

MOuNTaiN ECHoeS



DECEMBER
2021

132nd
Edition

(From Old Time Christmas)

Keezletown United Methodist Church

Rev. T. Joel Robinette, Pastor

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Isaiah 9:6

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

OUR PASTOR CHATS

Jenny Dillard had a question for me. She showed me a flyer she had made for her classes at MPC Preschool. They were an invitation to bring Christmas gifts for Jesus and she received a great response from the children and parents. She showed pictures of the gifts they brought and they were very familiar—receiving blankets, footed sleepers, baby lotion—they were the same items we collect for A Baby Shower for Jesus for newborn kits to be shared with new babies and moms in need through the Mission Central Children's Clothing Closet. Jenny included her students and their parents in that mission. Jenny's question was if she could bring those items to share around the manger at KUMC for A Baby Shower for Jesus on Christmas Eve. I thought it was a great idea. What a blessing that KUMC could be part of praying for those newborn items that would go to MCCCC and what a blessing that Jenny shared a mission opportunity with her classes. When we do mission at KUMC it is about sharing the love of Jesus. We get to be part of what God is doing to bring salvation, mercy, healing, provision, and good news. We regularly partner with others for mission in those we help like Missionary John Nday, MCCCC, Salvation Army, Open Doors, Operation Christmas Child, Making Cards for Our Troops, Relay for Life, Spotswood High School Hygiene Closet, Cub Run Elementary School Backpack Project, and more. We also have people in our church who share the love of Jesus by inviting people from their work, family, or neighborhood to join in on giving and working for mission. For many of the ways KUMC share the love of Jesus, it is not just KUMC people doing it. We are blessed to have neighbors, friends, coworkers, and other congregations partner with us. This may raise a question. Who gets the credit? "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!" Praise Jesus who shows us the way to love, serve, and partner with others for ministry. Praise the Holy Spirit who joins us together with others in faith to share the love of Jesus. As God through Jesus Christ has brought together in hope and service Mary and Joseph, shepherds, magi, disciples, Jews and Gentiles, may God give us faith and courage to join together in sharing the love of Jesus. Merry Christmas everyone!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, candle lighting and communion on Dec 24th at 8:00 p.m., with the blessing of the Baby shower gifts.

VACATION FOR PASTOR JOEL: Pastor Joel will be on vacation Dec 26th thru Jan 1st. Rev David Nankivell will be on call during that time and can be reached at 540-298-6049.

THREE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES COMING: On Jan 16th at 9:45 a.m., three Sunday School classes will resume. Scott Dillard will lead a middle/high school youth class in his old classroom looking at the parables of Jesus. Mac Coffman will lead an adult class on the theme of "Encouragement" in the social hall. Chris Cole will lead a class using "Adult Bible Studies" materials following Revised Lectionary Scriptures in the Prayer Room. Let's all make a resolution to come back to Sunday School.

Noland Suter has moved to Burkholder House, Room #4 at VMRC. He would greatly appreciate cards and visits (masks required). His mailing address is: Robert N Suter, 1328 Woodland Park Circle, Harrisonburg, VA 22802.

Happy Birthdays and Anniversaries from Nov 20th thru Dec 20th:



Happy Birthday to Phyllis Liskey, Laura Wamsley, Jenny Dillard, Janet Clements, Marie Suter, Richard Higgs, Geraldine Armentrout, Alissa Dodrill, Sarah Coffman, Kathryn Miller, Faye Hoover-Thomas, Beth Morris, Carol Dillard, Aaron Dillard, Eric Dean, Kennis D Armentrout, Joshua Heishman, Ginny Joseph, Wes Ford, Brayden Morris, Janet Clatterbuck, Chrisley Simmers, Averei Reedy, Annalie Crisman, Josh Werner, Michele Dodrill, Brian Summers, and Mary Nankivell. Happy Anniversary to: Gary & Barbara Heatwole (53); Steve & Gina Dove (32); Dave & Jackie Werner (33); and David & Mary Nankivell (61).

*** NOVEMBER EVENTS THAT HAPPENED***

SNOWMEN BASKETS: Six ladies 18th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to fundraiser by weaving a Snowman **Sacra, Carolyn Baker, Carol Morris, and Gwen Whetzel.** Your these snowmen won't melt.



gathered on Nov 11th and Nov participate in a Relay for Life basket. Great job, **Carol Dillard, Stacey Shifflett, Beth** baskets are really cute and

WHAT IS YOUR CROSS? As we gathered on Nov 14th, we entered to "My Hope is Built", "There Shall Be Showers of Blessing" and "Love Lifted Me", and the bell rang. Diana continued with "I Want to Be There at the Roll Call" as the prelude and Ryan carried in the Light of Christ. Pastor Joel gave the welcome and announcements. Linda Liskey came to thank the men who cleared the brush and trees at MCCCC on Nov 13th (article in Nov issue). Pastor Joel continued with the opening prayer and the church family sang "We Gather Together", followed by the choir singing "How Can I Keep from Singing". Carson Guilliams came to read the morning Gospel lesson from Luke 9:23-27, take up your cross and follow me. Our very own Barrett Bowman, who has returned to Keezletown, came to give the message entitled "My Journey". Barrett began by explaining for those who didn't know, how she was part of KUMC, talking about Patti and Terry, Ken and Faye, Brandon and Ginny, and Michele and Scott, and then told of her own children and granddaughter, and that she hoped she did not put us to sleep as she was not used to speaking to a group of adults. In fact, this was a first, so she'd worn light clothing, in case she sweated; she'd moved her glasses, so she couldn't see us, and that her message was in large print. Everyone laughed. She remembers studying in Sunday school class in the old EUB church and looking through holes in the floor and thinking it was cool. They would always go to church with grandma Mariam, and she became active in the youth group, attending retreats, trips to Hershey park, collecting newspapers, and carwashes to make money. She was baptized at 13, and her favorite Bible study was at Allene Clatterbuck's home, where they could discuss book by book with friends. She then began working at Port Republic as a part-time youth advisor, which has led to 20 years working with youth. The youth are her children. Looking for a fulltime job, and after 2 rejections, she questioned her direction until God placed a cross of sticks in her yard to reassure her. Linden Heights Baptist, even with a pay cut, was the answer. She worked with low-income families; had to go to court with a few; counselled many; had to report child abuse; met with parents; babysat troubled youth; attended weddings; and even a birth. In Sept 2021, she left LHB and began assisting in ESL at SHS and is taking educational classes to continue in teaching. "I'm a fixer", she said, and by working with ESL students she cannot fix them all at once, but she can work with them one by one by just talking to them and sharing God's love. She reminded us that we can do anything with God's help. The message was followed by the singing of "Take My Life, and Let It Be", the



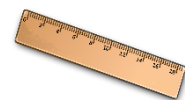
Morning prayer and the Lord's Prayer. Jim Dillard then came, as a proxy for Dale Dodrill, to read the following letter from Making Cards for our Troops: "Dear Card Makers at Keezletown UMC, Thank you for your donation of beautiful handmade cards. It looks like you were very busy to make such an amount for us. We appreciate this very much. We know our service men and women are grateful for cards to send back home to family and friends. And those receiving them are blessed by your cards as well. Our team always feels blessed when we know so many hands are working toward bringing joy, hope, peace and love to our very deserving military. We have already shipped over 60,000 cards and we are still shipping out. Our organization has certainly been blessed. Thanks to folks like you. Sincerely, Pat Brodsky". Jim then gave a prayer of blessing for the Veterans. Pastor Joel gave the offertory prayer, followed by the Doxology, and the benediction. Ryan carried out the Light of Christ as Diana played "Take Time to Be Holy". **TAKE UP YOUR CROSS.**

UMM GATHER: On Sunday, Nov 21st, the Methodist Men meet for their monthly gathering at 8:00 a.m. in the Social Hall, with 12 in attendance. Scott Dillard prepared a yummy breakfast for all to enjoy. (Thanks Scott!) After the meal and great fellowship, Ken Thomas delivered a wonderful devotion encouraging us to count our many blessings and be true to God. Neil Sacra then led a time of prayer asking for God's direction and guidance for our group as we seek to do His will in our meeting and discussion. Dale Dodrill presented the minutes for our Oct meeting and Scott Dodrill gave the treasurer's report. Pastor Joel, upon being asked, had no requests or information to present. Our main items of business: a) Dinner at Camp Overlook on Dec 5th; b) Mulching/clean-up day for front flower beds at church; c) Removal of our beloved tree in front of church; and d) Visiting or sending cards to Noland Suter at VMRC. Pastor Joel closed our meeting with prayer asking God for strength and direction as we go out into the world.

HOW FAR DO YOU HAVE TO MOVE HIM? November 21st was Christ the King and Thanksgiving Sunday, and we gathered to Carol's playing of "Pilgrim's Song of Hope", "We Gather Together", and "Thank Offering", before the ringing of the bell. Nora Grace carried in the Light of Christ as Carol played "O Taste and See" as the prelude, before Pastor Joel gave the greeting and led the opening prayer "Christ the King". Our first hymn was "Come Ye Thankful People Come", followed by the choir singing "Give Thanks". Neil read the Epistle Lesson from Ephesians 3:14-21, prayer for the reader. Mac Coffman was our guest speaker, and began his



message, entitled "18 Inches", by telling us that only his nephew had figured out what he was going to talk on.



Paul emphasizes we have been saved, not for personal benefit, but to bring praise and glory to God. What would Paul's prayer be for the people of Keezletown? Probably the same. People have knowledge of Jesus in their heads, but lack the application of what they know. Nicodemus knew the scriptures, but when Jesus told him about being born again, he did not understand. Nicodemus had head knowledge, but no true understanding. Paul was stoning Christians while Jesus was in his head, but he did not know Him until the road experience. Paul prayed for Christ to be in his heart. There is 18" from your head to your heart. Until Jesus moves from your head to your heart, we haven't really grasped the gospel and retained the power Paul talks about. Your mind can know honey is sweet; people can tell you; books can tell you; but until you taste it, you really don't know. Taste the honey, so you can know it fully. Have you heard the saying, "He has a foul mouth"? Well, the words that come out of the mouth, come from the heart. What is in the well of the heart will come up thru the bucket of the mouth. The Lord looks inside (thank you, Jesus). Keep Christ in the center of your heart. When you think about the measure of God's love, with Christ in our hearts, only then we will be able to measure the

depths of God's love. In Revelation, Jesus stands at the door and knocks. Let Him in and move the 18 inches to your heart. "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" was sung before Pastor Joel led the Morning prayer and Lord's prayer. He then acknowledged the generosity of the Church family in supporting Operation Christmas Child with 116 shoeboxes, which he blessed. The Offertory prayer, doxology, and Benediction from Romans 15:13 closed the service, Nora carried out the Light of Christ and Carol played "Near to the Heart of God". **CLEAN HEARTS—CLEAN MOUTHS.**

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes: The generous Church family of KUMC participated in Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes again this year and the altar was covered on Nov 21st with 116 shoe boxes and plastic bins filled with goodies to make



children smile. Thank you to everyone who helped with Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes this year and to **Lynn Siler and Jackie Liskey** who have provided great leadership for this ministry for many years. In the worship service, Pastor Joel gave a prayer of blessing over these gifts, the children who will receive them, and all those who gave to share God's love.

Thanksgiving is more than spending \$200 in groceries, 10 hours making dinner, eating in 20 minutes, and taking 5 hours to clean up the mess. Enjoy each other, count your blessings, and give Thanks.

DECORATING THE CHURCH: We will be having the "Hanging of the Greens" service on Nov 28th, so the UMW ladies, **Carolyn, Chris, Susan, Cheryl, Ann, Diana, Sherry**, along with **Pastor Joel**, decorated the Church on Nov 22nd at 6:00 p.m. Along with hanging wreaths on the railings leading to the church, we decorated the Chrismon tree, hung the wreath under the cross, hung a wreath at the narthex window, put wreaths at all the stained glass windows, brought the holly and the ivy, and the altar strand to the front, brought out the Advent candles, took down the Angel tree and put up the Sock/Glove/Hat tree, and decorated the tree in the social hall. We also moved the Angel gifts to under the Chrismon tree. Thanks to those who brought the trees and wreaths from the garage and made this possible.

A BIG THANK YOU to Neil and Carol Sacra, the Kevin Mason family, Darryl Eppard, and any others on Nov 24th, who helped to trim the bushes, pull weeds, mow, and spread the four loads of mulch that made the front of the church and the garden look so clean and manicured. Thanks for being His gardeners.

OUR BELOVED TREE IS GONE: We looked at it every Sunday morning and thought about how it was starting to show its age. We fondly remembered seeing all the children climbing in its branches, sitting there in its security and swinging their feet and laughing. It also accounted for many jumps, many falls, many splinters, and many

scrapes. But our beloved tree that stood in the corner of the front yard of the church ever since the church was built, got sick and started rotting from the inside, and on Nov 24th it finally was put to rest. It was not easy for Neil Sacra as he sawed it down, and it was not easy to look at the bareness of the stump as we came to church this morning, Nov 28th. But just as God used that tree, may we branch out and be encouragement for those needing a place to just be who we are.

ADORNING THE SANCTUARY: The 20+ full red Poinsettias looked beautiful at the

front of the church on
adorning the
the Greens Sunday.

Maid Engaged to
Realms of Glory”, and
ears as we gathered,
played “Greenwillow”



Nov 28th, as we finishing
sanctuary with the Hanging of
“The First One Ever”, “To a
Joseph”, “Angels from the
“Joy to the World” filled our
and the bell rang. Diana
as the prelude, while Nora

Grace brought in the Light of Christ. Pastor Joel gave the welcome and led the Introduction to the Hanging of the Greens litany, followed by the choir presenting “Toda la Terra” (All Earth is Waiting). The Cedar Branch, which was placed on the altar table, was presented by the Mason & Jarrells family (Kevin, Nolan, Holly, and Nora Grace), using Jeremiah 23:5-6, followed by the 1st verse of “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”. The Prophet Declares a Child Will be Born with the Evergreens wrapping the altar rail, was presented by the Guiliams family (Corey, Lynette, Carson, and Connor), followed by the 1st verse of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”. The Fourth Servant Song, for the Holly and the Ivy, was presented by Chloe and Pastor Joel Robinette, then hung on the altar rail. Karen Mooney and Sharon Martin then sang, a cappella, “The Holly and the Ivy”. The Mystery of Incarnation, the Blessing of the Chrismon Tree, and it’s lighting, was presented by the Dillard family (Jenny, Haiden, and Leigha), followed by the 1st verse of “O Come, All Ye Faithful”. The choir then sang “O Christmas Tree”, with one verse sung a cappella by Sharon Martin in German. The Blessing of the Nativity Scene was presented by Joshua Shifflett, followed by the 1st verse of “What Child is This”. The Legend of the Poinsettia was presented by Pastor Joel, followed by the choir singing “What Can I Give Him?”. The Blessing of the Advent was presented by the Morris family (Steve, Beth, and Brayden), along with a responsive litany, as Brayden lit the first Advent candle and the church family sang verse 1 of “Light the Advent Candle”. Nora Grace read the Old Testament Lesson from Jeremiah 33:14-16, a righteous branch, and Pastor Joel spoke on “Christmas Branch”. He began by picking up the cedar branch from the altar table and waving it as he spoke. We need to be thinking about hope from Jeremiah, remembering how Jesus came and will come again. Israel and Judah were facing exile. This word of hope came to them as a Savior, a branch will come with righteousness for the world. This branch is Jesus. In the world and our brokenness, what are the hopes we need to hang on Jesus? Our challenge with a branch is that it’s small. Just like the Charlie Brown Christmas tree isn’t much, Jesus comes in small ways for us to welcome Him. Mary said yes, Elizabeth said yes, Joseph said yes, the shepherds said yes, and the foreign wise ones said yes. We can share that small hope

with others in small giving, caring ways to bring Christ to the world. The branch is different from the Christmas tree. Doug Akers, a former pastor at KUMC, wanted a real tree, so with permission from the Suter's, he and Dale Dodrill proceeded to cut down three trees before he found the right one. Pastor Joel and Jenn have found that a pre-lighted artificial tree has helped their marriage. Put the tree up, take it down, and put it in a box out of sight. The Branch of Jesus, God's promise, is a living branch that grows for the whole world. We need to hang a hope that we each have on Jesus. Spend time in prayer with the three songs of promise at Christmas: the Song of Zachariah, the Song of Mary, and Simeon's Song. During Advent, find a hope, and pray. Pastor Joel then led the Morning Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, and the Offertory prayer, followed by the Doxology. The closing hymn was "Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming", before Pastor Joel gave the Benediction, Nora Grace carried out the Light of Christ and Diana played "Deck the Halls". **HANG YOUR HOPE ON JESUS.**

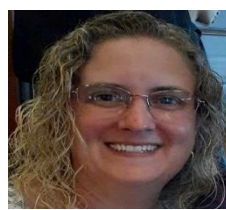
FAMILY FUN PICTURES



In New Orleans



Is this Marcus? Happy 50th Jenny Happy BD Beth



Thankful

UPCOMING STUDIES:

THE WAY STUDY: Travel to Israel and learn about walking in the footsteps of Jesus with study author Adam Hamilton in "The Way." This six-week study will meet Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. from Jan 10th – Feb 14th. Study books are \$11 for regular print and \$12 for large print. Sign up with Pastor Joel or in the church narthex.

ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS STUDY: Dive deep into the final days of Jesus with study author Amy-Jill Levine in this beginner's guide to Holy Week. The study is great for Lent and will meet Mondays at 10:00 a.m. from Feb 28th – Apr 11th. Large print study books are \$11 and regular print study books are \$10. Sign up with Pastor Joel or in the narthex.

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR: Pastor Joel is preparing a Bible reading plan where you could read through the whole Bible in one year, by reading four chapters of the Bible each day: two chapters reading through the Bible; one chapter from Psalms, wisdom, poetry, or instructional materials; and one chapter from the Gospels or Acts. If you do this reading plan you will actually read through the Gospels and Acts three times during the 365 days. Watch for printouts or a copy on the KUMC website by January 1, 2022.

***** DECEMBER EVENTS THAT HAPPENED*****

MT CRAWFORD CHRISTMAS DINNER: Members of the Relay for Life Team fed a Christmas dinner to 67 Mt Crawford Ruritan's and guests Wednesday, Dec 1st. The menu included fried oysters, ham, green beans, mashed potatoes, baked apples, and rolls. For dessert, pumpkin

and apple pies with whipped topping or ice cream were served. Relay team members preparing and serving the meal included **BJ & Kelly Smith, Ann Ford, Lynn Siler, Scott Dodrill, and Joe Liskey**. The team received many compliments on the meal. Approximately \$1,400 will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

LADIES CHRISTMAS MEETING: The United Methodist Women, fifteen members and two guests, met on Thursday, Dec 2nd at 6:00 p.m. to the sounds of Christmas carols playing in the social hall. Little snack bags sat in front of each place setting around the tables of green cloths, and the buffet table started to fill up. We began with snacks and warming apple cider, then moved to the buffet table and the dessert table, after Pastor Joel gave the blessing. After lots of fellowship and good food, Ann called the meeting to order, and Susan advised that, due to lack of participation (only 18 signed up), the Republican Women's dinner for Dec 13th was cancelled. Ann and Chris reported that the "Looking Ahead Together" meeting on Nov 13th, was very nice and that the lady that spoke from Gemeinschaft Home was very interesting. Cheryl asked some Christmas trivia questions, and distributed, with Michele's help, the ornaments from the Christmas tree. The group then formed a circle, and as Michele read a story, we passed gift bags back and forth until the end of the story, and then we all opened our goodie bags. Michele prepared the Christmas cards for the shut-in bags that everyone helped assemble after we exchanged gifts. A number of ladies took bags with them to help distribute to the 25 shut-ins. Our next meeting is Jan 6th at 7:00 p.m.



THANK YOU: A great big thank you to **Karen Mooney and Sharon Martin** for delivering all of the bags that were left at the church following our get together last week. And I understand that they even sang some Christmas carols at several stops. Thank you, Karen and Sharon, for sharing your time and talent with those who needed cheering up. Ann

ENGAGED: The KUMC family is engagement of **Alissa Dodrill and** watched you come together and and could not be more proud of seeing where life leads you



excited to announce the **Josh Wanger**, as of Dec 2nd. We have become a caring and loving couple the two of you. We look forward to together. God bless you both.

WHAT IS YOUR MALACHI'S MESSAGE? On the 2nd Sunday of Advent, Dec 5th, we gathered to Carol playing "Vignette", "A Winter Pastoral", and "Chanson De Noel" on the organ. After the bell rang, she played "Do You Hear What I Hear?" as Brayden



carried in the Light of Christ. Ken Thomas, assisting Pastor Joel, gave the greeting, and led the Call to Worship, a preparation litany. Bob and Susie Hill presented the "Lighting of the Second Advent Candle", after which we sang the 2nd verse of "Light the Advent Candle" and "When Christmas Morn is Dawning", followed by the choir presenting "Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice". Neil came to read the Scripture

from Malachi 3:1-4, the coming messenger. Pastor Joel began his message by talking about how last week we talked about hanging our hopes on the branch, Jesus. Today we are going to talk about the “Christmas Messenger”, so we can make room. Malachi means my messenger, or my angel. Some of God’s messengers are angels, like Gabriel to Zachariah, Gabriel to Mary, an angel to Joseph, an angel to Elizabeth when Mary came, angels to the shepherds, and to Simeon. With these messengers, their lives would change. We need to make room for the messenger, because it makes a big change in our lives when Jesus comes. Malachi was speaking at a time of great risk, when people were returning from exile. Many of us have had people come in our lives that were messengers for us. We need to bear the message of Jesus to others and the world. Ed Pruett preached on John the Baptist sending Christmas cards that confronted people and told them to turn back to God. We need to make room for the coming of God. We believe God loves us enough to be angry with us and expects more out of us than we expect of ourselves. He will not leave us in sin. He loves us enough to confront us to do our best. Who will be able to stand before God? Return to God and He will return to you. Put yourself in God’s hands. As a silversmith refines silver until he can see himself, God works with you and me. Jesus can cleanse us, heart and soul. God sends the message—how will we respond? After the message, Ken led “The Apostles’ Creed” and we sang “Angels from the Realms of Glory”. Scott Sprague then advised that a comment had come in during the transmission of the service that Kennis Armentrout (Daddy Kennis) was having a Birthday”. Ken then led Pastor Joel came forward to bless and dedicate the Angel Tree gifts (see article that follows worship), then gave the offertory prayer, and led the Doxology. He then gave the Invitation to the Great Thanksgiving, led the Confession and Pardon, and he and Ken led “The Great Thanksgiving”, the Lord’s Prayer, and the partaking of the Bread and Cup. Ken gave the Benediction as Brayden carried out the Light of Christ and Carol played “To a Maid Engaged to Joseph”. **LISTEN FOR THE MESSENGER.**



DEDICATION OF THE SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE: A few weeks ago, **Carol**



Sacra presented the Salvation Army Angel Tree, with twenty wish lists and clothes sizes for children in need in our community on it, asking us to select a child to sponsor, go shopping, and return the items to KUMC by the Dec 5th worship service. All twenty names were claimed, including one that was taken to the Cancer Center at Sentara by Carol and the gifts given by her co-workers. Ages ranged from one month old to twelve years old and included William, Darwin, Ruth, Esau, Sarai, Lillian, Victor, Esau, Adal, Saseya, Kemual, Dennis, Jeremy, Aleka, Elias, Edwin, Roceda, Sebastian, Husein, and Sahed. Pastor Joel praised the generosity of the KUMC family and gave a Dedication Blessing during the worship service on Dec 5th, to all the gifts, the children, and the sponsors. Thank you to all who gave to make a child’s Christmas a little brighter.

UMM CHRISTMAS DINNER: A wonderful night was had by all of the 39 that attended the United Methodist Men's Annual Widow and Widower Christmas dinner at Camp Overlook on Dec 5th. We were treated to Strawberry punch as we gathered at 5:30 p.m. and mingled, especially around the fireplace. As we found our seats around the tables, Pastor Joel gave the blessing and salad and bread were served, along with tea, coffee, and pink lemonade. We were then invited to the buffet of turkey, ham, sweet potatoes (with marshmallows or a nut topping), and green beans. Our Christmas dessert was coconut cake with cool whip icing. Once the dishes were cleared and everybody was full, our guest musicians, South River Express, began to entertain us with a variety of secular, religious, and Christmas songs. Neil Sacra, outgoing chair, thanked everyone for coming, thanked the musicians, and introduced Scott Dillard as the incoming chair. He then read a touching story about a sailor, and followed it with a personal Christmas story about his grandmother and an ornament. He again thanked everyone and gave the closing prayer.

WEARY TRAVELERS: Barbara and Gary Heatwole, along with Whitney, Andrew, and Johnathan returned on Dec 8th from "a wonderful awesome trip" to New York City. "It was so nice. We rode the train to get there and back, and that was cool." We went to see the 9-11 Memorial, Rockefeller center, ABC studios, FOX news, and the NBC stations. Whitney and Barbara went to see the Rockettes perform and "they were fantastic". We also saw lots of tall buildings, and Christmas lights. "It was a trip to remember."



Ring the Bells: Ann Ford helped the Salvation Army with ringing the bell on Friday, Dec 10th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the J C Penny court at Valley Mall. Thank you, Ann, for participating.

LISTEN, SING, AND HOPE. As we entered the sanctuary for worship on Dec 12th, the lovely strains of "The Peace Carol", "Ring the Bells", and "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" greeted us, and the bell rang. Diana played "The Little Drummer Boy" in memory of Dorothy Deeds as the prelude, while Scott Dillard brought in the Light of Christ. Mac Coffman, assisting Pastor Joel, gave the Greeting, and led the Church family in the opening prayer from the bulletin. John and Jennifer Young came to introduce the "Lighting of the Third Advent Candle", followed by Verse 3 of "Light the Advent Candle" and the congregational hymn, "He Is Born". The choir presented "Star Child" as their anthem. Diana then read the Old Testament Lesson from Isaiah 12:2-6, thanksgiving and praise. Pastor Joel began his message, "Christmas Story and Song"



with saying that there's something in Isaiah about singing the hope we have in God. Christmas is a great time for singing and joy. Songs in the Bible make us slow down—did you see and hear the promise of hope? Three songs help us slow down. In Exodus 15 we see God as our salvation in the parting of the sea. Isaiah 12 challenges us to see God save the exiled before it happens. When the storms rage around you and you

can't sing, in that day according to Isaiah, there is hope. During the pandemic, we recorded everything; the choir gathered to sing and to lead those that watched, but sat apart from each other. Then we had to stop, and it was a hard time. When we came back to in-person, a few sang behind the masks, even though they weren't supposed to. Just the music was played, but people could not hold in their joy and hope and had to sing their praises. We rejoice in the midst of everything that happens, that God is with us throughout the world. John Wesley, when coming to America, was in a storm worshipping, when a wave crashed over the ship. He stopped singing, afraid he would die, but heard others still singing, and when asking them why, they replied that God was with them. For us who can sing the songs of hope and joy, it is not just for our benefit, but for those who can't sing yet or are searching for hope. We need to sing for ourselves and for others. Joyfully, the Church family then sang "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "There's a Song in the Air", followed by Mac leading the Morning Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, the Offertory Prayer, and the Doxology. Our closing hymn was "Joy to the World". Mac led the Benediction in the bulletin, Scott carried out the Light of Christ, and Diana played "In the Hall of the Mountain King" as the postlude. **THERE IS JOY IN SINGING.**

MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES



McGlaughlin/Pellegrin family



Remembering Nanny



Two little lovelies



Happy 13 Brayden

From Holly Jolly Christmas: "Dance like Frosty, Shine like Rudolph, Give like Santa, Love like Jesus."

WAYS TO GIVE AND HELP OTHERS

Church Giving: The best way to share your tithes and offerings with KUMC at this time is checks through the mail. Your giving is very appreciated! KUMC, 1456 Indian Trail Rd, Keezletown VA 22832

Gathering Non-Perishable Food items: Our local food pantry at Massanutten Presbyterian Church is still taking donations to serve people in Keezletown, Penn Laird, and McGaheysville. Items can be dropped off at KUMC.

Clothing for Mission Central: being collected in basket in narthex.

Salvation Army Meal: Ann and Wes Ford have still been coordinating and providing a monthly supper for the Salvation Army Shelter. If you would like to help with preparing a meal and dropping it off at the shelter please contact Ann and Wes.

US Disaster Response: For United States disaster relief designate your gift to “UMCOR US Disaster Response: Advance #901670.” For international disasters please designate your gift to “UMCOR International Disaster Response: Advance #982450.”

Mission Central Children’s Clothing Closet is open on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m., and the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with all volunteers wearing masks and appropriate social distancing. Contact Artie Frederick at 540-208-7669 to help.

Mission Central Medical Equipment for Caring Closet is open Mondays 9-11 AM and Thursdays 5-7 PM, wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. If you would like to help, please call Delores Reid 540-383-6112.

“If the house isn’t clean, it’s still Christmas. If desserts aren’t made, it’s still Christmas. If there are no decorations, it’s still Christmas. If the gifts aren’t purchased, it’s still Christmas. But if it’s not about Christ, it’s not Christmas.”
-Joel Shoemake

ITEMS BEING REQUESTED TO ASSIST THOSE IN NEED:

Baby Shower for Jesus: We will have a Baby Shower for Jesus on Christmas Eve. This year we are asking for newborn kits which will be shared in our community through The Mission Central Children’s Clothing Closet. You don’t have to wait for Christmas to assemble and give newborn kits as newborns come all year long. Please fill kits with all new items. Requested items: NB size disposable diapers; 2 receiving blankets; one large blanket; 2 cloth diapers; one baby wash/shampoo; one 0-3 month onesie; one 0-3 month sleeper; 6 feminine pads; one soft toy; one reusable bag. Additional items that could be included: 6 nursing pads; rash cream; stretch mark cream; changing pad; nasal aspirator; baby nail clippers; brush/comb.

KUMC Backpack Project is packing food for 33 children every weekend at Cub Elementary School. In Nov, some of the packers were sharing surprise that were not more children needing this ministry this year. Jesus was working. It turns out that new children were added to the KUMC Backpack Project list. The ministry was prepared. There was plenty of food on the shelf and they were able to provide for those children. When those who shop and prepare for the KUMC Backpack Project prepare, they often get food for many weeks at a time, with the expectation that there may just be more children added to their list to serve any given week. What a beautiful display of being ready to serve Jesus and those in need during this Advent. If you would like to help with shopping for food, please contact Lynette Guilliams. If you would like to help pack food bags please come help on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM. If you would like to give you may designate your gift to “KUMC Backpack Project.” \$125 will sponsor a schoolchild with weekend food during the school year. Let us all be in prayer for the children receiving food, Cub Run Elementary, and the KUMC Backpack Project.

HATS/GLOVES/SOCKS: Mission Central Clothes Closet is in need of hats, gloves, and socks, boys and girls, for the upcoming winter months. A tree is being covered in the narthex with all donations. Any size will be appreciated to keep little heads, hands, and feet warm.



***** DECEMBER EVENTS IN NEXT ISSUE*****

- 19 **United Methodist Men's Breakfast and Meeting at 8:00 a.m.**
Advent Study @ 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Christmas Manger" from Micah 5:2-5a
- 20 **"Difficult Words of Jesus" study 10:00 a.m.**
- 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE service at 8:00 p.m.; Message: "Holy Night" from Isaiah 9:2-7' Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20**
Baby Shower Gifts for Jesus blessed
- 25 **CHRISTMAS**
- 26 **Sunday School 9:45 a.m.**
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: TBD
- 27 **"Difficult Words of Jesus" study 10:00 a.m.**
- 31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

CHURCH FAMILY PRE-CHRISTMAS PICTURES



Barbara F helping



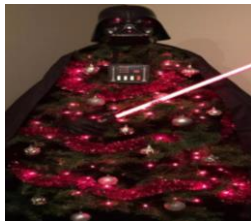
Stanley boys



Guilliams' "nut-cat"



Miss Carmella



Noah/Joel fav tree



"Michele" tree



Cutting down the tree



My gingerbread house

Corinthians 13 for Christmas (from Tommy Herndon)

If I decorate my house perfectly with lovely plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny glass balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator. If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not love my family, I'm just another cook. If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point. Love stops the cooking to hug a child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband or wife. Love is kind, though hurried and tired. Love doesn't envy another home that has coordinated china and table linens. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of love will endure.

***** JANUARY EVENTS HAPPENING*****

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan 1	Brian Kelley	Jan 15	Tristen Myers
Jan 2	Maynard Michael	Jan 17	Bryan Wamsley
Jan 3	Margie Martin	Jan 18	Lauran Holliday
Jan 5	Virginia Phalen	Jan 18	Ryan Sprague
Jan 6	Melissa Johnson	Jan 21	Charlie Liskey
Jan 7	Gary Heatwole	Jan 22	Tanya Dawn Eppard
Jan 8	Mark Ramsey	Jan 23	Leah Siler
Jan 8	Barbara Propst	Jan 23	Kelli Sprague
Jan 9	Fay Higgs	Jan 23	Emily Blake
Jan 9	Cora Combs	Jan 24	Chris Threewitts
Jan 11	Josh Wanger	Jan 27	Brayden Carter
Jan 12	Mac Coffman	Jan 29	Faye Crowe
Jan 15	Barbara Smith	Jan 30	Brent Combs
Jan 15	Donna Carrier	Jan 31	Davis Kelley

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 2, 2010	Wesley & Sarah Crisman	12 years
Jan 30, 2015	Tyler & Courtney Sacra	7 years

JANUARY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
- 2 **Sunday School 9:45 a.m.**
Worship 11:00 a.m. with Communion; Message: "Word in the Flesh" from John 1:1-18
- 3 **"Difficult Words of Jesus" study 10:00 a.m.**
- 5 **Backpack packing @ 1:00 p.m.**
- 6 **UMW meet 7:00 p.m.**
- 8 **Choir Practice 9:30 a.m.**
- 9 **Sunday School 9:45 a.m.**
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "The Grace of Christian Baptism" from Luke 3:15-22
- 10 **"The Way" study 10:00 a.m.**
- 12 **Backpack packing @ 1:00 p.m.**
Church Council meets 7:30 p.m.
- 14 **Newsletter items due**
- 15 **Serve Salvation Army**
- 16 **United Methodist Men's Breakfast and Meeting at 8:00 a.m.**
Two Sunday School classes resume @ 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "When the Wine Runs Out" from John 2:1-11
- 17 **"The Way" study 10:00 a.m.**
- 19 **Backpack packing @ 1:00 p.m.**
Worship Planning @ 6:30 p.m.
- 22 **Choir Practice 9:30 a.m.**
- 23 **Sunday School 9:45 a.m.**
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "One Body, Many Members" from 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

- 24 "The Way" study 10:00 a.m.
26 Backpack packing @ 1:00 p.m.
30 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "The Excellent Way of Love" from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
31 "The Way" study 10:00 a.m.

A NEW YEAR THOUGHT: From Becks Robinson: "May you always have: Love to share, Cash to spare, Tires with air, And friends who care."

DALE'S CORNER by Dale Dodrill

December 17, 2008, HOPE FOR EACH DAY by Billy Graham: Jesus came into the world to save all kinds of people, rich or poor, black or white, educated or illiterate, sophisticated or ordinary - or anyone in between. Only two groups of people gathered at God's invitation to pay Him homage when He was born. One was the shepherds -- lowly, at the bottom of the social ladder, uneducated, unsophisticated. The other was the wise men -- Intellectuals, from another race and country, wealthy, respected. The two groups could hardly have been more different. God brought both groups to Bethlehem -- one by angelic announcement, one by the appearance of a miraculous star. And by bringing both, God was telling us that Jesus is the Savior for everyone. Every person stands in need of His forgiveness and new life -- and every person can know it, if he or she only repents and makes that journey to the Christ of Christmas. No matter who you are in the eyes of others, you need Christ. And no matter what you have done, He loves you and stands ready to welcome you.

THANK YOU

Pastor Joel and Keezletown community, My Dad, Maynard, lived his entire life in the Keezletown community. As a lot of has family before him. Keezletown has always been home to a lot of people. The church has been the center point of the community. My sister and I were baptized there, I joined the church there. We attended a lot of services there. We also had a lot of happy times, as well as some not so happy, when we lose our family members. I can't thank you all enough for being there for my Dad, my sister, and myself. This community has a bond that no one can break. When one person needs help there is someone there to help. Thank you, **Cathy Chouiniere**

I want to thank each of you for all your prayers, cards, and calls during Wayne's hospital stay and passing. Wayne would have been so honored with the service, the music, the meal and all the support you have given me. Your kindness meant so much. Love, **Becky Ryman**

Dear Keezletown Congregation: You are such an important part of the Outreach done at Mission Central. We are seeing more and more needy families. Your support is an outward sign of being God's Hands and Feet. Words cannot express our gratitude. Sincerely, **Artie Frederick**, Children's Clothes Closet

Dear Card Makers at Keezletown UMC, Thank you for your donation of beautiful handmade cards. It looks like you were very busy to make such an amount for us. We appreciate this very much. We know our service men and women are grateful for cards to send back home to family and friends. And those receiving them are blessed by your cards as well. Our team always feels blessed when we know so many

hands are working toward bringing joy, hope, peace and love to our very deserving military. We have already shipped over 60,000 cards and we are still shipping out. Our organization has certainly been blessed. Thanks to folks like you. Sincerely, **Pat Brodsky**

MY PERSONAL NOTE:

You never know when it may happen. Tonight, I was setting up our Nativity set. I settled the stable onto the brown towel, and began to unwrap the figures, with Joseph and Mary first. I placed them in the stable and found the shepherds and the animals and placed them around the outside, along with the three wisemen that were next. In order to honor Him, I always place Jesus last in the stable, but as I held Him in His manger in my hand, I raised Him to my lips and kissed His little face. In that moment, time stood still, I caught my breath, and a feeling came within my chest that could only have been the love of God. I placed Him in the stable and said "Thank you". I pray that during this season, at least once, God touches you with the presence and love of Jesus Christ, the Savior. Amen.

Merry Christmas from Diana and E.L.

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Editor's Note

The January deadline for submissions is Jan 14th . My home number is 269-8511 or e-mail me at AntDyna@comcast.net. I hope that you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoy preparing it for you. God bless you all.

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"JESUS isn't just the reason for the season. HE'S the reason for every day of our life." @GodFruits.com

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR Y'ALL!**