



**THE NEWS**

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*STONE MOUNTAIN FIRST  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*

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MAILING ADDRESS

**Book Club on Zoom - Meeting on Tuesday,  
January 26 at 3:30**

The Stone Mountain First UMC Book Club has chosen  
for its next book,

*West with the Night* by Beryl Markham.

**THE CO-OP NEEDS FOOD**  
**For Our Neighbors**

The Stone Mountain Co-op Ministry  
**New Fall Hours:**  
**Monday and Wednesday 10:00—1:30 p.m.**  
**Friday—10 a.m.—12 Noon**


The following items are needed : \*Soups  
\*Jelly \*Peanut Butter \*Canned veggies  
\*Canned fruits \*Canned meats, \*Toilet paper,  
\*Toothpaste \*Soap, \*Dried beans/peas,  
\*Any other non-perishable items.



*We have created an email account for  
Prayer Requests:*

*[prayersstonemountainfumc@gmail.com](mailto:prayersstonemountainfumc@gmail.com)*

*It will be checked continually and  
emailed to the prayer team.*

  
**School should lead to meaningful, productive lives  
for our children - NOT prison cells.**

Join Project Transformation and the North Georgia United  
Methodist Women for the remaining 1-part virtual series  
centered around faith in action: practical steps you and  
your faith community can take to interrupt the school to  
prison pipeline.

**Jan 16th, 11am: "Become an Advocate for Change"**  
**- Diane Ward, Executive Director of**  
**Project Transformation, will be a panelist. -**  
Registration is FREE. Register Here.  
<https://bit.ly/PBIS-Webinar>

**Budget Report—November 2020**

**Receipts: \$20,783.45**  
**Expenses: \$19,429.93**  
**\$ 1,353.52**



**Year-End Statements will be  
mailed in this month.**

**The Work of Christmas**

*When the song of the angels is  
stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are  
home,  
When the shepherds are back with  
their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among others,  
To make music in the heart.*

*~Howard Thurman*

# THE NEWS

## STONE MOUNTAIN FIRST UMC

Issue 203

January 2021

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**SMFUMC STAFF**

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

***New Beginnings***

As I write this, we are two days from the beginning of a new year. As I think  
back to last January, I was headed to The Holy Lands with a group of seminary  
students to bring the Word more alive and understand in a deeper way the conflict  
between Israel and Palestine. As we returned, we had no idea how the next weeks  
would unfold and how the world would change. How we would change. How  
church would change. That masks would become an ordinary piece of our ward-  
robes. We would learn that we could tell if people were smiling by their eyes.  
But you, The Village Church, have been busy. We've had two weddings during  
Covid. We have given away over 400 boxes of food to the food insecure. We  
have used our parking lot for flu shots and Christmas baskets for the elderly and  
Christmas for children and Project Transformation. We have continued to have  
church on zoom, in person, and now on camera because of the forward thinking  
Church Council. We have had Sunday School each week. We have nightly  
prayer holding together our church community and another one in Philadelphia,  
PA.

All in all, a very remarkable year. Yes, marked by loss for many. But God has  
been present even in our losses. As we enter this new year of 2021, let us go  
boldly with Jesus, being light in dark places and filled with the trust that God  
holds us all. Will you pray with me?

God in whose love we are made,  
when bread is before us  
Remind us of the hungry.  
When our key is in our door  
Remind us of those  
who have no home.  
When we enjoy the opportunities  
of money in our pockets  
Remind us of those  
who only know poverty.  
When the laughter of friendship  
fills our hearing  
Remind us of those  
who know only loneliness.  
When the love of our family  
keeps us safe  
Remind us of those whose family  
was the place of their pain.  
When we wonder what it is  
we can do  
Remind us that you said:  
Whenever you feed the hungry,  
clothe the naked,  
welcome the stranger,  
visit the prisoner,  
you do it for me.  
And lead us to do  
As you call us to do.  
Amen.

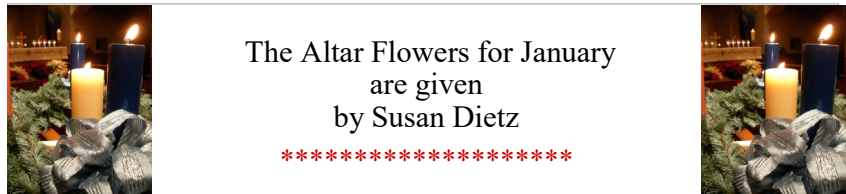
~ Iona Community, Scotland

**10:30 Morning Bible Study.**  
*The Lion, the Mouse and the Dawn Treader: Spiritual Lessons from C.S. Lewis's Narnia.* Facilitator: Lori Surmay (on Zoom format).  
[See Website](#) or Facebook page.

~ ***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 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82738720413> 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.

| Prayer Concerns          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Gerald Williams          | “The Village Church”                     |
| Isis Springer            | Churches that are re-opening             |
| Vivian’s sister, Carolyn | The North Georgia Conference of the UMC  |
| Ruth Richards            | The Sanders, Fleming, and Croke Families |
| Baby Caleb               | Uvalyn Patterson, Zoeann Drummand’s      |
| Isis Springer            | Mother.                                  |
| Mary Craft,              | Doc Lawrence, surgery on December 29     |
| recuperating at home     | Lowell and Ann Abel, Rebecca Beacham’s   |
|                          | brother and sister-in-law.               |

***With Sympathy~***  
***Our Church family extends sincere sympathy and prayers to Michael Sabatelle and family on the death of his mother, Connie Whatley.***



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Happy Birthday!



- 6 Jeff Smith
- 9 Lindsey Brown  
Cheryl Dawson
- 10 Gary Jordan  
Steven Neill
- 15 Marilyn Rushing
- 16 Ali Veazey
- 22 April Fleming
- 25 John Cranford
- 28 Marvin Gibbs
- 30 Jim Chesnut

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Happy Anniversary!



- 13 Bill and Becky MacAnn

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**Please Join Us for Prayer**  
**Each night at 7 p.m.**  
  
We are using the zoom platform  
([www.stonemountainfirst.org](http://www.stonemountainfirst.org)) for  
computer.  
The number for phone is 1-929-205-  
6099, and meeting id: 488 474 720.

The Work of Stone Mountain First  
Missions Team



**November**  
30 blankets delivered to those who live on the streets  
70 Toiletry bags for women  
70 bags with hats, gloves, scarves and socks for women  
\$300 provided for meals  
**December**  
30 bags with hand sanitizer and masks delivered  
20 pair of women’s sweat pants  
50 kits with hat, gloves, scarf, socks, toothpaste, hair brush and  
comb for men who reside in senior  
citizen housing  
25 kits for children with hat, gloves and socks  
180 gift bags for the residents of Branan Towers  
80 gifts bags for The View.

