Several years ago, former President James Wagner wrote in the Emory alumni magazine about the difference between dissatisfaction and hope, and the necessity of both for our human flourishing. He recalled a national leadership training program in which some Emory students participated in a visioning exercise. They each crafted a newspaper headline that might appear on the morning after their vision of utopia had been accomplished. The students wrote things like, “WAR ENDED,” “DISEASE ERADICATED,” and “HUNGER ELIMINATED.” Soon it dawned on him that the headlines were all voiced in the negative, as if utopia is defined as bad things being absent rather than imagining good things flourishing. He commented, “Optimism based on the desire to rid the world of what is bad may be a vital component of healthy human community and service. But such optimism must be complemented with hope, which is more like a sustaining, creative vision of what can be.”

In 1 Chronicles 28:1-10, King David says, "I had planned to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord. . . and I made preparations for building." He had great plans, but God had a larger vision. The one thing King David wanted most—to build the Temple—he had to leave for his son Solomon. God gave a vision for good things to come, but not possible for him to accomplish on his own. As one calendar year ends and a new one begins, we may feel a lot like David and those Emory students, frustrated and disappointed by all the incompleteness and failure of what is past, seeing only the negative and trying so desperately to keep it at bay that we neglect to imagine possibilities and create space for good things to flourish.

In this season of endings and beginnings, a meditation by Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, written shortly before his martyrdom in 1980, offers this insight: "It helps now and then, to step back and take the long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We lay foundations that will need further development. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning . . . an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.”

What plans did you have for 2017? What do you need to let go of as you look toward 2018 with hope for God’s creative vision? Help us step back and take the long view, O God. Thank you for the seeds you’ve helped us plant this year, the foundations you’ve enabled us to lay. Give us the wisdom to let go of other things and to rest assured that we have a future with hope for enduring good that is held within your care. Amen.

Blessings for the New Year,

Beth's Blessings

Installation of New Officers | January 7 | All Services
Worship

Worship is a covenant call from our Lord to come before Him in reverence, with gladness and joy.

Psalm 100 invites us to:
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness;
Come into His presence with singing.

Know that the LORD, He is God.
It is He who made us, and we are His;
we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving,
and His courts with praise!
Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

For the LORD is good;
His steadfast love endures forever,
and His faithfulness to all generations.

There are a variety of ways you may “come into His presence” to “make a joyful noise” at Lewis Memorial.

Sunday Mornings:
8:30 am  Warehouse Worship
9:45 am  Sunday School
11:00 am  Sanctuary Worship

Sunday Evenings:
5:00 pm  Soul-Full Sunday Classes for all ages
6:00 pm  Children’s Choir

Wednesday Nights:
6:30 pm  Wonderful Wednesday Studies (all ages)
6:30 pm  Sanctuary Choir

Come .... Worship with Gladness!
2018 Domestic Mission Trip

Join the team traveling to support Alabama Rural Ministries (ARM)

**Friday - Monday**
**October 5-8**

This mission trip is open to EVERYONE
Ages 5-85!

Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

A $25 deposit reserves your spot on the team!
(Due January 14)

Contact: Cary Woodworth,
Domestic Mission Coordinator
706.833.1271
miatabug1992@gmail.com

(Watch upcoming newsletters for MORE DETAILS!)

MADE FOR MORE

More than a trip.
More than a project.
Service is a lifestyle.

Extending the love of Christ through home repair and children’s ministries.
www.arm-al.org

Subscribe to The Daily Text email, spend time every day and then come and discuss various aspects of the daily reading and how they apply in our lives and culture. www.seedbed.com

Facilitators: Bonnie Johnston, Kip Woodworth | Parlor

Facilitators: Claude & Sandra Harper

Cokesbury Methodist Curriculum
Annie Lewis Class Rm G407
Facilitator: Cary Woodworth
Mary Crook Class Rm F204
Facilitators: Claude & Sandra Harper

Facilitator: Fred Moore | Chapel Rm G103

Linking the latest headlines to relevant Scripture.

Adult Sunday School
Soul-Full Sunday’s Intergenerational Meal | 6:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

After a full day of worship in the morning and Bible studies in the afternoon, it’s great to gather around the table to enjoy a family style meal. “Intergenerational” means you will be seated with people of various age groups to promote an extended family fellowship time. Conversation Starter questions will help spark interesting conversation over a delicious light supper. Food donations for the meal are appreciated. Pantry needs are posted online, or you can drop a check in the offering, designated Intergenerational Meal in the memo line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 7</th>
<th>January 14</th>
<th>January 21</th>
<th>January 28</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taco Soup &amp; Grilled Cheese</td>
<td>Meat Loaf &amp; Hashbrown Casserole</td>
<td>Subs, Chips, Veggies</td>
<td>Pasta In a Pot Green Beans</td>
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</tbody>
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* Intergenerational Meals follow the Columbia County School Schedule.

Wonderful Wednesday Friends & Family Meal | 5:45 pm | Fellowship Hall

Enjoy the fellowship of friends and family midweek. Invite your neighbors and friends. Share a meal together and then join a Bible Study. Children & Youth programs from K - 12th grade. Nursery Available.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 10</th>
<th>January 17</th>
<th>January 24</th>
<th>January 31</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baked Chicken Leg Quarters</td>
<td>Spaghetti</td>
<td>Undecided Menu</td>
<td>Undecided Menu</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Budget</td>
<td>Boy Scout Troop 122</td>
<td>General Budget</td>
<td>General Budget</td>
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</tbody>
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Reserve your plate by Monday Noon prior: office@lewismemorial.com | 706.863.6795
CANCELLATIONS by Tuesday Noon

Sanctuary Choir News

The Sanctuary Choir presented a beautiful cantata on Sunday, December 17, called “Appalachian Winter.” Joseph Silmaro, the director and accompanist, was able to balance family life, nursing school, choir rehearsals, and a rigid clinical schedule. We are thankful for the hours that the Silmaro family has invested in the music ministry of Lewis Memorial UMC.

The Silmaros eagerly await the addition of another daughter to their family in just a few short weeks.

The Sanctuary Choir invites you to a “Drop-in Gift Card” Shower
Sunday, January 7
12:00 - 2:00 pm

(Finger foods will be provided by choir members)
December Spottings at Lewis

“De-Greening” The Church | January 5 & 6
Jewel Allen: 706.231.1827

Please call Jewel Allen if you can help take down Christmas decor at the church, anytime January 5 or 6.
Children’s Ministry

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.”
Luke 2:52

252 Basics (Resumes January 7)
Sundays | 5:00 pm |

252 Basics is a curriculum designed for Pre-Kindergarten through 5th Grade.

“What does 252 mean?” It’s not our street address, nor the number of questions a 2nd grader can ask in 20 minutes. Instead, everything we teach in 252 Basics is based on one of three basic, but powerful truths modeled by Jesus in Luke 2:52 (hence 252)

• I need to make the wise choice.
• I can trust God no matter what.
• I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

The curriculum is designed to provoke discovery and invite kids into a new understanding of how to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ.

January Theme:
“Commitment” Work It Out.

January Memory Verse:
“Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.” - 1 Timothy 4:8  NLT

Children’s Choir (K–5th grade) Sundays | 6:00 pm | Choir Room

Resumes January 7th

Why Join? Singing in a choir has been linked to better grades & test scores; increased confidence; improved social skills; self discipline and much more. Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

The choir did an excellent job opening for the Sanctuary Choir’s Cantata in December, led by Melissa Tennant. In January, we will begin learning songs for Easter and 5th Sunday Worship on April 29th.

Intergenerational Meal Sundays | 6:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

Conversation Starter Questions for around the Dinner Table:

January 7 Key Question: “How can you hear from God?”
Bottom Line: Practice hearing and doing what God says.

January 14 Key Question: “How do you pray to God?”
Bottom Line: Practice praying to God.

January 21 Key Question: “Who can you talk with about God?”
Bottom Line: Practice talking about God.

January 28 Key Question: “How can you live for God?”
Bottom Line: Practice living for God.

(Meal Menus are found on page 4 of this Newsletter.)
Bible Black Belts - Scripture with a Kick (Resumes January 10)

Wednesdays | 6:30 pm | Sanctuary

Scripture with a Kick is an active Bible Study teaching children ages Kindergarten through 5th grade. Children move through belt levels from August – May. Each belt level contains difference passages of scripture and Bible skills.

Current Belt Level includes:


Belt Testing will be on February 14

Getting to Know the New Testament (3rd grade)

Saturday, January 6 | 10:00 am |

Using the curriculum “Learning to Use My Bible” by Joyce Brown, your child will learn many exciting things about God’s Word. Through games, videos, crafts, music, and research, they will learn the New Testament is full of God’s treasures. This is a Standards of Excellence (SoE) retreat.

Contact Melissa Tennant: bobwhite9258@gmail.com

Annual Chili Cook–Off & Dessert Bake–Off

January 27 | 6 pm | Fellowship

This is the primary Vacation Bible School (VBS) Fundraising event!

GOAL: Raise Funds to help support VBS in July AND to have Fun and Fellowship together as a church body.

SEE PAGE 9 for complete DETAILS!

February Events:

ROCK SOLID RETREAT | February 2-4 | Fifth Graders | Camp Glisson | $150

Deposit due ASAP - $50 | No refunds available after January 5

2nd Payment due January 7 – $50 | 3rd Payment due January 21 – $50 | Forms due January 28

Matthew 7:24–25: “Everybody who hears these words and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against the house. It didn’t fall because it was firmly set on bedrock. (CEB)

Purpose: To give children in fifth grade who will be transitioning from elementary to middle school – from children’s ministry to youth – an opportunity to explore their faith formation. Grant Nichols, LMUMC Director of Youth Ministries will attend this retreat.

Text @db3fb7 to 81010 to get Children’s Ministry Reminders!
United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Confirmation Class
Begins January 7, 2018
Sunday School Class Hour | 9:45 - 10:45 am
Warehouse | Grant Nichols, facilitator

Confirmation Retreat
March 2–4 | “Join the Journey” | Epworth by the Sea
$135
(Fundraisers will help offset the cost)

Sunday Night Schedule
4:00 pm Youth Worship Team | Warehouse
5:00 pm Elev8 (UMYF) | Warehouse
(Resume January 7)

Wednesday Night Schedule
6:30 pm Bible Study
Gals | Room G107 | Jennifer Powell
Guys | Room R204 | Grant Nichols
(Resume January 10)

Youth Caroling at Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home

Youth Council Meeting
Sunday, January 14
3:00 pm

Youth Caroling at Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home

Youth Caroling at Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home

Youth Caroling at Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home

TRIVIA NIGHT

January 10 & 24
8:00 pm
Pizza & Trivia
The Pizza Joint
Washington Road | Evans

young adults

(H.S.Grads - 30 years old)
Come enjoy an evening of fun and excitement as our excellent chefs and bakers compete head-to-head in a VBS fundraising event! All proceeds will help pay for VBS costs in 2018. Last year, VBS touched the lives of over 180 children from this community. Dates and Theme will be revealed at the Cookoff!

Last year’s Chili Champion, June Benson, and Dessert Champion, Jacki Atkinson, will defend their titles!

WHO WILL BE NAMED CHAMPIONS IN 2018?
COME TASTE AND VOTE!

CHILI or DESSERT Entry Fee: $5.00 per entry. Prizes awarded in both categories. Registration Deadline January 21. Entry Fee due with your Registration Form.

Bring your WHOLE FAMILY to sample the Chili and Desserts. $5 per person / $15 max. per family. One Ballot per person (6th grade and older) for both Chili and Dessert judging.

CHILI RULES:
1.) Prepare a Large Crockpot Full of Chili.
   Do not include any additional toppings, sides or drinks with your entry.
2.) Bring crockpot to the Church Kitchen from 4 - 5 pm
3.) Sign in.
4.) Do Not Promote Your Chili in any way!
   This is a “BLIND TASTE TEST”
5.) Take your Crockpot HOME with you!

DESSERT RULES:
1.) Prepare dessert in mini-cupcake/bite-sized portions. (approx. 100)
2.) Bring dessert from 4 - 5 pm
3.) Sign in.
4.) Do Not Promote Your Dessert in any way!
   This is a “BLIND TASTE TEST”
5.) Take your Dessert tray HOME with you!
**Monday Night Rush Hour Prayer Ministry**

*Every Monday | 4:45 – 6:00 pm*

“Rev. Sanders,

My son and I were blessed yesterday through the drive-up prayer. What a wonderful idea! It had been a crazy Monday and I had just picked him up from school when I saw your signs. I drove up and Jill came out and gave us some goodies and prayed with us. Such a sweet lady! We specifically asked for prayer for my sister and her husband. He is out of work and she just lost her job yesterday, so I had just gotten the news right before I picked up my son. Thank you again for such a wonderful service to our community!”

(name withheld)

Testimonials like this come to us weekly of how this ministry is impacting our community. One man stopped by on Monday morning, because he got off work early, but didn’t want to miss the uplifting prayer he has grown to love and expect. Join the Evangelism and Prayer Ministries in this opportunity to reach out to these souls who are hurting and in need of a word of encouragement, a drink of cool water, and a whispered prayer.

There are many ways you can be involved:

- Hold a sign and wave
- Pass out water bottles
- Bake Cookies
- Greet with a smile
- Pray as the Spirit leads

**Facilitator:** Sonny McDowell | 706.399.3777 | s.mcdowell@icloud.com

“Always leave people better than you found them. Hug the hurt, kiss the broken, befriend the lost, love the lonely.”

---

**Evangelism & Outreach**

**Second Thursday**  
*January 11 | 11:00 am*  
Fellowship Hall | $5 meal and program  
Join with other seniors for fellowship and food.  
“Elvis” will be In the Building!  
Reservations:  
Carolyn Andrews | earthangel31@outlook.com  
706.863.3266

**Tuesday Daytime Group**  
*1:00 pm | Parlor*  
Weekly  
(Next mtg. Jan 9)

**Tuesday Evening Group (J.O.Y.)**  
*6:30 pm | Parlor*  
First Tuesday of the Month  
(Next mtg. Jan. 2)

Gatherings of sisters in Christ to uplift each other in spirit through prayer, fellowship, and lots of giggles.

---

**UMM Meeting**  
*January 23 | 7:00 pm*  
Conference Room  
Gather with other men to plan community service projects

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**Evangelism & Outreach**

**Young at Heart**

Second Thursday  
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Fellowship Hall | $5 meal and program  
Join with other seniors for fellowship and food.  
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Reservations:  
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Gatherings of sisters in Christ to uplift each other in spirit through prayer, fellowship, and lots of giggles.

---

**United Methodist Women**

**January Project Day**  
*Saturday, January 13 | 10:00 am*  
Fellowship Hall  
All women are invited to help create new Chrismon ornaments for the Sanctuary Christmas tree next year.  
Crock Pot Soups for Lunch.

---

**United Methodist Men**

Roger Kessing, president  
rogerkessing@gmail.com | 706.564.1971

UMM Meeting  
*January 23 | 7:00 pm*  
Conference Room  
Gather with other men to plan community service projects
January Events

January 5-6  “De-Greening” the Church  Installation of Officers  Silmaro Baby Shower  Soul-Full Sunday events return
January 7  Wonderful Wednesday events return
January 10  Leadership Training & Potluck  UMW Work Day & Lunch
January 13  Children’s Council
January 15  2018 VBS Reveal - Chili Cook-off
January 27  District Leadership Training

January Committee Mtgs

Thursday, January 4  Nominations
Monday, January 8  Board of Trustees
Tuesday, January 9  Evangelism
Sunday, January 14  Youth Council
Monday, January 15  Children’s Council  Finance
Tuesday, January 16  Missions  United Methodist Women
Monday, January 22  (Tent.) Domestic Mission Team
Tuesday, January 23  United Methodist Men
Saturday, January 28  District Administrative Training

Coming Soon

February 2-4  Rock Solid 5th Grade Retreat  Camp Glisson
February 24  Pre/K Standards Of Excellent Retreat

Vital Signs for December

Operating Budget YTD (12/17):  $485,692.00
Operating Budget Expenses YTD (12/17):  $519,485.43

December Average Attendance:  227

We are grateful for all contributions to support the church budget this year. Please note that gifts must be in hand or postmarked BEFORE December 31 to be included in 2017 giving statements.

We are $6,000 short of meeting 100% of our obligation to the North Georgia Conference UMC for 2017. If you can give to this over and above your regular gift for the church budget, please mark your contribution “Apportionments.”

- Susie Adcox, chair  Finance Committee

New Years’ Resolutions

Are you one who made a New Year’s resolution to do more for the LORD in 2018? Here are some active areas of ministry that could use MORE help!

Rush Hour Prayer Ministry

Invest 1 hour of time and reach hurting hearts at the “Crossroads... where the Cross meets the Community”

Mondays, 4:45 pm - 6:00 pm
We need: Sign Holders, Sign Wavers, Cookie Makers, Water Givers, and Pray-ers...
(those who will pray WITH people and those who will pray FOR workers.)
Contact Sonny McDowell:
706.399.3777 | s.mcdowell@icloud.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Who would ever guess that a 4 inch square of yarn could minister to the hearts and lives of people who are hurting from illness or death?

Learn how to knit or crochet at a Wednesday night class (first Wednesday of the month) Yarn provided. Bring your own needles or hooks. Seamstresses also welcome!

First Wednesdays | 5:15 pm | Rm G405
Carol Moore, facilitator:
706.364.8905 | fwcl12981@gmail.com

Children’s Choir

You heard their sweet voices introduce the Christmas Cantata with “Happy Birthday, Jesus.” We need a second adult helper to be Safe Sanctuary compliant. Come share the joy of children’s voices at 6:00 pm on Sunday Evenings.

Contact: Melissa Tennant
706.284.6235 | bobwhite9258@gmail.com

Matthew’s Table Food Pantry

“No Family Should Go Without”

In November Matthew’s Table provided Thanksgiving turkey dinners to over 40 families, serving 66 people. Your faithful support makes this possible. In December, over 50 families will receive Christmas boxes of food & gifts.
Contact: Sandy Bagwell | 706.840.4176 | www.matthewstable.org
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<th><strong>WORSHIP LEADERSHIP</strong></th>
<th><strong>AUDIO VISUAL MINISTRY</strong></th>
<th><strong>FINANCE</strong></th>
<th><strong>PRAYER MINISTRY</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Dr. Beth Sanders, Senior Pastor</em> &lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:rev.beth@lewismemorial.com">rev.beth@lewismemorial.com</a> &lt;br&gt;404.285.7207</td>
<td>Michael Cooper &lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:ctdecmay@gmail.com">ctdecmay@gmail.com</a> &lt;br&gt;706.631.8209</td>
<td>Brad Powell, Chair &lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:dpowell@gdps.us">dpowell@gdps.us</a> &lt;br&gt;706.631.8497</td>
<td>Jill Pratt, Coordinator &lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:jillpratt32@gmail.com">jillpratt32@gmail.com</a> &lt;br&gt;706.399.1303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Cindy Vinson, Ministries Executive Assistant</em> &lt;br&gt;Director of Children’s Ministry &lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:cindy1@lewismemorial.com">cindy1@lewismemorial.com</a> &lt;br&gt;706.303.4465</td>
<td>Jill Pratt, Chair &lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:jillpratt32@gmail.com">jillpratt32@gmail.com</a> &lt;br&gt;706.399.1303</td>
<td><em>Cynthia Abraham</em> &lt;br&gt;Bookkeeper &lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:cynthia@lewismemorial.com">cynthia@lewismemorial.com</a> &lt;br&gt;706.863.6795</td>
<td>Kiki Orum, Coordinator &lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:kristinao6951@gmail.com">kristinao6951@gmail.com</a> &lt;br&gt;706.830.2007</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Jason Powell, Contemporary Worship Leader</em> &lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:jason@lewismemorial.com">jason@lewismemorial.com</a> &lt;br&gt;706.631.1320</td>
<td>Lee Irwin, Chair &lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:agafirefighter@comcast.net">agafirefighter@comcast.net</a> &lt;br&gt;706.399.6597</td>
<td>BOARD OF TRUSTEES &lt;br&gt;Lee Irwin, Chair &lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:agafirefighter@comcast.net">agafirefighter@comcast.net</a> &lt;br&gt;706.399.6597</td>
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