



# Jasper United Methodist Church

85 West Church Street, Jasper, GA 30143

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## December 2025



### A View from the Crowe's Nest

#### The Wonder of Christmas

According to renown author David Jeremiah, "If you ask a typical American child below the age of eight what he or she would like to know the most about Christmas, he might say: 'I wonder how Santa Claus can visit all the children in the world in one night. I wonder if reindeer really can fly. I wonder how Santa gets in the house when there isn't a chimney. I wonder how the elves make

all the toys for in time Christmas."

The sense of wonder most children have about Christmas is all tied up in Santa Claus. Though for those who do know about Jesus, they might wonder about a few other things like: "where did Jesus live before he came to live on earth? How could God become a baby? Why was Jesus born in a stable with animals instead of in a hospital? How can Jesus be a king if he doesn't have a crown?"

Those are good questions whether asked by a child or an adult. Those questions represent the sense of wonder that ought to resurface in our minds at this time of year and every Christmas. The first Christmas was certainly surrounded by wonder:

- Mary wondered how it would be possible for a virgin to give birth to a baby (Luke 1:34).
- Joseph wondered why he and Mary had been chosen by God to be the parents of the Messiah (Matt 1:18-25).
- The shepherds in the fields wondered about the angels that appeared in the sky and what their message meant.
- Mary wondered about everything that was happening at the birth of her baby.

Those are just the moments of wonder that are recorded for us in Scripture. But, think about how many more countless moments there must have been among the people of Nazareth and Judea who were witnesses to the first Christmas... They must have wondered what was going on in that little town of Bethlehem. Why wise men would travel so far to see the baby of a poor peasant man and woman?

What would you and I have thought if we had been living there when the first Christmas took place? This year take time to wonder and be astonished by God's gift to you. Read the Christmas story as found in Matthew Chapters 1 and 2 and in Luke 2. Consider how your life is different, or how it might be different if you really believed and lived out the Christmas story.

***For unto you a child is born, to you a son is given, ...***

***And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***

Blessings,

*Pastor Sheila*





December is a busy month for the preschool. We will have pictures with Santa on December 3rd, our **Christmas program will be Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the sanctuary** with a small snack afterward.

Our last day of school before the holiday break is the 17<sup>th</sup> and we will have our Christmas parties that day at 11 am. JUMC Preschool wishes everyone a very happy and blessed Christmas season.

Donna Dooley, Preschool Director  
dooley@jasperumc.org  
470-560-9696



## JUMC Preschool Toy Drive December 1st-15th

Please donate NEW unwrapped toys.

They will be distributed to children in our community.

Drop off boxes are located in the Preschool halls both upstairs and downstairs.



## Children's Ministry

As we close out this year, we want to take a moment to celebrate the amazing journey we've had in KOK Youth Ministry! Our kids have grown in faith, built new friendships, and learned so much. We are excited for what's ahead in the coming year as we continue to walk with each child on their faith journey. Thank you for being a part of our KOK family!

Wednesday KOK Sessions – Every Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:30 PM.

### Important Dates and Events:

BWS December 6th – A special event for all children!

Christmas Parade December 7th– Don't miss the festive fun in town!

No KOK on December 24th or 31st – Enjoy the holidays with your family!



As we approach the most wonderful time of the year, we want to wish all of our KOK families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May your days be filled with joy, love, and peace.



Blessings with love and prayers,  
Amy Swancey  
Director of Children & Youth Ministry  
amy@jasperumc.org



# WELCOME

*Come On In*



This is the message our new hospitality crew is creating for visitors and members. Greeters are opening doors with a smile and offering assistance. A new fellowship coffee hour is offered before our worship service, and Wednesday night suppers are opportunities to both serve and strengthen relationships. If you would like to join us in creating a stronger welcoming environment we would love to have you on our team! Contact Pastor Sheila, Mitchel or Nancy Henson to see where you might plug in.



Welcome to December!

The holiday season is here, and it's the perfect time to gather, reflect, and celebrate together. We've got some exciting events lined up this month, and we can't wait to spend this special time with you all!

Important Dates & Events for December

Sunday Gatherings: December 7th, 14th, & 21st  
– 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Wednesday Gatherings: December 3rd, 10th, & 17th – 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Join us for a time of fellowship, worship, and engaging discussions as we continue to grow in our faith together. We'll dive into Bible studies, group activities, and fun projects that help us reflect on the true meaning of the season.

Christmas Parade: Sunday, December 7th – Come out to enjoy the Christmas Parade in the community and celebrate the holiday season with family and friends!

Looking Ahead: As we head into the new year, we're excited for all the opportunities to grow in our faith, make new friendships, and serve together. Let's finish 2025 strong with hearts open to all God has in store for us.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas Season. May your hearts be filled with joy and peace this Christmas! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Elevate Youth Group team!

Blessings from the Director of Children's & Youth Ministry

With love and prayers,

Amy Swancey

[amy@jasperumc.org](mailto:amy@jasperumc.org)

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Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Jasper United Methodist Church

[amy@jasperumc.org](mailto:amy@jasperumc.org)

### How about a Road Race T-Shirt for Christmas?

A left-over 2025 Marble Festival Road Race shirt can be several things...A comfortable, well made, long sleeve shirt for a low price (\$15 for adult sizes or \$10 for youth sizes); a nice Christmas present for a loved one; or, most importantly, an opportunity to provide a donation which will benefit organizations that help women and children. Adult sizes (S, M, L, XL, XXL) and youth sizes (S, M, L) are available. Contact any Dorcas member or the church office if you would like to purchase a shirt.



## Music Ministry

*And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

As we anticipate the coming of the Christ Child, may we all be filled with the wonderment and excitement of the season. We hope to fill each Sunday morning with the sounds of Christmas to fill your hearts with joy.

Advent starts November 30 with the first candle of the Advent Wreath. That evening at 6:00am join us for a Carol-sing-a-long and refreshments.

December 14 Susan Gooch, soloist and Interpretive Dancers

December 15 Golden Bells of Atlanta Concert

December 21 Chancel Choir and Children and Live animals!

December 24 Chancel Choir, Ladies Ensemble, And Instrumental music

There's no better place to be during Advent and Christmas than with your church family listening and singing the music of the season while waiting for the Christ child! Make plans to join us, we've saved you a seat!

Feliz Navidad!

Cathy Riley

[criley@jasperumc.org](mailto:criley@jasperumc.org)

706-253-2100



## Golden Bells of Atlanta

### Christmas Concert

Jasper UMC

Monday, December 15

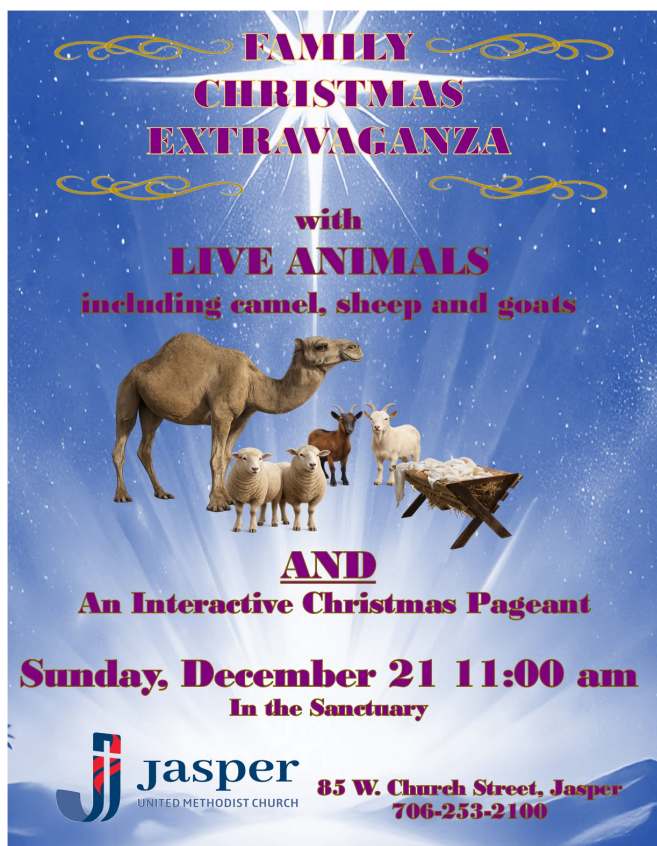
7:30 pm



United Methodist Men meet on the second Thursday of each month. Dinner is served at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary with a devotion and business following. All men of the

church are invited to join UMM. For more information contact Richard Lewis.





Call the church office to have names put on the list.  
(Names will be on the list for 2 months)

**Pray for those who are in need of our Lord's Healing Touch:**  
Burl Chesser, Pam Edwards, Sara Fowler, Judy Francis, Peggy Higgins, Maureen Huntington, Linda Judkins, Tom Judkins, Don Larson, Joyce Leist, George Montgomery, James Rizotti, Susan Sherrell, Dave Vincent, Linda Waitsman

Retreat at Jasper Assisted Living: Carolyn Omundson, Carolyn Jenkins

Rock Creek Manor: Barbara Peddicord, Donna Dicus, Dayton & Mary Ann Adams, Don & Pat Smith, Sarah Fowler, Peggy Higgins,  
Cedarhurst Assisted Living: George Hall

***Please call the church office if you have a prayer concern, update or to notify us of any family illnesses, deaths or hospitalizations.***

For any emergencies after office hours,  
Pastor Sheila can be reached on her  
cell #770-842-3025

*Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Don White on his death.*



## C.A.R.E.S.

Items can be brought to the church and placed in the C.A.R.E.S. corner in the narthex.

December's focus is stocking stuffers, canned vegetables and fruit, boxed cereal, and any non perishable food.



Join us in the sanctuary every Sunday at 9:30 for coffee and donuts. They will be available from 9:30 to immediately following worship. If you aren't part of a Sunday School join us in the sanctuary for a time of casual conversation. And, as always, invite others to come and join us!!

## Missions Matters

Let's make JUMC the mission of Advent with end of the year offerings going to boost our general budget. Starting 2026 solvent would indeed glorify God!

## Information from the Office:

**Financial Giving:** Please remember that in order to get credit for your donations in 2025, they must be in the church office or in the offering plate Sunday the 28th or postmarked by December 31st.

The **Church Office** will be **closed December 25-January 5**. For emergencies during this time, Pastor Sheila can be reached on her cell phone at 770-842-3025.

