

# Allen-Lee Memorial UMC

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2023

Gathering Music Kevin Lefebvre

Prelude Becky Hafner-Camp  
John Camp  
Abigail Camp

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Palmer Boykin

## † Call to Worship

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

***And also with you.***

*The risen Christ is with us.*

***Praise the Lord!***

## † Opening Prayer

***Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Lighting of Advent Candles Insert

† Hymn *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* UMH 89

† Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful* UMH 234

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalter Reading Psalm 126

*When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.*

***Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."***

*The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.*

***Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.***

† Please stand as you are able.

*May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.*

***Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.***

† Gloria Patri UMH 70

Epistle Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

† Hymn *We Three Kings* UMH 254

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

† Hymn *The First Noel* UMH 245

Offertory *Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head* Becky Hafner-Camp  
John Camp  
Abigail Camp

† Doxology UMH 95

Gospel Reading John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon "Rejoice Always" Rev. Palmer Boykin

† The Apostles' Creed UMH 881

Closing Music *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* Becky Hafner-Camp  
John Camp  
Abigail Camp

† Benediction Rev. Palmer Boykin

Postlude Kevin Lefebvre



## WELCOME TO ALLEN-LEE

We hope that you will feel the warmth of this loving congregation while you are here worshiping with us. Please let us know if you need anything or want more information about our church. We are an open and welcoming fellowship. It is our hope that you will come again and often!

## PRAYER LIST

### *Long-Term Requests*

Gail Aydin	David Gregory	Ernie Rivera
Lenward Bassett	Jennifer Hillyer	Steve Robinson
Patricia Bassett	Mary Hoffman	Angie Smith
Melinda Bell	Katherine Jones	Deana Still
Joy Burks	Pat Kee	Ed Vance
Margaret Camp	Bo Kelly	Julie Watson
Mac/Tina Chandler	Juanita Marshall	Delayne Wells
Carolyn Crist	Anna Nalley	Jackie Williams
Annette Duffey	Victoria Price	Roger With
Lorraine Durham	Michael Rector	Mary Woodruff

### *Current Prayer List*

Marie Boatright	Lee Ann and Mark	Jeanne Plant
Stephanie Crosby	Kitchens	Roger Reid
Ruby Fernandez	Ralph McCrory	Teresa Roebuck
Elaine Hillyer	Chance Meadows	David Strickland
Ann Johnson	Teresa Mendez	Glenna With
Mel Kendricks	Kaaren Moseley	Marie Yuran

### *New Baby*

Sawyer Kade Wacaser, December 5, 2023, 8 pounds, 20 inches long  
Parents: Clancey and Brittany Wacaser

### *In Memory*

Frances Lunsford	Brenda Stephens
Loretta Rector	Julie Watson

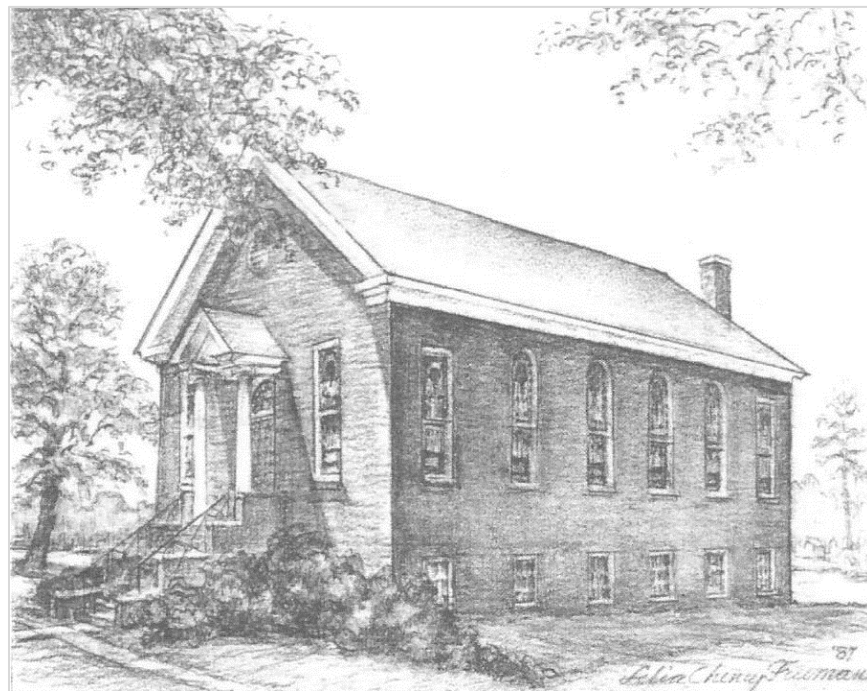
### *Missionary*

Connie Weick, Southeast Asia

### *Military/Contract Personnel*

Phillip Boykin – Japan	Davis Gray – Mississippi
Jonathan Chaffin – Iraq	Austin Shelton – Kentucky
Brandon Davis – Florida	Ry Skinner – Georgia
Jack Edmonds, III – Germany	Taylor Threatt – Virginia

# Allen-Lee Memorial United Methodist Church



***Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds***

4720 Lone Oak Road  
Grantville, GA 30220

Rev. Palmer Boykin  
Pastor  
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770-328-4425

Church website: <https://allenleeumc.weebly.com>

# Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

**Reader 1:** When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed,

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

**Reader 2:** We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

**Congregation:** We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

**Reader 1:** We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

*Light three candles of the Advent wreath – the two previously lit purple ones and the pink candle.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We look forward to Advent and Christmas music today from Abigail Camp, John Camp, and Becky Hafner-Camp. Merry Christmas to all!
- Thanks for bringing gifts for our Christmas families. They will be given to the families this coming week.
- Please take your poinsettias home after church today.
- On Christmas Eve, next Sunday, December 24, we will worship with our friends at Luthersville UMC. That service will start at 9:30 a.m. We are inviting the Luthersville congregation to join us for the final service of the year on December 31 at 11 a.m.
- We will be providing breakfast for back-to-school at Unity Elementary School on January 4. There is a sign-up sheet today. If you are providing something but not helping on January 4, please have what you are bringing in the fellowship hall by January 3, as Gary Hillyer is picking everything up to bring it to the school. Thanks.
- As a Lighthouse Congregation, we have been sent copies of two books – “Being United Methodist Christians: Living a Life of Grace and Hope” and “Multiplying Love: A Vision of United Methodist Life Together.” They are on a front pew for members to take home, read and return.
- Our Little Free Pantry is seeing lots of use. You can leave donated items in the box on the shelves downstairs or place them in the pantry.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

05 – Lee Ann Kitchens (B)

11 – Nancy Gray (B)

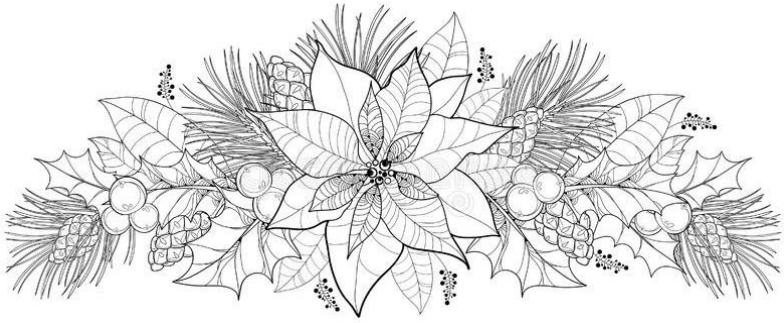
11 – Mark and Lee Ann Kitchens (A)

14 – Rosalind Edmondson (B)

22 – Rosemary Medford (B)

28 – Loretta Saucier (B)

28 – Mark Kitchens (B)



# *Poinsettia*

## DEDICATIONS

### ***In honor of***

*Sandy Wood by the Medford, Hillyer and Saucier family*

### ***In memory of***

*Lota Boltrucyk by Kevin, April, Matthew and Mark Lefebvre*

*Paul "Sonny" Bugg by Kay Bugg*

*Fred Edmondson by Rosalind Edmondson*

*Clair Kight by Lynn and Winston Skinner*

*Emory and Mary Lee by the Medford, Hillyer and Saucier family*

*Florence Lee by the Medford, Hillyer and Saucier family*

*Robert and Holly Lefebvre by Kevin, April, Matthew and Mark Lefebvre*

*Bernie Martin by Tammy Martin*

*Erwin Medford by the Medford, Hillyer and Saucier family*

*Steve Saucier by the Medford, Hillyer and Saucier family*

*Walter Skinner by Sara Jane Skinner*

*Eleanor Strickland by Winston and Lynn Skinner*

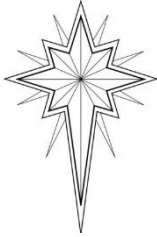
*Irene Strickland by Winston and Lynn Skinner*

*Sharon Vance by Kay Bugg*

*Margaret Willingham by the Medford, Hillyer and Saucier family*

## SYMBOLS OF THE SEASON

# Christ IN Christmas



The Christmas star symbolizes the star of Bethlehem, which shone on the night Jesus was born and later guided the three kings, or wise men, to the baby Jesus. The star is also the heavenly sign of a prophecy fulfilled long ago and the shining hope for humanity, and it symbolizes the Christ is the light of the world and is a shining hope to all mankind.

*“Where is the new born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him.”* Matthew 2:2



A candle, a mirror of starlight, is also a symbol representing the star of Bethlehem. The Christmas candle reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world. He is the light we should follow and through Him we will find our way in the darkness of life, and also be a light to others.

*To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.* Luke 1:79



The men who brought their gifts to honor the birth of Jesus inspired the concept of giving gifts during the holiday. The Christmas gift reminds us of how God gave us the gift of His Son and that Jesus Christ gave us the greatest gift of all. Giving gifts is meant to be a symbol of love and kindness and remembrance of the gift of eternal life made possible by the Savior.

*... And when they had opened their treasures, they presented him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.* Matthew 2:11



Made with holly and evergreens symbolizing eternal life, the Christmas wreath is circular, a symbol of the never ending love of God – having no beginning and no ending. The Christmas wreath also represents the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified.

*The soldiers made a crown of long sharp thorns and put it on his head ...* John 19:2



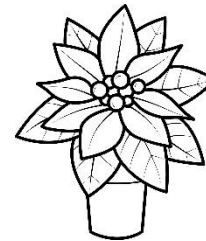
At Christmas, bells proclaim the arrival of the season announcing the birth of Jesus. Church bells call us to worship. They guide lost sheep back to the fold.

*For the Son of man came to seek, and to save that which was lost.* Luke 19:10



Candy canes depict the shape of a shepherd's crook. Jesus was often referred to as the Good Shepherd. His birth was God's way to bring lost lambs back to the fold. The red stripe represents blood, Christ's sacrifice, and the white stands for his purity.

*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.* Luke 2:8



Poinsettias are our Christmas flower. The story of the poinsettia begins in the plant's native Mexico, where a legend says humble weeds left by a poor girl as an offering to baby Jesus at a nativity scene miraculously turned into the gorgeous flower. The local people referred to the beautiful blooms as “Flowers of the Holy Night.” The first U.S.

ambassador to Mexico, Joel Roberts Poinsett, first saw the flowers in a Christmas Eve church service and was given seeds from the plant by the priest. He brought the plants that were later named after him to the States.

*[Jesus] said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”* Mark 10:14

John said that Jesus would come after him.

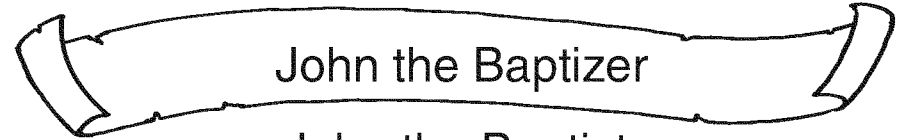
Find and **circle** these hidden objects in the picture.



# Children's Worship Bulletin™



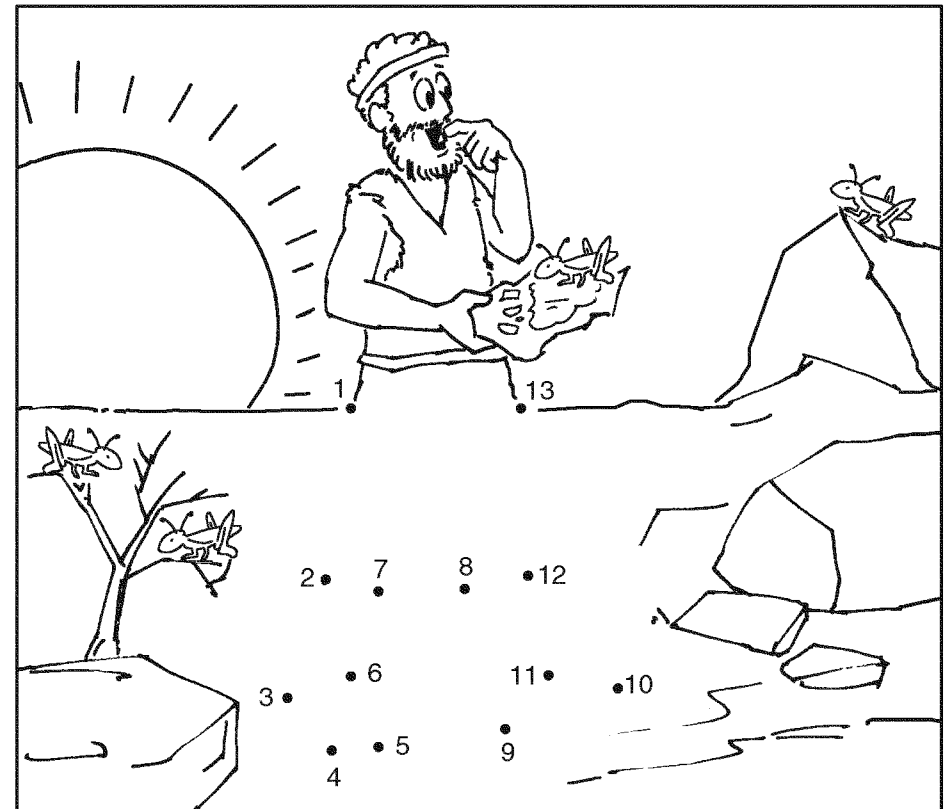
December 17, 2023 • John 1:6-8, 19-28



## John the Baptizer

John the Baptist was sent to tell about Jesus.

Connect the dots. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13



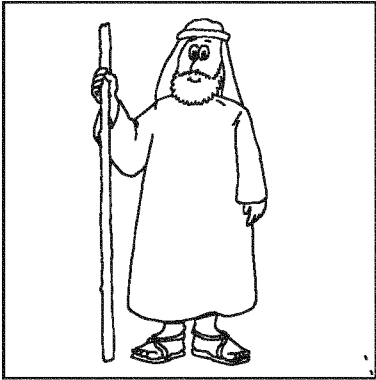
## Allen-Lee Memorial UMC

4720 Lone Oak Road

| Grantville, GA 30220

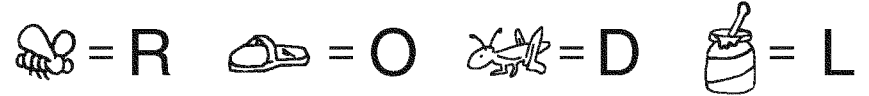
Some people thought John was one of the prophets from long ago.

Match the pictures.



He answered, "I am not a prophet, nor am I the Christ."

Fill in the missing letters.



John said,  
"Make a straight way for the

"

