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!

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 to 73256.



Ways To Pledge:



How does a weary world rejoiće?

December 31, 2023 | 11 a.m. CHRISTMASTIDE

Lessons, Carols, and Communion

Luke's Gospel tells us that when Mary gives birth to Jesus, she lays him in a manger, for there was no place for them in the guest room. Christ is born in a crowded, unlikely place. And yet, God makes a place here anyway. God draws the circle wider as shepherds and unexpected quests arrive. This Christmas, let us also make room-for strangers and neighbors alike. For this is good news of great joy for all people.



physical pledge card and put it in the offering plate. Online: Pledge securely at ssumc.org/pledge, or by scanning the QR code.

Offering Plate: Fill out a

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Senior Pastor
Deacon
Dir. of Family Ministries
Readers
Pianist

Mailing Address PO Box 720139 • Sandy Springs, GA 30358

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



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

GATHERING

The flowers on the altar are given by the Serendipity Sunday school class to the glory of God and in honor and deep appreciation to Reverend Bruce Donnelly.

<u>PRELUDE</u>

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; **all the nations shall stream to it.** Many peoples shall come and say, **"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,**

to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

<u>*OPENING HYMN</u> "Angels We Have Heard on High" —United Methodist Hymnal (UMH) #238

<u>CHILDREN'S MOMENT: TOY BLESSING</u> Children will remain in worship today! Worship bags are available in the narthex.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 11:1-10

CAROL:

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" —UMH #218, vs. 1, 4

THE SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10

<u>CAROL:</u> "The First Noel" –UMH #218, vs. 1-2

THE THIRD LESSON: Luke 1:26-38

<u>CAROL:</u> "Good Christians Friends Rejoice" —UMH #224

THE FOURTH LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25

CAROL: "What Child is This" –UMH #219, vs. 1-2

THE FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:39-58

<u>CAROL:</u> "Away in a Manger" —UMH #217

THE SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

<u>CAROL:</u> "O Little Town of Bethlehem" —UMH #230, vs. 1-2

THE SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-20

<u>CAROL:</u> "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" —UMH #240

RESPONDING

<u>OFFERTORY PRAYER</u> Ways to give and pledge are listed on the back of this worship guide. Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY MUSIC "Joy To The World" –UMH #246

*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.

HOLY COMMUNION Spoken responses on pg. 13 of UMH.

DEPARTING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org