

# THE CONNECTION

December 22, 2021

## Celebrate Jesus' Birth with Us Christmas Eve!

At 4:00 pm in the sanctuary will be a dramatic presentation, *A Line in Time*, written by Rev. Becky. Just prior to the program, the congregation will be greeted by our little shepherd, Teddy Aravena and our littlest angel, Isabelle Oehler who will ask the audience to join them in singing "Jesus Loves Me." The production is directed by Jane Peterson, with Nicholas Todd Shumate as music director. Along with the story, the congregation will hear several carols from our Wise Men, Mary, and the cast, as well as a sing-along at the end. This production is suitable for the entire family. Masks and social distancing will be required for those in attendance. The production team includes Lynn Shirley, Tommy Betenbaugh, Sam Waldrep, and Susan Caskey. The cast features:

Narrator: **Rev. Becky Shirley**

Joseph: **Joseph Graham**

Mary: **Michelle Graham**

Baby Jesus: **Joseph Graham, Jr.**

Rebecca: **Darby Waund**

Shepherds: **Alan-Jon Zupan, Dane**

**Waund, Mackenzie Powers**

Sheep: **Rosemary Aravena**

Star of Bethlehem: **Alma Louise**

**Aravena**

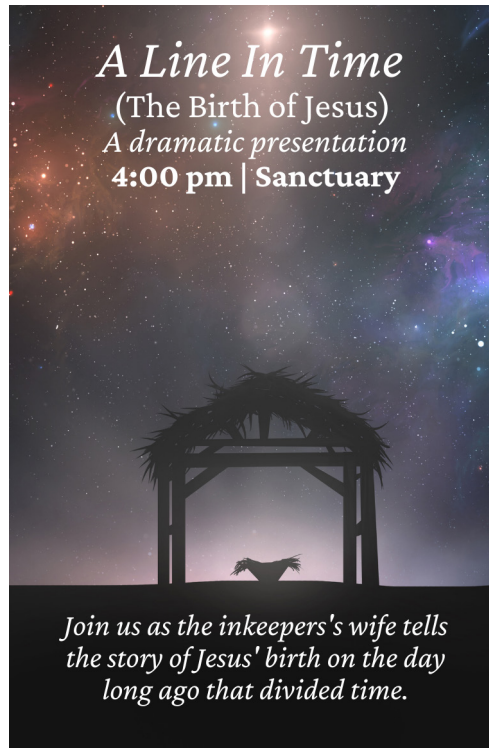
Wise men: **Nicholas Shumate, Pato**

**Aravena, Malcolm Lemons**

Piano: **Rick Frierson**

Organ: **Louis Shirer**

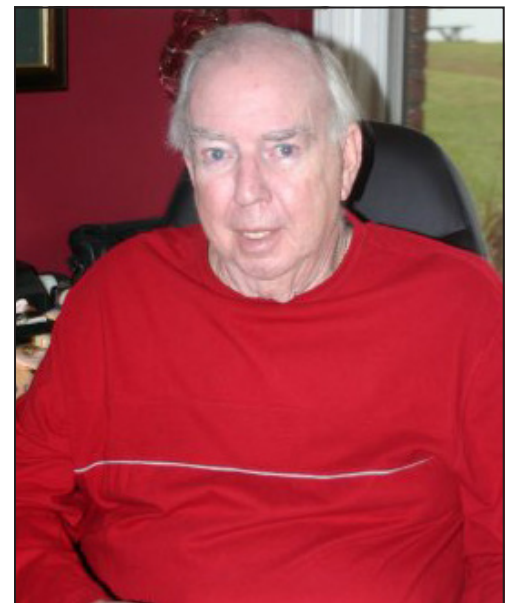
At 5:30 pm, a traditional service with lessons, carols, communion and candle lighting will be held in the sanctuary. Individual communion elements will be provided. Again, masks are required and social distancing is highly encouraged with the new high numbers of Covid in our community. We appreciate everyone's cooperation following our protocols.



## Homer Fesperman Worship Technology Fund Established

To honor the legacy of contributions from Homer V. Fesperman to the church's worship services through his audio and technological expertise, a fund memorializing Homer has been established by Linda Fesperman (wife) and daughter Lin Fesperman Lord. The purpose of this fund is to provide resources for the church's evolving ministries in worship, including but not limited to live stream resources and upgrades to the technology used in the worship experience.

In this special season of remembrance and giving, you are invited to make a seed contribution to this effort. Of course, a contribution at any time will be used to accrue funds needed to expand the current live stream ministry and improve worship technology.



# Sunday School

• **The Aldersgate Sunday School Class:** will begin a discussion and lesson on *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught* by Adam Hamilton, pastor and best-selling author. Hamilton guides us to really know- and really pray- the Lord's Prayer. He explores each of the its rich lines and their meaning in the Bible, illuminating what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves through its words. Please come join us, we welcome all. This discussion will be led by David Anderson and Hal Hanlin. We hope to have a DVD from Adam Hamilton to view along with the discussions, but it has yet to be released. Should you have any questions, please call David A. Anderson (mobile 803-318-8821) or [danderson@richardsonplowden.com](mailto:danderson@richardsonplowden.com).

• **The Dawsey Class:** This Sunday, December 26, we will continue our study of *Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic—and Beyond* by Matthew Fox. John Evans will teach Chapter 7, "The Power of Love Over Evil: A Call to Wellness." Next Sunday, January 2, we will finish the book. Hunter Rentz will lead a discussion of the Conclusion, "Why Julian? Why Now?" and the Epilogue, "A Prophet for the Twenty-First Century." The class will meet by FreeConference Call. Class members should call in before 9:15 a.m., but not before 9:05 a.m. The call-in number is (701) 802-5115. The access code is 7252934. For more information about the class, contact the class president Mary Slade at [marydslade4@gmail.com](mailto:marydslade4@gmail.com).

• **The Grace Class:** Dec. 26: "Upsetting the Pyramid." The class is working on topics for upcoming Sundays. Join in person or contact Jim Lane at [jlane@columbiasc.edu](mailto:jlane@columbiasc.edu) for the Zoom link to gather Sunday mornings at 9:45 am for fellowship, and at 10:00 am for spiritual reflection. All are welcome to join!

• **The Joy Class** is embracing the Advent season with a series of Advent themed lessons led by various members. All are welcome to join us as we learn and grow together to prepare for the season. If you are interested, please contact Lee Haynes at [lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com](mailto:lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com) or Sylvia Stevens at [sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com](mailto:sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com) for more information.

• **Open Door Class:** On December 26, Open Door will complete its study of *Incarnation* by Adam Hamilton and will not meet on January 2. The class meets both in person and via zoom each week. For Zoom link information, contact Ann Jessup at [jessup.ann@gmail.com](mailto:jessup.ann@gmail.com).

• **The Paul Harmon Class:** The Paul Harmon Class will not meet December 26th or January 2nd. On January 9th, Reverend Don Britt will begin a series of lessons on the history of Methodism and the Methodist Church today. All are welcome to join us. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Joye at [sjoye@sc.rr.com](mailto:sjoye@sc.rr.com).

• **John Harper Class:** is currently studying the Gospels using Cokesbury Adult Sunday School materials. The class is led by Tracy Powers. All are welcome. Contact Tracy for more information at [tjpowers65@gmail.com](mailto:tjpowers65@gmail.com).

• **WSUMC Youth Class:** In Sunday school on December 26th, the youth will be discussing "Christmas is over, now what? Or... Is it just beginning?" To participate, please email Mackin Wall at [mackin@wsmethodist.org](mailto:mackin@wsmethodist.org).

THE WSUMC OFFICE &  
CDC WILL BE CLOSED  
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE  
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS ON  
FRIDAY, DEC. 24 &  
MONDAY, DEC. 27

## Gifts



IN HONOR OF ALAN-JON ZUPAN  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Meghan &  
Kylie Hopkins

IN HONOR OF KEL, LISH, ANSLEY  
& SIERRA JANSEN  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Ann White

IN HONOR OF LILLIAN MCCLAIN  
& KAREN HOSTETLER  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Ed McClain

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER  
*to the Organ Fund*  
Given by Louis Shirer

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Beth &  
Lamar Brabham

IN MEMORY OF RICK HEFFER  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by A.B.T.A.T.M.S.  
Book Club

IN HONOR OF BECKY SHIRLEY  
*to the Minister's Discretionary  
Fund*  
Given by Susan Brown

IN HONOR OF DEBBIE EDENS  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Todd Timmons

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Joan &  
Bob Beamer

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Rick Frierson

IN MEMORY OF  
FURMAN & MARY MCEACHERN  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Sally & Jim Mings

IN MEMORY OF RICK HEFFER  
*to WSUMC*  
Given by Janelle Rivers

IN HONOR OF ALSTON LIPPETT  
*to the Minister's Discretionary  
Fund*  
Given by Susan Brown

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN  
*to the Organ Fund*  
Given by Louis Shirer

IN HONOR OF SAM WALDREP  
*to the Flower Fund*  
Given by Susan Brown

IN HONOR OF MARY LIDE  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Nancy Higgins

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN  
*to the Organ Fund*  
Given by Louis Shirer

IN MEMORY OF  
DUNBAR GODBOLD  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Ann Mercer

IN HONOR OF TONI WHITE &  
JOE ALLEY  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Ann White

IN HONOR OF THE  
WOMEN SOUP CELLAR  
VOLUNTEERS FROM TRINITY  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL  
*to the Soup Cellar*  
Given by Ruth Tibshirany

## Prayer List

Lyn Bailey  
Thom Berry  
Martha Boynton  
Martha Brooker  
Sally Christian  
Heidi Conte  
Mickey Epting  
Bud Harrelson  
Laura Holladay  
Karen Horne  
Geneva Hutchinson  
Lisa Johnson  
Debby Joyner

Rev. Judy King  
Mike LeFever  
Paul McClanahan  
David Middleton  
Lauren, Greg, and Nora Blair  
Middleton and family  
Rick Rowe  
Boyd Saunders  
Stephanie Saunders  
Sarah Threatt  
Marjorie Tuell  
Our homebound



# New Wednesday Night Small Group Study Starts Jan. 5

**W**ednesday Night Small Group will begin a new study on January 5. The group will begin *How to Age Without Getting Old: The Steps to Take to Stay Young for the Rest of your Life* by Joyce Meyer.

"Everything is beautiful in its time. Life is a journey through beautiful and varied seasons, with a dynamic cadence and full of continued discovery. Embrace each season of your life and learn to live into it fully with grace and help from Joyce Meyer, as she shows you:

- How to truly cast even your lifelong cares upon the Lord
- How to live dynamically, embracing and delighting in the journey

- How to embrace God's grace for this season
- How to live abundantly as your body and mind change

God's timing is always perfect, and there is a distinct and meaningful purpose for this season of your life. Joyce says, "Only a fool thinks they can always do what they have always done." *How to Age Without Getting Old* equips us to become wise enough to embrace God's changing grace and the evolution of our calling to the next season of life."

To join in, register online through Realm or by emailing Ann at [jessup.ann@gmail.com](mailto:jessup.ann@gmail.com).

*\*Amazon.com*



*Last Sunday's Camille Saint Saëns during the 11:00 am service was expertly performed by WSUMC Choir and soloists along with guest musicians. Hats off to Nicholas Todd Shumate for bring this fabulous program to us!*

## HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR REALM?

- Find contact information on other members
- Send messages to your groups
- Sign up for small groups and other special events
- Add and share resources with others
- Automatically track your giving
- ...and so much more!

Questions? Contact Lynn Shirley at [wmlynnsc@gmail.com](mailto:wmlynnsc@gmail.com), or one of the WSUMC staff members.

## Reminder!

The deadline to put a \$100 deposit down for the 2022 Ecuador mission trip is January 15th.

Questions?

Contact Mackin Wall at [mackin@wsmethodist.org](mailto:mackin@wsmethodist.org)





# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

## January 2

Leon Davis, Jr.  
Mickey Epting  
Connor Freeman

## January 4

Stewart Bond  
Bob Peeler

## January 5

Pam Jenkins  
Pierce McNair

## January 6

Harriett Davis

## January 7

Kennedy Rose  
Kenneth Taylor

## January 8

Emily Torres

## January 10

Sarah Johnson  
Daniel Marsha

## January 11

Patti Andrews  
Rick Rowe

## January 12

Monica Davis  
Linda Moore

Jim Ward

Ann White

## January 13

Carl Evans  
Harry Lesesne  
Robbie Lindler  
Caroline Pender

Larry Railey

Caitlyn Venner

Emily Watkins

## January 14

Trisha Britt

Margo Krasowski

David Nelson

## January 15

Charles Bryan

Naomi Chiorazzi

## January 16

Penny Horton

Wendy Tague

## January 17

John Burbage

Jacob Schatz

## January 18

Gabe Baker

## January 19

Elyse Epting

Ford Epting

Hilary Riley

Rebecca Shrum

## January 20

Hamilton Matthews

Sara Matthews

## January 21

Jean Harmon

## January 22

Cecelia Stucker

Jim Tuell

Richard Wright

## January 23

By Collins

Cathy Deyo

Meghan Goldfinch

Jamie Sanders

## January 24

Judy Ellington

Pete Liggett

## January 25

Beth Cooper

Christopher FitzSimons

Bess Ratsimbaharison

## January 26

John Beck

Carole McConkey

Becky Shirley

Lynn Shirley

Sylvia Stevens

## January 27

Marion Burnside, III

Thomas Lide

Linda Reardon

Jerry Sumpter

Bill Westerkam

Emily Workman

## January 28

Jonathan Jackson

Kristin Nix

Rom Pompeii

## January 29

Sawyer Anderson

Tom Jacobs

Jennifer Rodgers

## January 30

Eugenia Beach

Mattie Floyd

## January 31

Susan Brown

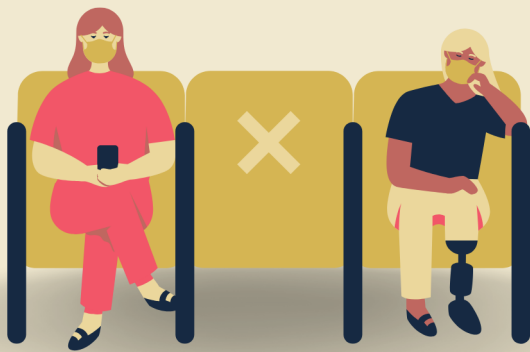
Anna Katherine Middleton

Lora Smith



# Keep Social Distancing

## TO STAY SAFE



WASHINGTON STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# DONATE NOW

Help us reach our budget goal for 2021!  
We ask that you prayerfully consider an extra gift this year. Your investment in the world God is doing through our ministries is making a positive difference every day.

\$691,978

86%

GOAL

808,281

[www.wsmethodist.org/giving](http://www.wsmethodist.org/giving)



SCAN TO  
GIVE

## ATTENDANCE:

December 5: 124

December 12: 145

December 19: 165

## GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE

(as of 12-21-21):

Church:

Budget: \$808,281

Actual: \$691,978

Soup Cellar: \$77,202

Foundation Gifts: \$131,250

Scan Me  
to Give!



Give online today  
[wsmethodist.org/giving](http://wsmethodist.org/giving)