

# THE Grapewine

DECEMBER 2023



Merry Christmas!





## “Healing Balm for the Fearful”

Fear robs us blind. It can paralyze us and limit our faithful hearts to truly step out in the way of Jesus Christ. This Advent, we will examine how fear constrains us and God seeks to free us from that fear. The answer to fear is hope, peace, joy, love, and light. How deep does fear go? It goes into our roots and infects us with indecision, prejudice, paranoia, and compounds anxiety.

Advent is a time to reflect and anticipate an answer to the darkness and the fear that binds us. We begin to hear whispers of carols announce the coming of Christ. Carols that declare a longing and hope for Jesus' arrival. Charles Wesley wrote the hymn “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” and a line is shared, “from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.” Oh my! Yes! Is that not what we long for, peaceful and comforting rest! Rest from all our worries and fears; rest from trouble and circumstance; rest from the overwhelming information of all the bad and horrible events in the world, rest for our souls.

Then, join with me this Advent season, as we rediscover that rest and comfort that Jesus can bring to our weary and fearful world. Bring your fears to him, bring your pain, and bring your exhaustion. Repent of the overworked, the too busy, and multitasking, and instead focus on one primary task this advent: Jesus, the light of the world, born in our weary world to bring us peace and comfort from our fears and sins. We will then know the truth of what it means to sing, “born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.” For we share in the kingdom Christ brings, a kingdom of justice and peace, and joy of the Holy Spirit. Live in the story with Mary, with Joseph, with then angles and shepherds. Experience how the Advent of the Joy of the World helps lift us up from our fears that weigh us down so heavy. Sing, praise, and bless the coming of the Lord!

May you have a blessed Advent!

Pastor Chase

Rev. Charles Henley (Chase) Green, Jr., Senior Pastor  
 Goddard United Methodist Church  
 1922 Dodson Avenue  
 Fort Smith, AR 72901  
 cgreen@goddardumc.org  
 Office 479.785.1415 / Cell 501.827.8309



## NEW YEAR'S EVE BREAKFAST LAWNCARE FUNDRAISER

On Sunday, December 31st, New Year's Eve, the United Methodist Men will prepare a church-wide breakfast before church beginning at 9:30 a.m.

There will be NO Sunday school. Donations to the breakfast will go towards the lawn care for the following year. Come and celebrate the last day of 2023 with fellowship and a hearty breakfast before church!



Dear Church Family,

You all went above and beyond for our family during my pregnancy with Leslie and after her birth! Thank you all so much for the beautiful shower, all of the gifts and monetary gifts, all of the prayers, and for providing meals to us after Leslie was born. We are so blessed to be raising both of our girls in such a wonderful, loving church home. Annslee is always asking me “When are we going to church again?” Your kindness to us since we first visited has made an impact on all of us. We could not be more thankful for every one of you. Thank you so much!

In Christ’s Love,  
The Hanna Family

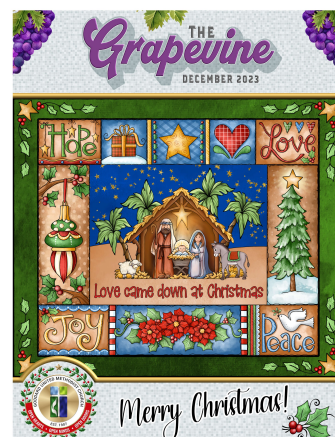


Pictured above: Samantha Linn  
and Pastor Chase

### CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, November 26, 2023,  
Samantha Claire Linn was  
confirmed and made her  
confession of faith during the  
10:50 a.m. worship service.

*Front cover and  
other graphics by:  
Rhonda Rieder*





*Please be in prayer for:*

April Austin  
 Rick Bodine  
 Bob Callaway  
 Betty Campbell  
 Jim Cavin  
 Lauranell Cavin  
 Jessica Clardy  
 Charles Click  
 Marilyn Click  
 Helen Cowan  
 Sheila Croxton  
 Linda Dickson  
 Jason Echols  
 Rusty Echols  
 Emily Eckhart  
 Andrew Godwin  
 Gary Goembel  
 Jana L. Green  
 Dennis Holland  
 Diann Ishmael  
 Jim Kell  
 Raye Levering  
 Thomas Levering  
 Judy Loux  
 Rick Moore  
 DeeDee Moore  
 Linda Morrison  
 Roy Nixon  
 Sandi Parks  
 Rachel Rhodes  
 Sally and Eddie Ridener  
 Julie Rieder  
 Robert Lee Roam, Jr.  
 Mary Beth Rule  
 Cliff Rush

Cindy Sauter  
 John Sauter  
 Grace Ann Settle  
 Peggy Smitha  
 Tracey Stecher  
 Betty Steele  
 Mary Beth Sudduth  
 Claudia Szendre  
 Ruth Szendre  
 John Tarrant  
 Polly Taylor  
 Ron Watson  
 Charles Williams  
 Leslie Wintory  
 Bobbie Young  
 Our Essential Workers  
 Our Firefighters  
 Our First Responders  
 Our Law Enforcement  
     Officers  
 Our Troops  
 Our U.S. Marshals



**Prayer Chain**

**To add someone to the  
Goddard Prayer Chain,  
contact Donny Anderson  
479.522.3080**

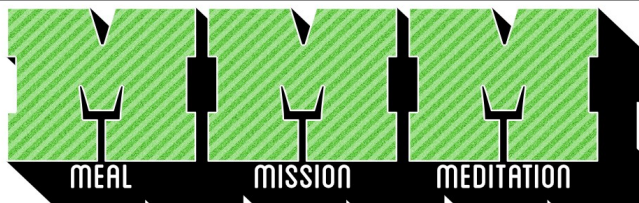
**To be a member of the  
Prayer Chain,  
contact the church office  
479.785.1415**



**For Columbarium Information  
Call 479.785.1415**



## 1st Wednesday Fellowship



Come savor a great meal, a God-focused mission, and a grace-filled meditation

# DEC 6

MEAL AT 5:30  
MISSION & MEDITATION  
TIME TO FOLLOW

PLEASE RSVP TO CHURCH OFFICE BY MONDAY  
PRIOR TO MEAL. DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED



## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX & ON CHRISTMAS EVE  
BRING THE CONTENTS TO THE CHURCH.

Dec 3: Box - Cereal  
Dec 4: Peanut Butter  
Dec 5: Bag - Beans  
Dec 6: Box - Instant Potatoes  
Dec 7: Mac & Cheese  
Dec 8: Can - Fruit  
Dec 9: Can - Green Beans  
Dec 10: Can - Corn

Dec 11: Can - Beans  
Dec 12: Package - Rice  
Dec 13: Can - Carrots  
Dec 14: Can - Potatoes  
Dec 15: Can/Jar - Applesauce  
Dec 16: Granola Bars  
Dec 17: Can - Tomatoes

Dec 18: Can - Tuna  
Dec 19: Can - Chicken  
Dec 20: Can - Chili  
Dec 21: Spaghetti  
Dec 22: Pasta Sauce  
Dec 23: Soup  
Dec 24: Can - Mixed Vegetables



## THANK YOU GODDARD VOLUNTEERS...

A volunteer luncheon was held on Sunday, November 12, 2023 after the 10:50 a.m. worship service. The GUMC staff served the volunteers. Pastor Chase now knows how to run the dishwasher! See pictures below. We were thrilled to serve lunch to over seventy volunteers.







**Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of:  
Cynthia Walls, sister of Julie Milligan**



***December Anniversaries***

- 22nd Jimmie and Fern Daniel
- 27th Jeff and Tina Jeffries
- 28th Larry and Patsy Cochran
- 29th Chuck and Sandy Johnson

***December Birthdays***

- 4th Rhonda Rieder
- 4th Cornelia Schardt
- 4th Ron Watson
- 5th Sharon Freeman
- 5th Helen Wilson
- 6th Gaye Baker
- 7th Marilyn Scheuble

***10th Julie Milligan***

- 10th Joyce Wright
- 14th Jeannie Holland
- 16th Kellen Crowder
- 17th Harold Braswell
- 17th Gayle Thiele
- 21st Tom Robertson
- 22nd Tarah Hanna



***22nd Cathy Smith***

- 24th Cara Peerbolte
- 30th Charles Williams



**Designated to Pantry:**

**In honor of Fred Stecher by Jim and Suzie Dunn**

Honorariums/Memorials may be given online or by check at any time. Your donations can be designated to a specific ministry or to the general fund.

**CHANGE FOR CHURCH  
FUNDRAISER**

**Collect Your Change for the Rest of the Year**

Special Offering Boxes  
are waiting for you on the Narthex table.



The November meeting of the Goddard UMM will be held on **Saturday, December 9** at 8:00 a.m. in the parlor.





Contact Ms. Keri  
479-459-7110  
kcousins@goddardumc.org

### Sunday School

Kids Sunday School is at 9:50 a.m. We meet in the Clubhouse in the Children's Building. This month during Sunday School we will learn all about Advent and the Christmas story.

- December 3 – All About Advent
- December 10 – The Annunciation / Jesus is Born
- December 17 – The Shepherds
- December 24 – **No Sunday School** – Christmas Eve
- December 31 – **No Sunday School** – New Years Eve



Join us for Christmas Extravaganza on Sun Dec. 10 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. We'll have games, prizes, birthday cake for Jesus, snacks, and a lot of fun!

Plus Santa will be there!

**Volunteers Needed** to run games and serve cake, snacks, and drinks.

Please talk to Keri if you can help!

# Goddard Youth

## Youth Sunday School!

We have the best snacks in the building!

Join us in the Youth Cinema each

Sunday at 9:50 a.m. BEFORE worship!



Sun. Dec. 17 – Youth Christmas Party in Sunday School at 9:50 a.m.

Sun Dec. 24 – No Sunday School – Christmas Eve

**Worship at 10:50 am, 6:00 pm, and 11:00 pm**

Sun Dec. 31 – No Sunday School – Worship at 10:50 am

## Youth Wednesdays!

Register Online at  
[GoddardUMC.org/Youth](http://GoddardUMC.org/Youth)  
Youth 6 – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

## No Youth

Wed. Dec 20

Wed. Dec 27

**Merry Christmas!!**

Get the latest information about Goddard Youth and join  
our Youth Announcements text group!



Send a Text to the number 81010 with the message  
**@goddardyou**

You will receive important updates about all of our Youth activities!

*For I know the plans I have for you ... plans to give you hope and a future.*

*-Jeremiah 29:11*



## CONTRIBUTIONS NOVEMBER 2023

	Nov 5	Nov 12	Nov 19	Nov 26	Total
<b>General Fund Income</b>	\$ 12,003	\$ 8,867	\$ 11,712	\$ 4,017	\$ 36,599
<b>Pantry</b>	937	820	540	150	\$ 2,447
<b>Memorials*</b>	0	0	0	0	\$ -
<b>Other</b>	299	440	392	170	\$ 1,301
<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 13,239	\$ 10,127	\$ 12,644	\$ 4,337	\$ 40,347

\*Designated memorials not included

Please share end of year gifts and especially as you consider your tax benefits.

## CALENDAR DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Sundays</b> Sunday School – 9:50 a.m. Worship – 10:50 a.m. Confirmation Class – after worship					1 Hilltoppers – 10:30 am	2
3 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – Hanging of the Greens	4	5 Circle of Hope – 10 am UWF Meeting – 1 pm Joy Goddard – 5:30 pm	6 Food Pantry - 9-11:30 am Wacky Wed. Kids -3:15-5:30 Goddard Youth – 3:15-5:30 pm <b>MMM – 5:30 pm</b> Handbells – 6:00 pm Choir – 7:00 pm	7 Food Pantry - 9-11:30 am	8 Hilltoppers – 10:30 am	9 UMM Breakfast – 8 am
10 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Christmas Extravaganza – 4:00 – 5:30 pm	11	12	13 Food Pantry – 9-11:30 am Wacky Wed. Kids -3:15-5:30 Goddard Youth – 3:15-5:30 pm Handbells – 6:00 pm Choir – 7:00 pm	14 Food Pantry - 9-11:30 am Retired Teachers Luncheon – 12 pm	15 Hilltoppers – 10:30 am	16
17 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent New Member Luncheon – after worship	18	19	20 Food Pantry – 9-11:30 am <b>No Kids or Youth</b> Choir – 7:00 pm	21 Food Pantry – 9-11:30 am	22 Hilltoppers – 10:30 am	23
24 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve Worship 10:50 am, 6:00 pm, 11:00 pm	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed 	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed <b>No Kids or Youth</b>	28 Food Pantry – 9-11:30 am	29 <b>No Hilltoppers</b>	30



## PERFECT ATTENDANCE

### Gathering Disciples

Betty Bodine, Betty Morkemo, Barbara Rumage

### Pairs & Spares

Jim Dunn, Suzie Dunn, Sharon Freeman, Chuck Johnson, Sandy Johnson, Mike Lyons, Rose Lyons, Mike Mankin, Sissie Mankin, Carol McAlister, Tom McAlister, Jim Rose, Sue Rose

### Susan C. King

Betty Nixon, Brenda Partin, Sherry Stockton,  
John Tarrant, Loraine Tarrant

Classes meet at 9:50 a.m. / Note: No classes on December 31

## DECEMBER 2023 LECTIONARY

**3rd** First Sunday of Advent Isa 64:1-9, Ps 80:1-7, 17-19, (UMH 801), 1 Cor 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

**10th** Second Sunday of Advent Isa 40:1-11, Ps 85:1-2, 8-13 (UMH 806), 2 Pet 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

**17th** Third Sunday of Advent Isa 61:1-4, 8-11, PS 126 (UMH 847), 1 Thess 5:16-24,  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

**24th** Fourth Sunday of Advent 2 Sam 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:47-55 (UMH 199),  
Rom 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

**31st** First Sunday after Christmas Day Isa 61:10-62.3, Ps 148 (UMH 861), Gal 4:4-7,  
Luke 2:22-40

### In-Person and Sunday Worship Live Streaming / 10:50 a.m.

Online at [www.goddardumc.org](http://www.goddardumc.org)

[Facebook.com/GoddardUMC](https://www.facebook.com/GoddardUMC)

[Youtube.com/GoddardUMC](https://www.youtube.com/GoddardUMC)

**Event Sign-Up**  
[goddardumc.org/events](http://goddardumc.org/events)

**Register your attendance at worship with the QR Code found in your bulletin**

*Open your camera*

*Hold over the QR code*

*Tap the link to register your attendance*







It's the most wonderful time of the year! Each of us will be busy preparing our own holiday traditions as well as participating in the events at Goddard.

First up for us is our Quarterly UWF Meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 1 PM in the parlor. Please note that our meeting date has been changed due to the preparations we will be doing for the Fort Smith Retired Teachers' Luncheon on Dec. 14.

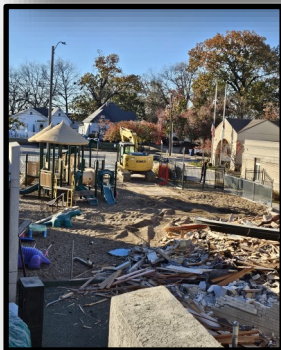
The Joy Goddard Circle will be our hostess for our Dec. 5 UWF meeting and will be providing sweet and savory Christmas snacks. I hope you will be able to attend this meeting and can join in our Christmas fellowship time.

The Retired Teachers are excited to be coming back to Goddard for their annual Christmas Luncheon and we are excited to have this opportunity! This is a fundraiser for our church so everyone is invited to help with this event. Please check with Elizabeth Eubanks to know which tasks need volunteers. Thanks!

Both our circles will not be having their regular meetings this month.

—submitted by Elizabeth Eubanks,  
Goddard UWF President

A festive poster for Christmas Eve services. It features three lit white candles on the left, set against a dark background with green pine branches and gold bokeh lights. The text "Please join us on December 24th for one of our Christmas Eve services" is at the top. Below it, "Candles, Carols, Communion" is written in a large, elegant, gold script font. At the bottom, "6:00 and 11:00 pm" is written in a bold, white sans-serif font. In the bottom left corner is the Goddard United Methodist Church logo, which includes the text "GODDARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH", "EST. 1907", and "OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPEN DOORS". At the bottom center, the church's name and address are listed: "Goddard United Methodist Church • 1922 Dodson Ave, Fort Smith, AR". To the right, the phone number "479-785-1415" and website "www.goddardumc.org" are provided.



A new metal pitched roof and replacement guttering has been installed on the Preschool building.

The Young Hall Building has been demolished.

See pictures at left and on next page.

*Goddard Trustees*

### Pastor and Staff of GUMC

- Rev. Chase Green — Senior Pastor
- George A. Mann — Choirmaster/Organist
- Sami Sue Welch — Associate Director of Music
- Keri Cousins — Children’s/Youth Director/  
Online Ministries
- Jenni Crawford — Preschool Director
- Michelle Greenfield — Financial Administrator
- Deborah Moore — Church Administrator/ Buildings and  
Grounds/Grapevine Editor
- Don Holland — Maintenance/Custodial
- Timothy Peerbolte — Audio/Visual
- Mark Cheyne — Live Streaming

### Pastor Chase Green

Contact Information:

Cell 501.827.8309  
Church Office 479.785.1415  
[cgreen@goddardumc.org](mailto:cgreen@goddardumc.org)



Goddard UMC continues to reach a great number of individuals and families each week with our live streaming.

The **average number of homes** that watched our Sunday 10:50 a.m. service online each week in the month of **November 2023** was **148**.

**Thank you for watching!!!**



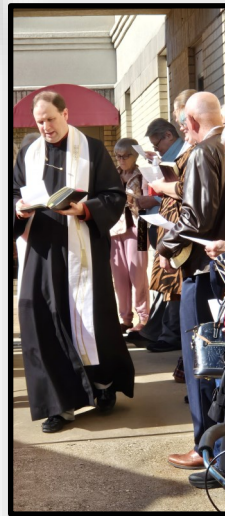


Pictured above: Pastor Chase, Samantha Linn and family, Jonathan, Katie, and Nora Linn and grandparents Debbie and Ben Bruce. (right) Pastor Chase and Goddard members during Decommissioning of Young Hall on Sunday, November 26, 2023.



Pictured above: Wacky Wednesday Thanksgiving Lesson / Teachers: Keri Cousins and Linda Dickson

We love pictures!  
Send your church photos to [secretary@goddardumc.org](mailto:secretary@goddardumc.org)



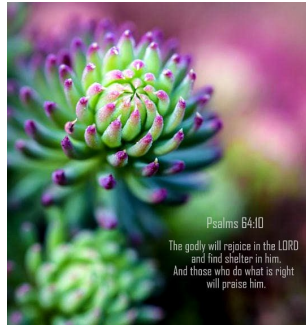
Pictured above: Elizabeth Eubanks and Cornelia Schardt setting up the Advent Wreath



Pictured (right): View from the second story of the Education Building of the new pitched Preschool Roof. (center) Showing pitch of new Preschool roof.



## PSALM 64 CEB



*Listen to me when I complain, God! Protect my life from the enemy's terror!*

- 2 Hide me from the secret plots of wicked people; hide me from the schemes of evildoers*
- 3 who sharpen their tongues like swords. They aim their arrow—a cruel word—*
- 4 from their hiding places so as to shoot an innocent person. They shoot without warning and without fear.*

- 5 They encourage themselves with evil words. They plan on laying traps in secret. "Who will be able to see them?" they ask.*
- 6 "Let someone try to expose our crimes! We've devised a perfect plot! IT's deep within the human mind and heart.*
- 7 But God will shoot them with an arrow! Without warning, they will be wounded!*
- 8 The Lord will make them trip over their own tongues; everyone who sees them will just shake their heads.*
- 9 Then all people will honor God, will announce the act of God, will understand it was God's work.*
- 10 Let the righteous rejoice in the Lord; let them take refuge in him; let everyone whose heart is in the right place give praise!*



### COMMUNION AT HOME First Sunday of Each Month

**December 2, 2023 / 10:50 a.m.**  
**During "Online" Live Streaming  
Worship Service**

**Please have bread and juice ready in  
your home to receive the elements  
during Communion.**



## Goddard Food Pantry Report November 2023

Number of bags distributed = 96

Number of individuals fed = 251

Total Pantry volunteer hours = 107

Pantry hours open = 20

***Thank you for your continued support  
of this vital ministry!***

***Submitted by: Sissie Mankin, Pantry Committee***

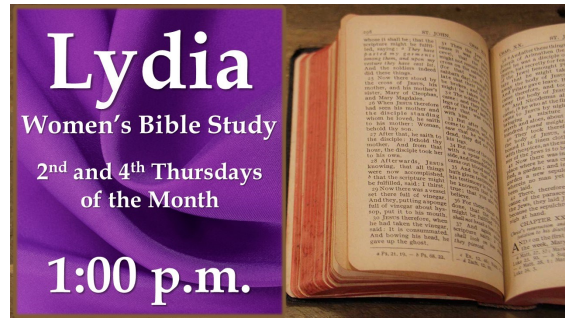
Please note the “New link”

to RSVP online for

MMM is

**GoddardUMC.org/MMM**

or use the QR code below



### Lydia Study

Lydia Study will resume in  
January 2024.

Contact: Elizabeth Eubanks  
479.629.8698

## DECEMBER USHER SCHEDULE Sunday Service

- Jim Rose
- Charlie Smith
- Tom King
- Robert Neufell
- Backup
- Scott McCoubrey





**Volume 60**

**December 2023**

**Number 12**

**Goddard United Methodist Church / 1922 Dodson Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72901**  
**[www.goddardumc.org](http://www.goddardumc.org)**