

Guyton Christian Church

December 2020 Newsletter

Web: <http://www.GuytonChristianChurch.org>



Seasoned by Seasons

I love Fall in Guyton! Everywhere in the treeline is a dash of color. The air is clean, and the skies are as expansive as on any desert landscape. There's just a little bit of bussle in our downtown. We scan the calendar, happy to see Christmas approaching, welcoming the opportunity to dust off decorations and play that music that only plays once a year.

"Things are different this year," – I say every year. We're always adapting to changing conditions, changing weather, and changing needs in our church family. In those ways, things are no different than ever this year.

The usual Christmas gatherings are canceled, modified or replaced, but the replacement activities offer wonderful opportunities. For example, on the night of Sunday, Dec. 6, our Children's Christmas event is a walk along The Advent Trail for four retellings of Christmas story elements. The journey begins at the Christian Center around 6 p.m. It ends with Carols, hot chocolate, mulled cider and Christmas gifts at the Depot.

As we ease back into other schedules, we offer Sabbath @ My Father's House in the Christian Center for children and families at the 10 a.m. Sunday School hour. Dr. Michael Moore will teach a series on Advent for his Sunday School class in the Depot.

The choir is working on the Christmas Cantata, which is sure to spark some great memories. In so many ways our gatherings are smaller this year, but they are offered with love to each member of our church family. The Cantata will be presented in person and online at the Dec. 13 worship service and again the evening of Dec. 14, starting at 7 p.m. Both performances will be livestreamed on Facebook and available afterward on Youtube.

I am in constant awe of what God does to prepare us for things we didn't expect. For example, we know that we have more shut-ins than ever in this church family. Visiting can be difficult and risky. At the same time, we have a team of unplugged musicians who can be heard from a block away. Voila! A Christmas Greeting and socially-distant wellness check all rolled into one! Three songs and a prayer, and we just might make someone's Christmas. We will carol homes in and around Guyton on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 4 p.m., leaving from the Depot.

On Dec. 21 at 7 p.m., we will conduct our Blue Service in the Sanctuary. A blue service, commemorating the longest night of the year, is an acknowledgement of the sorrow that some of us feel over the holidays, or over the loss of a loved one. We will light candles in memory of those we have lost this year. We will share with one another the comfort that only Christ can give.

All considered, it's a busy Christmas season – but, then again, aren't they all? The Church has survived through the centuries because it has been able to adapt to many conditions: Plagues, wars, persecution, mass migration and all the other things that can go wrong. We are descended from hardy stock, tested season after season and ready to bounce from Christmas into the New Year and beyond.

As the song goes, "Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand. But I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand." We are ready for Christmas. We are ready for whatever 2021 has in store for us. Because we know that our best path is to follow after our loving, forgiving, sacrificial Savior.

Please let us know if we can serenade you this year, or if the church can do anything else to share the Good News: Christ is born!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Joel





Young at Heart

Have a blessed Christmas!

See you next year!



Eula Powers Circle Annual Ladies Christmas Party

Christian Center
Tuesday, Dec. 15th @ 7p

Dinner is \$15 per person (give payment to Claudette). RSVP by Dec. 1st to Sandra. If attending and not participating in Secret Pal, please bring a gift for the gift exchange.



Loose Threads

Tues. Dec. 10th
6:30pm
Christian Center



Merry Christmas

From the

Disciple Men



Prayer Concerns

**All of our Military,
Law Enforcement, Medical
Staff, First Responders/
EMT, and others who
serve and
protect us —**

James B
Kyle F
Becky F
Charlie H
William H
Jerimiah I
Rebecca I
Victoria I
Ian M
Tom M
Ozzy M
Lance P
Ryan R
Benjamin R
Ashley R
Medie S
Kimberly & Blaine G

Ministries of GCC

Disciple Men
Eula Powers Ladies Circle
The Fillin' Station
Family Promise
GAP Wheel Chair Ramps
Gospel Jam
Loose Threads Quilters
My Father's House
Samaritan Fund
Young at Heart
Youth

Health & Wellbeing

Michael Thomas A
Clyde & Vivian A

Becky A
Renee A
Wendell A
Tandi A

Miriam B

Linda B

Tyler B
Donna B

Roger & Sandy B

Al B
Kennith B
Rene' B
Alvin B

Leonard & Geneva B

Julie B

Stephen B

Abigail B

Autumn B

Cindy C

Linda C

Suzanne C

Delma C

Ed C

Jeff C

Nell C

Jerald C

Gayle D

Carolyn D

Greg D

Audry & Doris Jane E

Bartow E

Dowell E

Family of John F

Sophie F

Becky G

Mary Ann G

Bill G

Catherine H

Luther H

Stan H

Stephanie A & Stephen J

Ruth J

Mike K

Scott K

Annette L

Bernnie M

Angie M

Mark N

Shirley P

Tom P

Angie P

Denise P

Rachel P

Linda P

Jackie P

Arden R

Amy R

Frank R

Randy & Bonnie S

Carolyn S

Bobbie & Joe S

Cindy S

Walter S

Kurt S

Peggy S

Kenny S

Cynthia S

Glenda S

Don T

Charles U

Ethel W

Kristie W

Billy W

Eddie W

Irene W

Eugenia Z

Jim Z

Bereavement

Families of

Randy B

Kim F

Pat G

Please continue to pray for our community. If you need assistance, or have questions or concerns please call the office at 912-772-3478, Vicki Wilkerson at 912-661-1418 or Pastor Joel at 561-252-0493.

Updated 11/25/2020

If someone needs to be added, or removed, from the prayer list, please send an email to gcchurch@planters.net.



**Tuesday, Dec. 24 @
5:30p**

Join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service. This will be held outside. Dress is casual, and all are welcome.



10am, Sundays via Facebook.com

Join us for Sunday School! Beginning with the Advent season, we will hold a special children's Sunday School class in the Christian Center at 10:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School

**Sunday, November 29 @ 10am
The Depot**

Michael Moore will be leading an adult Sunday School class during the month of December. Please join in. All are welcome! Remember to wear masks and maintain social distancing.

Children & Youth Christmas Event

The Advent Trail

Sun., December 6 @ 6p

Meet at the Christian Center to begin your journey. Please stay as a family unit as you make your way along the trail to "Bethlehem."

Blue Service

**Monday,
December 21 @ 7p
Sanctuary**



If you are feeling melancholy this Christmas season, if you are struggling with loss, or if you have found peace and wish to share it with others, you are invited to attend our Blue Service, on Monday, Dec. 21, at 7p.m. in the Sanctuary.



CYF Christmas Party

**Saturday, December 19 @ 6p
The Rock**

**Please bring a wrapped present
(\$10 maximum) for our
gift exchange.**

**All rising 6th graders are invited
and welcome to attend. Please let
Mr. Chris know you will be there!**



The Fillin' Station **Community Food Pantry**

Drive-thru only.

Our food collection item this month for *The Fillin' Station* is **Peanut Butter & Jelly!** All sizes and any brands are welcome: 12, 16 or 28 oz. The Fillin' Station also welcomes mac & cheese, Hamburger Helper, cake mixes & frosting in addition to canned meats such as tuna, chicken and ham.



Save your plastic grocery bags, also!

Volunteers are also needed for Tuesdays and Thursdays. *Won't you consider giving a few hours of your time?*

Collection bins are in the Christian Center.

Tuesday & Thursdays

10am—1pm

1290 Ga Hwy 119 South, Springfield

*Note: The Fillin' Station will be **closed** in observance of Christmas Dec. 22nd & 24th.*



Guyton Christian Hosts
(Tentative) Week of Jan. 3rd

Musicians, Singers & Everybody Else!

Come to our Ole Time

Christmas **JAM**



Bring the whole family for an Old-School sing-along. Musicians of ANY skill level welcome. Bring Any Instrument: Guitar, Uke, Mandolin OR JUST YOUR VOICE

Sundays at 6p at The Depot
Also live-streaming via [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

December Birthdays



2 Edward Hall
10 Dianne Garner
10 Bobbie Secich
11 Joe Secich
11 Faye Smith
14 Linda Barner
16 Steven Hall
20 Leonard Boyles

21 Cody Mincey
24 Nicholas Case
25 Carol White
26 Reagan Radcliffe
27 Stephanie Hall
28 Rose Still
29 Ramie Antee

December Anniversaries



5 Leonard & Geneva Boyles
15 Audry & Doris Jane Edwards
20 Medie IV & Lee Lee Still
31 Chad & Lucinda Zittouer

Ladies Bible Study

Join in on a new Bible study, ***Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven*** By David Jeremiah. Meeting times are usually Mondays at 6:30pm, at The Depot. If you are interested in participating, please contact Shannon Thompson. Books are about \$11 each. Watch for scheduled dates!



Can't locate that dish?
Check the
Christian Center!

**Servants in Ministry — Communion — December
Tentative**

Date	Elders	Diaconate / Greeters	Acolyte
Dec 6	Claudette Griffin Marshall Reiser	Shaw Wilkerson Joyce Ann Tuten	Lawton Reiser
Dec 13	Lamar Hall Melissa Proctor	David Proctor Joan Shelby	Christian Petersen
Dec 20	Archie Jenkins Brandon Long	Ray Zittrouer Nancy Summerour	Kaytie Summerour
Dec 27	Michael Moore Shannon Thompson	Sheri Hall Sandra Kelley	Edward Hall

**Children Worship & Wonder — Stories for December
for Sabbath @ MFH**

Date	Storyteller	Story
Dec 6	Sandra Moore	Mary and Joseph Show the Way to Bethlehem
Dec 13	Chris Walz	The Shepherds Show the Way to Bethlehem
Dec 20	Leana Radcliffe	The Magi Show the Way to Bethlehem
Dec 27	Jennifer Reiser	Christmas— Meeting the Christ Child

Annual Election Meeting
Of the Congregation
December 6th
following worship services



The Congregation will vote on the slate of Elders and Diaconate as presented by the Nominating Committee.

For those sheltering in place, the information will be presented via ZOOM. Also, watch your email for voting ballot. If you are not attending services, please return your email ballot (via "reply") no later than Friday, December 4th for inclusion.



Christmas Cantata

**Sunday,
Dec. 13
11am
Monday,
Dec. 14
@7pm**

Join us in worship as the Guyton Christian Church Choir presents the story of Jesus' birth.

Take a moment and thank God for your blessings!



Pick up your 2021 Advent Devotional if you haven't done so already!



Congratulations to **Chris Walz** who has been selected to serve as our Region's Vice-Moderator. This position was previously held by Lamar Hall. Archie Jenkins continues to serve as a member of the Regional Board, and Medie Still III is serving as a Regional Elder to churches in Sylvania, Tennille, Augusta, Savannah, Valdosta, and Sandersville.



Children & Youth Christmas Event!

Join us on *The Advent Trail!*

Sunday, Dec. 6 @ 6pm
Christian Center

The first station begins at the Christian Center.

Maintain family units as you make your way along the trail. Hot cider & hot chocolate available at the end along with caroling & gifts for the children.



Rev. Joel Tucker, Senior Pastor

Email: pastorjoeltucker@me.com; Cell: (561) 252-0493

Youth Coordinator: Chris Walz; Email: charrx93@hotmail.com; (912) 429-8922

Office hours: Sun 12:30-5:30; Tues 10-2; Wed 1-5:30; Thurs 2-6; Fri 2-6

Admin. Assistant: Becky Malcom; Office Hours — Mon-Thu, 9am-Noon

Email: gcchurch@planters.net

Mail: P. O. Box 5, Guyton

Fax: (912) 772-4206

Office: (912) 772-3478

The Rock: (912) 772-8415

Christian Center: (912) 772-8843

Sanctuary: (912) 772-3478

Church offices located at 306 Central Boulevard, Guyton.

Web: <http://www.GuytonChristianChurch.org>
Mailing address: P. O. Box 5, Guyton, GA 31312



GIVE IT AWAY

There is a song by Matthew West called, “Give This Christmas Away.” When I was thinking about what I might say in this last column of 2020, I found myself reflecting on the lyrics of this song. It occurred to me that we at Guyton Christian truly understand the meaning of these words, and not just at Christmastime.

“If there’s love in your heart, don’t let it stay there.”

So many of you made phone calls, sent texts and notes, dropped off groceries or baked goods, and made porch visits to those who were sheltering in place. So many gave of their time and talents to put together a meaningful Sunday morning worship service, when it wasn’t safe for us to gather in our sanctuary. These seemingly simple acts given to minimize the feelings of loneliness and isolation to shut-ins are perfect examples of giving away heartfelt love to those who need it most.

“It’s feeding the hungry, it’s serving the poor...”

Many of you came together and made it possible to safely reopen the Fillin’ Station and helped put food on the table for families in our community who had suffered financial setbacks during the shutdown.

“It’s doing what love does even when no one’s watching you.”

Our tithes and offerings have remained strong and incredibly generous. I am sure there were many kindnesses extended, and there was much sharing of those creature comforts we once took for granted, when store shelves were empty. Many of these things were done quietly, the love was shared when no one was watching (I’m talking to you greatly appreciated anonymous friend who found my spoiled pups’ favorite brand of dog food). We are truly blessed to have a church family so happy and willing to share God’s Love with one another.

I wish you and yours a Very Merry Christmas, and I pray you will continue to give away the love you hold in your hearts throughout the coming new year.

“No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.” – 1 John 4:12 NIV

Blessings always,

Vicki Wilkerson

Board Chairman



The True Meaning of Christmas (Movies)

What is a Christmas movie? On the face of it that seems like a silly question, or at least it seems like it has an easy answer: a Christmas movie is a movie about Christmas, or that takes place during the Christmas season. The problem with that definition is how broad to the point of uselessness it is. What, in this relatively secular age, does it mean to be “about Christmas”? The Hallmark Channel puts out something like 30 new Christmas movies each year, almost none of them have anything to do with the Birth of Christ. Sure, those movies take place during the Christmas season, and therefore are still Christmas movies based on the above definition. But is that really all it takes?



If a film can be considered a “Christmas Movie” simply because of the calendar date(s) the plot occurs during, then we have to acknowledge some truly bizarre flicks in the genre. Think about it: are *Iron Man 3*, *Lethal Weapon*, and *You’ve Got Mail* really “Christmas” movies? What do any of those movies have to do with Christmas, aside from an incidental element of their setting? Now *Home Alone*, I think, is clearly a Christmas movie; it doesn’t just take place during Christmas, the entire plot revolves around what Kevin’s family is doing for Christmas, and how he and they learn to value each other in the true spirit of the season. So now, the ultimate question: what about *Die Hard*?

I would argue that *Die Hard* is a Christmas Movie, but for only one member of the cast. Mrs. McClane starts *Die Hard* in a similar position to many of the heroines of the Hallmark Christmas movies we’ve already talked about. On Christmas Eve, she’s too busy to spend time with her family, leaving her children with a nanny, and all but ignoring her estranged husband’s attempts at reconciliation (until he foils a German terrorist plot, that is). By the time the credits roll though, her outlook has utterly flipped. I suppose that means that in order to be a true Christmas movie, a screenplay has to follow the basic outline of Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*, ghosts optional (though John McClane certainly makes a few new ghosts over the course of the plot).

I say all of this in good fun, because what truly makes a “Christmas Movie” is something of a trivial question. I know there are several good-hearted Christians who worry about what is often called the war on Christmas. And certainly none of the films I’ve mentioned so far have anything to say about Jesus Himself. Even *A Christmas Carol* has virtually no mention of the Birth of Christ. We could hold firm to the standard that, if it’s not about the Lord Jesus and His birth, then it’s not a Christmas Movie, but I feel this attitude is somewhat unhelpful. Let people have their fun with Christmas, let kids have their Santa Claus, and remember that when someone mentions “the True Spirit of Christmas,” even though they may think they’re referring to something safely non-religious, they’re actually talking about the Holy Spirit. The third member of the Holy Trinity may be the one many people find the easiest to ignore if they so choose, but if you’re really paying attention, I think He’ll surprise you how often He shows up.

Merry Christmas,

Chris

Chris Walz
Youth Coordinator