

A Message from Tim

A Place for You This Christmas

Join us this Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of Christ and the place God has made for us in the story. We all need a place to belong, and Christmas is a reminder of God's outreach to the world in an invitation of peace, love, hope and joy. Each Sunday will remind us of the place for us in the story.

December 01	In the Wilderness with John the Baptist
December 08	In the Wondering with Zechariah and Elizabeth
December 15	In the Willingness with Mary
December 22	In the Worship with the Shepherds and Angels
December 29	In the Wisdom with Simeon and Anna (Note: One Worship Service 10 a.m.)
January 5	In the Wandering with the Magi

Please note the other opportunities for worship and activities for the Season. Invite a friend, a neighbor, a family member, or even a stranger. May God bless and keep you in these holy days.

Blessings in Christ,
Tim



Service of the Long Night

Germantown United Methodist Church

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.



The month of December experiences the longest night and shortest day. For many, this time of year is difficult due to stress, illness, sadness, of mourning. This service of scripture, music, and prayer is intended to comfort and encourage, recognizing struggles and finding strength in the incarnation of Christ in the world and in our lives. **Service in the chapel followed by reception in the Huddle.**



Nicole and Scott Kloek joined Germantown United Methodist Church on Sunday, November 17 at the 9:40 worship service by transfer of their membership from a sister denomination in the Memphis area. Their Welcome Friend is Betty Duke. Nicole and Scott have joined the Trinity Sunday School Class.

When asked what about Germantown United Methodist Church made them wish to become a part of our church community, they responded: "Friendly 'real' people; very comfortable feel – people accept you as you are; women's ministry; we like the 9:40 worship service and enjoy meeting other Christian couples our age in Sunday school; we feel like this is where God is leading us."



Save the Date!

Breakfast For Dinner - New Year Kick-Off!

Join us on Wednesday night, January 8, for **Breakfast for Dinner**. We encourage you and your family to wear your pajamas!

Enjoy bacon, sausage, eggs, biscuits, gravy, grits, and fruit prepared by our United Methodist Men.

We will also have a performance given by our Sunday morning Praise Band with hymn singing, praise songs, and more!

Breakfast for Dinner will be served in the OLEC from 5:30–6:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children (4–10), and free for children 3 and younger.

All proceeds from the meal will support UMM missions.

Make a reservation at germantownumc.org by noon on Monday, January 6.

Questions? Contact Mary Groh at mgroh@gemrnatownumc.org.



GUMC Women's Retreat A Speaker's Preparation

Barbara Schanson, long-time church member, will be our speaker at the 2020 GUMC Women's Retreat on from January 24 – 25, 2020 at St. Columba. We asked her a few questions regarding how she is preparing as a speaker.



- **You have been an active member at GUMC for many years now. Tell us some of the activities and events for which you are involved.**

"I have been a member of Germantown United Methodist Church for 32 years. I have loved serving in this church in many ways during all those years. Currently, I am a delegate to the Annual Conference; something that I take very seriously and joyfully. I sing in the choir, teach Sunday school, serve as historian for United Methodist Women, co-chair the Christmas Cookie Shoppe, and involved in the Weekend Food Program."

- **Why is the GUMC Women's Retreat special to you?**

"The GUMC Women's retreat is special to me because it is such a wonderful opportunity to meet women of all ages that maybe do or do not belong to our church but when in this type of venue, the barriers are down, fun and faith are top priorities, and bonds are made with each other. You learn something more about yourself and hopefully grow in your faith walk!"

- **How have you prepared for leading the sessions for "Real Women..Real Struggles...Real Faith!"?**

"I chose the focus for this retreat with a lot of prayer! I have been finding wonderful books about the four women on who we will focus, and I am learning so much more, as I prepare, about their amazing stories."

- **Tell us a little about the biblical women we are going to explore and discuss.**

"Rebekah was a woman with great spiritual fortitude, she has a great measure of faith and trust in God...even when she did not know what the future held. Hannah was a woman of amazing patience! She lived over three thousand years ago and she faced many of the same challenges and struggles women face today. Mary, the mother of Jesus, despite her youth, willingly surrendered her life, her future, and her own dreams when she said, "I am the Lord's servant, and may it be as you have said." Mary of Bethany was more than the sister of Martha and Lazarus. In a world where women were often marginalized, Mary was a student, hungry to learn and receive the words of Jesus. These are the women whose stories will touch our hearts and minds! Come and be blessed!"

Join us for this amazing experience by registering now online at germantownumc.org.

Location: St. Columba Conference Center, Memphis, TN

Cost: \$100 (Friday & Saturday) \$40 (Saturday Only)

To Register, visit www.germantownumc.org

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year,” claims the song. In this time, the pressure to spend more than normal is strong. How may we practice good stewardship in December?

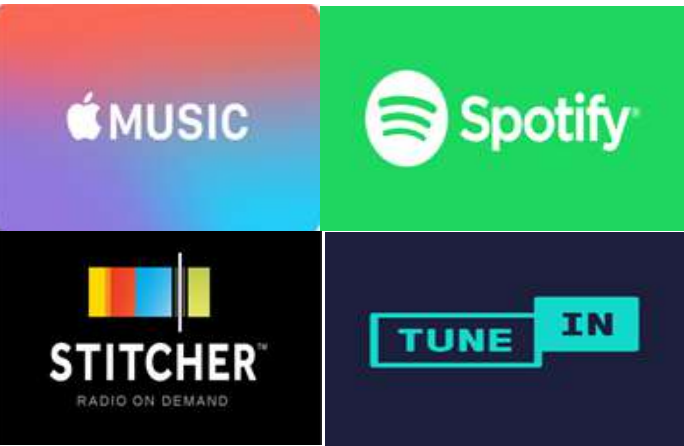
1. Give to God first. God gives first to us as Emmanuel, God with us. The birth of the Savior is God’s grace offered without cost. This is why December 25 matters. Use this time to bring your 2018 pledge up to date. Give generously to the Christmas offering to help ensure that our missions, ministries, programs, and campus continue to offer the good news now and in the coming year.
2. Make a list and check it twice. Before shopping, have a list of who and what and why. “The plans of the diligent lead to profit,” reads Proverbs 21:5, “as surely as haste leads to poverty.” You want to give gifts. Know to whom and why and how much before you go shopping. Knowing why you give helps direct what you give.
3. Stay calm. The lights, the sounds, everything is designed to get us excited this time of year. Walk in the peace of the Spirit. Let your love of God’s great gift of Christ’s birth guide your excitement.
4. Give your time, your words, your presence even more than your presents whenever possible.

Blessings on your generous giving!

Communications Rev. Erin Beasley – ebeasley@germantownumc.org – 901-754-7216

Our Podcast

GUMC's podcast is here! To stream, visit the church's website or your preferred streaming platform such as:



Make sure to tune in!
You can subscribe to our
e-blast by going to our
website!



Christmas Gifts



- What is the mission of the Christian church?
- The Gospel of Matthew tells us: go ye into all the world and make disciples
 - The Gospel of Mark tells us: go ye into all the world and preach the gospel
 - The Book of James tells us: while you are making disciples and preaching do a little work.

The mission of the Christian church had its origin as a gift...As prophesied in Isaiah....“for unto us a child is born, for unto us a Son is given”.....“on a Silent night”.....in the “little town of Bethlehem”.....“in a manger” it all happened....the greatest gift ever given. God sent his Son “a Savior he is Christ the Lord”

As you are checking off each gift on your list and placing it under the tree or in a “secret” place, are you thinking of that glorious scene in Bethlehem and what it means to you and how you are fulfilling the “Mission”?

If the answer is yes, carry on and enjoy every day of this glorious Season.

If on the other hand you are just frustrated and can’t wait until the task is completed.....STOP and REFRESH. Make yourself think of that scene in Bethlehem, take the time to listen to the words of one of the beautiful carols of the Season, read Luke 2 and realize that gift that was given so long ago in that “little town of Bethlehem” was given to you. The remaining gifts on your list will be a joy and you will be on the “Mission”.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

GUMP Weekday Preschool Sarah Sutton - ssutton@germantownumc.org - 901-753-3109



It’s the most wonderful time of the year! Our friends at Germantown United Methodist Preschool have been busy learning and playing as we celebrate the changes and wonders of the season.GUMP enrollment is just around the corner and we are already becoming busy at GUMP as tours for the 2020/2021 school year continue to increase! Open Enrollment for the upcoming school year will begin in January, giving current families priority of re-enrollment and then opening enrollment up to the public. An updated enrollment application for the 2020/2021 school year will be available online soon. Please share with friends and family to consider GUMP when seeking a Weekday Preschool. We would love to show you all the wonderful things happening here. Before we end our first semester, GUMP wants to wish each of you a Merry Christmas! As the Christmas season is upon us, we joyfully celebrate the birth of baby Jesus! What a sweet time of year to share God’s love with our little friends. This month our three, four and five year old friends will join together to have a special chapel with Ms. Callie. What a special time it will be together! Also, all our friends will celebrate Christmas with a “Happy Birthday Jesus” birthday party, so that as we break for Christmas our focus is on the true Reason for the Season. May this season be Merry and Bright!



Germantown United Methodist Preschool is a three star state licensed Preschool, affectionately known as GUMP. GUMP partners with parents to to provide a loving, nurturing and developmentally appropriate environment for children to grow to their fullest potential emotionally, socially, spiritually, physically, creatively and cognitively.

GUMW Christamas Cookie Shoppe



Saturday |December 7, 2019 | 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. |Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall|

There will be thousands of wonderful Christmas cookies and candies available for purchase in the GUMW Christmas Cookie Shoppe on Saturday, December 7 from 9 a.m. to noon. This festive shoppe will be set up in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. All who attend will receive a bakery box to fill with selections from over 100 different cookies and candies. After choices are made and weighed, shoppers will pay \$9 per pound. We accept cash, check and credit card.

If you are baking cookies or candies, please label them "Cookie Shoppe" and deliver to the kitchen in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall by 3pm on Friday, December 6. Bring your items in a disposable container and include your name and the name of the cookie/candy. We are so grateful for your hard work in making these beautiful treats, so make sure you pack them carefully! Let's make this a huge success! All funds raised will be given to the missions supported by the circles of Germantown United Methodist Women.

Questions? Contact event co-chairs: Sue Land (landrs2590@gmail.com)
Barbara Schanson (barcons@comcast.net)

GUMW Christmas Brunch



All women are invited to attend our GUMW Christmas Brunch December 10 at 10:30 a.m. in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. Come join us for a delicious catered brunch, festive fellowship, and sounds of the season! We will also be installing our new 2020 officers.

Deadline: December 5 at noon

Cost: \$10

Childcare avialable.

(Indicate a need for childcare when registering online or by writing "Need Childcare" on your check.)

Two Methods to Register:

- Credit Card online at germantownumc.org.
- Check to GUMW, "GUMW Dec Brunch" in memo line, placed in GUMW drop box outside Fellowship Hall.

For additional info: email Debbie Wiles | dwiles0522@gmail.com.



All women are welcome to attend Germantown United Methodist Women events. If you are looking for the camaraderie of Christian women, fellowship while serving others, and the opportunity to make lifelong friends, consider joining one of GUMW's many Circles (small groups). For information, contact GUMW Membership Chair Yolanda Toney at ytoney@germantownumc.org.



Christmas Concert and Plum Pudding Festival

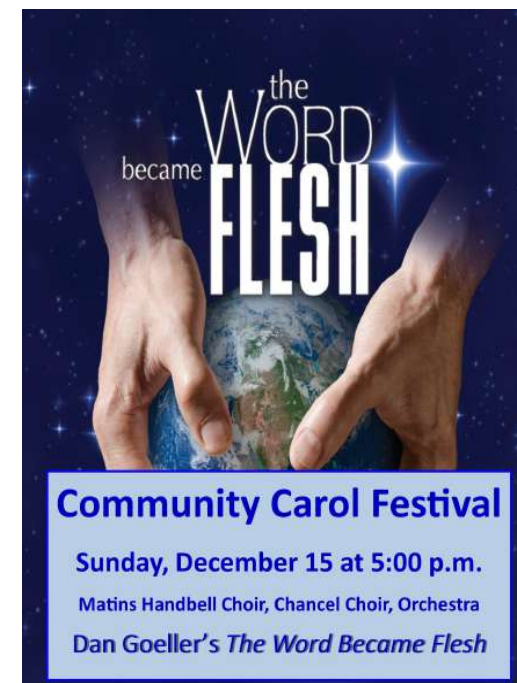


On Sunday, December 8, our Children's Music Ministry will present their annual Christmas Concert and Plum Pudding Festival at 5:00 p.m. in the GUMC Sanctuary. Each of our children's choirs will sing a selection of Advent and Christmas songs, we will feature a tableau of The Holy Family; and end with a rousing chorus of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" while our dads march around the Sanctuary carrying "Plum Puddings"

Plum Pudding has its traditional origins in medieval England where families gathered in the kitchen of their homes on the last Sunday before the season of Advent to cook their Christmas pudding. Parents would teach their children how to mix ingredients for the pudding and every member of the family would take a turn at stirring it while making a Special Wish for the New Year.

By tradition, the pudding mixture is stirred from East to West in honor of the Three Wise Men who visited the baby Jesus; and, often, 13 ingredients (dried fruits, sugar, and spices) were used to represent Christ and his disciples. Please make plans to attend this special and delightful evening!

Community Carol Festival



Tradition can be a good thing. Think of all the traditions in your own family. As a kid, we traveled to the great gathering in Wewoka, Oklahoma, every Thanksgiving. Dozens of Wilson types under one roof. It was amazing. Our church community has many traditions that are celebrated this time of year. The Community Carol Festival and Children's Music – Plum Pudding event being examples.

This year the Community Carol Festival will be led by our Matins Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, and orchestra. The choir will focus on the music of Dan Goeller and offer his large work, The Word Became Flesh. It is through composed with underscore and narration that weaves together the sung movements. Rev. Dr. Courtney Pace will serve as narrator. Dr. Pace is professor at Memphis Theological Seminary where I currently am a student in her Christian Heritage class. The Word Became Flesh starts at the beginning, Genesis, and works through Incarnation and the birth of Jesus.

The work also has numerous sing a long carols, it should be an uplifting and celebratory night of music and worship. **December 15 at 5:00 p.m.**

Don't Forget the December Brown Bag Lunch Program!

Kim Bearden, Executive Director, Elmwood Cemetery, will talk about "The Marvelous Women of Elmwood." This presentation will be Friday, December 6, in the Fellowship Hall. The program starts at 11 AM with lunch at Noon. Bring your own sack lunch; the church will supply the beverages. Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, for more information. No reservations are needed. **There will be a crossing guard on West Street to help with overflow parking.**



XYZs Experience the Memphis Music Story in February!

Come with us to see what has been called the single best exhibition of American musical history in the country, the Smithsonian Institution's Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum. Offering a comprehensive experience from the rural field hollers and sharecroppers of the 1930's to Memphis' musical heyday in the 70's and its global influence, Rock 'n' Soul presents a dazzling chronology of the rebellious musical pioneers who, for the love of music, overcame barriers to create the sound that changed the world forever! We will eat lunch at Bosco's Squared before we tour the museum.

WHERE: Bosco's Squared and Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum
WHEN: Thursday, February 27, 2020
COST: \$11 per person plus lunch on your own
DEPARTURE: 10:45 a.m. from OLEC parking lot. (Be there by 10:30 a.m.)
RESERVATIONS: Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, Gretchen Blair, 755-0797, or Garnet Brenneman, 754-3711.
You must make your reservation before paying.
DEADLINE FOR MONEY and RESERVATIONS: Monday, January 27



XYZs Journey through Africa in January!

Take the safari adventure of a lifetime in the BBC Earth documentary, *Wild Africa 3D*, narrated by Helena Bonham Carter. It will take us on a spectacular journey across, over, and through the magical realms of the wildest continent on earth, from the highest snow-covered mountains in Kenya, along great rivers, into steamy rainforests, and wide-open savannahs. As one of the most ambitious 3D nature films ever to grace the screen, *Wild Africa* will transport us from the movie theater into the heart of Africa to meet its unforgettable wildlife. After the movie, we will have lunch at Patrick's restaurant on Park Avenue.
For a preview of this film, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57BrqKaZa78>



WHERE: CTI Giant 3D Theater and Patrick's Restaurant
WHEN: Thursday, January 23, 2020
COST: \$8 per person plus lunch on your own
DEPARTURE: 9:45 a.m. from OLEC parking lot. (Be there by 9:30 a.m.)
RESERVATIONS: Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, Gretchen Blair, 755-0797, or Garnet Brenneman, 754-3711.
You must make your reservation before paying.
DEADLINE FOR MONEY and RESERVATIONS: Monday, December 16

Our events are open to all adults age 55 and older, singles and couples, regardless of church membership. Mark your calendar and make your reservations for these events today!

Learn About Scams against Seniors at the January Brown Bag Lunch!

Older adults are one of the highest targeted groups by scammers. Every day medical, financial, disaster relief, home maintenance, and phone scams come to people through the mail and their computers and telephones. Identity theft has become the norm rather than the exception. Randy Hutchinson, from the Better Business Bureau of the Mid-South, is going to alert us to what the latest scams are and how we can be more knowledgeable and aware as we go about our daily living at the January Brown Bag Lunch Series, an adventure in learning sponsored by the Older Adult Council.

TOPIC: "Scams against Seniors"
SPEAKER: Randy Hutchinson, President, Better Business Bureau of the Mid-South
WHERE: Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall
WHEN: January 3, 2020. Program starts at 11 a.m.; lunch is at Noon.
COST: FREE—the church will supply beverages.
RESERVATIONS: No reservations are needed.
Just bring your sack lunch and enjoy the program and the fellowship.
QUESTIONS? Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, or Pat Smith, 758-6513.

****There will be a crossing guard on West Street to help with overflow parking.****



College Ministry Brian Richards - brichards@germantownumc.org

Crave: The Aftermath

Leaves changing color, and the cool crisp air of fall means a few things in youth ministry. One of which is our annual Crave retreat. Crave is a special time for our students to truly dig deep and learn about the Gospel together. GUMC Youth has used Victory Ranch as our destination for Crave for more than 10 years now, and it would be easy to say that most of our students and volunteers have recognized this as home. This special weekend would not be the same without the dedicated volunteers serving as small group leaders, overnight adults and sacrificing a weekend of rest and football to invest in students. This past Crave we had the pleasure of welcoming back over 10 of our current College students to assist in these responsibilities for the weekend. It shows a great amount of love and devotion to GUMC for college students to travel for a weekend to assist in making an event like Crave possible. Some students flew in from Texas to be with us and some had to drive between 1 and 5 hours to be with us.

A monumental gathering and reunion of sorts for college students who are in their first semester of college through first semester of graduate school. These young adults served as small group leaders and most importantly of all got to have honest and open discussions about faith in college, while showing our high school students how important a Christ centered life is post high school. Tears were shed reliving old stories, and belly laughs echoed through the cafeteria during our time together. GUMC is lucky to have college students who are proud to come home even when they are so far from us. We are thankful for everything they did for us and our students at Crave and would tell any of them they are welcome at any time.



It is the Season of Giving!

The Children's Ministry has two opportunities to give to others this season. You may pack a box of gifts for a child in need and/or provide a coat, hat, gloves, and scarf for one of our "angels" from the United Methodist Neighborhood Center. The UMCOR boxes were handed out during Sunday School in November. "Angels" are located on the Christmas tree in the hallway outside of the Chapel. Packed boxes and Angel gifts should be returned to the bins in front of the Huddle by December 8.



Journey to Bethlehem



On Saturday, December 7 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Hamilton Nursery, we invite families with young children (and older people who are children at heart) to attend this special GUMC tradition. Children will walk the path of Jesus' birth. They will begin with the angels, move to Bethlehem for Jesus' birth, visit the shepherds, and finish with the wise men. After learning the reason we share gifts at Christmas, children will have the chance to share their wish lists with the Jolly 'Ol Guy himself. Children will have the chance to make Christmas crafts and refreshments will be served in the Narthex. On your way out, be sure to stop by the Cookie Shoppe in the Fellowship Hall and stock up on some holiday sweets prepared by the United Methodist Women.

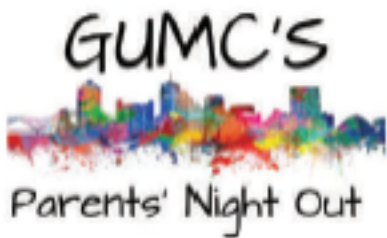
Children’s Alternative Christmas



Our Children’s Alternative Christmas will be held on Sunday, December 8 during the 9:40 and 11:00 Kids Quest times in the Huddle (Room 240). Children will have an opportunity to shop for gifts for family and friends. Each gift is sold for \$5 and is of beautiful quality, wrapped, and tagged before the child leaves the market. During the Sunday School lesson, children will learn about the free-trade and mission-oriented gifts they are purchasing and will learn about being a purposeful giver. Preschool children may shop between worship hours or after church ends. There will be “elves” available to help with shopping so all parents can enjoy a surprise on Christmas morning. No registration is necessary, but it will be helpful to have the “wish list” filled out in advance. Look for this document to come home via email the week prior. Please bring exact cash or check payable to GUMC. It is very meaningful to the children to purchase a surprise for the people they love.

Parents’ Night Out

We would love to share some time with your children while you take a night out to catch your breath, enjoy a date, or do some last minute shopping. Our last PNO date for the fall is December 13. ALL children are invited, including those who have special needs. Details and registration are available online.



Children's Ministry Continued...

Christmas Eve Services for Families with Young Children

Tuesday, December 24: 3:00 and 4:00 PM

We look forward to having you worship with us on Christmas Eve. These two services are designed for families with children in mind. We will sing some traditional Christmas hymns and tell the Christmas story with active participation by the children. We will also be serving communion to our families during these services. We will need a few volunteer families to help with communion, ushering, and the lighting of the Advent Wreath. If your family wishes to participate in a special way during either Christmas Eve service, please contact Callie Beaver.

Family Worship Sunday – We will have one Worship service at 10:00 am on Sunday, December 29. Kindergarten– 5th Grade Sunday School in the Huddle will not meet on this day. The Hamilton Nursery will be available for birth – Pre K.

Youth Ministry *Lisa Pierce - lpierce@germantownumc.org & Brian Richards - brichards@germantownumc.org*

Chillax



Chillax is a time for all of our middle schoolers (6th–8th grade) to relax and enjoy the Christmas. This lockdown involves the teens staying out with us until 12 a.m.! Then, we head back to the OLEC and have a night filled with fun and games! No sleeping allowed! Please join us for this amazing experience. Keep an eye on our weekly email for more details.



High School Retreat

Join the high schoolers for their own relaxing trip to Pickwick. You'll chill and have some time to yourself right before school starts back! Unwind with fireplaces and cozy blankets. Keep an eye on our weekly email for more details!



Emergency Pastoral Care *Rev. Erin Beasley—ebeasley@germantownumc.org*

In the event of an emergency, please do not hesitate to call our Pastor-On-Call.
Call us at 901-412-5776.

Editor's Note: The deadline for submitting articles for Tidings is the 10th of the month prior. Submissions received after this deadline are not guaranteed to run.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday, December 1st, Sunday Morning Worship
Hanging of the Greens will take place during the worship services on the First Sunday of Advent. This tradition reminds the church of the life and light brought to the world by Christ, for whose coming we prepare.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE SHOPPE

Saturday, December 7th, 9:00 a.m.-12 Noon
Sponsored by the United Methodist Women, a great opportunity for everyone to stock up on sweets for family and friends. A fellowship hall full of holiday cookies and desserts! Proceeds support mission projects of the United Methodist Women.



JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM—WITH MILK AND MUFFINS

Saturday, December 7th, 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Children travel through the nativity story from angels to manger, and from shepherds to wise men, creating memories and understandings to last a lifetime. Of course, there will be a visit from a "special guest" with photo opportunities.



CHILDREN'S MUSICAL AND PLUM PUDDING

Sunday, December 8th, 5:00 p.m.
Features the Alleluia Choir, Hosanna Choir and Cherub Choir
Mary Groh, Peggy Warner and Libby Schielke, directors
This musical combines original songs and familiar carols from around the world to tell the Christmas story. Program followed by Plum Pudding Procession.



COMMUNITY CAROL FESTIVAL "THE WORD BECAME FLESH"

Sunday, December 15th, 5:00 p.m.
GUMC Chancel Choir and Matins Handbell Choir with Orchestra
Todd Wilson, Director of Music; Eva McPeters, Associate Director of Music
"The Word Became Flesh" by Dan and Heidi Goeller is a musical exploration of the Incarnation. The musical score is epic and contains a beautiful balance of familiar hymns and Christmas carols with new choral compositions.



SERVICE OF THE LONG NIGHT

Tuesday, December 17th, 6:00 p.m.
The month of December experiences the longest night and shortest day. For many, this time of year is difficult due to stress, illness, sadness, of mourning. This service of scripture, music, and prayer is intended to comfort and encourage, recognizing struggles and finding strength in the incarnation of Christ in the world and in our lives.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24th
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
3:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.
Children interactively participate in a retelling of the nativity, with singing of carols.
FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS WITH CAROLS, CANDLES, AND COMMUNION, 6:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Music and Carols led by Ancient-Modern Musicians
8:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Music and Carols led by Chancel Choir
MEDITATIVE SERVICE WITH CANDLES AND COMMUNION, 10:00 P.M.

