



The Messenger

ELECTION DAY COMMUNION – ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

November 8, 6pm – College Park Presbyterian Church



In the wake of this divisive and acrimonious campaign season, it's important to remember that regardless of our politics, we are one body as the family of God. After you go to the polls, join with our brothers and sisters across the political spectrum for an Ecumenical Communion Service celebrating our unity at the table of grace.

The service will be held at 6pm on November 8th at College Park Presbyterian Church (1540 Mercer Ave) and will include members and clergy from College Park Presbyterian, College Park United Methodist, St. John's Episcopal, Hapeville United Methodist, and others.

ALL ARE WELCOME

LIFE, INTERRUPTED

ADVENT AT COLLEGE PARK FIRST UMC

Christmas is coming!

We all know what to expect.... Or do we?

Sure, the Christmas story is about the birth of Jesus, the incarnation, the redemption of the world.

But if there's one other thing that the Christmas

story should remind us of, it is that God can interrupt even the most well-ordered of lives to call us into something new.

Join us in worship beginning **November 30th** as we explore how God breaks in when we least expect it.

COLLEGE PARK WOMEN'S CLUB

2016 VETERANS CELEBRATION



Free to all veterans and guests!

Please plan to join us for a light brunch and program beginning at 11am.

Date: Friday, November 11th

Guest Speaker:
Chaplain (Col) Wayne C. King, USA (Ret.)

Where: Camellia Hall, 3413 Main Street, CP

For more information contact Linda Gravitt:
404-761-3165 / linda.gravitt@gmail.com

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11/02 Jody Holsenback
- 11/03 Alene Lang
- 11/04 Austin Coffee
- 11/04 Sarah Trevey
- 11/06 Jackie Allen
- 11/06 Judy Bean
- 11/10 Dick Zupp, Jr.



- 11/10 Ho Lin
- 11/10 Mason Lin
- 11/16 Regina Green
- 11/16 Jim Glover
- 11/18 Jenny Bennett
- 11/22 Bella Johnson
- 11/28 James Long

NOVEMBER UPDATE



Children are truly a blessing in this world:

Our local librarian came to share a story with TLA for literacy week. During her opening, she stated that the students were a good group of children.

A three-year-old stated, "No, we are amazing!"

The librarian agreed with the child's statement and began to smile.

A teacher then posed a question to the group, "Why are we amazing?"

To which a child replied, "Because God made us amazing!"

All the teachers and the librarian began to smile. A four-year-old then stood up confidently and stated to the librarian, "You're amazing!" Then he proceeded to give her a hug followed quickly by his classmates.

God's love is amazing! We invite you to join our annual Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, November 17th at 5 pm in the fellowship hall. This is a pot luck event and we welcome your covered dishes.

Please take a moment to read through our revamped website at tlacp.org!

Ricci Lewis-Johnson, Director



TOGETHER WE'RE RAISING UP GIFTED CHRISTIAN LEADERS

Sunday, November 27th

When you support United Methodist Student Day you make it possible for more students to serve the world God loves. So, although you can't meet every need for every student, your giving allows members of Christ's body to work together in service in Jesus' name.

*"For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your good. -Psalm 122:9*

Community Thanksgiving Service

Join us on Sunday, November 20 at 5 pm as we host the College Park Community Thanksgiving Service! Gather with friends from throughout College Park as we celebrate Thanksgiving together. This year's service will feature preaching by Rev. Spenser Simrill from St. John's Episcopal Church.



We hope to see you there!

Hanging of the Greens

Help us prepare our church for Advent and Christmas at our annual Hanging of the Greens! Stick around after worship service on Sunday, November 27 to help decorate our sanctuary and prepare our Chrismon tree. A pizza lunch will be provided to all who stay and help!



A WORD FROM REV. HINMAN

The weather has finally begun to turn a little bit toward fall – though we’re still having temperatures over 80 degrees. Soon we’ll set our clocks back an hour as we enter what I call “the dark time” (seriously, could we just stay on Daylight Saving Time all year round, please?). Days are getting shorter and nights are getting longer. And we’re entering that time of year that we used to call at my old church “Hallo-Thanks-Mas” – the crowded holiday season that runs from just before Halloween to New Year.

It is a time of all kinds of celebrations and traditions, both secular and religious. Most of these are happy occasions, times to get together with family and friends and make merry. On the Friday before Halloween, our children at The Learning Academy donned their costumes for their All Saints Day Parade, and that evening, we had a car decorated for the College Park Trunk-or-Treat festivities (College Park Boo-nited Methodist Church presents *Bats in the Belfry*).

On Sunday, November 6, we will celebrate All Saints Day during worship to remember and celebrate the legacy of those we have lost this year and all those who have gone before us. On November 20, we join with folks from around College Park for our Community Thanksgiving Service. Then we kick off Advent and make preparations for Christmas, with all that entails - the Hanging of the Greens, the Giving Tree Christmas Cantata, the Live Nativity, Christmas Eve.

I love this time of year precisely because it gives us an opportunity to gather and celebrate the things we love. And it seems like this year in particular, that is something we could use more of. Because in case you have somehow missed it, the other big thing happening during the Hallo-Thanks-Mas season is something that doesn’t seem to have anything to do with celebrating or coming together or even good feelings of any kind, at this point. I’m thinking of Election Day.

It seems the campaigns for this election have been going on for years now (and some of them have) and things keep getting more and more divisive and more and more acrimonious. As though, more than ever before, we have fallen away from discussion of policies and ideals into arguments and attacks. This election season seems to have exposed an undercurrent of hostility that may have been there before, under the surface, but has now bubbled over. And frankly, it’s scary. It’s disheartening and discouraging to think that we, as a nation, are so divided.

I would love to believe that it is merely a by-product of campaign season and once the election is over things will magically mend themselves, but I don’t think that is what will happen. Instead, I think we have exposed wounds that we now must work together to heal. No matter what happens on November 8, on November 9 we are still one nation. We must still live and work together with folks who differ from us, and that’s a good thing. But it takes work for healing. It takes the kind of coming together that we are usually so good at during Hallo-Thanks-Mas – taking time with friends and family and intentionally opening up our definitions of friends and family. Including those who are different from us, whose experiences and ideas are foreign to us, whose lives don’t look like ours.

This is what we are called to do as God’s children. We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves, even if our neighbors don’t vote the way we do. We are called to forgive and to pray for those who have hurt us and repent and seek forgiveness from those we have hurt. We are called to realize that differences don’t have to be divisions.

I hope that during this Hallo-Thank-Mas season you will find ways to reach out to those with whom you have disagreed – to reach across aisles and around the walls to learn about those who are different from you – and to remind yourself that we are one body and one family. May this be a season of healing for all of us.



P.S. One way we are celebrating our unity despite our differences is by participating in an Election Day communion service. After you vote, come celebrate communion with our friends from College Park Presbyterian, St. John’s Episcopal, and other churches in our area as we remind ourselves that we are all one body around one table. The service will be at 6pm at College Park Presbyterian on November 8.

Blessed to be a Blessing



Our stewardship theme— “Blessed to be a Blessing”—during the month of November, will provide us an opportunity to consider where College Park First UMC is, where we are headed, and how each of us might be a blessing to each other and to this church. Just as our forebears blessed us by establishing this church in 1894, we will make an investment for 2017 that will determine this congregation’s continued blessing for years to come.

Throughout November you will have an opportunity to reflect on and give expression to what you will do for the future of this church financially. Our future in 2017 depends upon collective financial commitments from church members, along with revenue from full enrollment in *The Learning Academy of College Park*.

Please be on the lookout for commitment cards, either through the mail or in the church pew, where you may indicate your level of support for the church’s ministries in 2017. **Note:** you are especially encouraged to consider making your contribution through direct deposit from your checking account to the church’s account, hopefully, making your regular contribution easily routine for you and a source of income on which the church can count throughout the year.

As College Park First UMC has been a blessing to you, I thank you for considering how you will be a blessing to our church. Our stewardship campaign will lead up to Commitment Sunday on November 20th.

Sincerely,

F. Stuart Gulley
Chair, Stewardship Committee

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree will be located in the sanctuary on the first day of Advent, November 27th. Each decoration contains a name, age, clothing size and gift items suggested for needy children in our community.

Please take an ornament or two to provide new, unused gifts for those who might not otherwise have presents this Christmas. We are supporting three unique charity organizations below with:

- unwrapped gifts for Murphy-Harpst Children's Center,
- unwrapped gifts for The United Methodist Children's Home, and
- wrapped gifts for The Rainbow House.



**All gifts should all be returned to the church parlor no later than:
*Sunday, December 11th!***

We hope everyone will participate in this opportunity to share the love, joy and hope of Christmas.

For more information, please contact Phyllis Ramsey at 770-377-7027 or
phyllisramsey@bellsouth.net

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Church Council -7pm	3	4	5 TURN BACK YOUR CLOCKS!
6 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY -11am Worship -Choir Practice -5pm Youth	7	8 Election Day COMMUNION SERVICE -6PM	9	10	11	12
13 -11am Worship -Choir Practice -SPRC (after worship) -5pm Youth -5pm Community Thanksgiving Service	14 TLACP Council Mtg -6:30pm	15	16	17	18	19
20 -11am Worship COMMITMENT SUNDAY -Choir Practice -5pm Youth	21	22	23	24 THANKSGIVING DAY	25	26
27 -11am Worship HANGING OF THE GREENS -Choir Practice -5pm Youth United Methodist Student Giving Sunday	28	29	30 CHARGE CONFERENCE -7PM			

PRAYER LIST

Church Members:

Julie Askew, Tina Donaldson, Meredith Hodges, Dennis Matchett, Jewell Moore, Tosca Oxford, Dot Powell, Carolyn Price, Paulette Rouse

Shut-Ins:

Jerry & Juanita Aldredge, Jean Cowden, Zoe Dixon, Skeeter Faulkner, Evelyn Glover, Dot Hale, Harry & Laura Leigh Hicks, Bobbie & Jake Longino, Caroline Rowley

Friends and Family:

Janni Alings, Bonnie Brown, Nellie Crawford, Jenny Dubose, Ellen Evans, Charles Fitzgerald, Jo Ann Garrett, Kirby & Debbie Glaze, Jane Hannah, Alan Hudson, Karen and Al Pardo, John Perry, Jerry Robinson, Jerry Wiley Wilkes, Sandra Williams, James Woods, Clay Zupp, Sr.

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College Park, Georgia 30337-3708

SERMON RECORDINGS

Sermon recordings are available
on our website.

Visit cpfirstumc.org and look in the
"From the Pastor" section.

Non-Profit Org.
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Return
Service Requested

GAME ON!

Players: Men vs. Women

Goals: Fill the pantries at Family Life
Ministries

When: Nov. 1 - Nov. 20

What: Please bring items from the list
below and place them in the specially
marked orange collection buckets at the
back of the sanctuary.

- Pasta (all types)
- Rice (1 lb. bags)
- Dried Beans (1 lb. bags)
- Flour (small bags)
- Canned Meats and Fish

*Thank you in advance for your generous support
of our community!*



CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE

The Chancel Choir would love to have
a few more voices for our Christmas
cantata *Noel Celebration* by Lloyd
Larson to be presented during the
December 11th morning service.

Please join us for practice immediately following each
Sunday morning service until 1:15pm -1:30pm.

Contact Sandy Hunter at smbnotes@aol.com. We
would love to have you join the fun!

NOVEMBER COUNTERS

11/6 - West Gary and Peggy Morris

11/13 - Mary Bieberstein and Meredith Hodges

11/20 - Janet Deorio and Leslie Haskins

11/27 - Kathleen Gulley and Leslie Haskins