

WHITE BLUFF  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

11911 White Bluff Road  
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(912) 925-5924

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# White Bluff

## News

### December 2025

#### Staff

**Rev. Dr. Barry Giddens**  
Senior Pastor

**Cindy Layton**  
Director of  
Music Ministry

**Elizabeth Van Hoy**  
Church Pianist

**Rick Weeks**  
Audio/Visual Coordinator

**Carolyn Anderson**  
Administrative Assistant

**Malinda Smith**  
Financial Administrator

**Sarah McGalliard**  
Children's Director

**Audrey Tilton**  
Custodian

**Diana Hodges**  
Membership Secretary

Hello White Bluff!

Our Advent Devotional for this season is "Brought to the Light" by Anna Grace Legband. If you have not already received a copy, it's not to late to start! We have copies in the church office and it is available in PDF format via a link through the church e-mail.

Recently, I gave a few thoughts about our "Brought to the Light" readings, and collectively about beginning the season of Advent. First, I love the idea that Advent is the beginning of the Christian new year! It's time to bust out those New Year's commitments, especially as it relates to re-energizing our relationship with Jesus. Time to get on it! Second, Bishop Oscar Romero once said, "Without poverty of spirit, there can be no abundance in God." The crazy thing about faith is that when we finally come to the end of ourselves, God is able to fill us up to overflowing and to make us whole... He does this through the Holy Spirit. Third, the very nature of blessing is emptying our lives out to make room for Him. Do you remember the Holiday Inn Express that Mary and Joseph were supposed to stay in? They ended up out back in the barn, because there was no room for them in the inn. Maybe that's precisely the point for us as well. When we can't get exactly what we want, then we become more available for Him to do something far greater than we could have ever imagined.

A few notable quotes from Day 2:

"...the Holy Spirit, God Himself, will do this."

"...you get to play a part, but this is a work only God can do."

"His plans are conceived in us, birthed through us, we are carriers and co-partners."

"Instead of becoming pregnant as a virgin and give birth to the Messiah, it may look like loving your (physically next-door) neighbor, giving to the point you feel it sacrificially, hosting strangers in your home, honoring colleagues at work, and a million other small but significant expressions of the kingdom."

"There's still room for questions, still room for fear—but she said yes."

During the first few weeks of Advent, we will be sharing short Spiritual Parenting video clips in worship. To catch on a clip you may have missed, you may view it by visiting our YouTube page at [www.youtube.com/c/whitebluffmethodist](https://www.youtube.com/c/whitebluffmethodist)

In addition to the "Brought to the Light" devotional resource, there is an accompanying daily podcast called "The Wake Up Call" that you can click on and receive each day in your e-mail inbox. Does this sound difficult? It's easier than you might think! View and sign up for the podcast by going to [wakeupcall.seedbed.com](https://wakeupcall.seedbed.com). You'll be glad you did!

The Advent devotional reminded us that Jesus is the Light of the World. Anna also stated, for some "this past year hasn't felt like walking in darkness, but actually living in it. Disappointment, grief, unmet longings, despair, doubt, loneliness, depression, anxiety, and any other life experiences we'd rather not experience stand in stark contrast with the cheer and ribbons and sparkling lights that characterize December."

As such, we will offer a Blue Christmas vespers service on Sunday, December 21 at 5 pm (5 is the correct time!) for anyone who would like to attend. It will be at the White Bluff sanctuary. A Blue Christmas service is a worship service, often held on or around the winter solstice, that provides a space for people experiencing grief, loss, or sadness during the holiday season. These services, also called "Longest Night" services, acknowledge and validate the pain and darkness people feel, offering comfort, community, and a reminder of hope found in faith. Services typically include prayers, reflections, quiet music, and candle lighting to represent grief and the hope of Christ. All are invited, and we would hope that you would invite a friend to come with you.

In addition, save the date for our December 24 @ 5 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion. All are invited, and this will be an awesome opportunity for you to invite a friend to come to church with you! Christmas Eve and Easter are the two services a year where people are most likely to say yes to your invitation (80% of all people would say yes!), so what are you waiting for? Their hearts are open and they are just waiting for someone to step out and invite them. Pray for God to give you boldness and confidence, and take the leap of faith!

Don't forget to sign up for the church-wide Christmas Party next Sunday night, December 7, at 5:30 pm. Bring your child/grands to the Kid's Christmas Party and Caroling on Sunday, December 14 from 9:30-3:30 pm (talk to Sarah McGalliard for more details on the Kid's Party and Caroling and to sign up). This year's WB Christmas Cantata will be Sunday, December 21 @ 9:30 am.

We have a lot going on, I am looking forward to journeying with you in this Advent season as we are all "Brought to the Light" of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

With heartfelt thanks,

Barry

Rev. Dr. Barry Giddens  
Senior Pastor  
White Bluff Methodist  
Savannah, GA

Isaiah 9:

2 The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.  
6 For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



## Stewardship Report

### Attendance 11/02/2025

9:30 am.....125  
Sunday School.....56  
Online Views.....55

### Attendance 11/09/2025

9:30 am.....123  
Sunday School.....61  
Online Views.....50

### Attendance 11/16/2025

9:30 am.....126  
Sunday School.....55  
Online Views.....52

### Attendance 11/24/2025

9:30 am.....133  
Sunday School.....59  
Online Views .....31

### Attendance 11/30/2025

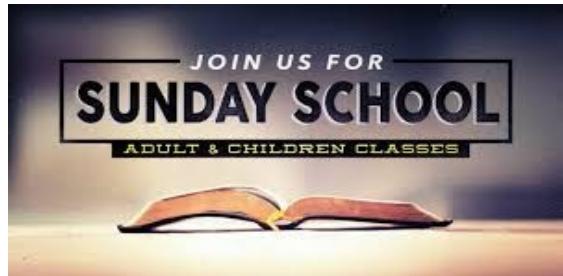
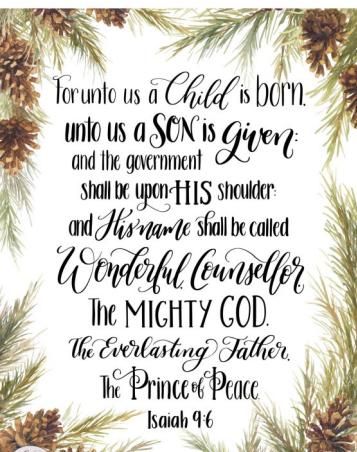
9:30 am.....106  
Sunday School.....51  
Online Views .....42



### Pins and Needles-Sewing

Monday Mornings  
9:00 A.M  
Room 21.

You do not have to sew to help. There are many ways to help.



### Sunday School Classes

11:00 A.M.

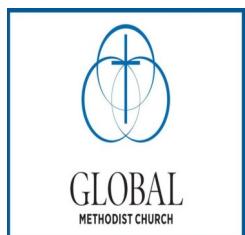
Covenant	Room	21
Joyful Believers	Room	12
Seekers	Room	6
Wayfarers	Room	4
Young Adults	Room	16
Nursery	Room	9
Flourish Kids (3rd grade thru 5th)	Rm	14
Pre-K thru 2nd grade	Room	10



### WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10:00 A.M.  
Room 21

Everyone is welcome  
to join us.



### White Bluff Methodist Church

#### WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

**9:30 A.M.** Worship Service  
(Sanctuary)  
(Children's Church)

**10:30 A.M.** Connection Café  
Coffee & Doughnuts  
( Horton Hall)

**11:00 A.M.** Sunday School Classes



**DEAL THE CARDS  
MONDAYS AT 1:00 P.M.  
December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
Room 21**  
Come play Canasta with us.

If you are interested in other games come and play.

This is a great opportunity to get to know people and just have some good fun.

Bring your own drink and a light snack to share.



You are Invited!

## Church Wide Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 7, 2025

5:30 P.M.

Horton Hall

Huxsie Scot will be singing.

Cost: \$10.00 (pay at the door)

Kids eat free

We are asking individuals to bring unwrapped gifts to present to

Wesley Community Center. Toys are for children 6 weeks-12 years old.

(Donations Accepted)

RSVP: Church Office (912) 925-5924

This will be a great time of fellowship for our Church.

### A Christmas Prayer

by Robert Louis Stevenson

“Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, for forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus sake, Amen!



### Christmas Caroling

You are invited to join the Choir and the Children's Ministry

For this event.

December 14, 2025

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Savannah Square

**Note:** See Sarah McGalliard for details on the Children's Christmas Party.

9:30 A.M.



### SOCIAL SENIORS

### Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

11:30 A.M.

Fellowship Hall

Bring a generous serving of your favorite Christmas dinner food.

(Foods that bring back special memories)

Christmas carols and surprises for all.

Meat and drink provided



### LINE DANCE CLASS

White Bluff Methodist Church

No Line dance for December.

See you January 2026!

### Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 21, 2025

9:30 A.M.

White Bluff Methodist Church

Sanctuary

You are Invited!



**Blue Christmas Service**  
**White Bluff Methodist Church**  
**December 21, 2025**  
**5:00 P.M.**  
**Sanctuary**

**A Service of Remembrance and Hope**



### **Christmas Eve Candle Light and Communion Service**

**Wednesday, December 24, 2025**  
**5:00 P.M.**  
**Sanctuary**

Grace Methodist Church will be worshipping with us.

**Who: WB Member and Friends**  
**Will not meet for the month of December.**

**See you January 2026!**

Questions? Call or Text me.  
Trudy Harting @ (585)610-6416



## *Advent Schedule*

**2025**

**December 7**

9:30 am Andrew and Melissa Cox

**December 14**

9:30 am Volunteer

**December 21**

9:30 am Gary and Susan Young

**December 24**

**Candle Light Communion Service**

5:30 pm Cindy and Ian Layton

### **REMINDER:**



Pledge envelopes have been ordered. They are on the way. You will be notified when they are available.

If you are a new member and would like to receive an envelope box, please see Malinda Smith in the finance



### **Christmas Offering**

You are invited to give a gift to Christ this Christmas. At the Christmas Eve service there will be a special offering envelope for you to give this gift. The offering this year will go to the P.A.C.K. (People of action caring for kids)

Pack is a 501 (3) © non profit committed to meeting the basic needs for our children in our local community. **One in five** children in Coastal Georgia lives in a situation where having enough food to eat is not guaranteed. PACK is a 100% volunteer-run organization whose volunteers assemble and deliver 5,400 weekend meal bags each week to food-insecure children through 42 Chatham County schools and community centers. We also support over 1,000 vulnerable children each year through the PACK Cottage and PACK Boutique programs.



### **SAMARITAN'S OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Thank you to everyone who participated in this ministry! WBMC contributed approximately 20 shoeboxes!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



### Week 1-Shepherds: Humble Witnesses to the Glory of God

- Main Idea: God reveals His love to those who listen.
- Overview: Just like the shepherds, God reveals His love to us when we take the time to listen. The shepherds were ordinary people doing their job when they heard the incredible news of Jesus' birth. This shows us that even in our ordinary lives, God can do extraordinary things. When we listen and trust in God, we can experience His love and joy, just like the shepherds did.
- Scriptures: Luke 2:8-20

### Week 2-Wise Men: Earnest Seekers of the Divine Promise

- Main Idea: God guides those who earnestly seek Him.
- Overview: The Wise Men were guided by God as they earnestly sought the newborn king. Their story teaches us that when we genuinely search for God in our lives and ask Him to guide our steps, He will lead us right to Him. It's through this earnest seeking that we can experience the love of Jesus, and when we find Him, like the Wise Men, we will be filled with joy.
- Scriptures: Matthew 2:1-12

### Week 3-Joseph: Steadfast Obedience in the Midst of Uncertainty

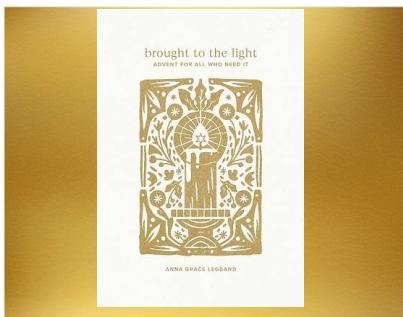
- Main Idea: God supports those who obey Him even when it's hard.
- Overview: Joseph's story shows us that God supports those who obey Him, even when it's challenging or doesn't make sense. Joseph trusted God's plan and followed His instructions, which led to him being a crucial part of Jesus' story. Similarly, when we obey God, we're saying we trust Him. It's through this trust that we can experience the love of Jesus and find joy, even in uncertain times.
- Scriptures: Matthew 1:18-24, Matthew 2:13-15

## Week 4-Mary: Trusting God in the Midst of the Miraculous

- Main Idea: God blesses those who trust in Him, no matter how impossible things seem.
- Overview: Mary was just an ordinary girl, but her trust in God led her to be part of the most extraordinary event in history: the birth of Jesus. Her story teaches us that when we trust God, even when things seem impossible, we can experience His miraculous love. This trust opens us to the love of Jesus and brings joy into our lives.
- Scriptures: Luke 1:26-38, Luke 2:19

## Week 5-Jesus: The Greatest Gift of God's Love

- Main Idea: Jesus is the greatest gift of God's love to us.
- Overview: Jesus' birth, the central event in the Nativity story, shows us that Jesus is the greatest gift of God's love. His coming to earth as a baby, growing up to die for our sins, demonstrates God's immense love for us. Through Jesus, we can experience forgiveness and form a deep relationship with Him. When we realize this gift, it brings us the greatest joy of all.
- Scriptures: Luke 2:1-7, John 3:16



**Advent Reading**  
**"Brought to the Light"**  
**Advent for all who need it**  
By Anna Grace Legband  
**December 1, 2025**

Rev. Giddens will send out a daily prayer.

Paper copies of the Advent Reading will be available for \$5.00 per copy. (Narthex)



## Sanctuary Flowers

The 2026 flower chart is posted in the hallway next to the office. The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary in honor of or in memory of your loved ones on Sunday.

The cost is \$30.00 and can be paid with a check made out to White Bluff Methodist Church, marked altar flowers. Either drop the check off at the office or put the check in an envelope in the offering plate.



**Requests for food assistance have increased.  
Please help by providing the following;**

**Canned Ham**  
**Canned Tuna (Large Can)**  
**Canned Chicken (Large Can)**  
**Canned Roast Beef**  
**Canned Applesauce and other Fruits**  
**Instant Potatoes**  
**Gravy Mix**  
**Spaghetti**  
**Spaghetti Sauce (Large Jar)**  
**Peanut Butter**  
**Jelly**  
**Pancake Mix**  
**Pancake Syrup**  
**Cereal (Regular Size)**  
**Milk Shelf Life (Dollar Tree)**

**Please place items in basket on table near office.**

## MEN'S MINISTRY

### No Men's Ministry Meeting

December 2025

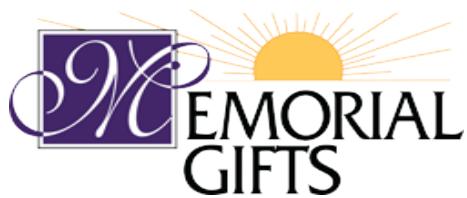
See you January 2026!

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## Special Gifts

**Gifts were given to White Bluff Methodist Church  
in memory of:**

## Charles Deloe

## Suzanne Woodrum Wayfarers Sunday School Class

# THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I want to thank each and everyone of you for your calls, cards, concerns, support and prayers over the past few weeks. I miss Charlie and I know you do to. It's truly a blessing to have such a loving and caring church family.  
I love each and every one of you.

Love and Blessings,  
Margarete Deloe



**Christian love and sympathy are extended to the following families and friends of White Bluff Methodist Church.**

Margarete Deloe, on the death of her husband, Charles Deloe on November 5, 2025.

**2025**  
**Fellowship/Coffee Time Clean-Up**

All classes are responsible for the entire month.



## Office Closed

**December 24, Christmas Eve  
Closes at noon**

## December 25, Christmas Day

## **December 26, Office Closed**