



THE NEWS

STONE MOUNTAIN FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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THE NEWS

STONE MOUNTAIN FIRST UMC

Issue 205

March 2021

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SMFUMC STAFF

Dr. Ellen Shepard	Pastor
Rev. Joel Wiggins.....	Assistant to Pastor
In Community Engagement & Youth Ministry	
Rebecca P. Ball.....	Director of Music and Worship Arts
Porter Draughon.....	Organist / Accompanist
Sandy Seabury.....	Administrative Asst.
Daisy Williams.....	Office Manager and Financial Secretary
Savanah Hawkins.....	Children's Nursery
Mary Finley.....	Children's Nursery
Vivian Robinson.....	Worship Team
Rev. Lahronda Little.....	Pastor of Religious Practice and Health
Molly Bagley.....	Candler Intern
Amy Lazzaroni.....	Candler Intern
Diane Ward, M.Div.....	Pastor of Community and Digital Worship
Sharee Wyatt.....	Custodian

Dear Church Family,

March is on it’s way. So happy to be past the February winter! The daf-fodils are blooming and all the good things that have been growing their blooms in the midst of winter in secret are about to spring forth (pun intended!). Red buds, forsythia, azaleas, Lenten roses, dogwoods ...all bursting with God’s glory. We are invited to be co-creators with God in this effort. As you work in your gardens and in your yard, remember that you are partnering with God. You do that also when you care for your neighbor and the stranger. Co-creators. Healing our world.

Some news from the Staff Parish Relations Committee: We have been so fortunate to have Lahronda Little and Diane Ward as a part of our team providing care, worship, and media and connecting us beyond our walls. Both are pursuing ordination in the UMC in non-traditional roles, but called to the work of the ordained indeed. Diane as the Executive Director of Project Transformation North Georgia and Lahronda who is finishing her dissertation for her PhD hopes to combine her ministry with the church and the academy. The SPRC, in appreciation for their im-mense gifts to the church, have written job descriptions for each and offered them an official role in our church. These are non-paid positions, but are an effort to show our appreciation for all they continue to do among us. We are better because they partner with us! Lahronda is the Pastor of Religious Practice and Health. Diane is the Pastor of Community and Digital Worship.

If you are having trouble scheduling your covid19 vaccine, Georgia has a new site: <https://myvaccinegeorgia.com>. If you need help, drop by the office and we will try to help you.

Please join us for Bible Study, Sunday School, Book Club, Worship, and the evening prayer calls. If you have had both your vaccines and have passed your waiting time, you are most welcome to join us on Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary at 11:00 as we film our services for production.

Here’s to spring on the horizon!

Much Love, Ellen+


God, Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life...Psalm 23: 6a The Message.

March 23 Book Club on Zoom


Our book for March is *While We Were Watching Downton Abbey* by Wendy Wax, an Atlanta author.

For our April selection we will read *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah. It is a book about new beginnings, survival in the wilderness of Alaska, and the “erratic behavior found in human nature.”

If you would like to join our group, please contact Susan Dietz at (770-330-8863 or sjdietz@att.net) so she can send you the Zoom link on the day of the meeting.



We have created an email account for Prayer Requests:
prayersstonemountainfumc@gmail.com
It will be checked continually and emailed to the prayer team.



The Altar Flowers for March are given by Pat Inglis

Budget Report—January 2021

Receipts: \$16,247.48
Expenses: \$18,013.59
(\$1,766.11)

Prayer Concerns

Charlene Shepard,
Kelly Shepard’s mother
Gerald Williams
Kathleen Bogue
Vivian’s sister Carolyn
Ruth Richards
Isis Springer
Baby Caleb
Mary Craft
Doc Lawrence
Lowell and Ann Abel,
Rebecca Beacham’s brother and sister-in-law

Pat Wheeler, surgery
Marilyn Crowe, surgery
“The Village Church”
Churches that are re-opening
The North Georgia Conference of the UMC
The Sanders, Fleming, and Croke Families
Uvalyn Patterson, Zoeann Drummand’s mother.

Our Stone Mountain First Church Community

~ Sunday School at 9:30 (new time) ~

Sunday School each week on Facebook Live “chat” with your church family. For access to Sunday School together - New Sunday School webinar link:

Link to join Webinar

https://us02web.zoomus/j/85848244434
or to listen on our Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/SMFUMC.

~ Worship at 11:00 ~

You can worship thru Facebook live at 11:00.
Links will be available on our website.

Lenten Bible Study Thru March 31

Calling all women! Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, we will begin studying the book Just a Sister Away: A Womanist Vision of Women’s Relationships in the Bible by Renita Weems.

About the book:

Writing with African American women in mind, Renita Weems probes beneath the surface to find out how the women of the Scripture felt about themselves – by looking at how they treated other women. We will be looking at relationships between women such as Hagar and Sarah, Naomi and Ruth, and Jephthah’s Daughter and the mourning women, to name a few. Believing that a common thread of sacred female experience continues to bind centuries of women, Weems offers the hope that “we are just a sister away from our healing.”

This is an older book, so it’s easiest to either purchase an e-reader edition like Kindle or look at used book sites like thriftbooks.com. If you have any trouble obtaining the book, please reach out to Molly (mjbagle@emory.edu) or Amy (allazza@emory.edu) and we will try to help you track a copy down. The Kindle version is less than \$12, and used copies are about \$11 or less (so don’t buy the one for \$33.95 on Amazon!). You can join us at the following link:

Topic: SMFUMC Bible Study
Time: Wednesdays at 7:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
[https://emory.zoom.us/j/94484984049?](https://emory.zoom.us/j/94484984049?pwd=NmpMUHF5aUxoblNiNXVnZjZFajNJUT09)
[pwd=NmpMUHF5aUxoblNiNXVnZjZFajNJUT09](https://emory.zoom.us/j/94484984049?pwd=NmpMUHF5aUxoblNiNXVnZjZFajNJUT09)

Meeting ID: 944 8498 4049
Passcode: 632770
One tap mobile
+14703812552,,94484984049# US (Atlanta)
+14702509358,,94484984049# US (Atlanta)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!



- 3 Barbara Cooper
- 4 Lahrona Little
- 5 Jackie McGinnis
- Vivian Robinson
- 8 Mary Craft
- 11 Savanah Hawkins
- 22 Jean Winfrey
- 31 Luke Hawkins

Happy Anniversary!

- 6 Gerald and Daisy Williams
- 27 Gary and Kay Jordan

Happy Belated Birthday to

Becky Ball



Please Join Us for Prayer
Each night at 7 p.m.

We are using the zoom platform (www.stonemountainfirst.org) for computer.
The number for phone is 1-929-205-6099, and meeting id: 488 474 720.

Can You Name The Seminary Student?
Match the Picture With the Name!



Christy Oxendine
Angelo Luis
Vivian Robinson
Iyabo Onipede
Anna Field
Diane Rawlings
Liz Byrd
Diane Ward
Luke Lea
Joel Wiggins

Marissa Sue Teauseau
Maddie Russo
Lori Surmay
Jacqueline Harmon
Mona Pineda
Amy Lazzaroni
Molly Bagley
Cameron Garrett
Lahrona Little

