



**MIDDLESETTLEMENTS**  
METHODIST CHURCH



## December 2025 Newsletter

Written with love by the Middlesettlements family, the 2025 Advent devotional booklet is available in print and in our weekly email! You will find members of the congregation reflecting on the meaning of various scriptures and sharing their experiences, insight, and testimonies – as well as ways you can celebrate God and his work this season. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

*"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds." Titus 2:11-14*

The Church has its own calendar—its own way of organizing time around the stories of scripture. There are holy days (holi-days) and seasons, times of remembering and celebrating, days of feasting or fasting and repenting. Each of those days and seasons helps us tell the story of God, helping us love Him with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. These days and seasons of remembering God's story are called the Liturgical Year and it begins every year with the season of Advent. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival"—and the season of Advent is a time of looking forward to the advent of Jesus. Advent invites us to remember how Jesus has come to us before—how as a baby "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"—and how Jesus will someday come again in glory.

While we wait and hope, there is much to be done. We are to live in a certain way: the way of the people of God. We live in gratefulness, remembering our salvation as a gift from God. We remember that Christ has made us his own and that we are to live like him. It can sound a little boring at first, especially during the holiday-frenzy of December. But these are ways of life that not only help us be free, but also offer us hope, peace, joy, and love.

A few organizational notes about MMC's 2025 Advent Devotional that you might find helpful as you begin:

- Daily entries have two parts: "daily prayer" and "devotion". Take time to read these each day, if possible, at around the same time. If you don't already have a daily Quiet Time, this can give you the "kick-start" you need to make it a regular practice. If finding time for prayer is hard, or feels boring, set a timer for 10-15 minutes each day. No matter what, you're done when the timer goes off and while it's going, nothing else gets to intrude.
- Each daily devotion features scripture, reflections from the people of God, and a prayer. I love reading these every year as I edit – there is so much wisdom, humor, and honesty in these reflections! **Sunday** daily devotions focus on the scripture passage that will be used in Sunday Worship! These devotions give you space to hear and respond to the reading for each day, as well as to write down anything you've learned.
- Each "daily prayer" has space for adoration, confession & pardon, thanksgiving, supplication, and reflection. If you're new to these, a few notes:
  - **Adoration:** *This one will probably be the hardest at first, cause you'll be tempted to make it "thanksgiving" – but it's not! This is pure praise. What can you praise God for? What about Him is revealed to you as worthy of your praise that day? If you're looking for examples, the Psalms and many hymns or praise songs offer praise that goes beyond gratitude for His gifts. Here are some praises I've given in the past (these are ...simple, but struck me as pretty awesome of God too): "You are Creator of leaves & trees & changing colors", "you designed the scents of cinnamon and clove", "you worked to include tastebuds in my body", "you made families and placed them together to live in love", "you imagined fire and made it real", "you are head of the church and all things are under you", "you set things in order, with specific natures and rules and purpose", and "you are good and your purposes are always good".*
  - **Confession & Pardon:** *You've probably confessed your sin before, but here it is: a daily confession of sin. This month, you might realize you're confessing the same sin each day...or that you rarely acknowledge you've done wrong! But important to each daily confession is the acceptance of God's forgiveness – as God's people, repentance is followed by mercy. It might seem silly to follow the daily instructions of setting aside a (timed) minute to breathe God's mercy in and out, but it's a beautiful, life-changing practice. Try it!*

- **Thanksgiving:** Daily thanksgivings are so, so good and so, so important. This month, try to find new, specific things to be thankful for – not the same three every day. I'm tempted to often just say "family, job, home", but when I push myself, I've been so much more grateful because while these three are AMAZING, I am surrounded by things to be grateful for. Here's some of the thanksgivings I've given: a lunch date with my husband, my children arguing about the theology in Sister Act, the loving care I receive when I'm sick, the recipes I tried that were even better and easier than expected, my kids' friends' moms who have become close friends, the way the color pink keeps looking so good with the color red, the blessing of a precious new niece, the surprise of the package I thought got lost in the mail finally showing up, the joy of my planner accessories, and how cute my kids look in suspenders.
- **Intercession:** This is the space to pray for your requests and for others! Every week we send out prayer requests – take time to pray for the people in our church and community, as well as for yourself and your family.
- **Reflection:** In your "daily devotion", you've read the word of God and read/heard a reflection on it. Take time to respond!
- Every Thursday has a "throwback" entry. Enjoy reading the wisdom of some of the MMC Saints who have now joined the Church Triumphant.
- Woven throughout are ways for you to observe the season at home. This may be new to you—but surrounding your home, ways, and even meals with discipleship can only be a good thing!

Many thanks to all who contributed, edited, produced, and distributed! As always, I'm grateful for this devotion that encourages me in my personal prayer time, challenges me in my discipleship journey, and binds me together with my church family. May this Advent & Christmas be a blessing to you, teaching you to follow and desire Jesus in every corner of your life and home.

God bless you!  
Pastor Magan

### Faithfulness

*"I will support the church with my presence, prayers, gifts, and service!" (Membership vow)*

#### Attendance

Attendance	S.S.	Worship	
November		Morning	MorningView
2	63	126	
9	54	99	
16	57	92	canceled
23	63	110	15
30	65	101	14

Nov	Designated Budget	Undesignated Budget	Total Budget
2	\$8,247	\$520	\$8,767
9	\$2,010	0	\$2,010
16	\$3,983	\$100	\$4,083
23	\$4,385	\$56	\$4,441
30	\$2,055	\$120	\$2,175

Budget amount needed for 2025: \$215,568

Budget amount received in 2025: \$230,865

#### Designated Budget

(100% of your gift will support Middlesettlements Methodist Church.)

#### Undesignated Budget

(10% of your offering will be tithed to the United Methodist Church.)

Louisville Christian Assistance Center: \$995

Evangelism/backpack: \$80

Parking Lot: \$4,350

Maintenance: \$200

**"Remember the Church in your will."**



#### *Birthdays in December*

December 2—Joel Puckett  
 December 4—Melinda Andes  
 December 6—Lucille Tallent  
 December 7—Todd Moore  
 December 10—Gage Teffeteller  
 December 11—Justin Marcus, Mary Justice, Joe Smith  
 December 12—Linda Hearon, Donna Hammontree  
 December 15—Lottie Patterson  
 December 17—Julia Keylon  
 December 20—Jenna Rogers  
 December 25—Richard Davis  
 December 27—Melissa Duckett  
 December 29—Norman Goodson  
 December 30—Amy Bloomer, Ann Connatser  
 December 31—Brenda Clemens, Lori Wilkerson  
 January 3—Howie Ammons  
 January 5—Jeff Bolton, Amy Long, Ashling Wolfe  
 January 6—Poppy Keylon

#### *Anniversaries in December*

December 18—Tim & LuJean Buckner  
 December 18—Dale & Ellen Jenkins  
 December 19—Larry & Jan Kerr  
 December 21—Joel & Kathy Puckett  
 December 24—Kip & Valerie England  
 January 1—Gary & Diane Kuhlman

**The Women's Circle** will meet for their Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Kathy Puckett's home. It will be a potluck, so bring your favorites. Karen Lewis will have our devotion. As always, everyone is invited.

**Opportunity to go on a Costa Rican mission trip.** We are putting together a team for a mission trip to Costa Rica around March 14-21, 2026. Please pray for this opportunity. Karen Lewis will be organizing and leading the team from our church. If you are considering it, go ahead and get your passport. The trip will be a mix of different types of activities that range from Bible School Outreach to construction/ light repair work. I can't tell you exactly what the price of the trip will be, but most likely it will range from \$1700- \$2000. If you are unable to go with us, but you have a heart for mission, we can definitely use your prayers and or your financial support. PLEASE let Karen know by Dec. 15 if you want to sign up. If you have questions, contact Karen at 865.705.5775.

### **Adult Wednesday Night Study (off for Christmas Break on 12/17, 12/24, and 12/31)**

After dinner (5:30pm) and before choir (6:30pm), all adults are invited to the Fellowship Hall as we continue to study the bible together! Every Wednesday night features a short video, group discussion, and homemade desserts :)

### **Soup Supper & Undecorate the Church 1/7**

While Pastor Magan leaves her Christmas decorations up until...a couple of weeks before Easter, we put them up much sooner at the church! We need all hands to help take down Christmas decorations and put everything back in its place. Dinner (soup) is provided!

### **Lessons & Carols Service, Sunday Morning 12/21**

On Sunday, December 21, we'll read and sing the Christmas story, from prophecy to fulfillment, through a series of scripture lessons, carols, and anthems.

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Services 12/24**

Please join us on Wednesday evening, December 24<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ! Services begin at 5 and 10 p.m.

### **Family Christmas Tree**

Our Family Christmas Tree is decorated each year with ornaments from our church families. If your family does not yet have an ornament on the tree, please bring one to hang on the tree in the Narthex. Thank you!

### **Blessing our Front Doors 1/4**

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, MMC will be celebrating Epiphany, the holiday that celebrates the Wise Men finally making it to Jesus. The way to end Epiphany is to "chalk the doors" of your home and church by writing the initials of the 3 Wise Men above the main door, together with the year and a cross: "20 K + M + B 26" (Scripture doesn't have the names for the Wise Men, but tradition holds that the names are Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar). The crosses stand for Christ, and the letters have a double meaning: in addition to the Wise Men's names, they're also an abbreviation of an ancient blessing that means "May Christ bless this house."

This year, we will "chalk" our church doors after the 1/4/26 service, so make sure to bring your coats!

### **Memorials to Middlesettlements Cemetery**

In Memory of **Jim Tomlinson**

Mike & Melinda Andes  
Marian Cantley  
Brenda & Wayne Crisp  
Joe & Ann Smith  
Judy Cohan  
Georgia & Michael Huff  
Pansy Hardin  
Joann Martin

In Memory of **Dot Talbott**

Brenda & Wayne Crisp



### **MMC Council Minutes - November 4, 2025**

**Attending:** Kathy Puckett, Joyce Overton, Kate Keylon, David Wells, Magan Stubblefield, Karen Lewis, Sam Love, David Lewis, Laura Floyd, John Davis, Richard Davis, J.B. O'Connor  
Meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Magan.

Minutes from the October 14 meeting were approved.

Motion: Joyce Overton; second: Sam Love. Motion carried.

#### Old Business

--Paving will be started mid-November by Advanced Grading Worx, LLC. They will make sure we can use the parking lot on Wednesdays and Sundays. It will take around two weeks weather permitting. \$17,000 has been donated toward the paving expenses.

--Magan has posted a job listing for a pianist on Indeed. Facebook is allowing job postings so she will post there.

--Media issues – David Wells stated that we don't have a network switch. We are looking at putting in a switch and pulling new wires. There is a problem with the live cameras in the sanctuary, and we are looking at having someone look at what we need to do. We will make sure we are going the right direction. Sam commented that if we need to run underground wire, it should be done before paving happens. We should invest in a commercial grade to do what we need.  
--Sam reported they are still working on the stain on the doors and new wood piece between them to get a good match.  
--The Hanson family had surveys done and the boundary lines are figured out and set. Paperwork needs to be signed.

New Business--The Field of Dreams has been winterized.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 7:00 pm, Blanche SS classroom  
-Submitted by Kathy Puckett





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### Return Address Requested

Melinda Andes, Organist  
Kate Keylon, Student Ministry Coordinator  
Joyce Overton, Secretary  
Rev. Magan Stubblefield, Pastor  
David Wells, Worship Ministry Coordinator



**Shoebbox Ministry:** Thank you to everyone who was involved with the shoebbox ministry this year. This was our tenth year, and we filled 25 boxes. We feel this is a great mission outreach and hope we will be able to add to our number each year. Thanks again.

WITH DEEPEST  
*Sympathy*

To Bill and Laura Floyd and family on the death of Laura's sister, **Tammy Martens** and to Donnie & Dora Hooks and family on the death of Donnie's sister **Helen Hooks Fowler**

### Middlesettlements Memorial Fund



*Write on your check to whom the memorials are for. Then, put them in the mailbox for Memorials outside the Church office, put them in the offering plate, or mail them to the Church.*

### *Congratulations to the Keylon Family!*

Kate and Steven Keylon joyfully welcomed their daughter, **Lilyan (Lily) Blake Keylon**, into the world on **Thursday at 5:30 p.m.** We celebrate with the Keylon's and thank God for this precious new life!



*Dear Middlesettlements Family,*

*Every year I'm thankful to walk with you in ministry. You are a joy for me and my family! I am constantly encouraged and sustained by your love, witness, and faithfulness to our God. Thank you for your words and gifts of support, encouragement, and love. You are a blessing to me in every way and I am incredibly grateful to be with you.*

*With much love,  
Pastor Magan*

## *Thank You!*

**We want to thank all of you** who came to Owen's birthday celebration last Sunday. It was a huge success, and Owen had a wonderful time. Again, thanks for coming, your gifts, and for making him feel so special!

## Upcoming Events

December 10, Last Fall/Winter Wednesday Night  
December 14, 4:45 p.m. Youth Progressive Dinner – Christmas Party  
December 16, 6:30 Women's Circle Christmas Party (home of Kathy Puckett)  
December 21, Lessons & Carols Service (Morning worship)  
December 24, 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service  
December 24, 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

**2026**

*Altar Flowers – Blanche Class*

January 4 Blessing our Front Doors  
January 7, 5:30 p.m. Undecorate Church Dinner (soup) is provided  
January 14, Wednesday Nights Start Back