

PRAYER NEEDS FOR OUR PEOPLE

OUR MEMBERS

Bennie Agee
Andy Beaudoin
Dennis Davis
Mike Drake
Kathryn Dye
Carol Echols
Denise Gamblin
Erby Garrett
Mark Godfrey
Joey Hilliard
Lillie Jones
Pete Jones
Roy Nance

Barbara Padgett
Ann Poss
Liane Price

OUR LOVED ONES

Dawn Ashley
Braeden Bagley
Christina Becker
John Bridges
Mickey Bush
Matt Conley
Amber Cullifer
Nolan DeRamus
Earl Donaldson

Margaret Guill
Pat Martin
Marie Moody
Julia Moore
Jean Peal
Jeff Sperin

OUR LOVED ONES ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE MILITARY

Imani Blocker, USA
Alex Mullen, USCG
Adam Stewart, USCG



THE EXHAUSTED MOTHER'S CHRISTMAS PLEDGE

By Lisa-Jo Baker



I shall not wait for my house or my life to be perfect before inviting someone in.

I shall remember that there's no shame in paper plates if they're heaped high with delight in each others' company.

I shall pause between preparations to savor the celebrations.

I shall remember that hospitality is about opening the door, not about how fancy the furniture, decor or dishes.

I shall treat my family with the same grace I offer my guests.

I shall treat myself with the same grace I offer everyone else.

I shall leave the dishes and lean into the conversations.

I shall remember that I want you here. Whether I'm perfectly ready or not. Just the way you are. Which will likely mean most days, I must open the door just the way I am too.

QUOTABLE

“For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child himself.”

— **Charles Dickens** (1812-1870) an English novelist



When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." — JOHN 8:12 NV

THANK YOU!

Denise and the Dye Family would like to thank everyone for the visits, gifts, flowers, cards and most of all prayers for Miss Kathryn. They are so appreciative of your thoughts and prayers.

We, the staff, would like to thank our Burns Church family for the generous gift cards given to us for Christmas! It was a wonderful gift and we really appreciate them!

Many thanks to all who helped with the Christmas Party at Augusta Gardens, hosting the Community Christmas Caroling event, and to all who helped at our Family Night Supper! As someone said, “Volunteers are love in motion!”

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

A wonderful way to make Christmas special is to attend the Christmas Eve Service at 6 PM on December 24. Here at Burns, we will have the traditional

service of Lessons and Carols, with soloists from our own congregation as well as a guest musician, and talented guitarist, David Leinweber. The service will conclude with Holy Communion and singing Silent Night by candle light. Merry Christmas!



PLEDGE DRIVE

We are having our annual pledge drive this month. Please prayerfully consider make a pledge to the church for 2024. Completed pledge cards can be placed in the offering boxes.



December 24, 2023

Burns Memorial
Methodist Church

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www.burnsmemorial.com burnschurch@comcast.net

CCLI # 2893496

PASTOR JOHN DONALDSON

706-421-6339 (call or text) pastor@burnsmemorial.com

The Worship Service is livestreamed at
www.facebook.com/burnsmemorial

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP based on Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

Come, let us worship the God
Whose light brings hope to a weary world.

HYMNS Angels We Have Heard On High 132

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH A Christmas Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel, which began in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was not room in the inn.

I believe in the one whose life changed the course of history, for whom the kings of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud.

I believe in the one whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind, the leprous gave welcome and accepted as Lord and Savior.

I believe in peace, reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of the Gospel.

I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change if with humility and with faith we kneel before the manger. I believe that I must be the first to do so.

GLORIA PATRI

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

God is good, **All the time!**

ADVENT WREATH WEEK FOUR

HYMN God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

RESPONSIVE PRAYER Written by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER CHORUS Away In A Manger 157 vs. 3

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.**

CHORAL ANTHEM It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

VIDEO CLIP The Christmas Scale

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-14

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

MESSAGE Joyful Season

HYMN Joy To The World 125

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



It is so nice to have you join us this morning at Burns Memorial! We are glad you are here!

If you have any questions about the service, restrooms, hearing devices, Children's Church, Nursery, children's activity bags or anything else, please ask one of the Ushers.

THIS WEEK AT BURNS

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day—Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

Morning Movers 10:30 AM

Wednesday, December 27

Morning Movers 10:30 AM

Thursday, December 28

Morning Movers 10:30 AM

Friday, December 29

Morning Movers 10:30 AM

Saturday, December 30

NA Open Meeting 9:00 AM

Sunday, December 31

Sunday School 9:30AM
Choir Practice 10:20 AM
Worship Service 11:00 AM
NA Meeting 5:00 PM

Dee will be out of the office from December 22 – 29.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

LITURGIST	Bruce Moore	USHER CAPTAIN	Wayne Allen
SONG LEADER			
PIANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR	Mike Kelley	SUNDAY COUNTERS	Mark Jackson Janet Ford
NURSERY WORKER	Colleen Browne	AV TECHNICIANS	Thomas & Jordan Donaldson
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Alex Kelley		