

DECEMBER 2024

The Prospector

Dahlonega Methodist Church

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Advent and Christmas season, we are journeying together through the Christmas story to grasp its deeper meaning. My prayer for you is that your hearts will burn with a deeper desire to know Jesus better and to feel His presence in your lives daily. We live in interesting times, and we need a sure relationship with God to help us navigate these stormy waters. We will continue this hunger for relationship throughout the upcoming year. 2025 will be a year of having the “eyes of our hearts enlightened” so that we can both know God better and help be a powerful witness for the Gospel in our communities.

We look to the Lord's vision for church for the upcoming year, and we find that He is directing us to go inside/out - deep and wide with Him. God is already doing tremendous things in and through our church, but He wants our hearts to burn to do much more for His kingdom. As the scripture says, *“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”* (Ephesians 3:14-19).

The sermons over the next few weeks will help us to discern what it is God desires as we ascertain the depth and the width of His love and purposes for us. For the first several weeks will look at what it means to go deep in our faith with the Lord. Then we will look at how that deepening faith causes us to have a wider view of God’s purposes for our lives. May the Lord enlighten you through His word as to how you can go deeper and wider in love and faith with Him. Selah.

In Christ,

Steve



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Announcements



Advent and Christmas at Dahlonge Methodist Church

Our Advent theme this year is "On the Way to Bethlehem." Places shape us and shape our stories. This year we are going to slow down and look at all the places Mary and Joseph would have traveled through as they made their way to Bethlehem. Rome, Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem. What do all of these places have to teach us. We are also shaped by our experiences as we long for the coming of the Christ Child. Each event on our journey draws us closer to the manager. Our journey begins on December 1st.

Hanging of the Greens – Sunday, December 1st at 6:30 PM

Come and hear the story of Advent, as we add the symbols of Advent to our church. Come and learn the meaning behind the symbols as we celebrate the beginning of the season with song and word.

Dahlonge Lumpkin County Ministerial Association Noon Advent Services.

"Peace, Love, and Joy in Our Lives"

Tuesdays at 12:00 Noon—December 3, 10, and 17

St. Luke Roman Catholic Church

Community Lunch immediately following the service

Live Nativity



Experience the wonder of Jesus' birth at the Live Nativity at Dahlonge Methodist Church! Begin your journey to Bethlehem on the front lawn where you will be greeted with uplifting praise and worship music, live animals that you can feed, and then draw near to the manger and see baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men, and angels as the story of Jesus' birth comes to life.

Afterward, step inside our church fellowship hall to explore the tents of Bethlehem, where children can enjoy fun and engaging activities. Warm up with hot chocolate and cookies as we celebrate the birth of our Savior! Everyone, young and old, is welcome to join in this joyful event!

DMC Christmas

Lessons and Carols Service

The DMC Choir and Handbell Choir will be presenting the second annual Lessons and Carols service on December 8th at 4:00 pm.

The Lessons and Carols service guides the listener through the story of mankind from the fall to the birth of our Savior. This story is told through readings of Scripture (the Lessons) that are accompanied by hymns and anthems (the Carols). The tradition of the Lessons and Carols service began well over a century ago and is one of the most popular Christmas services today.

MMO Christmas Program

Tuesday, December 10th—5:00pm

Blue Christmas

Sunday, December 15th—3:00pm

Blue Christmas is a gentle, contemplative service for those who are carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration.

Christmas Eve Services

5:00pm-Praise & Worship Family Service

7:00pm-Candlelight with Chancel Choir

11:00pm-Candlelight Service

Communion will be served at all services.

Christmas Day Meal—11:30—3:00pm

All in the community are welcome.

Volunteers are needed to decorate, serve, kitchen crew, cleanup, welcome table.

If you can help please text/call

Brenda Elrod at 678-577-1639

or email at brenda@dahmc.org.

Scheduled Holiday Office Closures

Tuesday, December 24th **through**

Thursday, December 26th,

Tuesday, December 31st

Wednesday, January 1st

Announcements

DMC Women's Circle of Faith

December 2nd, noon: No meeting. Ecumenical Advent Service will be at St. Luke's Catholic Church, with a light lunch afterwards in the Fellowship Hall.

January 21st, 10AM: Donations Program presented by Suzanne Crossan

Help plan our mission to support women, youth, and children. Provide input on actions needed for missions that are dear to our hearts. We will review where our donations helped in our community, in our country, and in the world. You are needed for planning the Lord's work through donations of money, time, talents, and prayers for the upcoming year. Be in prayer for your upcoming commitment. Your yearly donations can be from \$0 and beyond. The Lord will provide what is needed to support our missions.

Boxwood Players Drama Troupe



Next meeting for our Boxwood Players Drama Troupe will be Tuesday Dec. 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For more info call Pat Kelley 706 344 9670.

Globetrotters

On Thursday, 12 December 2024, get into the festive Christmas spirit, as The Globetrotters tour the historic Tate House, a stunning neo-classical mansion made from pink and white Etowah Marble. From the beautiful decorations to the sounds of Christmas music playing throughout the house, this tour will bring the spirit of the season to our hearts and minds. Before arriving for the tour, we will have a delightful lunch at The Old Mulehouse, Jasper. Please visit <https://www.tatehouse.com> to learn more about the history of the home, as well as the Christmas tour. Tickets for adults are \$25, payable on site. **We will depart the Walmart parking lot at 10 am. To RSVP for this outing**, please contact Deena Rankin, 678-923-1034, or, Cindy Williams, 706-973-9272; **deadline to RSVP, no later than 4 December 2024.**

Sportsmen's Group—Faith, Fletching, Flintlocks and Fly Rods

The Sportsmen's Group will meet December 16th, 6pm at the Ivie Lodge on Camp Glisson. The main course for the meal will be venison. If you plan to attend, please contact Ray at repolk175@gmail.com so we can have a close headcount.

Altar Guild Volunteers

The altar guild is a ministry - a gift of time and talent to serve God in His house. The housekeeping and decoration of God's house should be done with sincere devotion. The work of the Altar Guild is to prepare all the things necessary for the worship services, such as, restocking the pews with envelopes & etc., replenishing oil in candles, replenishing water for pastors. We are still in need of a few more volunteers. If you can help please call the church office at 706-864-2521. or email nancy@dahmc.org.

Seeking New Leadership for Sewing Hearts Circle

As of now the Sewing Hearts Circle is seeking new leadership. It's time for me to retire & let someone else carry it on. There's a lot of material available & the crosses are being made by another church member. If you are interested, please contact Kara Martina by text (706-300-4210) or email karamartina45@gmail.com. If there is no response by December 30, 2024, the ministry will end as of January 2025.



2025 Stewardship Campaign

Over the past several weeks, we have heard encouraging testimonies, devotions, and sermons that illustrate how Jesus blesses us when we trust in him. We have been reminded that all we have comes from God. Through His teachings, we are called to be faithful and are responsible for giving back to Him. Jesus asks this simple question in Luke 12:42 "WHO THEN IS THAT FAITHFUL AND WISE STEWARD?" A simple question that you might ask is "Why is my commitment so important?" "I tithe on a regular basis." The answer is simple. By making your commitment, our Finance Committee can commit to supporting our church ministries and programs that serve our community and beyond, but more importantly it is your commitment to Jesus that you will be a "Faithful and Wise Steward" and that you will put your trust in him.

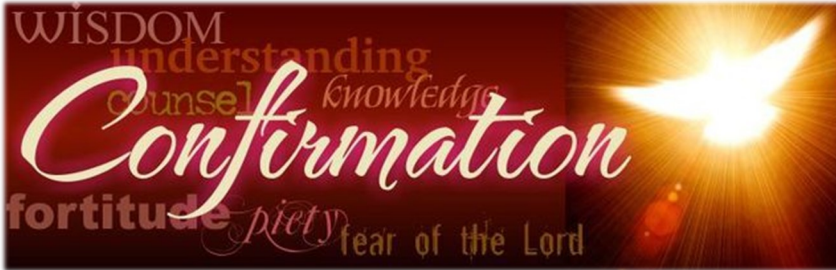
While our Stewardship Campaign has ended, we pray that we can continue to grow closer to Jesus by being good stewards of the blessings he has given. To those who have made their commitment, THANK YOU. To those who have not yet made a commitment we encourage and ask that you give prayerful consideration to doing so by December 31st.

There are several ways to give:

DROP IT OFF: Complete the Commitment/Pledge Card and drop them in the Commitment Boxes in the Narthex, Church Office OR return via mail.

ONLINE: dahlonegaumc.org/giving (just click on Pledge online)

Announcements



Confirmation Classes 2025

Confirmation classes are for 5th graders and older. Classes will begin on Sunday, **January 19th** from 3:00-4:00 pm in the Church Library. Pastor Steve and Robin Parr will lead the classes. If you would like your child to participate please email deborah@dahmc.org to sign up. Students who complete confirmation will be confirmed on Sunday, March 30th (Classes are ten weeks)

UNG Wesley Collegiate



UNG Wesley Collegiate has finally launched! UNG Wesley Collegiate, known in short as Wesley, is a pan-Wesleyan college ministry. Meaning we are rooted in Wesleyan theology but we are not tied to a particular denomination. This is a brand new ministry with deep roots here at UNG. DMC has been extremely gracious to college ministry in the past and has continued to support this new college ministry and the direction God has us going. If you'd like to know more about this ministry, you can go to our website <https://www.ungwesleycollegiate.org/>.

For those who would like to be donors to this ministry you can go to our website and donate online or you can continue to give through the church, we just ask that all checks be made out to UNG Wesley Collegiate. Thank you and Have a Blessed Day! -Nathan Dickens

Wesley Dinner Bell Schedule

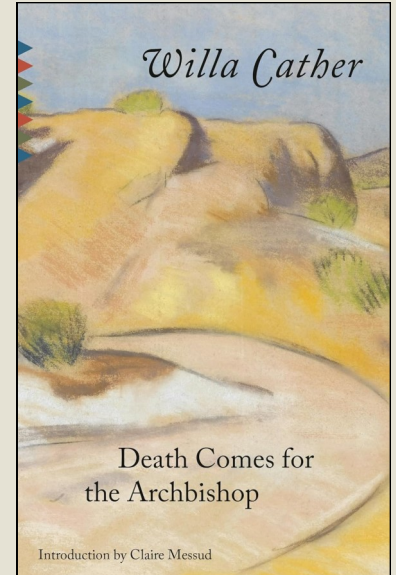
Many thanks to the small groups who have supported the Wesley dinner bell thus far, we have meals covered thru December. The reports from these groups have all been overwhelmingly blessed. We now have dates for 2025 and are looking for new volunteers for this dates (all Thursdays) March 6, April 3, and May 1st. Please contact Kara Martina if you too want to be blessed! 706-300-4210. February 6th has been taken by the "Dickens Small Group"!!



Wednesday Night Supper will resume January 8th.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will be discussing *Death Come for the Archbishop*,
By Willa Cather



**On Wednesday January 22nd,
at 6:30pm in the Library.**
**Check Dahlonga's local library for
check out availability or click here to
purchase on Amazon:**
<https://a.co/d/cfY2zsV>

In 1851 Father Jean Marie Latour comes to serve as the Apostolic Vicar to New Mexico. What he finds is a vast territory of red hills and tortuous arroyos, American by law but Mexican and Indian in custom and belief. In the almost forty years that follow, Latour spreads his faith in the only way he knows—gently, all the while contending with an unforgiving landscape, derelict and sometimes openly rebellious priests, and his own loneliness. Out of these events, Cather gives us an indelible vision of life unfolding in a place where time itself seems suspended.

Community Outreach

Community Helping Place, Spirit of Christmas

Spirit of Christmas is the Community Helping Place's holiday outreach program which provides eligible families food to make a Christmas meal, vouchers for clothing & books, and gifts for the children (ages birth to 18). Last year our average families served 263; this year, so far, is 223 families. Financial uncertainty has moved beyond those whose situation is already fragile to include those who have not had to worry about financial insecurity. Your donation of food, toys and money will go a long way in providing a special Christmas for these families. Below is a list of food items that each family will receive this year, along with some cold items CHP will provide on the day of distribution. There is also a suggested toy list below; this is not an inclusive list. You are welcome to use your own creativity; we just ask for no clothing as we do not get sizes of each child.

Please drop off your donations at CHP (not DMC), 1127 Highway 52 East, Dahlonega in the red building in the lower parking lot by December 4th. Call Debi at 706-967-9621, ext. 563 to schedule your drop-off. You can also call her with any questions. They will accept donations up until December 23rd for those late registrations.

Food List for the Spirit of Christmas:

- 2 can corn
- 2 cans green beans
- 2 cans of fruit
- 1 can of chicken broth
- 1 box cornbread mix
- 2 cans cranberry sauce
- 1 can of yams
- 1 box stuffing
- 1 box instant potatoes
- 2 boxes of mac & cheese
- 1 cake or brownie mix
- 1 container frosting



Suggested Toys for Spirit of Christmas

Baby's—Pull-ups all sizes, Wipes, Teething Toys

Young Girls—Easy Bake Oven, Anything Frozen

Girls Age 8-12+ - Art Sets

Boys Age 8-12+

Legos, Nerf guns, Football, Baseball glove, Art sets, Board games, fishing poles

Teen Girls—High school reading books, brain teasers, spa basket items,

Teen Boys—Good dart boards, high school reading books, brain teasers, tools; all ages-fishing poles

Middle School age—Science type things

General—Action figures (like the multi packs), anything nerf, board games all ages

Most Ages—wireless earbuds

Board games for all ages but especially for older children and outdoor games for all ages but especially older children.

This is a list of suggested items based on what we already have and the areas with the greatest need. You are not limited to only these items, they are suggestions.

Community Outreach Initiatives

Are you passionate about making a difference in your community? Join us on December 15th at 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall, to explore ways you can get more involved and help expand our community outreach initiatives. We're seeking motivated individuals who want to create positive change. Lunch will be provided.



Northern Star of Georgia seeks to provide youth in foster care and at risk youth, ages 18-21, and opportunity to begin their transition into the role of a self-sufficient adult. If you would like to make sure these young adults have an amazing Christmas, please take a wooden ornament from the tree in the foyer. Please return wrapped gifts with wooden tag attached under the tree by December 15th.

Any questions please contact mandywilliams@northernstarga.org or 770-364-9319.

NO1A
No One Alone

No One Alone Wishlist

The following items are the shelter needs. Please drop the items off at the bin outside the fellowship hall designated for NOA.

Baby Wipes, Multi-Purpose Cleaner, 4T/5T Pull Ups, Baby Shampoo/Body Wash, Diapers Size 6, Spiral Notebooks, Kids Toothpaste, Tampons/Pads, Detergent.

Children's Ministry, MMO & Preschool, Youth



Sun, Dec. 1—**No Kidz Church (K-5th Grade)**
Worship with families in service. Classes still available for babies – PreK
Hanging of the Greens Service – 6:30 pm
We invite all families to join us! Nursery provided for PreK and under.

Wed, Dec. 4—**Wednesdays in the Word**

Sun, Dec. 8—**Kidz Church & Lil' Kidz Church** at 9:30 am—**Family Campfire Christmas** 5:30-7:30 pm. Wear your flannel, bring a camping chair, and come join us outside by the fire for roasting hot dogs and s'mores, crafts, Christmas caroling, and a hayride!

Wed, Dec. 11—**Wednesdays in the Word** -5:45-7:30 pm (Last one till January)

Sat, Dec. 14—**Live Nativity** 6:00-8:00 pm -Live nativity, animals, crafts, cookies, & photo booth

Sun, Dec. 15—**Kidz Church & Lil' Kidz Church** at 9:30 am. We will have Breakfast in Bethlehem! Kids will be dropped off & picked up as normal in classrooms.

Sun, Dec. 22—**Kidz Church & Lil' Kidz Church** at 9:30 am – We will have a birthday party for Jesus!

Tues, Dec. 24—**Christmas Eve Services**—5:00 pm (Family Service), 7:00 & 11:00 pm (Candlelight). At the 5:00 service, kids ages 2-years -5th grade will participate in the service and dress as nativity characters. If your family plans to attend this service, please let Vanessa know so she can assign your child a character to dress like. We have costumes here at the church! **We will have childcare for our littles at the 5:00 & 7:00 services.**



**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year from
the Advisory Board and
Preschool Staff!**

**Christmas Break
Dec. 16th- Jan. 6th.
School resumes on
Tuesday, January 7th,
2025.**

We have limited seating available for the Wolf Mountain Dinner Fundraiser!

Wolf Mountain Dinner Fundraiser

Guess what's back?! Gather your friends and reserve a table. Benefiting the children of Dahlonge Methodist Church MMO/Preschool.

DECEMBER 12 @ 6 PM

50\$
Per Person
Dinner Buffet

Call the preschool
office to make
reservations:
706-864-8521

We would like to offer the teachers an opportunity to attend this event at no cost. If you would like to sponsor a teacher, please contact the preschool office.

Youth Ministry

DMC Youth strive to live LIFE.
Love Everyone
Inspire Many
Fulfill God's Call
Empower Others

WINTER SCHEDULE

Sunday

MS Worship & HS Small Group
Sunday Afternoons 4—6pm
Meet at DMC field/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday

HS Worship & MS Small Groups
MS Dinner & Small Groups-5:45-7:30pm
HS Dinner & Small Groups-5:45-8:00pm

December

14th—Live Nativity
15th—Progressive Dinner
18th—Christmas Party/LAST Wednesday!

Middle School Ski Trip-Beech Mtn. NC
January 2—4/\$225/\$100 deposit by
December 4th.

High School Ski Trip-Winterplace, WV
January 17-20th/\$275, \$100 deposit by
December 4th.

The Youth Program is selling some DMC shirts as a fundraiser! We have a sweatshirt, a tee shirt for the Good Shepherd, and a DMC youth shirt. If you're interested in a shirt, please email Bailey at bailey@dahmc.org or call him at 706-962-2614 to get on the order list. Each shirt is \$25 and the sweatshirts \$40.

Contact Information

Bailey Tam, *Director of Youth Ministry*
bailey@dahmc.org
706-962-2614

One Child El Salvador

REPORT FROM THE MISSION FIELD – NOVEMBER 2024 TRIP

We have just returned from our all-ladies November Mission Trip to El Salvador. It was, as always, a blessed time, both for the missionaries, and the people we served. Yes, we accomplished many good things, but the best part was the relationship building, and the spiritual growth that God always does in the hearts and spirits of the mission team members. This was the first trip for two of the team members. As one of the “newbies” said, “It has been an amazing journey witnessing the power of prayer. And the bonus was building memories and new friendships!” And one of our team members got the opportunity to meet her sponsored child.

As for the “doing”, we took part in the graduation ceremonies for the precious K6 children on Thursday, and the 9th graders on Friday. The older kids will continue on to high school, but we learned that it is a tradition to have this transitional graduation. It is so wonderful to see the fruit of this ongoing ministry, knowing that these children will have choices for their futures, affecting them, their families, and the community of La Magdalena!



We were also blessed to take part in several ministry opportunities. We visited the children’s wards of the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Santa Ana, passing out heart pillows made by DMC’s Sewing Heart Circle to the children, as well as giving pocket crosses made by Debbie Gaines and lunches we provided to the parents (they have to bring their own food, but most can’t afford food, or don’t want to leave the sides of their children). And we, of course, prayed with children and parents when we could. We were told by the doctor who arranged this that our being allowed to do this was a miracle in itself, as the administrator doesn’t usually allow such group ministry visits.



We also delivered 18 laptop computers to teachers that were provided by the Dahlonega Sunrise Rotary. These computers will be a huge asset next year in propelling the ability of our school’s teachers to a higher level in their teaching.

Other ministry opportunities included taking part in and giving the message at two church services, as well as having a meeting with the women of the church. Linda Gilreath brought another batch of books to be used in their ongoing regular meetings



and Bible study that Linda helped to launch earlier this year. We also did some visitation and prayer in the community.



Please listen for God’s calling and consider going on a mission trip soon. There are many opportunities, including a construction trip coming up soon! **YOU WILL BE BLESSED!**

CONSTRUCTION TRIP NOW FORMING FOR JANUARY OR FEBRUARY 2025! We will soon begin construction of the last few classrooms of the school. A team is being formed now! For more information, or to sign up to go, please contact Lynn Pfeiffer, El Salvador Mission Coordinator at 706-265-5236, or email clpfeiffer1321@gmail.com.

One Child El Salvador



'STRONG' **MATCHING FUNDS CHALLENGE FOR** **LA MAGDALENA SCHOOL** **FINISH**

In 2025, our goal is to complete the final three classrooms at the school. This will COMPLETE the building infrastructure needed for the education of the children from Kindergarten through graduation from High School! This will include all needed classrooms, Computer Lab, Science Lab, Library, Infirmary, bathrooms, Teacher meeting room, and two small Administrative Offices. Cost for this project is approximately \$36,000.

CURRENTLY we have a **MATCHING FUND CHALLENGE for this project! A generous donor has agreed to match construction donations **up to \$18,000** between now & December. **DOUBLE** your donation and let's finish these classrooms!

2025 marks the 19th anniversary of our call to partner with Pastor Mauricio to build a school for the poor children in the village of La Magdalena. Let's make this the year that we complete the educational infrastructure of the school!

(NOTE: There are two more infrastructure projects that need to be done, but the classrooms will be complete!)

Please consider taking part in this wonderful opportunity by making a donation of any amount to One Child El Salvador, Inc. and designating the donation for "Construction". Donations may be made online at www.onechildelsalvador.org (choose "Construction" in the drop down box).

Or you may donate by check to One Child El Salvador, Inc. and mail to PO Box 274, Dahlonega GA 30533. Be sure to notate "Construction" on the check.

We thank God for the continuing generosity of DMC in supporting this mission that will have lasting impact for the children, their families, and community, and, most importantly, the Kingdom of God!



Classroom building completed in 2023, with Pastor Francisco (School Administrator), Greg Thomas, and the local Educational



EXCITING UPDATE ON **COFFEE TO SUPPORT** **EL SALVADOR MISSION!**



Francisco Fuentes and daughter Renee at new coffee debut at Gold Rush OCES debuted our new coffee in October, roasted from our newest shipment of coffee beans from our local farmer in El Salvador, Francisco Fuentes and his family-owned farm, Finca la Providencial! Francisco and his daughter Renee even came for the debut! This is our high-quality medium and dark roast coffees grown high in the volcanic mountains of El Salvador. We also now have a small batch of extra premium coffee from the Caceres family farm. All of our coffee is roasted and bagged locally at *Because Coffee* in Dawsonville for maximum freshness.



COFFEE MAKES GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

Check off your Christmas list with gifts of high-quality coffee, while helping the children of La Magdalena! Personal gifts, teacher gifts, customer gifts, employee gifts - we make it easy! Order online - We ship!

One Child Coffee comes in three varieties (three farms), medium and dark, drip grind and whole bean. Something for everyone!

www.onechildcoffee.myshopify.com



Sunday Worship

Worship in the Sanctuary at 8:00 am

Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30—Children’s Ministry available

Worship in the Sanctuary at 11:00 am

Live Streaming 9:30 and 11:00am Service

<https://dahmc.org/services/#watch-live>

There will be
ONE service on
December 29th at 10am.

Communion Rail Offering for December

December’s communion rail offering is for the Christmas Day Meal. It is our desire to serve Him by serving others, and in an effort to reach out to our community and share in our blessings, this Christmas DMC will prepare a meal for those in our community who may be alone during this holiday and those struggling to make ends meet.

Note: Our communion bread is gluten free, vegan and contains no dairy, soy, peanuts, tree nuts, fish/shellfish or eggs.

Sunday Verbal Announcements

If you would like to have a verbal announcement on Sunday mornings during the worship service, the announcement needs to be emailed to deborah@dahmc.org two weeks prior and approved by Steve and Robin.

Park Street Improvement Project

The Park Street Utilities Improvement Project is not expected to affect traffic flow around the Church during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, as no work should be done North of Arcadia street until 2025. More details will follow after the New Year.

Sunday Adult Growth Groups—Third Floor, Education Building

9:30 a.m.

Primetime Class—Room: Library—Facilitator: Chris Buice

11:00 a.m.

11th Hour Class—Room: Library—Facilitator: Jeff Ramsland

New folks always welcome!

Assisted Listening Capabilities

DMC is now offering assisted listening capabilities through Listen Technologies. Please download the app “Listen Everywhere” from the APP or Google Play Store to your smart phone and pair your Bluetooth hearing aids or headphones to your device. Connect to the wifi “Listen” (Password – canyouhearme). Open the app and select “DMC Sanctuary”. For more information, contact Chuck Bell @ chuck@chuckbellmusic.com or stop by the audio booth on Sunday morning.



Honor a loved one in celebration of a birthday, anniversary, or in remembrance with flowers. Sign up table is outside of Fellowship Hall or you may call the church office. The cost is \$95.00. Please make certain that your check is clearly marked “Altar Flowers”.