



Do You Hear What I Hear? There's a Song In the Air, and It's Beginning to Look (and sound!) a Lot Like Christmas! We have Decked the Halls with Boughs of Holly, and we can hear Silver Bells all around. It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year! OK, maybe I'm going a bit overboard, but the Music Department here at church is busy, busy, busy putting together some special music for all of our services in December. As we remember to patiently wait on the Lord through Advent, then turn our hearts to worship the newborn King, please take a few minutes to join with us in singing and enjoying these classic carols and hymns, and perhaps learn a new tune along the way. Please remember to invite your family and friends to one of our Christmas Eve Services, as they promise to be beautiful and meaningful expressions of why we celebrate Christmas.

From each of us in the Praise Band, Chancel Choir, and Parish Ringers, we wish each of you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy 2019!



Please see the bulletin board outside the church office for sign ups, service opportunities, and Bible studies.

standumc@gmail.com + www.ChurchOnThePath.com  
3225 Ashley River Road, Charleston, SC 29414  
St. Andrews Parish United Methodist Church

THE PARISH POST

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St. Andrews Parish United Methodist Church

The Reverend Brad Gray, Pastor  
3225 Ashley River Road, Charleston, SC 29414  
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God Gathers Us + To Worship Together + To Care for One Another + To Become God's Love for the World

Dec. 2018



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**SUNDAY SERVICES:**

8:45 am Worship Service  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:15 am Worship Service

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Mon.- Thurs.  
8am - 4pm

Please give address updates to the church office. If you would like your address removed from the mailing list, please let us know by phone, email, or return mail. Thank you.

**Pastor's Postings**

Part of my responsibilities as a United Methodist Pastor is to serve on some district level committees here in Charleston. One of the groups that I work with is called Congregational Development. This committee works with United Methodist churches on ways in which they can more fully live into being who God called them to be. Sometimes it works with churches who are struggling, but most often we get to be a part of a conversation about some amazing ways to do and be church. I just wanted to share a couple of examples of things that are going on in and around our city, all under the banner of United Methodism.



Over in the Clements Ferry and Daniel Island area, a new United Methodist congregation has been started by our friend Rev. Wendy Hudson-Jacoby. What started as a small group of people has grown into an average of 80 people worshipping together each week in less than a year. In 2019 they will be moving to a new location that can accommodate even more. The average age, not including the children, is around 27 years old. This group of young United Methodists are doing some amazing work bringing people to Christ who would not normally give church a second thought. They are making a positive impact in that community as more and more people are moving into the area.

On James Island, Epworth UMC is in the third year of having a community garden that serves James Island Outreach by providing over 2,000 pounds of fresh produce over the last year. The garden is cared for by the local school, a local Boy Scout troop, community members, as well as church members. They are



getting ready to expand their garden to even include a beehive to produce locally grown honey. The James Island community is better off because the folks at Epworth UMC stepped out in faith a few years ago and listened to God's directive to feed people with fresh fruits and vegetables.



In the North Charleston area, two churches began a weekly worship service together a few months ago. Aldersgate UMC, a predominately white congregation, and Enoch Chapel, a predominantly African-American congregation, started a joint worship service called The Gathering that meets at Aldersgate every Saturday night. The Gathering seeks to bridge the racial divide in a creative and new way by allowing different people to worship together who might not often come together the rest of the week. Relationships have been made and the Remount Road area is better because these two church heeded God's call to start a new thing.

These are just a few of the many great things that going on in the Charleston area. I think sometimes we get so caught up in doing our own thing, which is included in the great things that are happening in Charleston by the way, that we forget we are a part of something even larger than ourselves. The United Methodist Church is making a real impact in the Charleston area and you should be proud of that. But even more than merely being proud, I want us to support those in our area who are doing great things. First, I want to encourage you to pray for the three ministries listed above. Add them to your daily prayer time asking God to continue to do amazing things through and with



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them. Secondly, if any of those three interest you, take time to support them. Attend a service over at Two Rivers or The Gathering at some point or call Epworth and volunteer in their garden. Tell them your pastor sent you. Lastly, I am inviting you to support them with a gift. On Christmas Eve this year we are going to take up a Christmas Eve Offering that we will give away, some to each of these ministries. We did this a few years ago, collecting nearly \$9000. We kept half of that to start our own Backpack Manna program, which is thriving, and gave the other part to another ministry for people experiencing homelessness. This year I want us to give away whatever we receive to some United Methodists who are making a real difference in the Charleston area. I love the fact that we are connected to these amazing people who are doing great things. Thanks for all you do and I hope to see you soon!



Blessings and Peace,  
*Pastor Brad*

## Save the Date

**Dec. 1 @ 9:30am**  
UMW Christmas Brunch

**Dec. 8 @ 9am**  
Backpack Manna bag DROP OFF

**Dec. 15 @ 9am**  
Backpack Manna bag PICK UP

**Dec. 16 @ 6:30pm**  
Coffeehouse Christmas

**Dec. 24 @ 6pm & 8pm**  
Christmas Eve Services

**Dec. 30 @ 10am**  
Combined Worship service

*Holiday Office Hours:*  
Closed Dec. 24-25 & Dec. 31 - Jan. 1  
Open Dec. 26-27 & Jan. 2-3



## Sing Along Schedule

**Dec. 4 Palmetto Assisted Living**

**Dec. 18 Brookdale**

**All programs start at 10am**

## Faith Activity Nutrition

Our hope is that you are working toward creating and putting into practice your own goals for a healthy lifestyle. The committee is always here to help you. The FAN Bulletin Board will have new monthly ideas to help you establish your plan. There is no reason to not enjoy your favorite holiday foods with just a little tweaking! A regular exercise program will help you burn these calories while strengthening your body.

Please, remember the real reason of this season is the birth of our Savior, Jesus; and practicing his teachings will make us kinder, happier, healthier people who will serve him by being the best we are able. The decorating of the church last Sunday (25th) was a great time working together, having good fellowship and then enjoying healthy soup, cornbread, and dessert. Wishing each of you a very Merry Christmas!

The FAN COMMITTEE

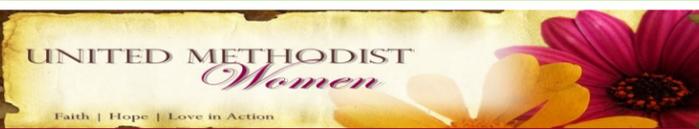


## Soup Sales Coming in January 2019

The United Methodist Women will again sell soups in 2019; all soups are homemade. Numerous varieties of soups will be available, including, but not limited to the old favorites: Cream of Broccoli, Loaded Baked Potato, several types of Chili, and Vegetable Beef. New varieties are added each year. Orders will be taken on January 6, 13, 20, and soups must be picked up at the church on January 27, after either service.

Half of the profit from the sale goes to the UMW College Scholarship Fund, and the other half of the profit is used to support the many missions of the UMW. Please help us continue funding these missions by purchasing our soup in January.

Volunteers to make soup are needed. If anyone would like further information, or would like to make soup for our sale, please contact Letha Henry, Miriam Hunter, or Cindy Walden in December 2018.



Joy Circle and Genesis Circle will NOT meet in December. We will have our annual combined meeting in January.

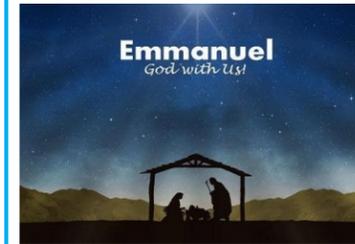
For more information contact  
Miriam Hunter 556-1651 or Cindy Walden 763-3996

## Focus on Youth

Cindy Curtis

### Emmanuel

God with us. God, our Lord and king, with us. The best gift ever given to us. Sit with that for a few minutes. God with us. All the time, every second of every day, through every battle and every victory: God with us. The best message ever for our Youth and all of us to embrace.



Starting with the Revolution weekend in January of 2018, my heart began to truly experience God with me. From the imagery of the living water, God leads me to allow him to have all of my heart. I resist. I close off certain parts and make excuse after excuse to say "I am just fine, thank you...no need to go there, God." I need to be in control. He walks with me to open closets, and to clean out corners with His sweet love. I have to enter into the places I need to face. For me, this is a laborious journey of healing, of taking one step forward and two steps back. It takes time, patience and presence with the Teacher. He teaches me. He loves me. He is Emmanuel.

During Salkehatchie this summer, my granddaughter waited to be born and would have to fight for her life. I worked on a house where the homeowner had a healthy grand baby boy. She was his day care provider and the home environment was toxic and unhealthy. I cried at the unfairness. God called me to show mercy and grace to this grand mother, and I was just empty. I reluctantly surrendered myself to God, and he covered me with his love so that I could show love to her. The moment I surrendered myself to him was the moment He set me free!

Being asked to go back into the classroom in August has humbled me. God with me opened my heart to the manna that he provides everyday. He knows what I need and how weak I am on my own. When I let him, he provides for each day exactly enough and no more. He is with me. I rely on him. I praise him. I am nothing without him. Teaching eight year olds has given me a new appreciation for the Youth. Grappling with the lectionary series and learning about God's love has increased our faith and grown us as a group.

The amazing part of this season is the journey of Emmanuel does not end. Christmas reminds us of Emmanuel, but every second of every day, from now and forever God IS with us. When we let go of our excuses, our pride, our control, ourselves and let him work, he restores us and revives us so we can live the love of Jesus.



**Dec. 2 Youth meeting 5:00-6:30**

**Dec. 9 Youth meeting 5:00 - 6:30**

**Dec. 16 Coffee House Christmas**

**6:30pm**

**\$25 Revolution deposit due Dec. 16**

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We will be dropping off bags on Saturday, Dec. 8 to collect items for our Backpack Buddy program. We will go back out on Saturday, Dec. 15 to collect bags that are left on doorsteps. Meet at the church at 9am both mornings. We hope to expand this ministry to another school in January so we are in need of additional supplies. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated.



*Because hunger doesn't end on Friday!*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### BIRTHDAYS:

Barbara Robertson 12/1  
Larry Carson 12/2  
Isaac Gray 12/2  
Tim Ribble 12/3  
Ron Underwood 12/3  
Thomas Hilton 12/5  
Philip DeAntonio 12/7  
Laura Rotta 12/7  
Phillip Sobolewski 12/7

Janet Amos 12/8  
Patricia Hopkins 12/8  
Jon Raub 12/8  
Bobbi Barnes 12/9  
Bonnie Koontz 12/10  
Helen Cash 12/14  
Brad Masopust 12/14  
Linda Halbritter 12/14  
Jayden Crawford 12/15  
Brenda Canady 12/18

Brenda Holladay 12/18  
Megan Gray 12/20  
Jim Whitehair 12/23  
Amanda Sisson 12/24  
Penny Runnerstrom 12/25  
Richard Crawford 12/26  
Johnny Richards 12/27  
Heather Dennison 12/28  
Angie Saunders 12/31

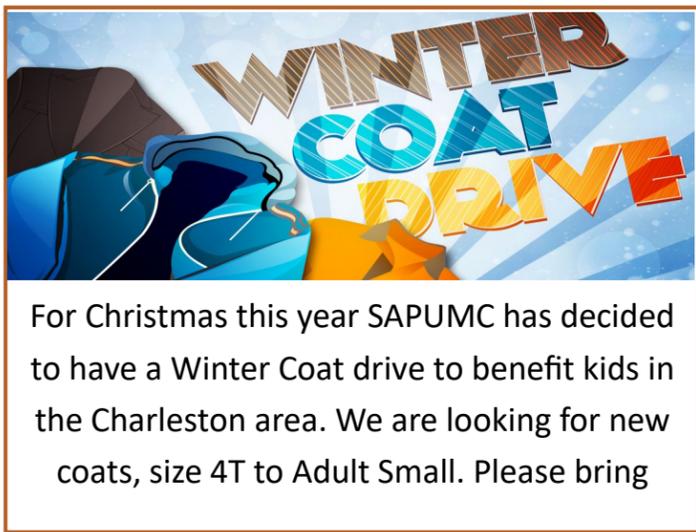
### ANNIVERSARIES:

15 Brian & Brenda Canady  
15 Charles & Mi Hwa Childers  
23 Kirk & Margaret Hendricks  
23 Mac & Barbara Knepschild  
28 Tim & Stacey Ribble  
30 Ashton & Alexis Suttle



**Christmas Eve  
CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE**  
Services will be held at 6pm & 8pm

**Pastor Brad's  
BIBLE  
STUDY**  
**Tuesdays @ 7pm**  
Let's Dig In together



**WINTER  
COAT  
DRIVE**

For Christmas this year SAPUMC has decided to have a Winter Coat drive to benefit kids in the Charleston area. We are looking for new coats, size 4T to Adult Small. Please bring

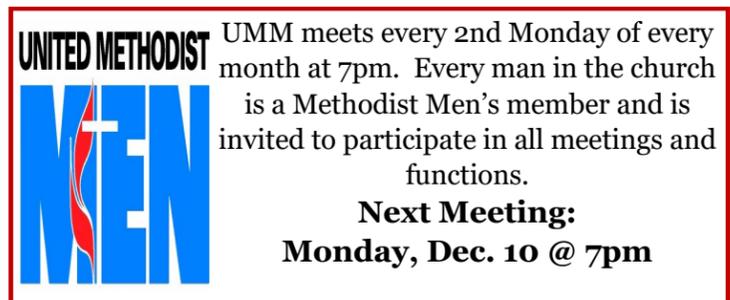


**Poinsettias for the Sanctuary**  
Would you like to honor someone special by placing a poinsettia in their name?

The cost is \$12.00 (cash or checks payable to SAPUMC) for each plant. Fill in the order form and place in the offering plate or turn in to the church office.  
**Payment should accompany orders.**

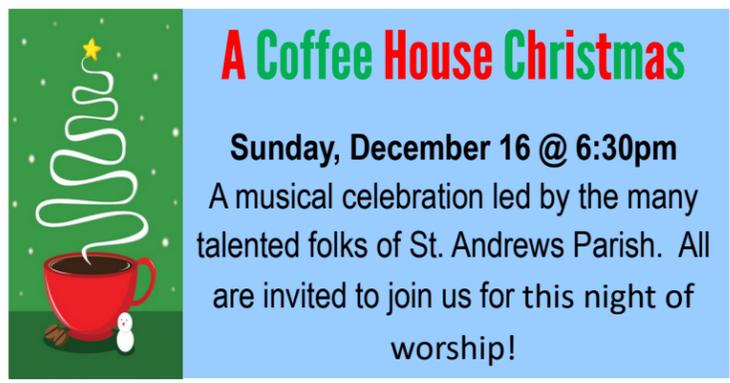
**All orders and payments must be received by Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.**

The beautiful Poinsettia plants will adorn our sanctuary Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be available to take home after the 8pm Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>.

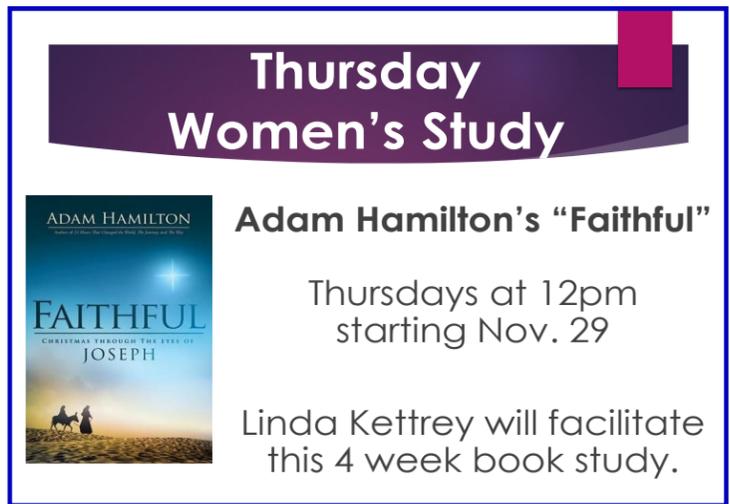


**UNITED METHODIST  
MEN**

UMM meets every 2nd Monday of every month at 7pm. Every man in the church is a Methodist Men's member and is invited to participate in all meetings and functions.  
**Next Meeting:  
Monday, Dec. 10 @ 7pm**



**A Coffee House Christmas**  
Sunday, December 16 @ 6:30pm  
A musical celebration led by the many talented folks of St. Andrews Parish. All are invited to join us for this night of worship!



**Thursday  
Women's Study**

**Adam Hamilton's "Faithful"**  
Thursdays at 12pm starting Nov. 29  
Linda Kettrey will facilitate this 4 week book study.



**Backpack Buddies**

We pack bags each week for children in one of our local elementary schools. Each month you will be notified of an item needed. Please leave these items on the table in the food pantry. Thank you for your contribution to this much needed program.

**ITEM OF THE MONTH:  
Applesauce cups**  
Because hunger doesn't end on Friday!

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat   |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| 25<br>8:45am - WORSHIP SERVICE<br>10am - SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>11:15am - WORSHIP SERVICE<br>5pm - Youth meeting                          | 26<br>10am - PASTOR'S OPEN OFFICE<br>7pm - (EDA class)  | 27<br>10am - PALMETTO SING ALONG<br>7pm - Pastor's Bible Study                                     | 28<br>1pm - Pastor's Open Office<br>6:30pm - Parish Ringers<br>7:30pm - Choir Practice  | 29<br>10am - NIMBLE FINGERS<br>12pm - Advent Book study<br>6:30pm - Praise Band<br>7pm - TRUSTEES' MTG.                              | 30<br>9:30am - UMW Christmas Brunch  | 1<br>9am - Backpack Manna bag<br>DROP OFF                                   |
| 2<br>8:45am - WORSHIP SERVICE<br>10am - SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>11:15am - WORSHIP SERVICE<br>5pm - Youth Meeting<br>6:30pm - JOYFUL HEARTS | 3<br>10am - PASTOR'S OPEN OFFICE<br>7pm - (EDA class)   | 4<br>10am - Brookdale Sing Along<br>7pm - (Village Green HOA Board)<br>7pm - Pastor's Bible Study  | 5<br>1pm - Pastor's Open Office<br>6:30pm - Parish Ringers<br>7:30pm - Choir Practice   | 6<br>10am - NIMBLE FINGERS<br>12pm - Advent Book study<br>6:30pm - Praise Band<br>7pm - TRUSTEES' MTG.                               | 7<br>9am - Backpack Manna bag<br>DROP OFF  | 8<br>9am - Backpack Manna bag<br>PICK UP                                    |
| 9<br>8:45am - WORSHIP SERVICE<br>10am - SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>11:15am - WORSHIP SERVICE<br>5pm - Youth Meeting<br>6:30pm - JOYFUL HEARTS | 10<br>10am - PASTOR'S OPEN OFFICE<br>7pm - (EDA class)<br>7pm - UMM Meeting   | 11<br>7pm - Pastor's Bible Study   | 12<br>1pm - Pastor's Open Office<br>6:30pm - Parish Ringers<br>7:30pm - Choir Practice  | 13<br>10am - NIMBLE FINGERS<br>12pm - Advent Book study<br>6:30pm - Praise Band  | 14<br>10am - NIMBLE FINGERS<br>12pm - Advent Book study<br>6:30pm - Praise Band  | 15<br>9am - Backpack Manna bag<br>PICK UP                                   |
| 16<br>8:45am - WORSHIP SERVICE<br>10am - SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>11:15am - WORSHIP SERVICE<br>6:30pm - Coffee House<br>Christmas           | 17<br>10am - PASTOR'S OPEN OFFICE<br>6:30pm - (Seagate HOA annual)<br>6:30pm - (Shadowmoss HOA<br>7pm - (EDA class) | 18<br>10am - Brookdale Sing Along<br>7pm - (Village Green HOA Board)<br>7pm - Pastor's Bible Study | 19<br>9am - (Preferred Care Training)<br>1pm - Pastor's Open Office<br>5:45pm - (Girl Scout event)<br>7:30pm - Choir Practice | 20<br>10am - NIMBLE FINGERS<br>12pm - Advent Book study<br>12pm - Parish Post Deadline<br>6:30pm - Praise Band<br>7pm - SPRC Meeting | 21<br>10am - NIMBLE FINGERS<br>12pm - Advent Book study<br>12pm - Parish Post Deadline<br>6:30pm - Praise Band<br>7pm - SPRC Meeting | 22<br>9am - Backpack Manna bag<br>PICK UP                                   |
| 23<br>8:45am - WORSHIP SERVICE<br>10am - SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>11:15am - WORSHIP SERVICE   | 24<br>6pm - Christmas Eve service<br>8pm - Christmas Eve service  | 25<br>Merry Christmas  | 26<br>1pm - Pastor's Open Office  | 27<br>10am - NIMBLE FINGERS<br>6:30pm - NOW council<br>6:30pm - Praise Band  | 28<br>10am - NIMBLE FINGERS<br>6:30pm - NOW council<br>6:30pm - Praise Band  | 29<br>10am - NIMBLE FINGERS<br>6:30pm - NOW council<br>6:30pm - Praise Band |
| 30<br>10am - WORSHIP SERVICE  | 31<br>10am - PASTOR'S OPEN OFFICE<br>7pm - (EDA class)  | 1<br>Church Office Closed  | 2<br>Church Office Closed   | 3<br>Church Office Closed  | 4<br>Church Office Closed  | 5<br>Church Office Closed   |

**DECEMBER**