

CALENDAR

Sunday, 3 December 2023

- 9:15 AM Anchor Worship
- 9:15 AM Traditional Worship
- 10:30 AM Hope Kids Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Sunday School
- 4:00 PM Chancel Choir Feast of Light Rehearsal
- 5:00 PM Student Ministry Christmas Party
- 5:30 PM God Squad Christmas Party (off-site)
- 5:30 PM Handbells
- 6:30 PM Arts from the Island Meeting

Tuesday, 5 November 2023

- 10:00 AM Hope Arbor
- 10:15 AM Care Partner Support Group
- 2:15 PM Ladies Chorus at Riverview

Wednesday, 6 December 2023

- 10:00 AM Hope Arbor
- 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch Christmas Gathering
- 5:30 PM Mid-Week Prayer Meeting
- 5:30 PM Feast of Lights Practice with children
- 6:00 PM Youth 211 Worship
- 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, 7 December 2023

- 9:00 AM Young Moms’ Small Group
- 10:00 AM Hope Arbor
- 10:00 AM Sassy Sowers
- 6:00 PM Stephen Ministry Christmas Gathering

Friday, 8 December 2023

- 5:00 PM K-5 Christmas Fun

PASTOR ON CALL*

December 1-3 Meg Procopio (912) 663-5512

December 8-10 Jared Wilson (478) 960-6438

** If you are in need of a pastor to respond to a hospitalization, death in the family or other emergency*

Senior Pastor

Rev. Stephen Grantham (sgrantham@iohumc.com)

Associate Pastor

Rev. Meg Procopio (mprocopio@iohumc.com)

Minister of Traditional Music

Rev. Jared Wilson (jwilson@iohumc.com)

Director of Modern Worship

Rev. Josh McLemore (jmclemore@iohumc.com)

Director of Children’s Ministries

Beth Parr (bparr@iohumc.com)

Director of Ignite Student Ministries

Andrew Parnell (aparnell@iohumc.com)

Assistant Director of Music

Nancy Vogelsang (nvogelsang@iohumc.com)

Children’s Music & Drama

Terri Smiley (tsmiley@iohumc.com)

Director of Weekday Ministries

Wez Childers (wchilders@iohumc.com)

Facilities Manager

Marla Williamson (mwilliamson@iohumc.com)

Church Administrator

Marla Grady (mgrady@iohumc.com)

Office Manager

Marjo Zelinsky (mzelinsky@iohumc.com)

Administrative Assistant

Debbie Alexander (dalexander@iohumc.com)

Director of Hope Arbor

Eliza Brooks (ebrooks@iohumc.com)

Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Frank Parr (fmparr@gmail.com)

Wedding Coordinator

Tricia Windom (triciawindom@comcast.net)

Interim Director of Missions

Julie Vann (missions@iohumc.com)



*The Order of Worship
for
Sunday, December 3, 2023
9:15 AM*

*The First Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Color: Purple*

*Our Purpose: to make disciples of
Jesus Christ for the transformation
of the world*

About the Prelude
The Prelude is a musical offering to help move the heart and minds of the gathered community from the daily struggle of life to the worship of God.

About Hymn 209
This hymn is a paraphrase of the “Song of Zechariah,” which comes from the Gospel of Luke 1:68-79. Zechariah has been made mute during his wife Elizabeth’s pregnancy with John the Baptist. When he hears of his son’s birth, his tongue is loosed for his song of praise to the Lord God of Israel.

The Affirmation of Faith
An Affirmation of Faith is a collective statement of the faith community’s most basic beliefs. This Affirmation was written by Rev. Steven M. Fearing of Lexington, Kentucky.

The Prelude Greg Smith, cello & Kathy Smith, piano
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
arr. by Marshall McDonald and Steven Sharp Nelson

Entrance of the Light & Chiming of the Hour

The Introit *African Noel* Ladies’ Chorus
Traditional Liberian Song Andrea Verdis, Director

The Welcome & Invocation Rev. Meg Procopio

+The Opening Hymn No. 209 TUNE: MERLE’S TUNE
(+ indicates to stand in body or in spirit)
Blessed Be the God of Israel

+The Affirmation of Faith Rev. Procopio

We believe that God has come to us;
that God brought us into being,
that God gave us breath and purpose,
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,
that we have fallen short of this commandment
but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.

We believe that God is coming to us;
that God will come to us as a particular human being,
that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,
that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his
hands in joy,
that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.

We believe that God will come to us;
that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,
that God will give us the presence of the Spirit
to continue our work,
that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,
that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless
and perfect “Alleluia.”
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Change to Online Resource Reminder • In 2024, we will only be using Amplify Media as our on-demand curriculum library for individual study, as well as options for small group and Sunday School curriculum. *“**Right Now Media**” will be discontinued at the end of this year, as we feel Amplify is a better fit for our needs.*

We hope you will use this amazing resource for personal enrichment and family entertainment (awesome kids videos included)! If you have questions, please reach out to Marla Grady or Meg.

To join Amplify, simply see the website below to join and get connected to hundreds of books and resources. Use the access code DCBYSJ to get started today!
<https://my.amplifymedia.com/isleofhopeumcsavannahga>

Angel Tree for Wesley Community Center • Help brighten the holidays for a child enrolled in one of Wesley Community Center's programs. Please visit the Christmas tree in the main hallway. Pick an ornament with a child’s name, age, and gender, and purchase a gift listed as their choosing. Return the unwrapped gift with tag to the tree in the hallway by Wednesday, December 5. Please contact Julie Vann with any questions at jvann@iohumc.com. Thank you!

Wesley Community Center • When doing your own grocery shopping this season, please consider picking up one or more of the items below for the Wesley Community Center. Thank you for helping others!

chicken cereal grits
spaghetti spaghetti sauce peanut butter

Feast of Lights • Sunday, December 10 - 5:00 p.m. Join us for this special service celebrating the joy of the Christmas season! Featuring the Isle of Hope Chancel Choir, handbell choir, children’s choir, Anchor musicians, soloists, guest instrumentalists, and a live children’s nativity, this is a service not to be missed!

Zoom and Dinner with AJ Levine • Sunday, December 17 at 4:00 PM, we will have the rare opportunity to spend time with *Light of the World* author, Amy-Jill (AJ) Levine, via Zoom in the Ministry Center. We will have a time of conversation and to answer questions as we complete her book.

Following our time with AJ Levine, you are invited to join us for Chili and Grilled Cheese in the Ministry Center. Prepared by some of the finest cooks around, you won’t want to miss this!

Christmas Cookies and Carols • Our Anchor Band would like to invite you to a night of Christmas cheer! Join us in the Ministry Center, December 20th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. for a night of Christmas Cookies and Carols. Bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share as we all gather together to sing our favorite songs of the season!
For more information, contact Rev. Josh McLemore.

Kindergarten - 5th Grade Christmas Fun Friday, December 8, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. • Join us for an evening of fun with dinner, games, crafts, cookie decorating, and a movie! Bring a blanket to get cozy on the floor for the movie. **Register on our website under Event Registrations by Monday, December 4**, or by emailing Beth Parr. (bparr@iohumc.com)

Student Ministries • This Sunday, December 3rd, we will be having our Student Christmas Party. Our party will begin at 5:00 pm in the Green House. Please, bring a wrapped gift under \$20 for our gift exchange.
Join us at 211 Worship (Green House) on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm for our Christmas Series titled *Grateful*. There will be Christmas-themed games, worship, and Bible study as we learn more about God's incredible gift to us. This study will end on December 13th.

🦉 Holiday Worship Schedule 🦉

Sunday, December 10

5:00 pm Feast of Lights

Thursday, December 14

6:00 pm Blue Christmas

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve

9:15 am One Combined Worship Service in the Sanctuary (No Sunday School)

Services of Candlelight and Holy Communion:

4:00 pm Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

4:00 pm Anchor Service in the Ministry Center

6:00 pm Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 31, New Year's Eve

9:15 am One Combined Worship Service in the Ministry Center (No Sunday School)

Sunday, January 7, Baptism of the Lord

9:15 am Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

9:15 am Anchor Service in the Ministry Center

10:30 am Church-Wide New Year's Breakfast on the Ministry Center

Tithes & Offerings

Year to Date	As of 11/30/23	As of 11/30/22
Total Receipts	\$1,499,712	\$1,963,719
Total Expenses	\$1,647,332	\$2,044,041
**Status	(\$147,620)	(\$80,322)

***Please note that our revenue greatly fluctuates throughout the year and is not linear. Seeing periods that appear as “overspending” is historically common, particularly during the summer months when we see a slight decrease in attendance, but have an increase in expense.*

Ways to Give

In Person - On Sunday mornings, before or after worship, place your offering in the designated box or basket at church

Online - Visit our website to make a one-time donation or recurring gift

Text GIVE to 855-712-696

Automated - Have your donation given automatically by setting up electronic bill pay with your bank

Mail - Mail your gift to Isle of Hope UMC, c/o Marla Grady, 412 Parkersburg Road, Savannah, Georgia 31406

2023 YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

•2023 contributions must be received in the Church Office by **Friday, December 29, 2023**. Checks mailed **AND POST MARKED** in 2023 will be included as 2023 contributions.

•2023 online contributions must have a transaction date of **December 29, 2023**, to be included as 2023 contributions. It is best to do these *several days ahead of time* due to banking holidays.

•For 2023 stock contributions, please start processing as soon as possible, as these transactions can take time to complete specifically with the holidays.

•Have you ever considered an IRA rollover? If you are over the age of 70½, you may transfer up to \$100,000 per year directly from your IRA to a charity. The rollover is **Tax-Free**, so no need to hassle with a tax deduction. This option is a simple and effective way to make a tax-free charitable gift, while also making a difference in the lives of others through supporting IOHUMC.

+The Response

TUNE: GLORIA



+The Greeting

Rev. Procopio

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Carol and Carole Clifton

The Liturgist says.

On this first Sunday of Advent, let us join our hearts together,
as we remember God's promise of hope.

Upon hearing the news that his son would be a prophet of the Most High, Zechariah broke into a song of praise: “And you, child, will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.” (Luke 1:76-79)

The first candle is lit

Come, Lord Jesus

The congregation responds.

We light this candle as a sign of our hope, as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

All are invited to sing together



The Advent Wreath

The concept of the Advent wreath began in Germany in the mid-16th century. The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ. The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because that liturgical color signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. The first and second candles, which are purple, represent hope and peace, respectively. The third candle, which is pink, signifies joy, and the fourth candle, which is purple, represents love. The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Eve. It is known as the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ.

The Children’s Moment

This time is devoted to connecting with our younger members. We invite our children to learn more about today’s message and to know they are part of God’s family. Those up to 5th grade are welcome to the altar rail. At the close of the Moment, those ages 3 - 2nd grade may go to Children’s Church.

About Hymn 219
This hymn was written by William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), an Anglican layman, who was the son of a surgeon in Bristol England. He spent most of his life as a businessman, working as a manager for the Maritime Insurance Company in Glasgow, Scotland. We know of his church affiliation only through his hymns that were published.

The Morning Prayer


Rev. Procopio

The Lord’s Prayer

The Children’s Moment

Dr. Frank Parr


As the children make their way to the front of the Sanctuary, all are invited to sing:



What is im - por - tant? What real - ly mat - ters?



What is im-por - tant to God? To love, to learn, to



wor - ship, to serve: this is im-por - tant to God.

The Hymn of Response No. 219

TUNE: GREENSLEEVES

What Child Is This

The Offertory Prayer

Rev. Procopio


The Offertory

Ladies’ Chorus


Tonight in Bethlehem
Tonight in Bethlehem I see a star so bright
shining from the East.
A star so bright, this wondrous night;
I know not why.
The shepherds with the Wise Men three,
They’re guided by the star so bright,
this wondrous night,
I know not why.
Tonight, in Bethlehem.
Tonight, in Bethlehem I see
a choir of angels over me.
They sing about a Savior’s birth;
they sing of peace, of peace on earth.
Now I see in a stable bare,
the mother cradles our Savior there.
Now I see and now I know, this is the holy night!
Tonight, in Bethlehem! Tonight!
B. Dardess

+The Doxology


TUNE: GREENSLEEVES



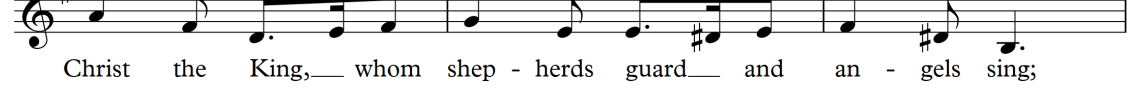
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures



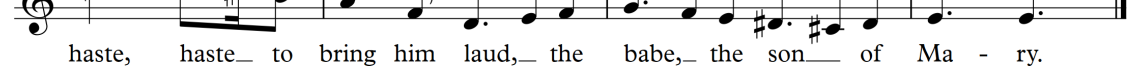
here be - low Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise



Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. This, this is



Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

+ The Scripture Lesson

Rev. Jared Wilson

Luke 1:5-25

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

The Message

Rev. Wilson

The Meaning of Memory

+The Hymn of Invitation No. 206

TUNE: HOUSTON

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

+The Benediction

Rev. Wilson

The Postlude

Nancy Vogelsang, organ

From Heaven Above
Gordon Young

The Prayer Room in the Tabby House is always available. The code is 1110.

The Doxology

A Doxology is an expression of praise to God and serves as a way for Christians to express their love and thankfulness for what God has done in their lives.

About Hymn 206

This hymn was written by Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934), who is a native of Tennessee. She wrote the hymn during the summer of 1966 during a visit to the Church of the Redeemer in Houston, Texas. Ms. Thomerson served as Director of Music at University United Methodist Church in St. Louis, MO, and was on the organ faculty of St. Louis Conservatory and Southern Illinois University.

About the Postlude

The Postlude is considered the final “Alleluia” of worship.