

JEFFERSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Published February 17, 2020

Jefferson First United Methodist Church is a proactive congregation that maintains a fully loaded mission of bringing the Good News to the people of our immediate community as well as far beyond – as Disciples who Celebrate! Connect! and Contribute! The intent of this periodic newsletter is to provide a view of what is forthcoming and a look back at where we have been.

A Message from Pastor Brian Funderburke

Lately, my mind has centered on unity and the oneness of God. Oneness is a theme throughout all of scripture and, in fact, all of God's story. We read in Paul's letter to the Ephesians "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." (Eph 4:4-6)



Truly our hope is centered on the one true God and our bond is Christ and Christ alone. Join me the next few months in praying that God's church will be one. Each time we receive the communion in the Methodist Church we are called to hear and meditate on the words "By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. I would like to invite you to join me in prayer for Jefferson First. If you are a regular attender at Outpost, join me in praying for the traditional service at Jefferson first. If you are a regular attender at the traditional service join me in praying for the Outpost. I believe it is God's desire that both expressions of worship be passionate, holy, and centered on God.

Pastor Brian

Jefferson First United Methodist Church Sunday Services

9:30am Modern Worship at the Outpost Campus, Jackson County Comprehensive High School

11:00 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

Meet Pastor Brian & Family

By now, most of the JFUMC family have met Reverend Brian Funderburke, who was appointed pastor effective Jefferson First UMC January 1, 2020. Brian becomes the 60th pastor appointed to this church since 1849 (our church was founded in 1806, but we don't know the number prior to 1849). Following his appointment, Brian was formally introduced through a UMC on-boarding exercise involving various church leaders. He has introduced himself through worship services and visits with individual Sunday School classes. Here is a more detailed introduction of Brian and his family:

He was born in Temple Terrace, FL, and grew up in Peachtree City, GA. He graduated from McIntosh High School where he was involved in Soccer, Cross Country, FCA, and the Beta Club. He grew up Peachtree City UMC where he was baptized, confirmed, and was very active in the youth group including serving on the Youth Council. His life-long passion for soccer led him to attend Tennessee Wesleyan and transfer to The University of West Florida his sophomore year. He graduated from UWF in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Marketing.

After college (and soccer) Brian hiked a significant portion of the Continental Divide Trail in Wyoming and Colorado. Throughout his life and culminating on the trail, Brian heard God's call to vocational ministry in the local church. In 1999, he began his first job as a Youth Minister at Port Orange UMC near Daytona Beach, FL. After serving there for over a year, he accepted a position as the youth minister at Trinity UMC in Warner Robins, Ga. He met his beautiful wife, Sarah, in Warner Robins who was a member at Trinity. Sarah grew up singing in the youth choir and actively participating in the youth group at Trinity. Each summer the youth choir would travel around the US including trips to New York City, Texas, and even California. She went to Warner Robins High School and graduated from Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management. Sarah and Brian were married on November 15, 2003.

In January, 2004, Sarah and Brian moved to Durham, NC, as Brian entered Duke Divinity School, and they both became Cameron Crazy's (if you don't happen to know, Cameron arena is home court for the Duke basketball team and the supporting students actually are crazy and proud of it!). While attending Duke Divinity School and earning his Masters of Divinity, Brian was challenged significantly to read the Bible more closely and think theologically. Upon graduation in the Spring of 2007, he continued in the ordination process and is now an Ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church. Brian has served several appointments in Georgia including Greenville UMC, Johns Creek UMC, and Trinity (Clermont) UMC.

Brian and Sarah have three children: Caleb, Hannah, and Luke. Caleb is 11 years old and in the 6th Grade at Jefferson Middle School, Hannah is 8 years old and in the 2nd Grade at Jefferson Elementary School, and Luke is 6 years old and is in the 1st Grade at Jefferson Elementary. Sarah and Brian love to travel, spend time on the lake, snow ski, hike, and spend time at the ball fields with the kids.

Welcome to Jefferson and Jackson County!!!

M&M Night & Membership Sunday / April 19th & 26th

We will have an 'M&M' lunch — Methodism & Membership — on Sunday, April 19th (12:15-2:00 pm, Fellowship Hall). This is an opportunity to learn more about the United Methodist Church, what we believe, and what membership means here at JFUMC. Sunday, April 26th, will be a Membership Sunday at the 11:00 worship service for anyone interested in joining the church. Let us know if you are planning on coming on the 19th and/or if you are looking to join on the 26th! Childcare will be available. For more information, contact Pastor Brian at 770-212-1226.



Service Opportunities

Make Service a part of you and your family's normal life through the following opportunities! Contact Renee Hilley at 404-372-6796 for more information:

God Loves You "Beary" Much dedication will take place on Sunday, February 23rd, at both worship services. Individuals are encouraged to bring new stuffed animals to worship. All donations will be given to local agencies who help children in crisis such as The Treehouse, DFACS, fire, police, and sheriffs departments.

Nutrition On Weekends (NOW): Food items can be donated throughout the month of February for the NOW Food Ministry that benefits students in need at Jefferson Elementary and Jefferson Academy. We will be providing food bags for students to take home throughout the month of March. Lists of needs are being provided with the worship bulletins during February. Donation bins are located outside the worship space at Outpost and in the Fellowship Hall at JFUMC. Monetary donations towards the purchase of food would also be helpful in supplying the bags for the students. We hope many will come help pack and pray over the bags when we pack them on March 11th following the Wednesday Café and Connections.

iServe Ministry: This ministry serves people in need in Commerce, Pendergrass, and Athens on a rotating basis by delivering about 30,000 pounds of food per trip to 250 to 300 families at each location. It is funded by donations from various organizations and individuals. Donated clothing is also offered along with help in finding jobs. Recipients are prayed for as their vehicles are loaded. Contact Buddy Fitzpatrick at **540-578-2378** if you would like more information on ways to become involved. Here is the schedule for upcoming deliveries:

- Pendergrass Flea Market: February 18, March 17, April 21, and May 19
- Athens: February 22, March 28, April 25, and May 23
- Lanier Tech Campus in Commerce: March 14, April 11, May 9

Our Daily Bread: This ministry is a group of local churches and businesses that provide daily breakfast and lunch to the less fortunate in the Athens area. JFUMC serves the noon meal (lunch) on the third Monday of each month. The JFUMC teams consist of four members each month. Upcoming Mondays are February 17th, March 16th, April 20th, and May 18th. Contact Pete McClellan for more information on becoming involved—PeteM1304@outlook.com or **352-584-5794**.

Operation Christmas Child: We packed 310 shoeboxes in 2019! Ninety-one of those came from our amazing, fun-filled packing party! This year we hope to double that number at our 2020 packing party! In order to properly plan for this event that will occur in the fall, we want to begin collecting items throughout the year. There will be a donation bin in the Fellowship Hall for any items you find that would be good to send in a shoebox...washcloths, soap, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, toys, school supplies, puzzles, small games, etc. Thank you for helping us achieve our goal for 2020! If you would like to become involved in Operation Christmas Child, please contact Renee Hilley for more information at **404-372-6796**.

Loaves and Fishes: The Loaves and Fishes ministry consists of a group of people who are willing to cook and deliver meals to people and families who are in need of support in difficult times. The next meeting will be Monday, March 2, at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall to make some freezer meals for upcoming needs.

Children

Upcoming Dates:

- 2/26: Acolyte Pancake Supper 5:45-7:00** Come enjoy a delicious supper of pancakes, breakfast casserole, and fruit all while supporting our acolyte program. The Ash Wednesday service will follow at 7:00pm.
- 3/11: NOW Bag packing Service Project and playground time! 6:30-7:30** Come help pack food bags for students in need and then stick around for some fun together on the playground to enjoy the springtime weather!
- 3/22: Family Easter Event 2:00-3:30 in the Fellowship Hall** (see more information below)
- 3/25: Kids Craft 6:30-7:30** We will be making some spring crafts to give away or decorate your home with.
- 4/8: Outdoor Game Night 6:30-7:30** It's finally spring! Let's enjoy the weather and play some fun games... cornhole, hopscotch, ladder ball, ring toss, basketball, bubbles, sidewalk chalk and more!
- 4/22: Family BINGO Night 6:30-7:30** Come see who can yell "BINGO!" first! This night is always so much fun! Bring a friend!
- 5/13: Summer Send Off 6:30-7:30** Let's celebrate the end of school and the start of summer together! We will have lots of fun stuff for the kids to do with their families after supper!

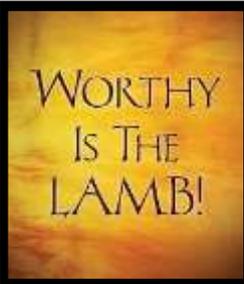
Family Easter Event: Sunday, March 22nd 2:00-3:30: Have you ever heard of a Backwards Egg Hunt??? Well now you have! Bring your family, neighbors, and friends for a fun afternoon of the wackiest egg hunt you've ever done! Kids will hear the story of the most important day in all of history and leave reminded of God's great love for each of us.

Vacation Bible School: Monday, June 8-Thursday, June 11 9:00am-12:00pm: All Aboard! This year's VBS is all about *Jesus' Power Pulling Us Through!* As kids ride this train through the mountains, they learn that trusting Jesus will pull them through life's ups and downs. Registration will open in early May, so be on the lookout for the sign up link. VBS is open to all children ages 4 years-Rising 6th grades. Middle and High School youth are encouraged to serve as crew leaders and station helpers! Adults are needed to help in a variety of areas before, during, and after VBS. Please let Renee know if you would like to serve during VBS week.

VBS Workdays:

- March 1st 4:00-6:00pm
April 26th 6:00-8:00pm
May 17th 6:00-7:00pm (all volunteers please try to attend this evening!)
- June 1-5th: VBS decorating week...look for emails and in the bulletins for specific times

For more information about any event, please contact Renee Hilley at 404-372-6796 or renee@jfumc.com



WORTHY
IS THE
LAMB!

Sing! Rehearsals for "Worthy Is the Lamb" have begun. This is a very meaningful and delightful Easter Cantata. All voice parts are welcome, not only for the Cantata, but also for the Chancel Choir. So, take a bold step and join this wonderful group that praises God in song. See Carole Frankum, any choir member or just show up on Wednesday at 7:00p in the choir room.

MS Youth

Middle School 2020 Spring Events

At a Glance:

- February 16:** Afternoon Movie and Dinner
- February 28-29:** 7-8 Grade Event-The Mix– Great Event!
- March 29:** Afternoon Movie and Dinner
- April 8: 6:30,** An Upper Room Experience
- April 17-19: *Follow, Like, and Share*** (Spring Retreat @ Awanita)
- June 4-6:** GRASP—Mission Trip
- June 8-11:** Vacation Bible School (Youth Serve and Help Lead Children)

Wednesday Night Supper/Activities at a Glance:

- February 26:** Pancake Supper & Ash Wednesday Service
- March 11:** Supper and Mission Project—Pack Now Bags
- March 25:** Supper and Youth Bowl
- April 9: 7:00,** Maundy Thursday Service (children, youth & adults)
- April 22:** Supper and Youth Bowling

The Mix (7-8 grades), February 28-29:

A fun and meaningful weekend filled with great speakers, music, mission work, and time together. This is an out-reach weekend, so please feel free to invite a friend! The mix is sponsored by Athens Church and held at the Athens Civic Center. In the evenings Tyler and the boys, Abby, Alice, and the girls will spend the night at host homes. Girls in one home, guys in another home. Cost is \$40 (\$20 due Now/ \$20 Due by February 25) Sign Up Now! Deadline is Friday, February 7. Sign up link and more details: <https://outpost129.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/379319>

Upper Room Experience, April 8:

We will gather in a specially prepared area upstairs for reflection as we humbly remember the Last Supper and Jesus' last words. Communion will be part of this experience; in the Methodist Church communion is open to everyone.

"Follow, Like, and Share" April 17-19 Retreat:

We will pull away from everyday life to rest, have, fun, and lean into what good things God has for our life. Our retreat will be held at Awanita Valley Retreat Center in South Carolina. Visit awanita.org to see more about the facility. Cost will be \$135. Deposit: \$50 Due by March 1. Remaining \$85.00 due by April 3. Scholarship funds are available. Register: <https://outpost129.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/379461>

GRASP, June 4-6:

Annual mission trip to Gilmer County. We will be helping on project that assist elderly and others in need. Ellijay FUMC will host our group. Cost \$75. Deposit: \$40 is due by May 4. Scholarship funds are available. Register: <https://outpost129.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/379487>

For questions, volunteer opportunities, and scholarship information on any of the above, contact Alice Lipscomb, 770-307-6098.

HS Youth

High School 2020 Spring Events

At a Glance:

February 16: Afternoon Movie and Dinner

March 29: Afternoon Activity TBA

April 8: 7:30, An Upper Room Experience

April 17-19: *Follow, Like, and Share* (Spring Retreat at Awanita)

June 8-11: Vacation Bible School (Youth Serve and Help Lead Children)

May 25-29: Praying Pelican Mission Trip

Wednesday Night Supper/Activities at a Glance:

February 26: Pancake Supper & Ash Wednesday Service

March 11: Supper and Mission Project—Pack Now Bags

March 25: Supper and Youth Bowl

April 9: 7:00, Maundy Thursday Service (children, youth & adults)

April 22: Supper and Youth Bowling

Upper Room Experience: April 8:

We will gather in a specially prepared area upstairs for reflection as we humbly remember the Last Supper and Jesus' last words. Communion will be part of this experience; in the Methodist Church, communion is open to everyone.

"Follow, Like, and Share" April 17-19 Retreat:

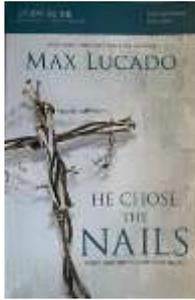
We will pull away from everyday life to rest, have fun, and lean into what good things God has for our life. Our retreat will be held at Awanita Valley Retreat Center in South Carolina. Visit awanita.org to see more about the facility. Cost will be \$135. Deposit: \$50 Due by March 1. Remaining \$85.00 due by April 3. Scholarship funds are available. Register: <https://outpost129.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/379461>

Praying Pelican Mission Trip-Join the Team May 25-29 :

This year our High School Mission Trip will be to the Carolinas. In the wake of Hurricane Florence, many areas of North and South Carolina are still working through recovery efforts, supported by the on-going support of local churches and nonprofits who are continuing the work after federal agencies pulled out many months ago. The areas where our teams serve are full of natural beauty, incredible hospitality, and a passionate Church that seeks to meet the physical and social needs of their communities. Partnering with the Preying Pelican Organization, our team will be put to work, both on tangible recovery efforts and on relational ministries to encourage those who need it! The cost is currently \$225 per person, but a fundraising event will offset this cost. Please text/call Alice Lipscomb, 770-307-6098 if you plan to go, or call the church office, 706-367-8667. Scholarship funds available. No money is due at this time – we just need a solid count who will be on the team.

For questions, volunteer opportunities, and scholarship information on any of the above,
contact Alice Lipscomb, 770-307-6098.

Additional News & Information



Lenten Bible Study—The Seekers Sunday School Class

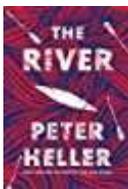
Five sessions beginning March 1 in room S-9 (Sanctuary Building) at 9:30 am. This study will use “He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart” by Max Lucado as the guide. For more information, contact Pete McClellan at PeteM1304@outlook.com or 352-584-5794.

The Open Door Sunday School Class

The Open Door Class was established in September 2018 with the following guiding principles: Provide collaborative leadership; Seek multi-generational participation; Focus on Biblically-based learning and sharing of personal experiences; Address the needs for spiritual growth of participants; Grow the class into a cohesive group; and Encourage opportunities for individual friendships. The class has grown to about 20 regular participants studying a variety of topics. Generally the format is a short DVD resource followed by group discussion, usually a few weeks per topic. All ages, singles and couples, are welcome to join in room E-2 from 9:45 to 10:45am. Light refreshments are served each week. For more information contact Linda and Gene Daniels (706-367-1419), Nancy and Don Trainer (706-335-7383), or Lynn and Ron Cagle (770-367-5297).

Women’s Book Club

The Women’s Book Club meets monthly at the home of one of the participants. Books are selected a few weeks in advance and announced in the JFUMC bulletin. The next book has been chosen by Marla Weaver who will be hosting at the home of Silvia Parker, 340 S. Shores Rd., Jefferson, on Thursday, February 20, at 6:30pm.



[An Amazon Best Book of March 2019:](#) In *The River* Heller has drawn from all that experience to create an exciting, thoughtful, and well-paced thriller about two friends paddling into trouble in northern Canada. A distant wildfire is the first portent of danger. When the friends hear a man and woman arguing on the foggy riverbank, they decide to warn them about the fire—but their search for the pair turns up nothing. The next day a man appears solo on the river. Was he one of the people they heard the day before? *The River* starts out as a leisurely backwoods paddle and inexorably picks up speed before spilling readers down its cascade of an ending. This is a thriller, an adventure novel, and a meditation on friendship, the outdoors, and something altogether deeper. *...Amazon Book Review*

Coming up for March, Betty Collier has chosen *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn.



From the Back Cover: 1947. In the chaotic aftermath of World War II, American college girl Charlie St. Clair is pregnant, unmarried, and on the verge of being thrown out of her very proper family. She’s also nursing a desperate hope that her beloved cousin Rose, who disappeared in Nazi-occupied France during the war, might still be alive. So when Charlie’s parents banish her to Europe to have her “little problem” taken care of, Charlie breaks free and heads to London, determined to find out what happened to the cousin she loves like a sister. 1915. A year into the Great War, Eve Gardiner burns to join the fight against the Germans and unexpectedly gets her chance when she’s recruited to work as a spy. Sent into enemy-occupied France, she’s trained by the mesmerizing Lili, code name Alice, the “queen of spies,” who manages a vast network of secret agents right under the enemy’s nose...Thirty years later, haunted by the betrayal that ultimately tore apart the Alice Network, Eve spends her days drunk and secluded in her crumbling London house. That is until a young American barges in uttering a name Eve hasn’t heard in decades, and launches them both on a mission to find the truth...no matter where it leads.

2019 in Review

The JFUMC church family is very actively involved in our community. Much is done “under the radar” and not fully appreciable until seen as a whole. At the December 29th service, John Lee gave a look back at what we did as a congregation throughout 2019. That is re-captured here. Each of these activities represent many, sometimes hundreds, of hours of participation as well as many generous donations. These ministries will be continuing on in 2020 — look for your opportunities to be involved.

Warm Hands, Warm Hearts--collected and donated over 150 coats (plus hats, gloves, and scarfs) for individuals in need in Jackson County. We also collected many blankets (at least 30) for the Dekalb County Fire Department to distribute to homeless individuals in Atlanta.

God Loves You Beary Much--collected over 150 new stuffed animals for children in crisis.

Nutrition On Weekends (NOW) Food Bags--provided bags of food for 40 students in the Jefferson City School system for 5 weeks (200 bags of food).

Service Projects for all ages--created potted plants for residents of Bentley and individuals who attend events at the Senior Center; wrote letters to military service members who are actively deployed; made activity kits to put in Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

Family Easter Event--truly an intergenerational event with around 20 families of young children participating and many seniors/retirees/"empty nesters" serving as presenters of the Easter story.

Rice Bowls (kids ministry fundraiser)--the kids collected \$318 to feed children in orphanages and children's homes across the world.

iServe--our members served with iServe Ministries food distributions in Commerce, Pendergrass, & Athens each month through the year.

Our Daily Bread--members served monthly to feed the homeless in Athens.

Winning Warriors Camp--served with the inaugural year of Winning Warriors (a free camp provided to children who have experience a traumatic event and led by local emergency workers)

Vacation Bible School--over 100 kids in the community attended, and we had over 70 youth and adult volunteers. Learning that no matter what life throws at you, God is always good.

Kenya Mission Team--13 members completed mission projects: building a girls' dormitory; working on the gravity feed so children would have access to a faucet through the community well.

Backpack Ministry--provided over 300 backpacks filled with supplies to students (PreK-12th grades); also provided a clothes closet to the individuals who came for school supplies.

Pumpkin Patch--provided pumpkins to the community as an outreach and invitation to “come & see” our church ministries; 58 people came to help unload the 1,300 pumpkins.

Connect Groups--At the beginning of 2019, 96 people participated in our Winter/Spring Connect Groups. In the Fall we registered 115 people for Connect Groups. We were able to offer a variety of groups: Grief Group, Coffee Shop Women's Group, Men's Group, Wednesday Night Groups, Alpha Groups, Weekly Home Groups, Moms Group, and two Disciple Groups.

More 2019 in Review

Operation Christmas Child--collected 314 shoeboxes from JFUMC and Outpost (91 of those were packed at our packing party); served as a Drop Off Location in the community and helped to collect (and transport to the Collection Center) 3,013 shoeboxes to bless with the gift of the Gospel at Christmas. Over 40 members volunteered in some capacity during National Collection Week.

Angel Tree/Fostering Hope/Children of Inmates Christmas Sponsorship--sponsored 70 children in our community through Holiday Connections, Jackson County DFACS, and prison ministry.

Thanksgiving & Christmas Meal Ministry--provided 300 meals (per holiday) to individuals in need as well as emergency workers (police, sheriff, fire, EMS); had over 60 volunteers in attendance to serve each time as well.

Caroling at Bentley & Northminster--around 30 children and youth sang Christmas carols and spread holiday cheer to our seniors citizens.

Preschool--57 children enrolled with many returning families with siblings now attending. Eight teachers returned this year and three of our teachers have worked at the school for five years. A Christmas program and cookie party filled the sanctuary with families supporting the children and preschool. Other big events in 2019: Back to School Bash, Easter Garden Party, and Preschool Art Show.

Preschool Community Service Projects--each month the preschool performs such projects as helping the Humane Society, Fostering Hope, Nutrition On Weekends, Operation Christmas Child, and Blessings Bags for first responders.

Weekly Youth Ministry--61 active youth participate, with middle school youth gathering from 4:00 to 6:00 on Sunday afternoons and high school youth gathering from 6:30 to 8:30 to share a meal, play games, and have devotional time.

Middle School Mission--In June our middle school youth participated in GRASP, an organization that engages students in mission work serving the needs of the elderly, handicapped, and economically disadvantaged citizens in an Appalachian community.

Middle School Random Acts of Kindness--throughout the year visited church members, helped some of our senior members with yard work, and helped senior members with home projects.

Middle School iServe Support--our young people served several times throughout the year to go and pack backpacks for the iServe food distribution ministry.

High School Mission to Africa--a team of high school seniors and adults raised money and traveled to Africa in the summer to serve in Life for Children Ministry. When these senior youth were in the 9th grade they met Michael Agwanda when he visited our group and shared about the children they were helping through this ministry. Some of the youth expressed how much they would like to go help him – three years later they did!

High School Mission to Brunswick, GA--a team of high school youth traveled to Brunswick to work with CIA Sports to provide a free sports camp for children who otherwise would not get to attend camp. After the children's camp each day, they visited nursing homes to interact with those who were lonely.

Trunk-or-Treat--fun and safe family event for the community on Halloween.

Jefferson First United Methodist Church OR Outpost 129

Follow us on Facebook:

JFUMC.com

Find out more, register for events, and give at:

Our Church Staff and Contact Information

188 Martin Street, Jefferson, GA 30549 | 706-367-8667 | jfumc.com

Office Hours | 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Monday - Friday

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Director of Children's & Service Ministries
Office Manager
Preschool Director
Traditional Music Director
Outpost Worship Leader
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Becky Kyle | Nicole Nash

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