

December



December 2018

TITUS 3:7

Upcoming Events

December 2018

Holiday Closures:

The office will be closed **Monday, December 24** in observance of Christmas Eve and remain closed Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day.

The office will be open, 9AM-12PM on Wednesday, December 26 and Thursday, December 27.



The office will be closed **Monday, December 31** in observance of New Year's Eve and remain closed Tuesday, January 1, New Year's Day.

Normal office hours resume Wednesday, January 2.



Feast with ME:

Dinner, 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Price: \$6 adults, \$4 kids (3-11), under 3 eat FREE!

Reservations are requested but not required.

Click [HERE](#) for reservation form.

December Menu

Dec. 5: Grilled Ham and Cheese Sandwiches featuring a variety of breads from *Bon Appetite* with Creamy Tomato Soup and Lentil Soup

Dec. 12: Build-your-own Taco Bar!

**Menu subject to change as necessary.*

Tossed Salad, Dessert, Coffee, and Sweet/Unsweet Tea included each week.

Learn with ME:

Dive deeper with Christ at every age and stage Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 PM!

- ✦ **The Deep End with Dr. Sam:** Room 202
- ✦ **Young Adult Study (ages 18-25):** Room 208
- ✦ **Children's Discover, Relate, Connect & Create:** Room 8
- ✦ **Student Ministries:** Café

Month at a Glance

MEETINGS

Committee on Finance Meeting

Sunday, December 2 at 5:00 PM,
in the office conference room.

Church Council Meeting

Sunday, December 9 at 2:00 PM
in the Fellowship Hall.

Interested in serving God's children?

We are planning for Spring and need volunteers, with a heart for the children, to serve in various areas; Children's Moment, Worship, Sunday School, Nursery, Terrific Tuesday and Wednesday Night Nursery and Small Group Leaders.

We invite you to this wonderful blessing for you and the kids.

Call the office 243-7595 or email us at children@maryestherumc.org.



Café worship
Sunday, December 30
at 10:07 AM.

This month's service goes hand-in-hand with the December sermon series,
Real Presence

Invite someone to join us for a casual worship experience.

Christmas Season Activities and Performances

Biblical History Center Trip

Tuesday, December 11, the Mary Esther UMC Bus will take 25 people to The Biblical History Center in LaGrange, GA.

The Center is an archaeological museum that explores the daily life of Bible times. Places in the Bible come alive as you see and hear about the days of Jesus.

Contact Monette Walker at monette_charles@yahoo.com to sign up.

Cost is \$40. The bus will leave early, arriving in time to have a Biblical meal at 12:00 PM followed by a tour of the facility. There is a gift shop available with items made in Israel.

Little Angels Preschool Winter Performance

Wednesday, December 12 at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

Terrific Tuesday Winter Performance

Wednesday, December 12 at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

Emmaus Christmas Dinner

Thursday, December 13 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

The Mary Esther UMC Emmaus Cluster's annual church-wide Christmas dinner. If you wish to attend, please bring a side to share, the main course will be provided.

Chancel Choir Performance

Sunday, December 16, the Chancel Choir will present their winter performance during the 10:30 AM Worship Service.

Little Angels Preschool Santa Visit

Wednesday, December 19 at 10:00 AM in the Café.

Scouts Christmas Meeting

Thursday, December 20 at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

The Longest Night Special Worship Service

Friday, December 21 at 6:00 PM in the Café.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

5:00 PM - Traditional Family Service in the Sanctuary

6:00 PM - Casual/Contemporary Worship Experience in the Café

*7:00 PM - Traditional Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

**Nursery not offered during this service.*

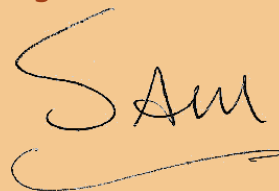
Thank you for generously going ALL IN!

Our Fall 2018 generosity campaign was a success, thanks to your response.

As of publication, we have received 66 Estimates of Giving to God through Mary Esther UMC for 2019 from individuals and families for a total of \$347,134. This is an average of more than \$5,260 per giving unit! WOW! More than 50% of the estimates received indicate an increase in giving over 2018 with 11 families stepping up TOWARD tithing, 7 families stepping up TO tithing, and a whopping 22 families stepping up BEYOND the tithe! What an incredible faithful response to the God who is always faithful to us!

Now the Committee on Finance is busily working to project a 2019 budget which will put your commitment to work in ministry for Jesus Christ.

Again, THANK YOU!



All In

MEUMC 2019 Generosity Campaign



P.S. DID YOU KNOW that there are other ways of giving to God through our church that might pack some real financial benefits for you?

Watch the ALL IN section of future newsletters for ways that you might be able to both benefit Christ's ministry and avoid income taxes!

Win-Win!

REAL Presence: A Worship Series for Advent-Christmas-Epiphany



The culture we live in is full of fake, right now -- the artificial, inauthentic, and bogus. So much of the news? FAKE. How about our so-called “friends” on social media? They “like” you one minute, and in the next they are burning up your feed because you dared to be REAL!

For many of us, even the decoration of our homes and public spaces are artificial copies of pine, cedar, and mistletoe. There is nothing wrong with it, however it begs the question: As we approach this holy-day, what is really REAL?

The Incarnation of Jesus is all about REAL things - flesh and blood, childbirth, true joy, genuine community - things which God brings to us that we can taste, touch, smell, hear and see. God empowers us to become Christ's REAL body and blood in our schools, our neighborhoods, our families, our workplaces, EVERYWHERE.

As a reminder of the reality of God's presence with us, we will enjoy Holy Communion each Sunday during the Advent Season.

Below are the Scriptures we will be hearing and considering which give us REAL Good News that we can bring into our own flesh and our own voices.

First Sunday in Advent

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

WHAT IS REAL?

Second Sunday in Advent

Philippians 1:3-11

REAL REFINEMENT

Third Sunday in Advent

Philippians 4:4-7 & Luke 3:7-18

REAL REASONS FOR REJOICING

Choir Cantata:

Come and See, Go and Tell

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Hebrews 10:5-10

REAL RESTORATION

Christmas Eve

Luke 2:1-14

REAL PRESENCE

Christmas I

1 Samuel 2:18-21, 26

REAL CALL

Epiphany

Ephesians 3:1-12

REAL COMMUNITY

Get INVOLVED!



Mary Esther (ME) Moms

Moms of all ages and stages are invited to join us for adult conversation, brunch, friendship, laughter, and support.

ME Moms meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Child care drop off begins at 9:15 AM, the meeting starts at 9:30 AM. Children care and the meeting are held upstairs in classrooms.

Cost is \$6.00 per meeting.

Fees pay for child care workers, craft supplies, and other meeting expenses.

We are always looking for women to help serve these mothers. If you are interested in serving this ministry or knowing more about it contact Monique Cocanougher at snkyneek@cox.net.



A Mission arm of the church. UMM meets the second Saturday of every month at 8:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

If you have questions ask George Joseph, President, or contact the church office at 850-243-7595 or office@maryestherumc.org.

Next Meeting:

Saturday, December 8



Cub Scout Pack 528

Offered to Kindergarten - 5th Grade.
Meets Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 PM throughout the school year.



Boy Scout Troop 528

Offered for 6th Grade - 18-years-old.
Meets Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM throughout the school year.

Student Ministry



Meets Sundays at 5:00 PM in the Café. Doors open at 4:30 PM.

Meets Wednesdays at 6:00 PM for Learn with ME. Doors open at 3:00 PM for Study Hall.

We participate in Feast with ME for dinner at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

For information, contact Chris Bennett at

youth@maryestherumc.org

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Dec 9: Shopping for Community Outreach

Friday, Dec 14: Shopping for Parents

Sunday, Dec 16: Youth Christmas Party

Wednesday, Dec 19: Movie Night

MINISTRIES



Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program that helps you heal from the pain of unmanaged hurts, habits, and hang-ups.

Meets every Tuesday at 5:30 PM.

Have Questions? Email CR Leadership at cr@maryestherumc.org.



- ❖ Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7:00 PM and performs Sundays at the 10:30 AM worship.
- ❖ Chalice Praise Band rehearses Wednesdays at 8:30 PM and performs Sundays at the 10:30 AM worship.
- ❖ The Carillon Hand Bell Choir rehearses at 6:00 PM Wednesdays and performs throughout the year as scheduled in the 10:30 AM worship.

For more info on how you can get involved with music ministry contact Mike Owenby at

worship@maryestherumc.org.



The Stephen Ministry Care Team is here to support care for all. The specially trained team desires to serve short- and long-term needs. All conversations are held in strictest confidence. If you are in need contact Kevin Rogers, duckdogers57@gmail.com.

Christmas Again

(FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME)



*An **Advent-ure** in the nativity stories
from Matthew and Luke and the **art** inspired by them
Four Sunday evenings beginning December 2 at 4:00 p.m.
Led by Rev. Dr. Sam Parkes*

REFRESHMENTS, TEA AND COFFEE WILL BE SERVED FOR DONATIONS.

Church Calendar Availability

The church calendar is available on-line and can be accessed directly by clicking [here](#).

The calendar is updated real-time, therefore it is up-to-date at all times when accessed on our website.

Church Facility Use

If you need to schedule the use of church facilities, contact the office at 850-243-7595 or office@maryestherumc.org.

Borrowing Church Items

The church has items, such as wheelchairs, crutches, reference books, etc. which we are happy to provide for individual use through a loan process.

When borrowing items, you must come to the office and complete an Agreement for the Loan of Equipment Form.



December 2018

P.O. Box 846
850-243-7595

Mary Esther United Methodist Church

www.maryestherumc.org

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