

Christmas Began In the Dark

If you think about it, our Christmas story began because of our darkness. We were wandering around, lost in the darkness of our sin. That wandering in the dark created a need to be rescued; a longing for the Light of the world to illuminate our darkness. We needed a Savior. Let me ask you to get your Bibles out and read along.

Our Christmas story really started way back in history before our birth. The Gospel of Matthew starts our story like this. This is where you can open your Bible and join in.

Matthew 1:1, 'A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham.'

My bad, let's go even further back to Abraham.

Gen. 15:1-5, God speaks to Abraham, that He, God, is Abraham's greatest treasure. Abe kind of says to God, "I have no heirs to inherit this treasure." So God tells Abraham, "You'll have a son, who will be your heir." Then God leads Abraham outside and tells him, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars - if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Back to Mt. 1:1, 2, 6, 16, Matthew gives us the genealogy of Jesus. He recites branch after branch of the family tree of Abraham to King David, from King David to Jesus.

Matthew's record of Jesus' genealogy would have stirred up the memory of Abraham and David to his readers. This record also points to the promised child, that is, the brightest star in Abraham's sky, the one who would reign on David's throne as our King of kings.

Around 4 months before Jesus' birth, and 8 days after the birth of John the Baptist. John the Baptist's father Zechariah prophesied that his son John would be the prophet of the Most High. Zechariah also prophesied about Jesus before He was born. Saying this about Jesus,

Lk. 1:78-79, 'Because of God's tender mercy, the Morning Light from heaven is about to visit us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.' *New Living Translation*

In Rev. 22:16, Jesus makes reference to Himself as the 'bright Morning Star'.

The prophet Isaiah was right when he prophesied, 'The people living in darkness have seen a great light.'
Is. 9:2a, NIV





News and Announcements



- | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------|
| 12- 1 | Grief Support Group, from 10 a.m. - 12 noon. | 12-15 | Grief Support Group, from 10a.m. - 12 noon. |
| 12- 2 | Discipleship Now, at 6:00 p.m. | 12-16 | Discipleship Now, at 6:00 p.m. |
| 12- 6 | Second Sunday of Advent - Peace
Holy Communion | 12-20 | Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love |
| 12- 8 | Grief Support Group, from 10 a.m. - 12 noon. | 12-20 | Christmas Offering |
| 12- 9 | Discipleship Now, at 6:00 p.m. | 12-24 | Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 5:30. |
| 12-13 | Third Sunday of Advent - Joy | 12-25 | Merry Christmas! & Happy Birthday Jesus! |
| 12-13 | Christmas Offering | 12-27 | Christmas Offering |
| 12-13 | “Called” Charge Conference | 12-31 | Have a safe & fun New Year’s Eve! |
| | | 1-1-21 | Happy Blessed New Year! |

The Advent Season -

We celebrate the Christmas season in the church with our Advent Season. Celebrating the coming of God’s Son. The four Sundays prior to Christmas we light a candle representing the four gifts given to us in God’s Son, Jesus Christ. Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Then on Christmas Eve we light the Christ Candle, celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



The United Methodist Women will not be meeting this month. Have a Blessed Christmas season.

Discipleship Now -

Come join us on Wednesday Nights at 6:00, as we get into the Bible and discuss the answers to our questions. It’s laid back and you’re welcome to join us.



Children’s Message -

Once again, we are providing a Children’s Message during our worship time. We would like for the children when coming to the front for this time together to wear their mask. We know that social distancing will not be enforced in this group, so if you are okay with this, send your little ones up front for their Children’s Message time. Thanks to you ladies who are being a part of this team.

Grief Support Group



Theresa Kilgro has been leading a great support group for a couple of years here at Randall’s Chapel. This group meets on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. If you have had the passing of a love one, let me encourage you to check out this ministry and group to find some good support and encouragement. Either contact Theresa or just show up on Tuesday. You can contact the church office if you have any questions.

25 Scriptures For Christmas

- Isaiah 9:2-7
- Psalm 89:1-4
- Isaiah 7:10-14
- Isaiah 11:1-10
- Isaiah 42:1-4
- Isaiah 40:9-11
- Luke 1:39-45
- Luke 1:46-56
- Matthew 1:18-25
- Luke 2:1-7
- Mark 1:1-8
- Luke 1:57-67
- Deuteronomy 18:15-19
- Isaiah 61:1-3
- Jeremiah 23:5-6
- Micah 5:2-4
- Zechariah 9:9-10
- Malachi 3:1-6
- Isaiah 49:1-7
- Isaiah 52:7-10
- Isaiah 40:1-5
- Isaiah 53:1-5
- Luke 1:68-69
- Luke 2:8-20
- Revelation 21:1-7



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 John Gerlach
- 2 Jean Hardman
- 5 Buddy Bacon
Eleanor Allen
- 6 Ginia Riggs
- 7 Jurdy Michaels
- 10 Michael Livesay
- 12 Harry Clemons
Gene Kirby
Chrissie Street
- 13 Chloe Wendlick
Ginny Lovingood
- 15 Eddy Richey
Ginger Brewer
- 19 Sheila Morris
Selene Richey
- 24 Dorothy Kylo
- 25 Pat Bacon
- 28 Wynola Kirkland



ANNIVERSARIES



- 5 Tom and Ginger Brewer
14 Richard & Brenda Olander
18 Justin & Kelly Ellis

“Called” Charge Conference –

Sunday, Dec. 13th, immediately following our 10:00 a.m. worship, we will be meeting to vote on the nominated candidates for our new Leadership Team for 2021.



Christmas Offering -

Over the past years we have collected a Christmas love offering for the United Methodist Children's Home for girls here in Scottsboro. Unfortunately, the girl's home is no longer functioning. So, this year we are going to collect our Christmas love offering for two ministries: the Life Resource Services of Jackson Co. and Sarge's Café.

Most of us are familiar with the Life Resource Services, but Sarge's Café is new to most of us. One of our members, Janet Matthews

spearheads this ministry in memory of her late father Alvin W. Matthews, Msgt. USAF, retired, Viet Nam Veteran. This ministry helps provide non-perishable foods and drinks for school children at Bryant Junior High who don't have food at home for the weekends. This offering will greatly help them.

These Christmas Offerings will be collected the last three Sundays of December, the 13th, 20th, & 27th. Please pray about supporting these ministries. Thanks for your support.

Life Resource Services of Jackson Co. -

The Life Resource Services of Jackson Co. will be open during the winter 3 days a week. We will continue to collect non-perishable food items to help support this ministry. Please contact Ginger Brewer if you have any questions about volunteering or the ministry's



Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Worship ~

Come join us Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. for worship. We will hear our Advent Devotional, sing Christmas hymns, hear a short message, take Communion and end by singing Silent Night, Holy Night, by candlelight.

Cont'd from page 1

Our Christmas Story Began in the Dark, but 'the Morning Star' in Abraham's sky came to us in our darkness, and when we make Him Lord of our lives, He illuminates our world.

*Our Christmas Story continues as Jesus said in **Matt. 5:14,16**, "You are the light of the world. ... let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." NIV*

Prayer- Father, thank you for rescuing us from the darkness of our sin. Thank you Jesus for illuminating our lives. Light of the world, help us to see You and to see the world around us in Light of You. In the name of Jesus, our Morning Star, amen.

Let the Morning Star of Christmas, illuminate your life. Merry Christmas! -Pat



A New Change –

We as the Administrative Council of Randall's UMC in our Oct. 25, 2020 meeting, voted to change our present Administrative Council and group Committees to become the "Leadership Team".

This has been an encouraging suggestion by our District Superintendent, Tom Parrish, for smaller churches who are struggling to fill all the committee positions.

The "Leadership Team" will be made up of 3 groups of three. 3 Finance persons, 3 Trustees person, 3 Nominations persons, the church Lay Leader and the church's Lay Delegate and Pastor. A total of 12 persons.

The Leadership Team will select a chairperson among themselves. Members of the Leadership Team will serve for a 3 year period like those committee members did. There will be 3 who serve one year and then roll off. 3 others will serve for 2 years and roll off. 3 others will serve for 3 years and then roll off. New members will be selected by either the Leadership Team members or an appointed Nominations Committee. Those selected do not have to be from these three committees presently. But may come from or represent one of these three committees.

The Leadership Team will be the group that oversees any new or needed committees. This Team will replace the Administrative Council and Committees, unless a group wants to form a committee. For example, a group wants to develop a "Missions Committee". This group will form and choose a chairperson and all of their ideas will be reported by their chosen chairperson and report to the Leadership Team their proposals. The purpose Leadership Team would then decide if the committee is staying true to the Christian standards and Book of Discipline.

Each church's Leadership Team develops as it best fits the church. Another example is the Leadership Team becomes the SPRC. Staff, Parish, Relations Committee or a separate SPRC is developed under the 'umbrella' of the Leadership Team.

The Administrative Council and Committees will continue in existence through the end of January 31, 2021. This will give us time to select candidates, vote them in as the 'Leadership Team' members through the present Administrative Council. To also give this Team time to start developing as a team.

There are probably many questions you may have about this. These questions may help us to see more clearly what/how we need to adjust. So, please, as the body of Christ, brother and sisters of Jesus Christ, members of Randall's Chapel UMC, be praying for this new change and Leadership for our church. We are trying to adjust to what is best for our church. Thank you for all your prayers and support.

December



Sunday

Monday


Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		1	2	3	4	5
		Grief Support, 10:00 - noon	Discipleship Now at 6:00 p.m.			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Second Sunday of Advent - Peace Worship 10:00 a.m. 		Grief Support, 10:00 - noon	Discipleship Now at 6:00 p.m.			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Third Sunday of Advent - Joy Christmas Offering "Called" Charge Conference Worship, 10:00 a.m.		Grief Support, 10:00 - noon	Discipleship Now at 6:00 p.m.			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love Christmas Offering Worship, 10:00 a.m.		No Grief Support	No Discipleship Now	Christmas Eve Candlelight 		
27	28	29	30	31		
Christmas Offering Worship, 10:00 a.m.		No Grief Support	No Discipleship Now	 Have a Safe & Fun New Year's Eve!		

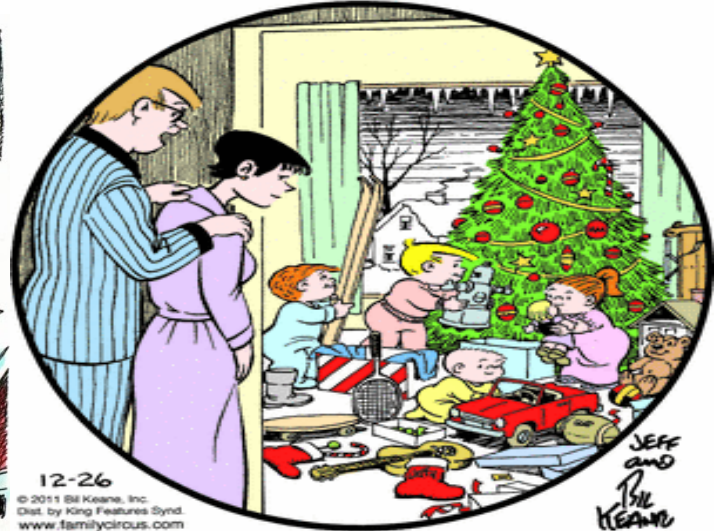
JESUS

is the Reason
for the
Season 

THE FUNNY PAGE



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12-26
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JEFF
and
BILL
KEANE

"They won't know till they're grown, but their BEST gifts are the memories they're making."

CHRISTMAS TREES

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



www.joyfultoons.com © 2012 Michael D. Waters

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- ROMANS 15:13 NIV



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Randall's Chapel United Methodist Church



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WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY
NEW TIME
WORSHIP 10:00

WEDNESDAY
ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6 PM

FOR NEWSLETTER OR WEBSITE ADDITIONS, DELETIONS,
CORRECTIONS, CHANGES, SUGGESTIONS AND/OR
COMMENTS.....
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