

# Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

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## KEEP SEEKING HIM

### Celebrating Epiphany

Epiphany, from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means an appearance or manifestation. Christians celebrate this festival each year on January 6, the 12th day after Christmas. Epiphany ends on Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins.

Epiphany marks the coming of the Magi, or wise men, to worship the baby Jesus. Because the Magi were Gentiles, Epiphany symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews. It's a reminder that Christ came as the light — and Savior — of the whole world.

The traditional color for Epiphany is green, indicating life, growth, hope and eternity. Symbols for the season include a light, candle or star; a crown or three crowns; three gifts; and a globe. In the modern church, Epiphany has become a time to focus on reaching out and “showing” Jesus as the Savior of all people. It's also a reminder to engage in Christian community and to heal divisions among God's children



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7**

- 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
- 9:50 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Solid Ground Youth
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

*Sympathy and love is extended to the family of Clayton Nagle, who died December 13, 2023.*

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 9**

- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study Millie's house

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10**

- 5:30 p.m. W.O.W. Children's Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:15 p.m. Snack Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Youth



**Clayton Nagle**

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| M/M Richard Hewlett | Ted Webb      |
| M/M Frank Webb      | M/M Camp King |
| Mary Ann Cortright  | Patsy Clark   |

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 13**

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market



**Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!**

**Frances Pierce**

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Patsy Clark        | Millie Phillips |
| M/M Edwin McDonald |                 |
| M/M Charles Davis  |                 |

- 7. Larry Lafferty  
LaShone Robins
- 9. Sara Beth Wyatt
- 10. Brad Phillips  
Chat Phillips  
Mabel George
- 12. Kirk Coulton
- 13. Tim Richards



We will begin a new series in this brand New Year. These lessons are from the series "READY TO SERVE". Jesus was the greatest example of a servant, and we must remember that as followers of Christ, we are also called to serve.

### **W.O.W. Wednesday**

Wednesday night Bible Study for Grades K-6<sup>th</sup> will resume on Wednesday, January 10 and begin at 5:30 p.m. The Bible Study will continue to be Bible-in-Crafts. The children have enjoyed learning about so many of God's faithful followers in the Book of Genesis while creating crafts and activities.



Sunday and Wednesday Night Youth Group will meet back on Wednesday, January 10, and continue with a Bible Study that follows the movie about the life of Phil Robertson of the **Duck Commander** and *Duck Dynasty* Family Empire, called *The Blind*. We will also integrate the *I am Second* series in which several of the Robertson family members shared their testimonies..

# WINTER RESET

Along with a New Year, we often think of resolutions or ways to improve ourselves. Several of the Youth leaders within the community met last year to discuss ways and implement ideas on how to help our Youth focus more and draw closer to God. We decided starting off the New Year with a

“Reset” would be a great start. Next weekend, January 12-13<sup>th</sup>, Rodney Jones will be leading our community youth in a Winter Reset.

The Theme is “WALK THE TALK” based on Proverbs 6:16-19.

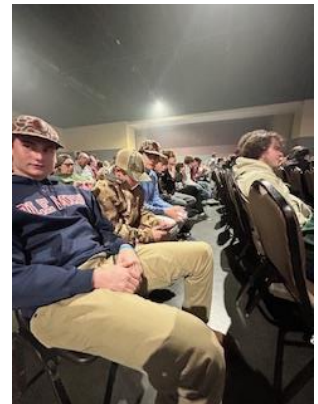


## *Xtreme Winter*

What an amazing experience our youth had last week at the Xtreme Winter Conference. The music artists were awesome. The Speakers challenged the youth to “stand out and stand up” against the norms of today’s society. We were all reminded that as Christians, we are called to follow Christ, not the world.



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# Mississippi-West Tennessee

*Convening Annual Conference*  
January 25-27, 2024 | Memphis, TN

The Mississippi-West Tennessee Conference of the Global Methodist Church will have its **Convening Annual Conference** this **January 25-27**, at Christ Church in Memphis, TN. Rev. Dr. Leah Hidde-Gregory will be our guest speaker, and Bishop Scott Jones will speak as well as preside over the ordination service on Friday night. All are welcome to come join us for this special gathering. You may register at <https://ms-wtngmc.org/convening-annual-conference>

## Sunday, January 7

Greeters	Angie & Archie Edgar/Owen Richards
Scripture	Matthew 3:13-17
Sermon	<b>“Baptized by Water and Spirit”</b>
Flowers	Owen & Mary Lou Richards

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

### JANUARY

7. Epiphany of the Lord	Matthew 2:1-12
8. Discipline yourselves	1 Peter 4:7-11
9. I waited patiently	Psalms 40:1-3
10. God has sent the Spirit	Galatians 4:4-7
11. So God shall rejoice!	Isaiah 62:1-5
12. The fountain of life	Psalms 36:5-10
13. The first of His signs	John 2:1-11