A Merry Heart...

“A cheerful (merry) heart is good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones! – Proverbs 17:22

What is a “merry heart” anyway? Is it a happy heart because things are going well and life is awesome? Maybe so, but I think it’s more complicated. God is clear that during our lives we will experience our fair share of labors, cares, and tribulations. And, that is particularly true for those who seek to follow Jesus. Seems no matter how hard we try sometimes to love and care and do the right thing—life and people try your last nerve. How many times have you tried to do the right thing and have it blow up in your face? It takes the “merry” out doesn’t it?

When I started seminary some 18 years ago, I remember how we were so excited to learn about Jesus and how we might example Him in the local church. We imagined ways to build community within our appointments, how we would model “merry hearts” in the face of adversities for our people. What we have all learned in practice is our “merry” is not necessarily transferable. It has taken me a long time to learn why. You see, being “merry” is not something one can give another or achieve; it can only be received in faith.

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer (merry), I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matt 11:28)

*Jesus is saying*, let your emotions “not be determined” by the things that happen to you, by the people who pain you or the things you do to yourselves—BE DETERMINED by me; my grace and love for you. If you will bring your hurts and pains to me (your fault or someone else’s) I will give a peace that cannot take away your “merry”. Paul understood this when he gave this prescription to the church: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks.” (1 Thess. 5:17-18) It’s the best medicine for it enables me and you to see life, people, and this world in God’s light rather than our own.

I challenge you in faith to give “merry” a chance to grow and stretch you into the person God created you to be. One who is always seeking Jesus and asking the question “How can I love life more than how it appears?” “How can I find ways to love those who pain me the most, that try my last nerve—as Jesus loves them?” And then be “Glad in the Lord, rejoicing, and pure in heart!” (Psalm 32:11)

Have a blessed week; hope to see you in worship this Sunday!

IHS4ALL,
**Children's Corner**

“God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.” 2 Peter 1:3.

This is our verse of the month, and I think there is a lot of strength in these words. We had conversations about “the what” God’s power has done in creation, and what it means for that kind of power to be living in us through the Holy Spirit. Verses 5-7 continue on to explain what it looks like to have a godly life. We encourage you to follow up on these conversations at home. Your house is where the real life change happens!

Thank you to the parents who came to our parent meeting last week. If you were unable to attend, you can email me for any information you may have missed.

We are looking forward to seeing your kids at K.I.C.K.S. in the upcoming weeks!

Peace,
Brittney Schwind

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**Programs**

Mark your calendars for the Annual GAP Fashion Show. The show will be March 23, 2019. The theme will be “Looks of Legacy”. Volunteers are needed or for more info, contact Johnnett Cornell at 478-454-7387.

**United Methodist Women Annual Food Drive Begins January 27th**

The goal this year will be to collect 2000 cans and non-perishable items to help Chard Wray Food Pantry. Look for the brown bags that will be distributed soon by the ladies from UMW. The brown bags will contain suggested items to purchase, however, all items are appreciated.

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**Programs**

**Wednesday Night Dinner**

**January 23, 2019**

Menu: Baked chicken, creamed corn, broccoli casserole, rolls & dessert

Kids: Hot dogs & chips

Program: Bible Study with Rev. Stephanie Caldwell

Please drop this form in the collection plate or call church office before Monday at 12 pm.

Name: __________________

Adults $7 __________________

Kids Reg. $3 ________________

Kids Hot dog $3 _____________

Kids meals (5th grade & under) __________________

**Reservations are a must in order to provide accurate seating and food.**

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**January 20th**

Sandra Batchelor
Chuck Boland
Jill Thompson

**January 21st**

Courtney Bath
Jesse Epps, Jr.
Harold Mason

**January 22nd**

Guerry Brooks
Tyler Rion

---

**January 23rd**

Maggie Howington
Beverly Mann
Jos Smith, III

**January 24th**

Bill Caldwell
Sammy Lewis

**January 25th**

Yvonne Council
Richard Hansel
Lou Williams

**January 26th**

Paige Barlow
YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Talk about a BLAST! Thanks so much to all the parents who came and participated in our night of Trivia, Games, and Scheduling Updates! It was so much fun seeing you all compete.

This week will be business as usual with evening youth from 4-6 PM. Ashley and Tate are on board and ready to start leading the group in just a couple of weeks, so if you haven’t met them make sure to introduce yourselves!

Looking forward to another great week at Harbor. Come hang out for my last couple of Sundays!!

In Peace,
Audrey Crocker
FUMC Youth Director

SPECIAL GIFTS

*A gift was given to the Music Fund in honor of Butch and LaNe Goff by Stan & Janet Mauldin.
*A gift was given to the General Fund in honor of Sallie Holmes’ 100th Birthday by Amanda Williams.

The Missions Team will hold its first meeting for 2019 on Tuesday, January 22nd at 4:30 pm in the Church conference room. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. If you’re interested in joining the team but can’t attend, please contact Ed Moore at 478-454-4031.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Serving This Weekend: January 20th, 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Acolyte/Acolyte Parent  Cohen Bryan & Cayden Burner/Terri Burner
Sound Technicians  Paul Hitchcock & Chuck Shaw
Ushers  Henry & Helen Pope (capts.)
“The Milledgeville First United Methodist Church’s mission is to serve Jesus Christ, Share God’s word, grow in faith, and love one another.”
First United Methodist Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Report</th>
<th>1/1/2019 thru 01/14/2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YTD Budget</td>
<td>$ 39,605</td>
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<tr>
<td>YTD Expenses</td>
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<td>YTD Giving</td>
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<tr>
<td>YTD Missions Giving</td>
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### THIS WEEK AT MILLEDGEVILLE FIRST

#### Sunday - 20th
- 4:00p KICKS
- 4:00p Youth

#### Monday - 21st
- Church Office closed
- 9:00a Prayer Group @ Chick-fil-a
- 10:00a UMW Executive Mtg
- 6:00p Monday Night Bible Study
- 7:30p Monroe Crossing Concert

#### Tuesday - 22nd
- 10:00a Needles for Jesus
- 4:30p Missions Meeting
- 4:30p Bell Choir
- 5:30p Noah’s Ark Board Meeting

#### Wednesday - 23rd
- 5:00p Blessing Bags
- 5:45p Wednesday Night Supper
- 6:15p Program - Bible Study
- 6:15p Children’s Choirs
  - **Music Time** - 2 & 3 yr olds
  - **Music Makers** - 4 & 5 yr olds
  - **KidsJam** - 1st thru 5th grades
- 7:10p Chancel Choir practice

#### Thursday - 24th
- 5:30p Ministry Vision & Bldg
- 25th - 27th
- Marriage Retreat

#### Attendance Report—01/13/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - Early Service</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 - Contemporary Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 - Traditional Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Worship Attendance</td>
<td>369</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday School Attendance</td>
<td>192</td>
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### OUR CHURCH STAFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Pastor</td>
<td>Rev. Mac Enfinger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pastormac@milledgevillefumc.org">pastormac@milledgevillefumc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>Cathy Malone</td>
<td><a href="mailto:office@milledgevillefumc.org">office@milledgevillefumc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Mgr./Facilities Mgr.</td>
<td>Cay Quattlebaum</td>
<td><a href="mailto:quattlebaum@milledgevillefumc.org">quattlebaum@milledgevillefumc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Ministry</td>
<td>Brittney Schwind</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bschwind04@gmail.com">bschwind04@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastor of Spiritual Formation</td>
<td>Rev. Stephanie Caldwell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stephanie.caldwell@yahoo.com">stephanie.caldwell@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Ministries</td>
<td>Audrey Crocker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:audreylaynecrocker@gmail.com">audreylaynecrocker@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Director &amp; Minister of Music</td>
<td>Steve Crocker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:slcrocker98@yahoo.com">slcrocker98@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
<td>Dr. Tom Davidson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Praise Band Leader</td>
<td>Tate Welling</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tatewelling@gmail.com">tatewelling@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dir. of Noah’s Ark Weekday School</td>
<td>Karen Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:noahsark@milledgevillefumc.org">noahsark@milledgevillefumc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dir. Christian Counseling Center</td>
<td>Amanda Wilson Harper</td>
<td>478-456-6219 For Appointments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Ministry Assistant</td>
<td>Ashley Davey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ashley@milledgevillefumc.org">ashley@milledgevillefumc.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Office: 478-452-1497
Noah’s Ark Preschool: 478-453-2106
Email: office@milledgevillefumc.org

Web Page: [www.milledgevillefumc.org](http://www.milledgevillefumc.org)

Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 — 9:30 — 11:00
Sunday School: 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.