marbry
(General fund)

In Memory of Richard Allen Hopkins

Sandy Marbry
(Golden Cross fund)

In Memory of Ray Jolley

Patti Champion; Richard & Barbara Hite; John & Ilene Hogan;
Jim & Anna Holland; Ron & Judy James;
Chuck & Sherry Jolley; Tommy & Carol Little; Sandy Marbry;
Jennifer Marshall; Jeffrey Taylor
(A/V Booth fund)

In Memory of Jack Talbert

Patsy Talbert
(Feed My Lambs fund)

In Honor of Sam Jones

Chuck & Sherry Jolley
(A/V Booth fund)

OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Our church office will be closed from Tuesday, December 24 through Thursday, December 26, as well as Tuesday December 31 and Wednesday January 1. Please note that if you are planning to make a year end contribution, all monies must be received by **Tuesday, December 31** so they may be processed. Checks may be deposited in the box outside. We hope you and yours have a very Blessed Christmas!

SERVING OTHERS



Sunday, December 1 is the last day we will be collecting items for the residents at The Baddour Center in Senatobia. There are decorated boxes by the office door for donations. Thank you for your generous support!

Feed My Lambs

Greetings, church family!

With the holiday season upon us, I wanted to express thanks to you, church family, for your support of Feed My Lambs. I am thankful that Minor Memorial continues to be a blessing in our community through Feed My Lambs. We are halfway through our 13th year of providing weekend food to school children in need and are currently serving 131 children – 101 at Walls Elementary and 30 at Lake Cormorant Elementary. We started the school year with 115 and expect that the number will increase even more as the school year progresses.

This would not be possible without the faithful support of our church family and many in our community. Through Ed Flynn of Horn Lake UMC and his involvement in the Samaritans, we received a donation of around 1600 individual breakfast cereals in November! Thank you, Ann Jolley, for crocheting and donating a beautiful Christmas afghan, which was raffled at the Fall Festival! Thank you to our many volunteers – Lajuanna Beasley, Trindie Billett and children, Randy and Karla Lance, Katrina Bolden, Rylee Brown, Gale Campbell, Lea Carney, Vince and Rita Cavallo, Paula Funderburk, John Hogan, Erica Massey, Drew and Darlene McGee, Tina Patrick, Patsy Vick, Janet Wetter and Billie Wilhite – who take care of the many hands-on tasks each week to get the food in house, sorted, packed, and delivered! Thank you to Neil Colley for always promoting awareness and raising funds for Feed My Lambs! There are so many that help in so many ways that it's impossible to name them all. And, of course, thank you to all who generously support this important ministry with your donations!

Our last Pack and Pray date before the Christmas holidays is December 18. The children return to school on January 7 and we will resume Pack and Pray January 9.

If you would like to share information in the community or in your workplace about Feed My Lambs, there are flyers available in the Narthex. The flyers can also be texted or emailed to you if you prefer that format for sharing (request through Sandy Marbry or the church office). Feed My Lambs also has a dedicated page at www.minormemorial.org/lambs. If you need more information, please contact Sandy Marbry, Billie Wilhite or Patsy Vick.

Thank you for your continued faithful support of Feed My Lambs!

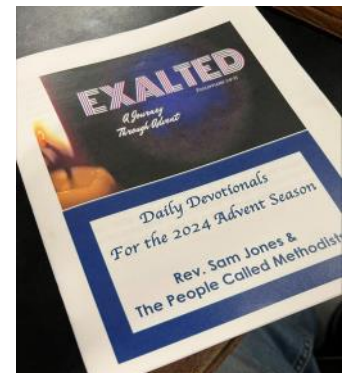
Sandy Marbry



EXPERIENCE & SPEND TIME WITH GOD

Advent Devotional Books

This year, we are excited to introduce our 2024 Advent Devotional, **Exalted: A Journey Through Advent**. These devotionals were written by Rev. Sam and various members of Minor Memorial, Horn Lake UMC, and a few surprise writers! They are available in the Narthex or contact the church office to have one mailed to you.



As a spiritual discipline, consider praying for those on our prayer list and praying for each person on their birthday (and couple on their anniversary).

Prayer Concerns of the Past Month

11/3 Sarah Coletta (sister of Amanda Rainey); Sandy Marbry; Patsy Vick; Aggie Gall (neighbor of Trindie Billett)

11/10 Elmer Massey (father of Anita Guyer)

11/17 Jerry Nance Sr. (father of Jerry Nance)

11/24 Rita Cavallo; Linda Evans


In Sympathy

Wendy Scott (cousin of Joe Mason); Barbara Adams (daughter of Billie Wilhite); Karl Goessling; Jim "Champ" Champion;

Joys

Trunk or Treat; Fall Festival; birth of Hayes Elliott Hudgins (great grandson of Patsy Vick); Blessing Box; donation to Feed My Lambs by Zeta Amicae of Psi Beta Zeta Sorority

December 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 First Sunday of Advent (Hope) | 2 ★ Ember Babb ★ Julia Cavallo ★ Brad Randall | 3 | 4 ★ Becky Holcomb ★ Anna Holland | 5 Pack & Pray @ 10:00 am | 6 ★ Pamela Baker ★ Betty Greenslade | 7 |
| 8 Second Sunday of Advent (Peace) ♥ Brad & Heather Clinkenbeard CHOIR CHRISTMAS MUSIC PROGRAM @4:00 PM AT | 9 | 10 ★ Rylee Brown | 11 ★ Nancy Johnson Last day for Wednesday activities until January 15 | 12 Pack & Pray @ 10:00 am | 13 ★ Amanda Rainey | 14 |
| 15 Third Sunday of Advent (Joy) | 16 ★ Andy Nye ★ John Sayle | 17 | 18 ♥ Buddy & Kathy Bynum | 19 ★ Brett Holland | 20 | 21 ★ Terry Billett |
| 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent (Love) | 23 ★ Dreona Nelson ★ Dreyden Nelson | 24 Christmas Eve ★ Joyce Ingerson  Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm | 25 Christmas Day | 26 Church Office Closed | 27 | 28 ★ Beverly Schingle |
| 29 ★ Braylon Hall ♥ Jay & Judy Harvey | 30 ★ Theresa Pretti ★ Greg Vaughan | 31 New Year's Eve Church Office Closed ★ Rosemary Jones ♥ Ben & Myssse Smith | | | | |