

Mountain Echoes

NOVEMBER 2022

143rd Edition



(From: For You With Love Courtesy of Facebook)

KEEZLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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PSALM 100: 4-5: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

OUR PASTOR CHATS

There were two special sessions of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church on Oct 29th. At those sessions there were 13 congregations in our conference who desired to close and disaffiliate as United Methodist congregations and move forward as something else. Those congregations were: from the Mountain View District: New Hope UMC, Rocky Mount, Center Point UMC, Bedford, Harmony UMC, Dry Fork, Mountain View UMC, Forest, Payneton UMC, Chatham, and Swansonville UMC, Dry Fork; from Valley Ridge District: Lafayette UMC, Lafayette, and Starr Bolar UMC, Warm Spring; from Living Waters District: Hobsons Chapel UMC, Powhatan, Payne Memorial UMC, Cumberland; from Coastal VA District: Painter-Garrison's UMC, Painter; and from Shenandoah River District: Crums UMC, Berryville, and Harriston UMC, Grottoes. There are three more special sessions planned for addressing disaffiliations in 2023: Feb 18th; May 6th and Oct 7th. The United Methodist Church is in a season when a much larger than normal number of congregations will be disaffiliating from UMC. You may be curious as to what is going on. There are usually a few congregations who disaffiliate from the UMC each year. That is not because there is a shortage of clergy or lay people who get frustrated with UMC leadership, polity, or practice. Some of the pastors and congregations who will disaffiliate from the UMC soon have been frustrated for decades! Few congregations depart because we have a trust clause which means the local congregation holds property in trust for the United Methodist Church. In other words, the real property of a congregation legally belongs to the United Methodist Church and the local congregation manages and utilizes it for the mission of Jesus Christ. For example, Mount Carmel in Fulks Run had a pastor and majority of congregation who did not want to go from being Evangelical United Brethren to United Methodist during the merger in 1968. Due to the trust clause, that pastor and majority congregation acquired land on a different site and built a building there, while a minority of the congregation remained and had a United Methodist pastor sent to serve. Today, there is a Mount Carmel United Brethren in Christ Church and a Mount Carmel United Methodist Church in Fulks Run. In regular times, congregations that desire to disaffiliate may be able to retain their property if they join a denomination recognized by the Pan-Methodist Commission or another evangelical denomination if approved by certain people in the annual conference. In summary, due to property issues, as a practical concern, few congregations disaffiliate from the UMC each year. What has changed, for one thing, is there is currently a window approved at the 2019 General Conference of the UMC where congregations can leave with property over issues of human sexuality through December 31, 2023. During this time when it is "easier than normal" for a congregation to disaffiliate and retain property, there will be a higher number than usual doing so. It is a limited time offer so those who think the grass is greener somewhere else are going for it. Please don't think property is the only reason congregations remain or leave the UMC. That would be crass. It is a factor of why those who have been wanting to leave the UMC are heading for the exit now. Some congregations who disaffiliate will join an existing denomination, some will become independent congregations, and some will join the newly forming Global Methodist Church. Those three options alone entail big decisions for the future of a congregation's leadership, polity, and practices. Departing congregations will use a lot of energy disaffiliating and entering something new (which can have challenges and plenty of excitement). The leaders in our United Methodist Church like bishops, district superintendents, and more will also spend a lot of time and energy around disaffiliations through the end of 2023 (at least!). I certainly get plenty of questions about what is going. It is times like these I remember the difficulties we have as Christians (in general) and United Methodists (in particular) at living the life of faith Paul named in Ephesians 4: "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:1-6 NRSV). If there is a unity we may pray for and be certain of in God's grace, it is that unity in Jesus Christ. In that unity we have in Christ I called up a few of our neighboring United Methodist Church pastors and emailed them the 2022 Advent devotional by Keezletown UMC, The Word Became Flesh. I shared we wanted to bless them and if they thought it would be useful for their church they could print it, forward it, and share it freely. A few of those sounded like they would use the devotional for their congregations—and yes, there was even a congregation that sounded like they would use the devotional who voted to leave the UMC soon. It is always the time (and especially now) to encourage and bless people in the United Methodist Church, Christians in any denomination or part of the Church, and people

outside the Church in need of the grace, community, and salvation of Jesus Christ our Lord. To end on a note of joy, we also had all-together Charge Conferences for all the charges on our district and the Shenandoah River District Conference on November 6th at Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal. We delivered 28 Flood Buckets from KUMC for disaster relief to the collection site there and since have learned our conference collected 3,724 total Flood Buckets and \$42,737.99 to aid U.S. storm clean-up. Praise God! I estimate there were about 500 people there and we learned about the history and work of Randolph-Macon Academy, remembered our baptisms, read the names of people in our congregations who died since last charge conference, heard from a missionary from Honduras, and honored JoAnn Liskey who has served as a district treasurer for 40 years. It was good to join together with our 150+ district congregations in worship and service.

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View Worship Online: The best way to view the livestream of the 11:00 AM worship is to go to: <https://www.facebook.com/keezletownumc/live> or to watch live on the Keezletown UMC YouTube channel. After the service is completed it will be uploaded to YouTube and Facebook.

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE: To give through the church website, click on <https://tithe.ly/give?c=6261418>. It's a safe and easy way to give any time! To use the **Tithely Giving App**, Download the Tithely App from the [App Store](#) (iPhone) or [Google Play Store](#) (Android). Once you've downloaded the app, select your church. Since this is your first time giving with Tithely, you will be prompted to create an account that you can use for all future gifts. And you will need to add your credit/debit card or ACH/banking info. Once your account has been created, you won't need to enter your personal or payment information. Just enter your PIN and give! A reminder, you can set your gift up as recurring. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email us back and we'd be happy to assist you further! Thank you for your generosity and partnering with us to build the kingdom.

*****OCTOBER EVENTS THAT HAPPENED*****



WEDDING CELEBRATION: We congratulate and celebrate the marriage of Chris Threewitts and Lauren Simmons on October 8th. They are residing in Dayton. Chris is the son of Bob and Susan Threewitts, and the grandson of Ramona Crowe. Best wishes from the KUMC Church family.

United Methodist Men met on Sunday, Oct 18th, with 13 in attendance. A wonderful breakfast was prepared by Joe Liskey (thank you, Joe). Len Williams did a wonderful job sharing a devotion on how we let ourselves grieve and who/what helps us through this process, relating to himself and dealing with the passing of his wife, Diane, one year ago. Scott Dillard opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes and treasurer's report were approved. Discussed were serving the WOW dinner on Wednesday, Oct 12th with all extra food going to help feed at the Salvation Army the following Saturday per Wes Ford; we voted to donate money for sending cards to the military card program; filling flood buckets; the upcoming Men's Sunday on Nov 13th with filling positions, agreeing the men will sing, and having a guest speaker; looking into getting the annual Christmas dinner lined up and names of extra people that need to be invited; and a reminder of the Harvest Party on Sunday, Oct 30th. Neil noted that the Cross Keys-Mill Creek Ruritan breakfast season has started, noting that many from Keezletown have attended. They will have seven breakfasts from now til March 2023, on the 2nd Saturday of each month, with 100% of the money raised going to different organizations. October's \$2200 raised went to the Salvation Army; the February 11th collection will go to Weekday Religious Education. The next meeting will be Nov 20th at 8:00 a.m.

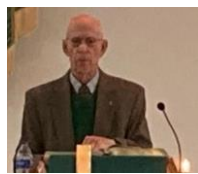
DON'T LET HIM BE A STRANGER. Laity Sunday, Oct 16th, began with Diana playing “Let the Lower Lights Be Burning”, “I Will Sing the Wondrous Story”, and “The Comforter Has Come” as the gathering music. The bell rang and Ken Thomas gave the preparation for worship. Diana then played an “Almost Persuaded/Only Trust Him” medley, as Nora Grace carried in the Light of Christ. Ken then gave the morning greeting and announcements and led the responsive Litany for Laity Sunday, followed by the Passing of the Peace, and the first hymn, “Morning Has Broken”. Cathy Sites gave the Children’s Message by talking about drawing a picture of God, followed by the hymn “Jesus Loves Me”. Leonard Williams read the gospel lesson from John 1:43-51, the calling of Philip and Nathaneal. Mac Coffman gave the message this morning entitled “Are You a Stranger to God?” He began by saying that we, the laity, are in a partnership with the clergy and we all need to work together to further the kingdom. In the 1980’s, he was a participant in a live drama about the last supper. He was Nathaneal, and helped with communion. Philip could not keep the good news of finding the Messiah, for whom they had all been waiting, to himself and told Nathaneal. Nathaneal scoffed and said no good can come from Nazareth. Prejudice is ugly in all forms. Jesus was without honor in His own country because He was a lowly carpenter. Jesus saw Nathaneal under the fig tree and knew his heart. Jesus has known you all your life. We all need to realize who Jesus is, and once you do that, your life will never be the same. Don’t let Him be a stranger to you. We are all sinners, but by the grace of God, we can all be forgiven sinners. Our closing hymn for today was “The Old Rugged Cross”, followed by Ken leading the Morning Prayer and the Lord’s prayer. Dorothy Dobroth then came to witness (see next article), followed by the Offering collection as Diana played “Glory to His Name”, the doxology, and Ken gave the offertory prayer. Ken gave the benediction as Nora Grace carried out the Light of Christ and Diana played the postlude, “Christ Arose”. **WE CAN ALL BE FORGIVEN SINNERS.**

World Cereals at KUMC kickoff was Oct 16th. This will be a collection of breakfast foods for the Massanutten Food Pantry in celebration of the World Series of Baseball. Dorothy Dobroth, who heads up the Food Pantry came to thank everyone for their generous donations throughout the years. In 2021, KUMC gave 784 pounds of food; already for 2022, we have given 500 pounds. MPC was established in 1997; families may come by twice a month for supplies. At present, they are serving 12% of the households with a Keezletown address. Hunger and the need are right in our backyard. (Two large bins were collected.)

“Twelve Women of the Bible” study met at 10:00 a.m. on Oct 17th with 9 women present and Pastor Joel leading. Our video was presented by Jeanne Stevens and focused on Gomer, prostitute wife of Hosea. Her sinfulness, and the love of Hosea, show us how God can forgive and use each of us in His plan.

WOW SERVICE: the 3rd WOW service was held on Wednesday Oct 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the social hall with all enjoying a potluck carry-in meal. Ken gave the welcome to all in attendance, and Pastor Joel then led the singing of “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” and “As the Deer”. Ken then introduced Ann and Sharon, two ladies that he walks with at the Wellness Center. They shared the exciting witness their grand-daughter (and daughter) Kara, is on, serving in missionary work in Belarus, along with the trials, struggles, and trying times they are exposed to. They brought maps, pictures, and illustrations of the work she is doing, and ask for prayers for this struggling Christian society. Ken thanked all that had brought food and closed with prayer.

WELCOME HOME: Today, Oct 23rd, we celebrate Homecoming Sunday, as Carol begins by playing “Sweet Hour of Prayer”, “O Master Let Me Walk with Thee”, and “The Solid Rock” as the gathering music. The bell rings, we prepare for worship, and Carol plays “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” as Leah Siler and Molly Knighten carry in the Light of Christ. Pastor Joel gives the greeting and announcements, leads us in the responsive Call to Worship, asks us to pass the Peace, and leads us in singing “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”. Diana begins the Children’s Time by asking them if they know the word “conscience”, tells them a story of how God asked her to tell another lady how kind her heart was, and tells them to listen to that little voice and do what it says. “The Church in the Wildwood” was then sung by the choir. Neil came to read the gospel lesson from Luke 14:11-32, the story of the Prodigal Son. Former District Superintendent and Preacher Rev Ed Pruitt came to give the message, “A Resurrection Home (Church)” and



began with, this parable is a story of what God is like. It’s not about a lost son or dad, but a grace filled Father. A father in that time had to give 2/3 of all he owned to the oldest son and 1/3 to the youngest son. The younger, in this case, wanted to see the world, took his share, left his home, squandered the money, ended up feeding pigs, came to his senses, and came home, fearfully. The father ran to greet him, rejoicing, hugging him, giving him the best robe, ring, and sandals. They prepared a feast of celebration. This represents a resurrection home. Are we a Resurrection Church? The gospel of Christ and the grace of Christ doesn’t make sense. The older son should have had the party. In a Resurrection Church there is mercy, grace, and forgiveness, the lost that returned is celebrated, and all are loved. God loves everybody. We then sang “This Is a Day of New Beginnings”, followed by Pastor Joel leading the Time of Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer. Lynn Siler then gave a presentation for Operation Christmas Child (see next article). The Offering was then collected as Carol played “Amazing Grace”, the Doxology, and Pastor Joel gave the offertory prayer. Our final hymn today was “This Is My Father’s World”, followed by Pastor Joel giving the Benediction, Leah and Molly carrying out the Light of Christ, and Carol playing “Rejoice, the Lord is King” as the postlude.



Everyone was then invited to enjoy some memories from the past and a potluck meal. **GOD LOVES EVERYBODY.**

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Lynn Siler came to let us know that we are again collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child until Nov 21st. She spoke about how we need cheerleaders to help get a project going, such as Karen with Kingsway, Joe with Relay for Life, and Wes and Scott with mission work. Two cheerleaders, Leah Siler and Molly Knighten then gave us a pep cheer and later a cheer to tell us what goes in the shoeboxes. Lynn advised that she will be happy to shop for you if it is more convenient. The girls closed with “It’s Hot! It’s Hot! It’s Hot in here. It must be God’s love in the atmosphere!”



“Twelve Women of the Bible” study met at 10:00 a.m. on Oct 24th with 10 women present and Pastor Joel leading. Our video was presented by Jeanne Stevens and focused on Mary the Mother of Jesus. We discussed her courage in saying “May it be” when Gabriel came to tell her of God’s plan for her, and how we can say “May it be” in our lives in answer to God’s call.

WOW SERVICE: the 4th and final WOW service was held on Wednesday Oct 26th at 6:30 p.m. in the social hall with all enjoying pizza from Ken and Faye Thomas, and dessert and drinks by the ladies of the church. Pastor Joel led us in singing “My Hope Is Built” and “Stand By Me”. Cathy Sites Chouiniere came to speak about her life and how love has been an integral part of it. She started with a “fairy tale” that turned out to be a true story of her life and the love of a family thru the years. She spoke of her grandparents, her father, her mother, and her cousins. She reminded us how much her father loved his community and worked in it to share love; how relationships are sometimes not what they seem to be; and how we all need to take care of each other. It’s all about love. To close we repeated the 23rd Psalm together. Pastor Joel was asked to lead the group in prayers for a number of church members who were ill. He closed the meeting by thanking all who had attended.



John NDay Two Mission Priorities Update and Necklaces: First, thanks to everyone who gave to our covenant missionary John NDay’s priorities for the Cambine UMC Farm Project of (1) expanded irrigation and (2) an egg incubator. People gave \$1,486 at the October WOW services. Wow, indeed! The Keezletown UMM are considering a future fundraiser where we could approach giving \$2,000 to help with that need. **Becca Sprague** has made two necklaces for the two mission priorities. There is a cross on each that was given by John NDay and his wife Florence Kaying on their visit to KUMC. Becca has added two white beads “for eggs”, a blue bead “for water”, and two purple beads for royalty of Jesus. If you get a chance to receive the necklaces, please: (1) wear them, (2) pray for the priorities to be met and for John and the Cambine ministries and (3) pass them on to someone else at KUMC. Later, we may share the necklaces with other congregations helping with those priorities, so please make sure the necklaces make their way back to KUMC by January 8th.

National First Responders Day on Oct 28th recognizes the heroic men and women who make it their business to take immediate action when disaster strikes. Not sure what a first responder does? Just think about 9/11 for a moment. Firefighters, police, paramedics, and more — rushing into Lower Manhattan. Whether you’ve had your own emergency or not, it’s not hard to understand and appreciate the dangerous and difficult work they do. Thank you to our own Steve Morris, Cameron Bishop, and Makenna Eppard for what they do to keep us safe.

GOD WANTS TO WRITE ON YOUR HEART: On this Oct 30th worship service, Chris played “When Morning Gilds the Skies”, “My Life Is In You, Lord”, “Since Jesus Came Into My Heart”, and “Cleanse Me” as we gathered. Len Williams prepared us for worship and Chris played “Change My Heart, O God”, as Haiden carried in the Light of Christ. Len then gave the greeting and announcements, and led the Call to Worship, a responsive reading, followed by Passing the Peace, and the first hymn “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”. Diana asked during Children’s time what happens to pumpkins and how we are like pumpkins to God. The choir then presented “In My Heart There Rings a Melody”. The Gospel lesson from Jeremiah 31:27-34, individual retribution, was read by Len. Pastor Joel continued to speak on grief with his message entitled “In Our Hearts”. Nothing can make up for the absence of someone we love. God gives us grief to remember the bond we had with them. Jeremiah, the weeping prophet,

reminds us to give God all our griefs and hopes. We often hide our grief. Inward changes to our hearts must come first. John Wesley preached on Jesus changing our hearts. Find your heartbeat. God wants to write on our hearts, so that we would know Him. Jesus brings the new covenant, coming as a baby and dying brokenness, and our grief, to bring us His story on your heart. “Lord, I Want message, followed by the Lord’s Prayer. Karen Mooney and Sharon Martin then came to express their gratitude and joy after experiencing Emmaus Walk #110. Pastor Joel talked about the World Cereals collection and blessed it for MPC. The offering was collected, the doxology sung, the offertory prayer given, and the final hymn, “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” was sung. Len gave “The Sarum Blessing” as the benediction, Haiden carried out the Light of Christ, and Chris played “Seek Ye First” as the postlude. **DO YOU NEED A CHANGE OF HEART?**



HARVEST PARTY TIME: The front sign reminded everyone that the Community Harvest Party was back on Oct 30th at 2:00 p.m. with a hayride, food, and fun. The two wagons of hayriders left at 2:00 p.m. and returned about 3:00 p.m. with laughter and tired behinds from “hard” straw. Frank Baker led the procession; Bob Threewitts and Randy Clatterbuck drove the wagons; and Noah & Joel Robinette followed with the blinkers. Meanwhile, Joe was frying hot dogs, Phil was frying potato chips, French fries, onion rings, batter dipped peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and pig skins. Crock pots of chili and corn chowder, and lots of drinks were ready for those in attendance. One hundred plus people enjoyed the beautiful weather, the good food, and the fun and games, especially the cake walk, where they won some great desserts. Thank you to Bob, Ann, and Joe, and all the other volunteers who made this a memorable day.



“Twelve Women of the Bible” study met at 10:00 a.m. on Oct 31st with 8 women present and Pastor Joel leading. Our video was presented by Jonalyn Fincher and focused on Mary Magdalene. An enlightening discussion about Mary Magdalene before the video, and after, as to who she was, her relationship with Jesus, and how she represented woman of the time.

The Word Became Flesh Advent Devotional: 22 people from KUMC have written 28 devotions for 2022 Advent about favorite and meaningful Bible scriptures and stories. The Devotions are available in print at KUMC and online at www.keepletownunc.org. Get one and share some copies with others as a way to let Jesus come anew in our lives this Advent.

THANKSGIVING JOKES

"What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter on Thanksgiving Day?" "Quack, Quack!"

"What happened to the turkey that got in a fight?" "He got the stuffing knocked out of him!"

"What's blue and covered in feathers?" "A turkey holding its breath."

"Why did the turkey cross the road?" "He wanted people to think he was a chicken."

FAMILY FUN PICTURES



Double Trouble



6462 miles later



Spragues hiking



Ann Ziplined



Jeanine hiking

WAYS TO GIVE AND HELP OTHERS

Church Giving: You may share your tithes and offerings with KUMC as checks through the mail, or using the new Online giving. 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.

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.

Serving Meals to Kingsway Prison Ministry: Karen Mooney is leading preparing a meal each month for this ministry. Please contact her if you can help or donate.

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 1:00 p.m., and the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and 3rd Tuesdays of each month 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.

KUMC Backpack Project: We are providing weekend food for 17 school children in need. If you are interested in helping to shop, pack, or deliver, please reach out to Lynette Guilliams. Backpacking is on Monday at 11:15 a.m.

OPEN DOORS (Warmth, shelter and support for our homeless) is asking all to join them by socializing with guests, serving or providing meals, or helping them clean. Monetary donations are handled with care and stewarded with mission achievement in mind. Those wishing to donate may send them to PO Box 1804, Harrisonburg VA 22803, and those wishing to get involved may visit sheltercoordinator@valleyopendoors.org.

NEW UNDIES TOTAL: Mens undies 5, Boys undies 238, Total 243; Girls undies, total 376; Onsies, 13; Boys socks 42, girls socks 64, mens socks 18, baby socks, 26, total 150; **Grand total 882.** Hallelujah!

MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES



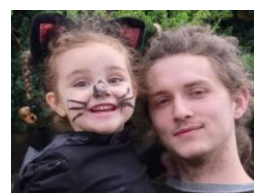
Parker carving



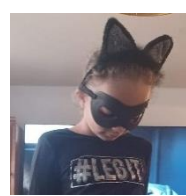
Apple Cider at BRC



Dads John & Len



Harper and Daddy



Jazzy cat

MORE THANKSGIVING JOKES

"What did the turkey say to the computer?" "Google, google."

"What side dish do you bring for Thanksgiving dinner when you accidentally sat on the sweet potatoes?" "Squash casserole."

"What did the mother turkey say to her disobedient children?" "If your father could see you now, he'd turn over in his gravy!"

NOVEMBER EVENTS THAT HAPPENED

Mt Crawford Ruritans eat well: three ladies from the UWF, on Nov 2nd, served 26 folks at the Mt Crawford Ruritan meeting, a delicious meal of backed chicken halves, hashbrown casserole, baked beans, cake/brownies; rolls, and tea. Thank you to all who helped or donated.

United Women in Faith met Thursday, Nov 3rd at 7:00 p.m. with 10 ladies and Pastor Joel present. Judy called the meeting to order, led us in an Opening Prayer, and we recited the UWF Purpose. Cheryl presented the World Thank Offering Program, reminding us how we experience God's blessings in all of life's constant demands. God may seem so far away, but we have a choice each day to give Him thanks, no matter our struggles. We're not in control so we should be thankful for what we have, especially the little things that we tend to take for granted. God is with you always; He knows your concerns. A heart of gratitude leaves no room for complaining. Oct minutes were approved as read. Cheryl gave the Financial Report with World Thank Offering as the Mission of the Month. Geraldine & Diana have the Dec program. Ann will have a cornucopia for Nov, and the poinsettias will be in Dec. Three ladies served 26 folks at the Mt. Crawford Ruritan Club on Wednesday (11/2) night. We will serve 44 people from the Wayland Women's Club on Dec 9th at 6:00 p.m. Sharon and Karen have been asked to provide music. We will be making chicken salad sandwiches for the Keezletown Community Christmas Tree Lighting service on Dec 2nd. Church decorating for Christmas will begin after Bible Study on Nov 21st. Our Christmas Party will be Dec 1st, gathering at 6:00 p.m. and eating at 6:30 p.m. The men are going to cook and serve the meal, so you don't need to bring anything but your Christmas spirit. There will be no ornament exchange or gift exchange. Santa may stop by for a visit, there will be some Christmas carols to sing (led by Sharon & Karen and maybe Pastor Joel) and some games to play. Ann is getting 6 names of children for us to buy for at Cub Run. Cheryl agreed to do some shopping, with Ann and Sherry helping. Gift bags for 25 shut-ins will be put together after the meeting on Dec 1st. A tree will be set up for socks/hats/mittens, and those items will be distributed to Cub Run and Mission Central. Chris read from the prayer calendar.

Ten Cards were signed. Judy thanked everyone for all they do for the UWF group, and we thanked her for her leadership. She led us in a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

WE REMEMBER THE SAINTS: On All Saints Sunday, Nov 6th, we began worship with Diana playing “Are Ye Able?”, “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”, and “Higher Ground” as we gathered. The bell rang and Cathy Sites prepared us for worship. Carson Guilliams carried in the Light of Christ as Diana played “I Know Who Holds Tomorrow”. Cathy then gave the welcome and announcements and led all in reading the Opening Prayer, “All Saints”, followed by the singing of “Rejoice in All Saints”. The children heard about how the unkind words that come out of your mouth cannot be taken back, just as Georgie and Rodger tried to put the toothpaste they had squirted out back into the tube. The choir presented “Come Share the Lord”. Tanya Eppard read the Gospel lesson from Ephesians 1:11-32, obtaining the inheritance. Pastor Joel began his message, “Inheritance in Christ” by reminding us that today is All Saints Day, when we remember those who died in faith, but we are saints also. We have an inheritance in Christ, and are blessed in Christ with every spiritual blessing. We are His adopted children, chosen and destined. Paul says we have redemption, forgiveness, rebirth, the mark of the seal, and the Holy Spirit. Pastor Joel’s grandmother gave away her things when she moved to a retirement home. His sister got a large part of the things in the house, which upset another sibling. The inheritance that we receive from people, we use, we lose, we get tired of, or we give away. These are just things. Families fracture over inheritances. God has eternal life to offer. Usually you get a little part of earthly things, but with God we get the fullness of God—no restrictions. The Prodigal son story illustrates God welcoming us home. We are given different gifts to build each other up together. Paul shares Jesus with all, even in prison. Those that hear, share with others. Saints names, people who have blessed us with God’s light, will be read



during the Communion prayer. What will we pass on? The singing of “Sing With All the Saints in Glory”, preceded the Morning Prayer and the Apostles Creed, led by Cathy. Pastor Joel then led the Confession and Pardon, the Passing of the Peace, and the Blessing of the 28 flood buckets. Tithes and Offerings were collected as Diana played “Count Your Blessings”, followed by the Doxology and offertory prayer by Cathy. Pastor Joel then led the Great Thanksgiving, the reading of the Saints names, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Sharing of the Bread and Wine as “My Jesus, I Love Thee” and “Oh, How I Love Jesus” were sung. Our closing hymn was “My Hope Is Built”. Cathy gave the Benediction, as Carson carried out the Light of Christ, and Diana played “Oh How I Love Jesus”. **WHAT WILL WE BE REMEMBERED FOR?**

“Twelve Women of the Bible” study met at 10:00 a.m. on Nov 7th with 11 women present and Pastor Joel leading. Our video was presented by Elisa Morgan and focused on Mary of Bethany. We compared and discussed how Mary of Bethany, Jesus’ friend and supporter, poured the expensive perfume on His feet and head to show her love for Him and how He reacted to her gift of love. Do we give of our best?

JIM HARRIS SPEAKS: At the Veterans Day program at Spotswood High School on the morning of Nov 11th, I reconnected with my long-time friends Rodney (also a veteran) and Denise Lam. I am very grateful to Denise, who is head of the Social Studies Dept., for inviting me to speak, and also to Beau Dickenson, RCPS Social Studies Supervisor, for all his work on the program and his help today, and to SHS Principal, Robert Dansey, who made me and all the visiting veterans feel welcome. The FCCLA prepared and served

a delicious breakfast, and members of the honor society assisted in the service. The members of the Junior and Senior classes were polite, attentive, and engaged. --Jim

VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11TH: Missing Man Table: This table is reserved to honor our missing comrades in arms. The table cloth is white when answering the call of duty. reminds us of the life of each of friends of these Americans who is tied with a red ribbon, symbol for our missing. The slice of lemon fate of the missing. A pinch of salt missing and their families who strength gained through faith to founded as one nation under God. The glass is inverted to symbolize their inability to share this evenings toast. The chair is empty-they are missing. Thank you to those who have served and sacrificed for our country and freedom.



SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY: Geraldine "Nana" Armentrout was given a surprise 90th birthday party by her family and friends in the Church social hall on Saturday, Nov 12th, with the theme of WWE (Wrestling). She saw many relatives and friends that she had not seen in a

while. Pictures include her crown and banner, her with three of her adopted daughters, and blowing out the candles on her "wrestling ring" cake. Her actual 90th birthday will be Nov 26th if you would like to send her a card at 1726 Mt Valley Rd, Keezletown VA 22832.

EVALYN'S HAPPY BIRTHDAY: "Finally watching your service from yesterday (Nov 13)! Thank you all for my special happy birthday song. Twice in one Sunday in two very special sanctuaries with people I love to worship with! Can't have a better joy than this. Love you all!! You are continuing to make me feel so loved! Evalyn"

"Twelve Women of the Bible" study met at 10:00 a.m. on Nov 14th with 11 women present and Pastor Joel leading. Our video was presented by Amena Brown and focused on Martha. Martha was a giver and wanted everything done for her friends and guests, sacrificing her time spent with Jesus. How much time do we spend with Jesus?

MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES



Happy 43rd Hawks

Shower 10-29

Chrisley untangling

Shower 11-12

Andrew & Whitney

MORE THANKSGIVING JOKES

"You know you overdid it on Thanksgiving when you cut yourself shaving and you bleed gravy."

"What's the best dance to do on Thanksgiving?" "The turkey trot."

"What kind of noise does a limping turkey make?" "Wobble, wobble."

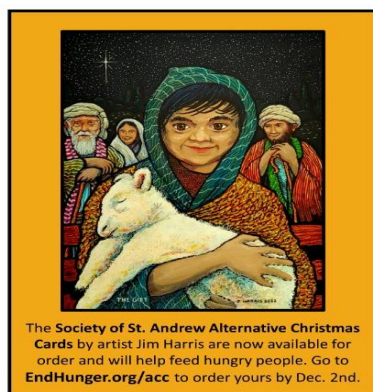
*** NOVEMBER EVENTS IN NEXT ISSUE***

- 13 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. UNITED METHODIST MENS SUNDAY
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message by Charles Sargent
Josh & Alissa bridal shower
- 20 United Methodist Men's Breakfast and Meeting 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Jesus: Making God Visible" from Col 1:11-20
Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes dedicated
- 21 Worship Planning meeting at 9:00 a.m.
"Twelve Women of the Bible" study at 10:00 a.m.
Backpack packing after Bible Study at 11:00 a.m.
- 24 THANKSGIVING
- 27 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. HANGING OF THE GREENS
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Child of Promise" from Matt 1:1-3a, 5-6, 16-17
Collections start for Hat, Sock, and Mitten tree
- 28 Last session of "Twelve Women of the Bible" study at 10:00 a.m. w/meal after
Backpack packing after Bible Study at 11:00 a.m.
- 29 Special VA Annual Conference via Zoom at 9:00 a.m.

Seeking Devotional Writers: Pastor Joel is seeking devotional writers for **Lent:** Psalms are the hymns and prayers of the people of God and sometimes just one line can be an anchor for faith. Choose one verse/passage from the Psalms that is a favorite or help for you. Write how those Psalm words have blessed you, or what you have learned, or how they connect you to God. Write a prayer and title for the devotion. Due December 30th.

NEW STUDY BEGINS: "Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation", a seven week study will meet Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. beginning Jan 9th. The study book is \$12 and you could order an e-book through Cokesbury. Sign up in the narthex or with Pastor Joel to participate.

Society of Saint Andrew Alternative Christmas Cards



The Inside Text Reads:

**Come, then, let us hasten yonder; Here let all, great and small,
kneel in awe and wonder. Love Him who with love is yearning;
Hail the star that from far brightwith hope is burning.**

Artist Jim Harris created and donated *The Gift* for use as the 2022 cover of the A lternaive Christmas Cards

Go to EndHunger.org/acc to order by Dec 2nd

MORE THANKSGIVING JOKES

"What did Han Solo say to Luke Skywalker on Thanksgiving?" "May the forks be with you."
"What kind of music did the pilgrims listen to?" "Plymouth Rock."

"My family told me to stop telling Thanksgiving jokes, but I said I couldn't quit cold turkey."
"Gobble 'til you wobble."

MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES



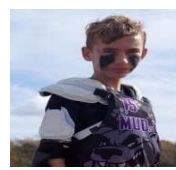
The Fords at VT game



Popsicle time



In Florida Keys



Muddog Parker



Two Weeks until

***** DECEMBER EVENTS HAPPENING*****

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec 1	Faye Hoover-Thomas	Dec 14	Chrisley Simmers
Dec 3	Beth Morris	Dec 14	Averei Reedy
Dec 4	Carol Dillard	Dec 16	Annalie Crisman
Dec 4	Aaron Dillard	Dec 16	Josh Werner
Dec 4	Eric Dean	Dec 18	Michele Dodrill
Dec 5	Kennis D Armentrout	Dec 18	Brian Summers
Dec 5	Joshua Heishman	Dec 20	Mary Nankivell
Dec 6	Ginny Joseph	Dec 24	Joe Liskey
Dec 7	Wes Ford	Dec 26	Jennifer Robinette
Dec 11	Janet Clatterbuck	Dec 30	Stephen Welsh
Dec 11	Brayden Morris	Dec 31	Cooper Liskey

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 9, 1989	Steve & Gena Dove Shortell	33 years
Dec 17, 1988	Dave & Jackie Werner	34 years
Dec 18, 1960	David & Mary Nankivell	62 years
Dec 22, 1990	Ken & Faye Hoover-Thomas	32 years
Dec 23, 1950	John & Virginia Phalen	72 years
Dec 26, 1976	Joe & Linda Liskey	46 years

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OR MORE: CONGRATULATIONS to church family couples that have been married 40 or more years in December:



Joe & Linda Liskey for 46 years on Dec 26th

David & Mary Nankivell for 62 years on Dec 18th

John & Virginia Phalen for 72 years on Dec 23rd

Best wishes from your KUMC family. May you have many more.

DECEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

UWF Christmas Party will be Dec 1st at 6:30 p.m. The men are cooking and serving the meal, so you don't need to bring anything but your Christmas spirit. There will be no ornament or gift exchange. Santa may stop by, there will be some Christmas carols to sing (led by Sharon & Karen and maybe Pastor Joel) and some games to play. All ladies are welcome.

Keezletown Ruritan Club will be having a “**Tree Lighting**” ceremony on Dec 2nd from 6-8 p.m. Classical Redeemer School will be singing; Karen and Sharon have agreed to sing; soup and sandwiches will be provided; and Ken will be playing Santa.

ANGEL TREE: The Salvation Army Angel Tree was set up in the sanctuary on Nov 20th with wish lists and clothes sizes for twenty children in need in our community. Items to be returned by Sunday, Dec 4th worship service.

UMM Ladies Night will be on Dec 4th at Blessings Lodge, gathering at 5:30 p.m. . RSVP to Scott Dillard.

Wayland Women Club Christmas Dinner - Friday, Dec 9th, served by UWF.

Farewell to Bishop Sharma Lewis, bishop of the VA Annual Conference since 2016 has been reassigned to the Mississippi Annual Conference as of Jan 1st. If you would like to send Bishop Lewis a note of thanksgiving, appreciation, or blessing please mail to: Bishop Sharm Lewis, Virginia Conference UMC, PO Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058-5606. There will be a farewell reception on Saturday, Dec 10th at Good Shepherd UMC in Henrico from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Farm Bureau Federation Board Meal served by KUMC on Dec 15th at 6:30 p.m.

Community Longest Night Service: Longest Night services acknowledge our longings and laments as we wait for the light of hope in Christ. The ecumenical service will be Tuesday, Dec 20th, at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg and online on their Facebook page.

Christmas Eve Service at 8:00 p.m. with song, a Baby Shower for Jesus, communion, and candle lighting. **Baby Shower for Jesus:** We will have a Baby Shower for Jesus on Christmas Eve, asking for newborn kits which will be shared in our community through The Mission Central Children’s Clothing Closet. 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.

Christmas Day Worship: Christmas Day is a Sunday this year. There will be worship at 11:00 a.m. and you are invited to wear your pajamas if you like. There will be no Sunday school meeting for Christmas Day.

Sunday School will not meet December 25, 2022 or January 1, 2023.

- 1 **UWF Christmas Get-Together at 6:00 p.m. (UMM serving meal) at 6:30 p.m.**
- 2 **Tree Lighting Ceremony at Keezletown Ruritan Park 6-8 p.m.**
- 3 **Choir Practice at 9:30 s.m.**
- 4 **Small Group Leaders Gathering 8:45 a.m. in Social Hall**
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

- Worship 11:00 a.m. with Communion; Message: "Joseph Names the Savior" from Matt 1:18-25
 Salvation Army Angel Trees Gifts Due
 UMM Christmas Dinner at Blessings Lodge at Camp Overlook at 5:30 p.m.
- 5 Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.
 9 UWF serve Wayland Womens Group 6 p.m.
 11 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
 Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "When Those From Far Believe" from Matt 2:1-12
 12 Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.
 15 Church serves Farm Bureau Federation Board Meal at 6:30 p.m.
 16 Newsletter items due
 17 Choir Practice at 9:30 a.m.
 18 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
 Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "There Are Still Tears at Christmas" from Matt 2:13-23
 19 Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.
 20 Longest Night Service at Trinity Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m.
 21 First Day of Winter
 24 CHRISTMAS EVE service at 8:00 p.m.
 Baby Shower for Jesus collected
 25 CHRISTMAS Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "The Word Became Flesh" from John 1:1-14
 26-1/1 Vacation for Pastor Joel
 31 NEW YEARS EVE

DALE'S CORNER by Dale Dodrill

A little history this month: When you look to the mountain, across from your home, these words are food for you soul. Psalm 121:1-2 : "I raise my eyes toward the mountains, Where will my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. " FIRST THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION by George Washington, 1789: Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection, aid and favors. Now, Therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the Beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country, and for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.
 Peace! Dale

THANK YOU

Dear Keezletown Church, again you have reached out so generously to support the Children Clothes Closet. Thank you for being God's faithful willing servants. You made a huge difference in others lives. I so enjoyed visiting your church. Your warmth and kindness were heartfelt. Sincerely, **Artie Frederick**

Dear Pastor Joel and church family: Sept 22nd was one year since Wayne went home...you all have blessed me so many times throughout the year...so many of you have reached out in so many ways, with cards, phone calls, dinners. I am not good at putting words on paper but I just want you all to know how

much I thank you for everything and how much you all mean to me. It's so nice to feel at home here.
Love my church family, **Becky (Ryman)**

Dear Pastor Joel & Church family: words can't express how thankful I am for your prayers, thoughts, cards & acts of kindness and help since my stroke in July. All have been blessings! The visits too!! God is good and merciful. He has been and will continue to be with me as I work hard at recovery. I am trusting in Him & the plan He has for my days ahead! You are blessings! Love, **Jan (Shafer)**

THE CHURCH FAMILY IS PROUD

Congratulations to the JV football team at Spotswood High School for finishing their season 6-4 and 3-1 in the Valley District! Our own **Brayden Morris** is #73 on this team. And per Beth: "Can't wait to see where this leads him. Not just on the field but in life, overcoming challenges and being a part of a team."

Card Shower for Faye Hoover-Thomas

Bless Faye Hoover-Thomas with a card for her 80th birthday on December 1. Mail to:
Faye Hoover-Thomas, 3226 Mountain Valley Road, Keezletown, VA 22832

MY PERSONAL NOTE:

It's been a hard month. Watching those we love get sick, and all we can do is stand by helplessly, is a struggle beyond words. It tears at the heart. But the heart is where Jesus lives, if you believe, and He has had, and will continue to have, the victory over every struggle. He is the Great Physician and by His stripes we are healed. Our lives have begun a new chapter, but with God writing the story, we will live each day trying to find the good and the blessings. He has seen us thru so far, He is with us today, and He is waiting in tomorrow. What a promise! Thank you, Jesus. *Diana*

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Editor's Note

The December deadline for submissions is December 16th. My home number is 540-269-8511 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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An umbrella cannot stop the rain, but it allows us to stand in the rain.
Faith in God may not remove our trials, but it gives us strength to overcome them.