



**December 2019**



# OAKLEAF

*Lonoke First United Methodist Church*

## Christmas Memories 2019

Advent and Christmas is such an amazing season of the year. I am especially enjoying this year. This is my second year to experience Advent and Christmas in Lonoke, but for some reason I have been able to see and experience more this year. Maybe because this year I know the traditions a little better and I have been expectedly waiting on them to get here.

The youth caroling night is a great example. Last year seems like a blur but I talked and talked about it because of how much fun we had. This year though I was able to fully lean into the night and enjoyed every moment. We took over 30 youth and adult counselors around town to sing at over 8 homes. The kids and adults alike had fun racing to the door to see who could ring the bell first and then begin the singing. Whoever started singing first got to pick the song. Well, that is how it seemed to work out. Sissy or myself were supposed to pick the songs!

Another great memory made was this past Sunday at the Lonoke Christmas parade. We wanted to build on our success last year, as we won an award and had an incredible time having a float in the parade. This year Angela Armstrong, Emily Harris and Brad Meredith lead the effort to build an even bigger and better float. They were very successful as the float carried a full load of our church community passing out treats and cards about our church. Later Sunday night we learned that not only were we able to win the church division but they gave us the grand prize overall. The awards are hanging on my office wall already!

You can find pictures from the float the night of caroling in our newsletter this month. You will also find upcoming events. We are halfway through Advent. Christmas is on the way! There is much more to do, see and experience during this amazing season. Below are dates and times of the events and you will find descriptions inside.

Our Advent sermon series is "A Christmas Carol". Each week we will look at a different Christmas song and see what lesson about Jesus and the Christmas season it has for us. Each song we look at is anchored in scripture. Therefore we will dig into those scriptures to try to find the truth these songs were written to lead point us to. This upcoming week we will look at "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" and Psalm 95. Come and worship with us throughout the Advent season and especially on Christmas Eve.

Let's prepare our hearts to experience God in a whole new way this Advent and Christmas season. If we expect Him to move in our lives He will.

**Friday, December 20**  
**Childcare Center Christmas Pageant, 6pm.**

**Sunday, December 22**  
**Blue Christmas Service, 5pm and Churchwide  
Caroling, 6pm.**

**Tuesday, December 24**  
**Christmas Eve Service, 5:30pm.**



## 2020 Church Council

A few weeks ago we honored all of those who have served faithfully this past year on our Church council. I want to thank every one of them again for their work the past few years. During the same service we also took some time to pray for our 2020 Church Council. Below is a list of our leaders for this coming year. I was honored to take a picture with our new Church Council Chair, Janette Boyles, and our new Lay Leader, Joey Wilson. Please pray for our new church council as we begin the new year.

Church Council Chair—Janette Boyles

Lay Leader—Joey Wilson

Finance/Stewardship Specialist—Buddy Mason

Trustees/Facilities Specialist—Berry Beavers

SPRC Specialist—Janie Sexton

Reaching Chair—Angela Armstrong

Growing Chair—John and Alice Bridges

Serving Chair—Danny and Beth Wright

Annual Conference Lay Member—Joey Wilson

Recording Secretary—Anita Wilson

At-Large—Sissy Fletcher, Matt Cordell, Karen James, James Nix

Church Treasurer—Beth Mooney

Daycare Board Chair—Sharon Rudder

Congregational Care—Robin Smith, Linda Carothers

Nominations Committee Chair—Pastor Rob Holifield

Nominations Committee—Beth Wright, Jeff Peek, Renee Grady, Jerri Clark, Brandon Waddell, Robin Smith

Childcare Board Chair—Sharon Rudder

Childcare Board—Alice Bridges, Carla McGee, Matt Boyles, Autumn Stuart, Abby Gladden, Bridgett Gammill,

Childcare Financial/Budgeting Consultant—Carol Schafer





## Blue Christmas

This will be a service that acknowledges that Christmas is hard for some people. There are many people who struggle at Christmas time because of many different reasons. Maybe a person is alone for the first time this Christmas. Maybe there is someone missing this year. Maybe there is an illness, bad news or financial stress. I believe that the church needs to acknowledge that many feel lonely, isolated or extremely stressed during this time of the year. The Blue Christmas service will acknowledge the hard times and offer comfort and hope to people. Please join us on Sunday evening on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm in the sanctuary for this special service.

## Cantata and Christmas Pageant

This past Sunday we had a wonderful service featuring our choir and children. I want to thank our Music Director, Greg Taylor, for putting together the program. I also want to thank our choir and “seasonal singers” who lead us in song. I want to thank my four kid readers Avi McCormick, Slater Anderson, Eli Cordell, and Sawyer Gann. Also, Bridgett Gammill and Janette Boyles for coordinating the children’s program.



## 2019 Lonoke Christmas Parade

We are excited to announce that FUMC not only won 1st place in the “Religious” Category, but also won overall Grand Champions of the entire parade for our “Lonoke’s Largest Jingle Bell” Float!



Pastor Rob pictured with the float designers, Emily Harris, Angela Armstrong and Brad Meredith.





## Lonoke First United Methodist Church

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## Worship Info

**9am**  
Contemporary Worship  
**10am**  
Sunday School  
**11am**  
Traditional Worship

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

**Christmas Memorials/Honorariums.** Red forms are available throughout the church. The poinsettias are \$15 each and need to be turned in by **Monday, December 16th**. All names will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve.

**Agape Circle Christmas Potluck, December 17th at the Anderson Guest House at 11am.**

The Childcare Center Christmas Program is scheduled for Friday, December 20th at 6pm. The Serving Committee is asking for 4 Greeters and 3 volunteers to serve a meal to parents and children after the program. They will need to arrive by 5:30pm. Anyone that is interested in helping needs to contact Renee Grady (501)519-7905.

**Blue Christmas Service, Sunday, December 22nd at 5pm.** This service will acknowledge the hard times and offer comfort and hope.

**Christmas Eve Service starts at 5:30pm, with time honored traditions. Music will begin at 5:15pm.**

The Church Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th—Friday, December 27th and Wednesday, January

**Youth Group will start again on Wednesday, January 15th at 6pm.**

**The Kid's Club After School Program will start again on Wednesday, January 15th.**

The Trustees are looking at making our restrooms handicapped accessible. We will be accepting donations if you feel led to give to this project.

## Prayer List

Our prayers are with:

**These in our church family...**Joseph Neal Anderson, Gloria Green, Patsy Goode, Kenny James, Ron Gault, Dorothy Hogue, Willie Glover and Robin Smith.

**These in our extended family...**Carl Toombs, David Duncan, Lindsey Davis, Wayne Wilson, Jamie Thomason Houghton, Steven Duncan, Hazel Evans, Christy Carmichael Cavin, Hazel Wilson, Kim Waddell, Alison Chambers, Olivia Chambers, Jody Mincey, Family Resource Services (Food Pantry), Lander DuVall, Lisa Butler, Tanya Harris VanHouten, Anne Price and Valerie Thompson.