

DECEMBER 2022

# The Prospector

Dahlonega United Methodist Church

## 2023 Stewardship Campaign

Over the past several weeks, we have focused on Stewardship: how giving is an *expression of love, freedom, humbling, and worshipful*. We have enjoyed inspiring testimonies and informative sermons. We have been reminded that all that we have comes from God; that it all belongs to Him and through His teachings we are called to be faithful and responsible in our 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 then plan and budget to continue the ministries and programs for 2023, but more importantly it is your commitment to Jesus that you will be a “Faithful and Wise Steward.”

While our Stewardship Campaign has ended, we pray that we can continue to grow closer to Jesus through stewardship that extends through the next 12 months. 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](http://dahlonegaumc.org/giving) (just click on Pledge online)



## This issue:

Stewardship Campaign 2023  
Page 1

Come Celebrate Christmas  
Advent  
Page 2

United Women in Faith  
Book Club  
Town Hall Meeting  
Confirmation Classes 2023  
Page 3

CHP Spirit of Christmas  
Care and support  
Page 4

One Child El Salvador  
Page 5

Children's Ministry  
MMO and Youth  
Page 6

Sunday Worship  
December Communion Rail  
Offering  
Adult Sunday School Classes  
Page 7



# Come Celebrate Christmas

## Come Celebrate Christmas

### DUMC Christmas Music Service

The DUMC Sanctuary Choir will present "Tidings of Joy" December 11th at the 11:00am service ONLY. This music service will also feature our trio, quartet, bell choir, organist Helen Hardman and violinist, Dr. Bob Christmas.

### MMO Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 15th—5:30pm

### Live Nativity—Outside in front of Sanctuary



### Blue Christmas

Sunday, December 18h at 3:00pm

*Speaker: Rev. Tom Atkins, Evangelist*

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

### Christmas Eve Services

*Join us as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus.*

5:00pm—Family Christmas with Praise Band, designed especially for families with small children.

7:00pm—Candlelight Service with soloists

11:00pm—Candlelight and Communion Service with Tom and Julie Theobald

### Christmas Day Service

Join us at 10am for the Christmas Day service.

### Christmas Day Meal

11:30 am—3:00pm

All welcome to come celebrate Christmas with a FREE Christmas Feast in the Fellowship Hall.

*Volunteers are needed to decorate, serve, kitchen crew, cleanup crew, and at the welcome table for the Christmas Day Meal. Kitchen help is also needed Thursday, December 22nd and Saturday, December 24th, even 1-2 hours of your time would be greatly appreciated. If you can help please text Janet Rose at 678-697-7892 or call at 706-216-6308.*



## Advent

Location: Dahlonega Baptist Church

Time: 12:00 noon

Theme: *Time to Notice what God is Doing*  
*We look at spiritual practices associated with the season of Advent so that God will increase in us the gifts of stopping, waiting, hearing and seeing.*

**November 29:** *Advent is Stopping*

Rev. Steve Fenlon, DBC

In the spiritual life we are sometimes asked to stop in our tracks and notice what is truly going on around us. In Advent, God's actions will surprise us and introduce unimagined roads to travel.

**December 6:** *Advent is Waiting*

Rev. Casey Cane, The Torch

In the spiritual life we come to realize that we are not in control. We must be patient and trust that the world & the future are in God's hands. Advent is trusting and waiting for God to act.

**December 13:** *Advent is Listening*

Rev. Father Matthew Dalrymple, St. Luke's

In the spiritual life we are asked to listen. We listen to our own heart, we listen for God, we listen to our neighbor. Without hearing we become detached and alone. When we hear we are able to be in honest healthy healing relationship with our neighbor and with God. Advent is being able to listen to the depth of the life God gives us.

**December 20:** *Advent is Looking*

Rev. Robin Parr, DUMC

In the spiritual life we are asked to be aware of what is happening in our lives, the lives of our neighbors, in our Community. Advent is begin able to question our current understanding and to see clearly and faithfully what God is doing. Advent is having eyes open to see what God is doing.

**Luncheon:** Soup, Salad & Dessert will be provided immediately following the service at Dahlonega Baptist Church



# Announcements

## Dahlongega United Women in Faith

All ladies from the church are invited.

MORNING meetings, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, 10AM, Fellowship Hall

### **Dec 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon:**

We will meet at Dahlongega Baptist Church for the Ecumenical Advent Service, which starts at noon, and lunch afterwards.

**Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Field trip to Wesley Woods in Decatur, and lunch on our own after the tour.

Meet at DUMC to board the church bus which leaves at 8:30AM. Contact Sharon Dabbs (sbdabbs2004@yahoo.com) by Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> to reserve your seat (maximum is 16).

## Town Hall Meeting



**You are invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, December 15 at 6 PM.** Our District Superintendent, Rev. Doug Gilreath, will be addressing our congregation regarding the future of the UMC. Rev. Gilreath will be available to answer any questions you may have, **but all questions should be submitted by December 7th.**

Below you will find a link and a

QR code which will allow you to submit your questions to the study team.

Either of these will take you directly to the form. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Direct Link to Survey: <https://forms.gle/EmwoVh89J2tVhRaP8>



In an effort to provide the congregation with requested resources, we have decided to put together a website to help organize the information. To watch the videos of the study group educational meetings click here: <https://sites.google.com/view/dumc-study-group-resources/home> or go to DUMC website [www.dahlongegaumc.org](http://www.dahlongegaumc.org). Please do not hesitate to continue to reach out to members of the Study Group or your pastoral team with any questions or concerns.

In Christ, The DUMC Study Group



## Confirmation Classes 2023

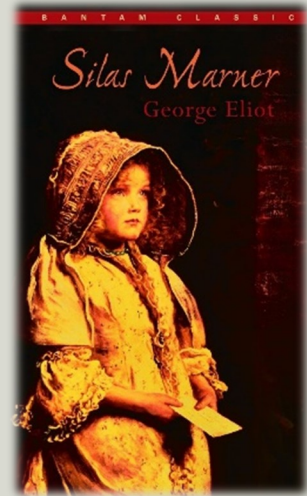
Classes will begin on Sunday, **January 15<sup>th</sup>** from 3:00-4:00 pm in the Church Library, and are for rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders and older. Pastor Steve and Robin Parr will lead the classes. If you would like your child to participate please email [deborah@dahlongegaumc.org](mailto:deborah@dahlongegaumc.org) to sign up. Students who complete confirmation will be confirmed on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. (Classes are ten weeks)



Shop at [smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1472367](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1472367) to generate donations to Dahlongega United Methodist Church. When you shop on AmazonSmile, ([www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)), the AmazonSmile

Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to DUMC once you choose our Church as your preferred charitable organization. It is a simple and automatic way for you to support Dahlongega UMC every time you shop, at no cost to you.

## BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will be discussing **Silas Marner (Bantam Classics)** on **Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** in the Library. You may purchase this book by clicking on the link below.

<https://a.co/d/7UBVYUq>

*Embittered by a false accusation, disappointed in friendship and love, the weaver Silas Marner retreats into a long twilight life alone with his loom. . . and his gold. Silas hoards a treasure that kills his spirit until fate steals it from him and replaces it with a golden-haired founding child. Where she came from, who her parents were, and who really stole the gold are the secrets that permeate this moving tale of guilt and innocence. A moral allegory of the redemptive power of love, it is also a finely drawn picture of early nineteenth-century England in the days when spinning wheels hummed busily in the farmhouses, and of a simple way of life that was soon to disappear.*

If you would like to join the Book Club, please email [deborah@dahlongegaumc.org](mailto:deborah@dahlongegaumc.org).

# Care and Support



*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). The on-going pandemic has had an overwhelming impact on our community. **The number of families we serve for client services (Food Pantry, financial, case management, excluding the Free Clinic) has gone from 159 families in January to 351 families in September; therefore, we are anticipating a large number of recipients this year.**

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, 1127 Highway 52 East, Dahlonge in the red building in the lower parking lot by December 2nd. Call Debi at 706-967-9621 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:

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 can corn             | 1 box cornbread mix    |
| 1 cans green beans     | 2 cans cranberry sauce |
| 1 box stuffing         | 1 can yams             |
| 1 can chicken broth    | 1 cake or brownie mix  |
| 1 box instant potatoes | 1 container frosting   |

The following items CHP is short on:

Extra Frosting (greatest need), Box Instant Potatoes, Mac & Cheese

## Suggested Toys for Spirit of Christmas

### Baby's

Size 6 Diapers, Pull-ups, Wipes, Teething Toys

### Young Girls

Easy Bake Oven, Anything Frozen

### Girls Age 8-12+

Art Sets, Soft Blanket with Book, Hair Appliances (dryer, straightener, Curl wand Curl brush)

### Boys Age 8-12+

Legos, Nerf guns, Football, Baseball glove, Art sets, Pokémon cards, Board games

### Teen Girls

Art Sets, Spa Basket Supplies, Jewelry, Wireless/Bluetooth Earbuds, Wireless/Bluetooth Speakers, Board Games, Gift Cards

### Teen Boys

Fishing Poles, Watches, Art Sets, Wireless/Bluetooth Earbuds, Wireless/Bluetooth Speakers, Tools (tool sets, electric screwdriver, hand held drill, car tools)

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.

**Contact Debi when you are ready to bring them to CHP, 706-867-9621, ext. 303.**



## Ways to contribute:

Ways to Contribute: There are many ways to contribute to CHP's mission to help our neighbors in need! You can volunteer, provide monetary donations, donate items needed for the food pantry, baby pantry, personal care pantry, or the medical clinics. The Thrift Store sales is the main way they fund CHP programs. Consider donating your gently used items & shop with them too!

## Food Pantry needs for December

Jelly, Cooking Oil, canned meat, grits, canned green beans, other canned beans, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti or other pasta, canned soup.

## Personal Care Pantry

Baby wipes



## Rainbow Children's Home Needs

Laundry Detergent & Fabric Softener

Sheets, tablets or liquid detergent for dishwasher, dish detergent—Paper Products For Kitchen: Aluminum Foil, Clear Plastic Wrap, Storage Bags, all sizes, Trash bags: Tall and Small for wastebaskets—Cleaning Supplies: Clorox, Windex, 409, Kaboom, etc., NO SHOW socks, NEW Hand Soap, Liquid, Antibacterial—Paper Products: Paper Towels, Toilet Tissue, Paper Napkin—Large Duffle Bags, soft, foldable for storage, NOT luggage—Batteries AAA and AA; Copier Paper; Gift Cards or Checks. PLEASE mail direct to: Melinda Fausto, Director, 247 E. Main Street, Dahlonge, GA 30533; PLEASE MEMO: DUMC/and what funds are to be used for.

**N1A**  
**No One Alone**

Non-perishable convenience foods like peanut butter, soup, mac 'n cheese, or ham-burger helper. Diapers & baby wipes, full size women's toiletries, & large size laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, twin size sheets, bath towels. Please place in NOA bin. Thank you for your donations!



# One Child El Salvador

## Matching Construction Funds Update - Reporting From El Salvador!

Buenas dias! This update on our matching funds challenge is being written from El Salvador, where our small mission team has been for a few days. Greg and Jean Thomas, Lynn Winship, Lynn Pfeiffer, and Mariana Linares are here for several days. (We will be back in the USA by the time you read this.) Among other things, we were blessed to attend the K6 graduation ceremony (27 children graduated!), and to see the completed classroom building that a mission team helped to start in January. We will also meet on many issues involving the administration of the ministry.

We can report that every dollar you give is much-needed and much-appreciated! In the next few months, we will need to complete the purchase of another parcel of land, build the security fence around it, and construct the next two-classroom building for the rapidly-growing school.

As of 11/21, we have received \$12,624.45 toward the \$25,000 matching. We are halfway there! Please consider in your year-end giving to generously help reach the \$25,000 goal, which means \$50,000 with the match. The ministry is truly life-changing for the children we serve. Gloria a Dios

Donations can be made online at [www.onechildelsalvador.org](http://www.onechildelsalvador.org) or mail a check to One Child El Salvador, Inc., P.O. Box 274, Dahlonega, GA 30533. Please note "Construction."



If you choose to drop a check in the offering plate. Please make checks out to One Child El Salvador and note "Construction."



## GRADUATING CLASS 2022



## Children's Ministry

### December Calendar for D-Town Kidz

- Sun, Dec. 4 **No Kidz Church (K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade)** – Worship with families in service.  
Classes still available for babies - PreK  
**KidVenture** 4:00-6:00 pm
- Sat, Dec. 10 **Live Nativity** 6:00-8:00 pm  
Live nativity, animals, crafts, cookies, & photo booth
- Sun, Dec. 11 **Kidz Church & Lil' Kidz Church** at 9:30 at DUMC  
**Gingerbread Bash** 4:00-6:00 pm. Drop-off & Pick-Up in Fellowship Hall
- Sat, Dec. 17 **Live Nativity** 6:00-8:00 pm  
Live nativity, animals, crafts, cookies, & photo booth
- Sun, Dec. 18 **Kidz Church & Lil' Kidz Church** at 9:30 at DUMC.  
We will have Breakfast in Bethlehem! Kids will be dropped off & picked up as normal in classrooms.  
**Christmas Lights Scavenger Hunt (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders)** 4:00-7:00 pm.  
Meet at the church. We will eat dinner out, too. No money needed.
- Sat, 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 -5<sup>th</sup> 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!
- Sun, Dec. 25 **One Service at DUMC 10:00 am**  
**No Children's Programs this day (for all kids babies-5<sup>th</sup> grade)**  
Merry Christmas!



From the Advisory Board and MMO/Preschool, A special "Thank you" to all of you who made our Wolf Mountain Christmas Dinner Fundraiser a success. We appreciate your love and support of the MMO/Preschool Ministry.

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

*Christmas Break Dec. 16th- Jan. 5th.*

*School resumes on Monday, January 9th, 2023.*

## Youth Ministry

DUMC Youth strive to live **LIFE**.

**L**ove Everyone

**I**nspire many

**F**ulfill God's Call

**E**mpower Others

### FALL SCHEDULE

Wednesdays	Sundays
Middle School 5:45pm—7:30pm	Middle School 4:00—6:00pm
High School 5:45—8:00pm	High School 4:00—6:00pm

### Sunday Afternoons

MS Worship & HS Bible Study

### Wednesdays

MS & HS Dinner, Worship & Small Groups

### December

4th—Worship

11th—Progressive Dinner

14th—Tacky Christmas Sweater Party

18th—Progressive Dinner for MS and HS

# Sunday Worship

## 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://dahlonegaumc.org/services/>

### **Communion Rail Offering for December**

Sunday'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 DUMC will prepare a meal for those in our community who may be alone during this holiday and those struggling to make ends meet.

### **Scheduled Holiday Office Closures**

Office Closed	December 22nd 23rd, 26th,
Office Closed	December 30th
Office Closed	January 2nd

### **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. If you can help please contact [linda@dahlonegaumc.org](mailto:linda@dahlonegaumc.org) or call the church office at 706-864-2521.



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".

### **Sunday Adult Growth Groups**

Third Floor, Education Building

#### **9:30 a.m.**

##### **Primetime Class—Room: Library**

Facilitators: Chris Buice, Eddie McLeod

##### **Friendship Class—Room 308**

Facilitators: Nancy Goodyear

#### **11:00 a.m.**

##### **11th Hour Class—Room: Library**

Facilitator: Jeff Ramsland

A new study has begun on 1 Peter. Come Join us!

### **Young Adult Small Group**

**YOUNG ADULT  
MINISTRY**

The Young Adult Small Group will meet for fellowship and Bible study on Sundays from 6:30 -8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own dinner. For more information contact Chris Davis.

### **Support Group for Mothers of Pre-teen Through College**



A support group for mothers of 6th grade through college daughters are meeting on Tuesdays at Jethro's in Dahlonega from 8:00am – 9:00am. Rev. Robin Parr will be leading the group.