

JORDAN  
MEMORIAL UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH



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# The Link

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 10

DECEMBER 2022 –  
JANUARY 2023



The Church of the Nativity is the traditional location of the birth of Jesus. Bethlehem sits on top of a mountain to the south of Jerusalem. The city today has sprawled down the hillsides in all directions, but at the time of Jesus, would have been just what is on top of the mountain. The hillsides that now contain buildings were the shepherd’s fields where the angel of the Lord would have appeared to the shepherds that fateful night. After walking up the hill from the parking area you reach the Church of the Nativity. It was built in 339 AD by Constantine to commemorate the place of Jesus’ birth. When you arrive, you are met by a funny door as the main entrance to the church. It is not decorated with fancy jewels or elaborate decorations; in fact, it doesn’t look like an entrance at all. Pictured above is the entrance to the Church of Nativity; it is also called the Door of Humility. At four feet tall and two feet wide, it is barely an opening to enter this massive cathedral. Now while the main reason for a small door is centered around protecting the church from Ottoman raiders on horseback, the spiritual meaning cannot be overlooked. The only way to enter the church is to kneel. You have to bow down in order to enter the church. There is a story of a student talking to a Rabbi. The student asks, “In the olden days there were people who saw the face of God. Why don’t they anymore?” The Rabbi replied, “Because nowadays no one can stoop that low.”

As we entered the Church of the Nativity, we had to bend low in order to walk through the Door of Humility, but that is nothing compared to what God did that first Christmas as he bent down and entered the world through a humble baby. I love what the author Danielle Shroyer says in her book, Where Jesus Prayed: “When we prostrate ourselves to God, we are

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**Please send mail and  
pray for our Homebound**

**Ray Albright**  
230 East Presnell Street  
Asheboro, NC 27203

**Sharon Jones**  
2988 Tuttle Road  
Archdale, NC 27263

**Toni Marley**  
7166 Jordan Rd,  
Ramseur, NC 27316

**Ann Robinson**  
2800 Spoons Chapel Rd  
Asheboro, NC 27205

**John and Sue Sinkewicz**  
814 McDowell Country Trail Lot#41  
Asheboro, NC 27203

**Bill Smith**  
Cross Roads Retirement Center  
1302 Old Cox Rd (Room 1)  
Asheboro, NC 27205

**Memorials and Honorariums**

**In Memory of Joe Hardin**  
Bruce & Claudia Ihme

**In Memory of Eddie Luck**  
Celeste Byrnes

**In Honor of Toni Marley**  
Betty Shackelford  
Celeste Byrnes

**In Honor of Bob & Betty Jo Armfield**  
Celeste Byrnes

**In Honor of Larry & Crandall Ellison**  
Celeste Byrnes

**In Honor of Emily Johnson**  
Celeste Byrnes

**In Honor of Jo Lynne Allen**  
Celeste Byrnes

**Jordan Memorial Military**

**SGT Trexler, Dylan**  
Unit#93199 TF Hammer  
(553rd CTC)  
APO AE 09008

**Quinton Smith**  
144 Mt. Vernon Ave.  
Portsmouth, VA 23707

**College Students**

**Maria Almanza (NCSU)**  
PO Box 362  
Ramseur, NC 27316

**Kara Camp**  
5546 Nightwood Drive  
Randleman, NC 27317

**Hannah Harris**  
2504 NC Hwy 22 South  
Ramseur, NC 27316

**Ashley Shackelford**  
2367 Woodridge Drive  
Asheboro, NC 27205

**Melissa Strickland**  
2868 Spoons Chapel Road  
Asheboro, NC 27205

**Welcome La Luz De Cristo!**



We are excited to formally welcome La Luz de Cristo to the Jordan Memorial Campus! Beginning of Advent they will be meeting here at Jordan for worship at 12:30 PM every Sunday. While we are two churches, we are one body in Christ. We are excited about the opportunities for ministry ahead as we work together, and for the ways our two congregations can serve, worship, and live out our calling as disciples of Christ. You may see some things change or get moved around as we make room for them within the space. I encourage you to welcome them and help them to feel at home. Our hope is that they will feel a new sense of identity and belonging within our walls as they enhance our ministries and the ways in which we can engage our community moving forward!

**Let's Show Our Support and Love!!**

Sergeant Dylan Trexler is deployed to Poland. He needs our love, support, and prayers. It is very difficult to deploy but especially during this time of year. Let's send him cards and letters! If you want to send him a care package, then items such as hand / foot warmers (Poland is very cold) and beef jerky are good and appreciated items. Here is the address to send those cards, letters, and packages too.

SGT Trexler, Dylan Unit #93199 TF Hammer (553rd CTC)  
APO AE 09008

**Israel Trip**

We invite you to join us on January 8th at 3:00 PM to hear all about our trip to Israel. We will have pictures, stories, and some time for spiritual reflection. We hope you can join us to hear all about the Holy Land experience, to hopefully learn something new, and to perhaps spark some interest in going on a future trip!



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*(Continued from page 1)*

merely mimicking what God has done for us.” We love to fill our homes and churches with elaborate decorations, beautiful greenery and symbols and there is nothing wrong with this, but we must always be careful to never forget the humble state in which our Savior was born. Emmanuel means God with us, God came into our world, into our joys and into our pain, into our celebrations and into our grief, God knelt to the earth to be with us.”

After you enter the church, you continue to go down. The church is built on top of a grotto or cave. First century homes would use the rock bed as a foundation, and in these caves would keep their animals and livestock to protect them from predators and other dangers. They would then build above that the residence where they lived. The word that our Bibles have translated as inn is not how we view an inn today; it literally means guest room. Most of us today have a guest room in our homes for when people visit; that was common in the first century as well. When Joseph arrives at a relative’s house, there is no guest room available because someone is already there, so they make their way down into the basement, the cave below the home where the animals are kept. As you go down the steps you see a star inlaid over marble stone. The star has a glass center in which inside you can see a rock. The rock itself is the original bedrock of Bethlehem. There are 14 points on the star representing the three sets of 14 generations from David to Jesus. We read about these in the beginning of Matthew’s Gospel. Tradition holds this is the place where Jesus was born. Once again you have to kneel, and you can reach into an alcove to touch the star which covers the rock of the cave. In this same room is a manger. Not a wooden trough as we picture today but a spot carved out in the rock to hold food and water. Again, you cannot help but be taken back by the humble nature to which God enters the world. Not in a palace but a dark cold cave, not laid in a soft bed but in a rock hewn feeding trough. Lower and lower God bends down to be with His people.

Because of the number of pilgrims making their way through this site, it is hard to fully grasp all that is happening; you get rushed through, get a quick photo op at the star, and then are escorted out. The hectic pace is a reminder of what Christmas has become. It has become a time at which we rush from event to event, service to service, and shopping center to mall, all in a furious race to get it all done. This season I want us to stop and slow down, take time to not rush but to kneel, to enter the Door of Humility of our hearts as we draw close to the presence of God in our lives. No one knows for sure if the star or that place really is where Jesus was born but that is not what matters. What matters is that he was born, and somewhere in Bethlehem the world was forever changed. Maybe that is the spot, maybe it’s not. As I knelt at the star, even in that brief moment, all I could say was thank you. Thank you for kneeling low enough to meet me where I am. God continues to kneel to the earth to meet us in our pain and grief our sorrows and joys. God continues to be Emmanuel, God with us. If you are having trouble seeing Him, perhaps you are not looking low enough. It is only when we bow low that we can see the face of God.

Pastor Chris Smith



# General Information

## Pottery

Bob Armfield is having his annual Christmas sale at the pottery shop. It is on December 10 from 9-4. Ten percent of all proceeds will be donated to Lydia's Place.

## Jordan's Closet

Jordan's Closet will be open Tuesday December 6, December 13, and December 20 giving out toys and clothes. We will reopen Tuesday January 17. As always, if you have an individual or a family in need during the times we are closed, anyone with a key may take them upstairs to get clothes or you can call Ann or Wayne. Also, we always need more help, so contact us if you would like to volunteer.

## United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith (formerly called United Methodist Women) will begin Christmas Card delivery on November 27 and continue it through December 18. Cards will be delivered to Jordan Memorial members as well as to residents in nursing homes. Donations will be accepted for the delivery of cards. Make checks out to United Methodist Women. Money collected will be donated to Lydia's Place – a new shelter for Women and Families in Asheboro supported by the United Methodist Church.

Additionally, we are collecting 2023 calendars for shut-ins and nursing homes. Calendars may be placed in the container outside the church office.

## AA Group

Jordan Memorial hosts Alcoholic Anonymous meetings on Monday and Thursday evenings at 6:30pm in the conference room.

We also host a women's only AA meeting Saturday's at 5pm in the conference room.

## Handbell Practice

Handbell Practice is Wednesday's at 6pm.



## Growing Together

Growing Together for December will look a bit different. For December we are going to do a Cookie Exchange! Bring your favorite cookies to share and a container to go home with various cookies from the exchange. There will be craft to do as well as a time for the men as well. We are grateful to Beth Burton for hosting this for us. We will do it on Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM The address is 3782 Hardin Ellison Road Franklinville. Please let us know if you plan on coming so we can prepare appropriately.

## December 4<sup>th</sup> Meetings

3:00 PM SPRC meeting  
4:00 PM Administrative Council



## Nehemiah Food Drive

The Nehemiah Food Drive distribution will be December 17<sup>th</sup>. We will need help the day of to distribute the boxes as well as help on Friday night before in getting the boxes ready. Please contact Pastor Chris or the church office if you would like to help.

## Walking Group

The Walking group meets at Franklinville at 8am, Monday – Friday.

## Faith & Fitness

Exercise class meets on Tuesday's & Thursday's at 9am in the fellowship hall. Equipment is provided and there is no fee.

## Craft Circle Group

Craft Circle Group meets every Thursday at 3pm in the fellowship hall. All crafts are welcome.

## Choir Practice

Choir Practice is Wednesday's at 7pm.



# Christmas Events



**Christmas on Main** is December 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM The church will have our usual spot where we can serve hot chocolate, coffee and other goodies. If you would like to help, please contact the church office. Ramseur Christmas parade is at 5pm.



## Ornament Exchange

We will have a secret ornament exchange this year to celebrate the Christmas season and share some holiday cheer! We will do this jointly with our brothers and sisters from La Luz so it should be a wonderful time! A sign-up sheet will be available at the front of the church if you would like to participate. It does not have to be anything fancy; any ornament you want to share either bought or handmade! We will collect the ornaments throughout December and plan to exchange on December 18<sup>th</sup> during Sunday morning service! We hope you will join us in this wonderful Holiday tradition as we celebrate together the birth of our Savior!



## Combined Service

We will once again have a combined service at 10:30 AM for New Year's Day! Hope you can join us as we begin the new year together!



## Music Celebration

Join us Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM for a special service of Word and Song. The Choir and Handbells will share with us as we journey through the Scriptures of that first Christmas. A special thanks to Carolyn Albright, Elaine Bowman and all of our choir and handbell members for making this possible!



## Christmas Eve Service

Join us for a special Candlelight Christmas Eve service on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:00 PM. "O Come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord" the light of the world that came into the darkness!



## Christmas Day Worship

Join us Christmas Day at 10:30 AM for worship as we will have a combined service with our brothers and sisters from La Luz De Cristo to celebrate our Savior's birth. We are inviting everyone to wear their **Christmas pajamas** to worship as we will sing and worship together and celebrate our Savior's birth!

## UMW RECOGNITION - 2022

For many years United Methodist Women/ United Women in Faith have been honoring members, ministers and lay persons by giving a gift to missions in their honor, along with a special pin. Jordan Memorial has been honoring persons since 1950 when the first "life membership" was awarded to Mrs. Maggie Lane. Over the years, Jordan Memorial UMW has recognized over 140 individuals with this special recognition award.

The person or persons who receive the recognition may be a member of Jordan Memorial but that is not a requirement. They may be a youth or an adult, male or female. They are recognized for significant contributions to the work of the church and the community as well as to United Methodist Women. The award was formerly called a life membership to the United Methodist Women. In recent years the name changed from life membership to the UMW Special Recognition Award. The criteria remains the same. The money given in the person's honor is an undesignated gift to be used for projects world-wide, including places in the United States that serve women, children and youth.

It is a high honor within United Methodist Women/ United Women in Faith to be recognized for giving time and service to the church and community with an emphasis on work with women, children and youth.



This year's award goes to a person who is a lifelong member of Jordan Memorial. This person is quiet and unassuming, but goodness, a powerful presence in the life of the church and within the community. This person loves unconditionally and is always willing to help with any project, from community meals to mission projects through United Women in Faith and extending compassion and empathy through work at the Food Pantry, planning projects for Lydia's Place, and for reaching out to folks, both members and non-members alike.

This person exemplifies what it looks like to serve as the hands and feet of Christ and it is an honor recognize this year's recipient, Crandall Ellison.

## UMW News

United Women in Faith would like to express our thanks to the congregation for its support of our local unit. With your help during 2022, we have been able to offer a variety of mission projects that support the church as well as the community. These include:

A once weekly meal train for certain families in the church.

Providing for the Franklinville School Backpack Pals program once each quarter.

Collecting deodorant, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products for the Ramseur Food Pantry

Providing Easter baskets for shut-ins

Providing canned drinks and chips for the Ramseur School Faculty and Staff during American Education Week

Collecting forty \$10 gift cards for the Adult Services Division at Randolph County DSS

Purchasing new bows for the sanctuary for our Advent season

We look forward to continuing our mission projects during 2023. Our first project, for January, will be collecting new towels to donate to Lydia's Place. You may place the new towels in the collection bin outside the church office through the end of January.

Please consider becoming a part of our United Women in Faith. We would love to have more members!! Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 22 at 2:30pm in the church fellowship hall.



## New Church Leaders and Committee Members Meeting

Calling all new church leaders and committee members! On January 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM we will have a time for planning and on boarding our new ministry teams. This will be a chance to learn in more detail the roles to which we have committed and to begin planning what that will look like in the coming year. We will meet from 10 until 12 with lunch being provided to close out our time together. If you are a part of one of the new ministry teams, we highly encourage you to attend so that we can begin the year off strong!

### We are pleased to announce the new Ministry Teams for 2023!!!

At our Charge Conference we formally approved our new leadership structure and teams for the upcoming year. Below you will find a list of all the committees, their chairpersons, and their members.

#### Leadership Team (Administrative Council, Trustees, & Finance)

Celia Harris (Chair of Council)	Betty Jo Armfield (SPRC Chair)	John Allen (Finance Sect.)
Brian Shackelford (Lay Leader)	Ann Hutchins (conference delegate)	Melisa Perry (Secretary)
David Posey (Trustee Chair)	Anne Cox (Journey Team)	Hunter Shackelford (Youth)
(Finance Chair)	Crandall Ellison (Connect Team)	Wayne Hutchins (At Large)
Lauren Hutchins (Treasurer)	Joy Collins (Impact Team)	Eric Hutchins (At Large)

#### Staff Parish Relations Committee

Betty Jo Armfield (Chair)  
Tommy Perry  
Celeste Byrnes  
Jo Lynne Allen  
Bruce Ihme

#### Journey Team

Anne Cox (Chair)  
Melissa Strickland (Vision Team Rep.)  
Jane Embree  
Bill Craven  
Hannah Harris  
Priscilla Allen  
Tom Hardin

#### Connect Team

Crandall Ellison (Chair)  
Doug Collins (Vision Team Rep.)  
Rob Roberts  
Jim Rains  
Beth Burton  
Jackie Craven  
Emily Johnson

#### Vision Team (Nominations)

Chris Smith (Pastor/Chair)  
Tommy Perry (Impact Rep)  
Melissa Strickland (Journey Rep)  
Doug Collins (Connect Rep)  
Jim Rains  
Megan Chamblee  
Rob Roberts  
Eric Hutchins

#### Impact Team

Joy Collins (Chair)  
Tommy Perry (Vision Team Rep.)  
Jaidy Smith  
Melisa Perry  
Lauren Hutchins  
Ann Hutchins  
Kim Shackelford

# December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9am Faith & Fitness Craft Grp 3pm Small Grp 6pm AA Mtg 6:30pm	2	3 Christmas on Main Ham & Parade 5pm Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
4 SPRC Mtg 3pm Admin Council mtg 4pm	5 AA Mtg 6:30pm	6 9am Faith & Fitness Jordan Closet 5pm	7 Handbell 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	8 9am Faith & Fitness Craft Grp 3pm Small Grp 6pm AA Mtg 6:30pm	9	10 Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
11 Choir & Handbell Concert 4pm	12 AA Mtg 6:30pm	13 9am Faith & Fitness Jordan Closet 5pm	14 Handbell 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	15 9am Faith & Fitness Craft Grp 3pm Small Grp 6pm AA Mtg 6:30pm	16 Nehemiah Project fill boxes	17 Nehemiah Pro- ject dist boxes Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
18 Ornament Exchange Growing Together 2:30pm	19 AA Mtg 6:30pm	20 9am Faith & Fitness Jordan Closet 5pm	21 Choir Practice 7pm	22 9am Faith & Fitness Craft Grp 3pm Small Grp 6pm AA Mtg 6:30pm	23 Candlelight svc 6pm	24 Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
25 <b>Merry Christmas</b>	26 AA Mtg 6:30pm	27 9am Faith & Fitness Jordan Closet 5pm	28 Choir Practice 7pm	29 9am Faith & Fitness Craft Grp 3pm Small Grp 6pm AA Mtg 6:30pm	30	31 Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm

**Ramseur Food Pantry:** Peanut Butter & Jelly, Canned Sweet & White Potatoes. Always a need: Frozen items, Personal Hygiene items, Infant Formula, Baby Food, Diapers. Additionally, the Food Pantry is in need of donations of bar soap, packs of disposable razors and shaving cream

## December Birthdays

04-Billie Thomas  
04-Dylan Leonard  
07-Kathleen Posey Daniel  
10-Mark Trexler  
11-Wesley M. Gilliland  
14- Izzy Benbow  
14- Michelle Keeling  
15-Christian Miller  
15-Toni Marley  
15-Betty Dorsett  
17-Allen Mitchell  
18-Sawyer Mitchell  
19-Linda Brady  
20-Sailor Boyd  
23-William R. Craven

24-Jack Robert Shelton  
25-Crandall G. Ellison  
26-Richard J. Thomas, Jr.  
31-Dale Byrnes

## Birthday Celebration

Celebrating **Ms. Toni Marley's 101st birthday.** There will be a small celebration with light refreshments at the Universal Health Care Sunroom on Thursday, December 15th between 2-4. No gifts, please! If you are unable to drop by then Ms. Toni would enjoy getting a card from you. Mail it to PO Box 31 Ramseur, NC 27316.



# January 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 AA Mtg 6:30pm	3 9am Faith & Fitness	4 Handbell 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	5 9am Faith & Fitness Craft Grp 3pm Small Grp 6pm AA Mtg 6:30pm	6	7 Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
8	9 AA Mtg 6:30pm	10 9am Faith & Fitness	11 Handbell 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	12 9am Faith & Fitness Craft Grp 3pm Small Grp 6pm AA Mtg 6:30pm	13	14 Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
15	<b>16 Martin Luther King Day</b> AA Mtg 6:30pm	17 9am Faith & Fitness Jordan Closet 5pm Community Meal 5pm	18 Handbell 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	19 9am Faith & Fitness Craft Grp 3pm Small Grp 6pm AA Mtg 6:30pm	20	21 Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
22 UMW mtg 2:30pm	23 AA Mtg 6:30pm	24 9am Faith & Fitness	25 Handbell 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	26 9am Faith & Fitness Craft Grp 3pm Small Grp 6pm AA Mtg 6:30pm	27	28 Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
29	30 AA Mtg 6:30pm	31 9am Faith & Fitness				

**Ramseur Food Pantry:** Dry Beans, Pork & Beans, Instant Potatoes. We will need volunteers Jan 30–Feb 03.

## January Birthdays

01– Martha Thomas  
01– Katherine Sumakeris  
02– Megan Chamblee  
03– Richard Thomas, Sr.  
04– Nina Ruth Foust  
05– Jan M. Shelton  
05– Jill M. Wood  
06 – Sarah Strickland  
08– Anne Cox  
09– Amy Riddle  
09– Easton Rains  
11– Payton E. Shackelford Beeson  
14– Susan Sinkewicz  
15– Michael Bressler  
16– Susan Bodsford Wesley  
20– Charles D. Lane, Jr.  
21– Elton L. Smith  
23 – Bill Blake  
23– Ellen Williams

28– Aaron Hardin  
28– Matthew Hardin  
29– Viletta Embree  
29– Billy Poole

## Summer 2022 Sermon Series: Encanto

Did you enjoy our summer sermon series? Would you like to watch it again? Or perhaps you missed one of the episodes or would like to watch a particular episode again. You can watch it all over again on our website. Check it out. It was a great series!

<https://jordanmemorial.org/sermons>

## Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church

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[www.JordanMemorial.org](http://www.JordanMemorial.org)



### **Community Meal December 13th at 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM Our January 2023 meal is Tuesday, January 17th at 5pm**

Join us for a Christmas celebration as we enjoy good food, fellowship, and even a surprise visit from Santa! All are invited, but especially kids to come and enjoy time with Santa! Nothing represents the Holidays better than time around the Table. Hope you can join us on this evening at the Table at Jordan Memorial UMC.

#### Worship times

Sunday School 9:30am  
Worship Service 10:30am

