

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Supper and Study

Join us Jan. 14 - Feb. 18 for six weeks of Sunday evening connection over scripture and supper!

Pastors Kate and Kyle will lead an engaging video adult bible study from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Animate: Practices, digging into various Christian practices: Serving, Community, Worship, Food, Sacraments, and Prayer.

Children will have the opportunity to engage in age-appropriate lessons around these themes as well. Dinner will follow from 5:30-6 p.m.

Register today at ssumc.org/grow!

Welcome Reception

Join us on Jan. 21 following worship in the Fellowship Hall as we welcome our newest staff members who begin this month—Emma Palmer, Director of Community Connection, and Don Jones, Director of Music. Let's give them a big SSUMC welcome!

Youth Group Resumes

Monthly youth group starts up again on Sunday, Jan. 21 from 6:30-8 p.m.! Enjoy dinner, Holy Disruptions conversations, games, and great friendships. Check out ssumc.org/youth for the full schedule or talk to Candace for more information, cjohnson@ssumc.org.

Save the Date: Serve Sunday

11 a.m. on Feb. 4. the church will join in a brief service of Holy Communion and then engage in service projects together in the Fellowship Hall, putting our faith into action!

Save the Date: Pancake Breakfast

On Sunday, Feb. 11 at 10 a.m. we will have a pancake breakfast before worship! Make plans to join us for syrupy deliciousness!

Ways To Give:

- Offering Plates: Make a check out to the church or prepare your cash offering.
- Online: Give securely at ssumc.org/give, or by scanning the QR code.
- Text to Give: Text [ssumcgive](https://ssumc.org/give) to 73256.



Love Offering Thank You

Your staff offers abundant gratitude for your generous love offering this year. Thank you for helping us feel so supported, loved, and cared for. It's a joy to be part of the SSUMC family and to serve alongside you. We are excited to be in ministry with you in 2024 and we look forward to all God has in store!

SERVING IN WORSHIP

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Candace Johnson, M.Div. | Dir. of Family Ministries |
| Emma Palmer | Dir. of Community Connection |
| Virginia McCahan | Liturgist |
| Catherine Giel | Pianist |
| Courtney Stanley | Soloist |
| SSUMC Choir | |

Mailing Address

PO Box 720139 • Sandy Springs, GA 30358

Street Address

86 Mt. Vernon Highway • Sandy Springs, GA 30328
404.255.1181 | ssumc.org



JANUARY 7, 2024 | 11 A.M.

Welcome to Sandy Springs United Methodist Church: a wellspring of love and hospitality. **Here we seek to build life-changing relationships, nurture spiritual growth, and foster service through impactful partnerships.**

Our mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We believe each person's faith is constantly evolving, much like the sandy spring of water upon which this church was built. While our faithfulness ebbs and flows, God's constant presence, like a wellspring, renews deepens, and sustain us. Know that whoever you are, wherever you may find yourself, you are welcome and loved here.



SANDY SPRINGS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Visit us online at ssumc.org
phone: 404.255.1181 • fax: 404.255.0283

GATHERING

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and to welcome Emma Palmer and Don Jones

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship today reminded of the Magi who followed a star to find Emmanuel, God with us.

We follow your light, God.

The world can be dark, but you shine a path in front of us.

We follow your light, God.

We look for glimmers of hope and sparks of joy, beacons of love and sparkles of peace.

You give us a star to follow, and we are here.

Guide us with your light, today and all year.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

"We Three Kings"

–United Methodist Hymnal (UMH) #254

LISTENING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

We invite children ages 4-10 to meet our volunteers in the narthex before going to room 211 for Children's Church. Caregivers will pick them up in 211 after worship.

WELCOMING EMMA PALMER

New Director of Community Connection

Congregational Response:

Emma, we welcome you to Sandy Springs UMC!

We are grateful for the gifts that God has given you and that you will use them through our congregation and wider community. We commit to support you with our prayers, time, and

participation. We are praying for you as you begin and are excited to see where God takes us together. We welcome you today, in the name of Jesus, who welcomes everyone!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

"We Would See Jesus" –UMH #256, vs. 1, 2, and 5

*SCRIPTURE

Listen for the word of God:

Our Ears are Open!

Matthew 2:1-12

This is the Word of God for the People of God:

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

RESPONDING

STAR WORDS

You are invited to get a star word from the front of the Sanctuary at this time.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(Apostles Creed, UMH #881)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Ways to give are listed on the back of this worship guide. Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Cold the Winter" –Mark Schweizer

*DOXOLOGY:

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN

"O Splendor of God's Glory Bright" –UMH #679

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org