

MOUNTAIN ECHOES

DECEMBER 2022

144th Edition



(Picture painted by our very own Haiden Dillard)

KEEZLETOWN

UNITED

METHODIST

CHURCH

Rev. T. Joel Robinette, Pastor

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Luke 2:9-11 (KJV) : And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

OUR PASTOR CHATS

I would like to share a prayer with you for you to consider praying in the new year. It is a radical prayer. It is the kind of prayer of giving everything to God. It is certainly not to be prayed lightly. It is a prayer that always stops me in my tracks when I have begun to pray it in a routine fashion. The deep trust in God in this prayer shakes me awake every time and confronts me with the question, "Am I ready to trust Jesus with all things and give my life to Jesus?" Here is a little about where this prayer comes from. John Wesley and the early Methodists observed the New Year by renewing their covenant with God in what were called Watch Night Services since they were often on New Year's Eve. The service could last three hours or longer as it made ample space with scripture, prayer, singing, and preaching for those gathered to prepare and be ready to renew their faith in God. There is a prayer that comes from those services and you can find it in *The United Methodist Hymnal* #607 and it is titled "A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition." There are some Christians who are so fond of this prayer and find it so beneficial, they pray it every day to help live their faith in Jesus Christ. I have been blessed by this prayer, too, and always take time to pray it in the new year. I share it with you again at the beginning of the year as one way you may renew your commitment to God. *"I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen"*. May God give us grace that we may pray with great faith. *Pastor Joel*

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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

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.

NOVEMBER EVENTS THAT HAPPENED

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S SUNDAY: We were blessed on Sunday, Nov 13th to have the men of KUMC lead the worship service. Carol Sacra played the gathering music of "Just a Closer Walk with Thee", "My Jesus, As Thou Wilt", and "Savior, Source of Every Blessing". The bell rang, Pastor Joel gave the Worship preparation, and Carol played "Autumn Song" as the prelude, as Chloe Robinette and Haiden Dillard carried in the Light of Christ. Scott Dillard, UMM President, gave the Morning greeting, the Opening Prayer, and asked all to Pass the Peace, followed by the singing of "To God Be the Glory". Dale Dodrill led the Children's

moments by showing them how water can be liquid, ice, and steam, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit work as a Trinity.



Twelve men's voices brought smiles to the faces of the congregation as they sang "Rise Up O Men of God", followed by much applause and shouts of "encore!". Scott Dodrill came to read the scripture and said "We heard encore, but sometimes it's better to leave them wanting more." The Old Testament Lesson was from Joshua 24:14-15, choose who you will serve. Scott Dillard then introduced today's speaker, Charles Sargent, who spoke on "Time to Make a Choice". He began by thanking the men for standing up in church. History is important; the people of the Bible left a memorial for what God left in their lives. The way you live is your memorial. God hand picks people for certain jobs. Joshua means God's salvation. He knew God; he listened and led. We serve a powerful God—never limit Him. We need to study the word of God. There are promises in the Bible that are ours if we claim them. We need to choose who we serve. The arm of flesh will fail you. Think about whose side you are on. Choose to serve the Lord and let the Son set you free. The singing of "Crown Him With Many Crowns" followed the message. Leonard Williams then led the Morning prayer and the Lord's Prayer. Special guest, Captain Duane Burleigh, then gave a witness (see next item), before the Offering was collected, the Doxology sung, and the offertory prayer given by Neil Sacra. The closing hymn was "It Is Well With My Soul", before Josh Wanger gave the benediction, Haiden carried out the Light of Christ, and Carol closed with "Rise Up O Men of God". **AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.**

SALVATION ARMY WITNESS: Captain Duane Burleigh visited with us on UMM Sunday and spoke about his return to the Valley after being away since 2014, and how glad he was to be back. The Salvation Army is now fully renovated and open, with 38 guests. They help those who want help, but at Christmas, lots of help is needed, for ringing bells, buying gifts for the angel trees, and packing the angel bags for distribution. This year they will serve 681 families at Christmas, that's almost 1500 children. He was grateful to see KUMC's angel tree, because he knows that we are a community that cares about others.



United Methodist Men had their monthly gathering on Sunday, Nov 20th with 11 in attendance, beginning with a wonderful breakfast prepared by Scott Dillard, including venison prepared by Scott Dodrill, which was enjoyed by all. Scott then led the men in a time of prayer for Ken and Faye Hoover-Thomas as they are dealing with health issues and her latest injury. Ken and Faye are a big part of our church family, and Ken is so very dedicated to the Men's group. We also prayed for others from our group who were unable to attend as they also are dealing with their own health issues as well. Scott Dillard led a devotional on the 10 lepers in which only one returned to give thanks to God. We discussed the importance as followers of God who receive the many blessings and gifts from God, but in order to be made whole we must go to God, give thanks with gratitude and grace. During the business portion of our gathering, the minutes were reviewed from our Oct gathering as well as a Treasurer's report given and approved. Many of the logistics of the Men's group serving the UWF group on Thursday, Dec. 1st at 6:30 p.m. was worked out. A signup sheet for the annual Christmas Dinner at Blessing Lodge was passed

around to get a head count. The Men's group will not meet in Dec as many things are going on with the group and their families during the holiday season. Our next meeting will be Jan 15th, 2023. Chairman Dillard asked for and received volunteers for fixing breakfast and giving the devotion for that gathering.

INVISIBLE OR VISIBLE GOD? Nov 20th was Christ the King Sunday and worship began with Chris playing "We Gather Together", "Come, Ye Thankful People Come", "Shine, Jesus, Shine", and "Majesty, Worship His Majesty" as we gathered, and the bell rang. Pastor Joel gave the welcome before Chris played "All Hail King Jesus" as the prelude and Haiden carried in the Light of Christ. He then gave the morning welcome, announcements, and led the Psalter, Psalms 100, and the prayer "Christ the King", before asking all to Pass the Peace. Our first hymn was "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise", followed by Lynn Siler leading the Children's Time as she talked about and dedicated the shoebox collection. The choir then sang "Give Thanks". Randy Clatterbuck came to read the Epistle Lesson from Colossians 1:11-20, the invisible God. Pastor Joel spoke on "Jesus: Making God Visible" and began that Paul and Timothy wrote that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. We are crazy about Jesus. There is no clear image of God other than Jesus coming down. Sometimes we see ourselves, we see our sin, selfishness, and pettiness, when we compare ourselves to Jesus. The Bible is full of God descriptions that tell us a little bit of what He is like, but not everything. Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God. We hear about what God does, we have the Bible, but until you experience Jesus, you do not know God. He is the only one who can fill us for eternity; God is a relationship. Jesus holds everything together. In the Advent devotional, we share Jesus with others, we make Him visible to others. The singing of "Open My Eyes, That I May See" followed the message. Pastor Joel then led the Morning prayer and the Lord's Prayer, followed by the Giving of our Offerings as Chris played "Now Thank We All Our God", and the Doxology. Pastor Joel gave the offertory prayer before we sang the final hymn, "Victory in Jesus". He then gave the benediction as Haiden carried out the Light of Christ and Chris played "Rejoice, the Lord is King". **SHARE AND MAKE HIM VISIBLE TO OTHERS.**

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes: It's that time of the year when Christmas is just around the corner. The Church family was asked to fill a box or more with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, etc., to send to a child for Christmas and share God's love. These shoeboxes were collected and dedicated. Along with the church family, the Massanutten Presbyterian Preschool class, and others, we were able to take 112 shoeboxes to the distribution center on Nov 21st. Praise the Lord for all the smiling faces and the love of God these will share...and Thank You!



"Twelve Women of the Bible" study met at 10:00 a.m. on Nov 21st with 12 women present and Pastor Joel leading. Our video was presented by Lysa Terkeurst and focused on the woman at the well with no name. Lysa led us thru the story of how the Samaritan woman was approached by Jesus, a Jew, who asked for water, then told her He could give her living water. Her conversion led to many others. What do we try to hide from Jesus?

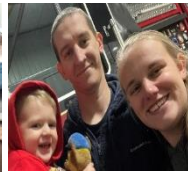
DECORATING THE CHURCH: After Bible Study on the morning of Nov 21st, the ladies of the class, along with Pastor Joel, Darryl Eppard, and Mike Summers went about bringing down the

wreaths, trees, and decorations for the church for Christmas. With the help of Judy, Fay, Ann, Becky, Chris, Susie, Diana, Sherry, Mike, Darryl, and Pastor Joel, the wreaths were hung outside and inside, the Chrismon tree and Social Hall trees were put up and decorated, and the Hat/Sock/Mitten tree was put up. The risers for the poinsettias were placed and the altar railing décor was ready to be placed on the 28th. Thank you to all who helped in any way. It looks lovely.

THANKSGIVING PICTURES



Triton/Brayden



The Bishops



Susie's family



Heatwole's



Dodrills in WV

HANGING OF THE GREENS SUNDAY: What a difference it makes when you walk into the sanctuary and it's decorated for Christmas, with the wreaths and poinsettias. Carol helped us prepare for worship on Nov 27th by playing "People Look East", "Nazareth", and "Poinsettias", before the ringing of the bell, and Cathy giving the worship preparation. She then played "Chanson de Noel" as lovely little Nora Grace came in looking like a little angel carrying the Light of Christ. Cathy came to welcome everyone and give the announcements, before Neil read the Gospel lesson from Matthew 1:1-3a; 5-6; 16-17, the lineage of Jesus. Pastor Joel spoke on the "Child of Promise", a king coming during Advent. Matthew's birth stories introduce us to Jesus as the promises fulfilled in the Old Testament. At the beginning of Advent, we need to see that Jesus is never done with us. Christ means the anointed one, the promised one. David was promised that the Messiah would come. A new time came when Jesus was born, a new beginning. This means the kingdom keeps growing and will have no end. God was and is faithful throughout the generations. God includes all who hear His call. Today we make the church ready to welcome Jesus. Listen to the promises during the Hanging of the Greens, and adorn your hearts, your lives, and your homes with God, by sharing His love with others. The choir then presented "The King of Glory Comes". A responsive "Introduction to the Hanging of the Greens" was led by Cathy, followed by the Guiliams family presenting God Will Send a Righteous King, from Jeremiah 23:5-6 and placing the cedar branch on the altar. We then sang "People Look East". The Mitchell family presented the Prophet Declares a Child Will be Born from Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, and placed the evergreen wreaths in the windows as we sang "All Earth Is Waiting". The Mason/Jarrells family presented the Fourth Servant Song from Isaiah 53:1-6, and placed the holly and the ivy on the altar as the choir sang "Deck the Halls". The Scott Dillard family presented the Mystery of the Incarnation from John 1:1-5, 9-14, and blessed and lit the Chrismon tree, as the choir sang "O Christmas Tree". Josh Shifflett presented the Blessing of the Nativity (made and set up by the Scott Dodrill family), and we sang "The Friendly Beasts". Pastor Joel presented the Legend of the Poinsettias and the choir sang "What Can I Give Him". The Sprague family gave the Blessing of the Advent Wreath, a responsive reading, and the lighting of the First Advent Candle reading, as the candle was lit. We then sang "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". With the blessings all completed, Cathy led the morning prayer and the Lord's prayer. Linda Liskey then reminded all that Jesus had nothing when He was born, but that we are able now to help newborns and their mothers. She asked all to remember the Baby Shower for Jesus being collected at the Christmas Eve service. As Carol played "Vignette", the

offering was collected, followed by the Doxology and Cathy's offertory prayer. Our closing hymn was "There's A Song In the Air", followed by Cathy's benediction, Nora Grace carrying out the Light of Christ, and Carol playing "The King of Glory Comes" as the postlude. **IS YOUR HEART READY FOR JESUS'S COMING?**

"Twelve Women of the Bible" study met at 10:00 a.m. on Nov 28th for the last session with 9 women present and Pastor Joel leading. Our video was presented by Naomi Zacharias on The Syrophoenician Woman, who was un-named. She came to plead with Jesus to remove the demon from her daughter. His treatment of her and His answer were the main focus of discussion, as well as how we perceive others, and how Jesus perceives them.

Janet Faye Hoover-Thomas, passed on November 30th, the day before her 80th birthday. She was a life-long resident of Keezletown, and was married to Kenneth L Thomas Jr for almost 32 years. She was a life-time member of KUMC, and was loved by all. A beautiful memorial service on Dec 10th, where her "fighter" attitude, her love of fashionable dress, and how much she had touched others was remembered. She fought a long hard battle, but has now won the victory. Well done, thou good and faithful servant. We're gonna miss you, Faye. Rest easy.



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.

FAMILY FUN PICTURES



Evalyn at NASA



Team Day



8th grade



The Underwoods



Ginny's Bday

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.

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 1:00p.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 is now in the 2022-2023 school year. Along with McGaheysville UMC and Mountain View Brethren, we will be providing weekend food for school children in need. Currently, there are 45 students signed up, with 17 assigned to KUMC. We anticipate this number to rise in the coming weeks. Prices continue to increase and store supplies are often limited. The team has been very thrifty with these shopping trips, and it is truly a team effort! If you are interested in helping to shop, pack, or deliver during this upcoming school year, please reach out to Lynette Guilliams. If you feel led to sponsor a schoolchild this year, you may designate your gift to “KUMC Backpack Project.” Sponsorships will be \$125 per child. Checks may also be given to Jenny Dillard. Backpacking is on Monday at 11:15 a.m.

REINDEER JOKES:

Where do you find reindeer? Depends on where you left them

What did the cow say to the reindeer? Moo

What did the reindeer sing to Santa on his birthday? Freeze a jolly good fellow

When should you feed reindeer milk to a baby? When it’s a baby reindeer

Which reindeer have the shortest legs? The smallest ones

How much does it cost to run Santa's sleigh? Eight bucks, or nine if the weather is bad.

MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES



All grown up



Ringin' Bell



Santa at work



Triton ate heads



Reindeer Cooper

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.

Sunday School Classes include 0 – 2-year-olds – Nursery; 3-year-olds – Kindergarten

Class; Grades 1 – 5 Elementary School Class; Middle and High School Class; An adult class taught by Mac Coffman; An adult class taught by Chris Cole using *Adult Bible Studies* materials.

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

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER: At 6:00 pm. on Dec 1st 16 members, 1 guest, and Pastor Joel met to celebrate our Christmas get-together. This year was different, in that the United Methodist Men graciously agreed to serve the meal of Sunday chicken, broccoli, roasted potatoes, cole slaw, assorted pies alamode and drinks. The tables were beautifully decorated and even had handmade deer by Jim Dillard that were awarded as door prizes. The men did a wonderful job in serving, cleaning up and entertaining. After the meal, the ladies moved to other tables to enjoy Christmas Bingo, a story made-up by the group, a game of guessing the song title by a line from the song, and beautiful singing by Karen and Sharon. After the festivities, the ladies stayed to assemble the gift bags for the shut-ins. Next meeting is Jan 5th at 7:00 p.m.

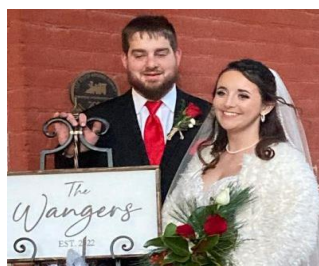


COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING: KUMC was invited by the Keezletown Ruritan Club and Redeemer Classical School to participate in the 2nd Annual Christmas Celebration and Tree Lighting at the Ruritan Park on Dec 2nd from 6-8 p.m. Karen and Sharon agreed to sing and the UWF provided sandwiches. Our own Santa also made an appearance. It was a lovely evening of music, food, crafts, Santa, and lighting the Christmas tree. Thank you to all who helped and attended.

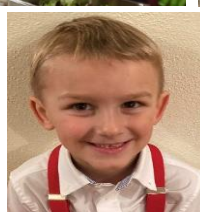


COME TO DINNER: "When we fill out a table, there are three main dishes: meats, vegetables, and breads. We use three seasonings - salt, pepper, and bacon grease."

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST MARRIED COUPLE: Joshua



William Wanger and Alissa Ronni Dodrill were united in marriage by Dale Dodrill on December 3rd at 3:00 p.m. at the Mt Carmel Presbyterian Church in Steeles Tavern surrounded by family and friends. Kendra Dodrill served as Maid of Honor and Waylon Evans was the ringbearer. The groom is the son of Greg Wanger and Kelli and Donnie Landes, and grandson of James and Carolyn Wanger and Ron and Roseann Pittington. The bride is the daughter of Scott and Michele Dodrill, and the granddaughter of Dale and Lula Belle Dodrill. There was a special table in the back of the church with pictures of loved ones from both sides of their families with a note that said "In loving memory of our angels watching from heaven; they have the best seat in the house." A wonderful reception time followed at The American Hotel Banquet Room in Staunton, decorated with wreaths made by the families and friends of Josh and Alissa and centerpieces made by Wes Ford. The Keezletown United Marchers for a Cure Relay Team, by request of the couple, catered the event. The happy couple left the next day for a honeymoon cruise. The KUMC family want to wish you the best for a long, happy life together. We are so proud of you both.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING: With the Chrismon tree lit, the poinsettias looking beautiful and the sanctuary adorned, we met on Dec 4th for worship. Gathering music, played by Diana, included "Angels from the Realms of Glory", "O Little Town of Bethlehem", and "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks", before the bell rang, and Pastor Joel prepared all for worship. Diana then played "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" as the prelude, as Haiden brought in the Light of Christ. Pastor Joel gave the morning welcome and announcements before Sharon and Karen came to give the meaning of and lighting the 2nd Advent Candle, followed by verse 3 of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". The Church family then sang "To a Maid Engaged to Joseph". Diana told the children the myth about how the spider webs all over the Christmas tree were turned into tinsel. She then reminded everyone about the Hat/Sock/Mitten tree for MCCC children that we are collecting items for. The choir then presented "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine". Haiden read the Gospel lesson from Matthew 1:18-25, an angel talks to Joseph. Pastor Joel began "Joseph Names the Savior", the title of my message, and the message in the scripture lesson. Joseph recognizes that Mary is pregnant, knowing that they have been betrothed for a year, decides to dismiss her and divorce her. Being a faithful and righteous man, he is missing what God is

doing. How can we recognize what God is doing? When God puts an idea in your heart, when He wants to, to whom He wants to, we need sometimes for God to show us what we need to do. Joseph needed the angel to tell him. When God comes, life changes. Everything changes. You have your choice. Will you say yes, I will. Jesus means "God saves". Joseph was given the honor of naming Jesus. Jesus' name is written 150 times in Matthew, offering Jesus to us, to see what He is doing around us. God is here with us and the child Jesus changes everything. The hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" followed the message. Pastor Joel then led the Morning Prayer, the Affirmation of Faith, the Confession and Pardon, and Passing the Peace. A blessing for the Salvation Army Angel Tree gifts was given, before the Giving of Tithes and Offering, the Doxology, and Prayer. He then led the Great Thanksgiving, the Lord's Prayer, and the Giving of the Bread and Cup, as the Communion Hymn "Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast" was sung. Our closing hymn was "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", followed by the benediction from Pastor Joel and Haiden carrying out the Light of Christ as Diana played "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing". **JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING.**

ANGEL TREE: The Salvation Army Angel Tree was set up in the narthex on Nov 20th with wish lists and clothes sizes for children in need in our community. By Dec 4th, when the gifts were blessed, the Chrismon tree was surrounded with big bags and two bicycles. Thanks to your generosity, 20 children will be overjoyed and filled with love on Christmas morning.



United Methodist Men held their annual Christmas Dinner and Ladies Night at Blessings Lodge at Camp Overlook on Dec 4th, gathering at 5:30 p.m. for punch and fellowship, followed by a delicious catered meal. Following the meal, South River Express entertained the gathering with seasonal musical selections. Concluding the evening, Jenny Dillard read a story about the birth of Jesus from Mary's point of view, then handed out handmade clothespin Joseph/Mary/Baby Jesus/Star ornaments. It was a lovely evening and a wonderful way to kick off the Advent season! Thanks to all who attended.

Allen Ross Martin, 80, of Keezletown and member of KUMC, passed away on Wednesday, Dec 7th. He was married to his loving wife of 50 years, Sharon Vorhauer Martin, and is survived by his sons, Travis Ross Martin and wife, Joanna, Clinton Adam Martin and wife, Melissa, Wyatt Clay Martin and companion, Heather Turner; daughter, Margaret Gail Martin and husband, Christopher; and 6 beautiful grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted at KUMC on Wednesday, Dec 14th by Pastor Joel Robinette, with a meal by the church family following the service. He was a good neighbor and friend and will be missed. Rest in peace, Allen.



Wayland Women Club Christmas Dinner was served by ten UWF ladies on Dec 9th at 6:30 p.m. The 44 folks attending enjoyed Pork Tenderloin, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Dressing, Peas & Carrots, Baked Apples, Cranberry Salad on Lettuce Leaf, Rolls, Coffee/Tea/ Water, & Pie. Thank you to all who donated, and helped to make this dinner a success.

DIE HARD DEER HUNTER AND THE NEWBY: "If that cell phone rings while an 8-point buck and 3 does are coming in, we WILL shoot it out of your hand. You better hope you don't have it up to your ear at the time."

HAVE YOU SEEN A NEW STAR? On the 3rd Sunday in Advent, Dec 11th, we gathered to Pastor Joel singing and playing his guitar to “Do You Hear What I Hear?”, “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”, “We Three Kings”, and “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”. After the bell rang, he gave the welcome and preparation for worship. Chris then played “Christmas Sonatina” as Nora Grace carried in the Light of Christ. Pastor Joel then gave the welcome and announcements, before Mac Coffman came to talk about and light the 3rd Advent candle and we sang verse 5 of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”. After Passing the Peace, the Church family sang “People, Look East”. Ann Ford read the story book “The Hope Tree” to the children during the children’s time, followed by the choir presenting “Adoration”. Carol Sacra read the Gospel lesson from Matthew 2:1-12, the wisemen visit, before Pastor Joel spoke on “When Those from Far Believe”. He began by saying that Joseph was close and believed in what he was seeing. After the angel came, he changed and named Jesus. How do those today who are faithful and righteous see Jesus coming? What about those from afar who believed? How might they challenge us today? We don’t know much about them—maybe there were three, maybe more. Isaiah 60 and Psalm 72 tell us of kings coming to see Jesus. There could have been women with them. The Magi recognized the star as the coming of the messiah. God used something they would recognize.



God used the light they had to bring them to the true light Abigail Mitchell drew the bulletin front. It was extraordinary. We each have something that God can use to draw others to Jesus. The wise ones asked directions, followed them, and found Jesus in humbleness. When they found Him, they were overjoyed. Do we have faith enough to go searching for Jesus?

“All Earth Is Waiting” was then sung by the Church family followed by Pastor Joel leading the Morning Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer. Offerings were collected as Chris played “Lo How a Rose Ere Blooming” and the doxology. Our closing hymn was “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”, followed by Pastor Joel’s benediction, Nora Grace carrying out the Light of Christ and Chris playing “Emmanuel” as the postlude. **ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR JESUS?**

IS IT OKAY TO CRY AT CHRISTMAS? On this, the 4th Sunday of Advent, Dec 18th, one week ‘til Christmas, we gathered to the sounds of “Good King Wenceslas”, “Ring the Bells”, and “The First One Ever”, and the bell rang. Pastor Joel gave the worship preparation, before Diana played “Little Drummer Boy” as the prelude and Ryan carried in the Light of Christ. Pastor Joel gave the morning welcome and announcements, before John, Jennifer, and Parker Young came to read about and light the 4th Advent candle, and lead the singing of verse 2 of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”. After Passing the Peace, the Church family sang “Angels From the Realms of Glory”. Diana read “Jeremiah T Mouse”, a story she had written, to the children during children’s time. The choir then presented “Away In a Manger” three different ways as the choral anthem. Karen and Sharon came to give an a cappella version of “The Holly and the Ivy”, before Sherry read the Gospel lesson from Matthew 2:13-23, the escape to Egypt. Pastor Joel began his message with “There Are Still Tears at Christmas”. Have you noticed them? We cry over lost loved ones, our health, the church split. Instead of division in the church, we should love the Lord with all our heart, and our neighbors. A Six-month of National Terrorism Warning has been given for our country. Threats because of differences cause tears. War, hunger, refugees, all cause tears. At the First Christmas, there were tears. King Herod sought to destroy Jesus so he had all baby boys under two killed. God saw the tears of the people and brought Jesus to change our tears into hope. The ways of the world will not last forever. Jesus brings healing and

reconciliation, to raise us up in resurrection hope. God's love and hope lived in that little refugee child. Try to notice the pain and tears at Christmas, yours and others. That will allow you to feel the presence of God, giving you grace and comfort and love. The singing of "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" was sung before the Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer. Tithes and Offerings were collected as "The Peace Carol" was played. The Doxology and the offertory prayer followed. Our closing hymn was "Hail to the Lord's Anointed", before the Benediction by Pastor Joel. Ryan carried out the Light of Christ as Diana played "Ring the Bells" as the postlude. **IT IS OKAY TO CRY AT CHRISTMAS.**

MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES



The Crismans



In spelling bee



Happy B-day



Parker concert



Happy 14th

SANTA JOKES:

What do you call Santa if he goes down a lit chimney? Crisp Cringle

Who says oh, oh, oh? Santa Claus walking backwards

What does Santa suffer from when he gets stuck in a chimney? Santa Claustrophobia

Why is Santa so jolly? Because he knows where all the toys are!

What's red and white and falls down a lot? Santa Klutz.

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck? A Christmas Quacker.

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

- 20 **Longest Night Service at Trinity Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m. to acknowledge our longings and laments as we wait for the light of hope in Christ.**
- 21 **First Day of Winter**
- 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE service at 8:00 p.m. with song, a Baby Shower for Jesus, communion, and candle lighting.**
- 25 **CHRISTMAS Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "The Word Became Flesh" from John 1:1-14. You are invited to wear your pajamas if you like. There will be no Sunday school meeting for Christmas Day.**
- 26-1/1 **Vacation for Pastor Joel**
- 31 **NEW YEARS EVE**

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL NOT MEET DEC 25TH OR JAN 1ST

Welcome: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson begins serving as the bishop of the VA Annual Conference Jan 1st. "Bishop Sue" served as pastor in the Florida Annual Conference, was elected bishop in 2016, and served the North Georgia Annual Conference from 2016 – 2022. You may bless Bishop Sue with a note of welcome, prayer, or encouragement, by mailing to: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Virginia Conference UMC, PO Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058-5606.

John NDay Two Mission Priorities Update and Necklaces: First, thanks to everyone who gave to our covenant missionary John NDay's priorities for the Combaine UMC Farm Project of (1) expanded irrigation and (2) an egg incubator. People gave \$1,486 at October WOW services. Wow, indeed! The Keezletown United Methodist Men 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 Combaine 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 Jan 8th.

***** 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	Jade Alexandria Bahle
Jan 8	Barbara Propst	Jan 22	Tanya Dawn Eppard
Jan 8	Mark Ramsey	Jan 23	Leah Siler
Jan 9	Cora Combs	Jan 23	Emily Blake
Jan 9	Fay Higgs	Jan 23	Kelli Sprague
Jan 11	Josh Wanger	Jan 24	Chris Threewitts
Jan 12	Mac Coffman	Jan 27	Brayden Carter
Jan 15	Donna Carrier	Jan 29	Faye Crowe
Jan 15	Barbara Smith	Jan 30	Brent Combs
		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

Sunday school will not meet Jan 1st

Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and Sunday School Discovery at 9:45 a.m. on Jan 8th

Rise Against Hunger special offering Jan 15th

Fried Catfish and Tenderloin meal by UMM on Saturday Jan 28th

- 1 **NEW YEARS DAY**
 NO Sunday School (Winter Break)
 Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: by Lay Servant, BJ Smith: "Expectation, Building Walls, and Escaping Prison" from Matthew 11:2-11
- 2 **Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.**

- 5 UMW meet 7:00 p.m.
8 Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School discovery at 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Our Father Who Art in Heaven, Hallowed by Thy Name" (The Lord's Prayer) from Matthew 6:9-13
9 Worship planning meeting at 9:00 a.m.
"Breaking the Code" Bible Study 10:00 a.m. with Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.
11 Church Council meets 7:30 p.m.
13 Newsletter items due
14 Choir Practice 9:30 a.m.
15 United Methodist Men's Breakfast and Meeting at 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done on Earth As It Is In Heaven" (The Lord's Prayer) from Matthew 6:5-6, 9-13
First Collection for Rise Against Hunger during worship
16 "Breaking the Code" Bible Study 10:00 a.m. with Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.
Martin Luther King Day
22 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread" (The Lord's Prayer) from Matthew 6:7-13
23 "Breaking the Code" Bible Study 10:00 a.m. with Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.
28 Choir Practice 9:30 a.m.
UMM Port Tenderloin and Catfish Supper
29 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Forgive Us Our Trespasses As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us" (The Lord's Prayer) from Matthew 6:9-15
30 "Breaking the Code" Bible Study 10:00 a.m. with Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.

Souper Bowl Sunday: KUMC will have our own Souper Bowl to collect food pantry items for the Massanutten Presbyterian Church Food Pantry on Sunday, Feb 5th and 12th. Place nonperishable food items in the bin for your favorite team to win the Super Bowl on Feb 12th and let us bless those in our community in need of good food.

SNOW JOKES:

The snowman's favorite side dish is iceberg salad.
The boy only wore one snow boot—there was only a 50% chance of snow.
Reindeer have fur coats—they'd look silly in snow suits.
What's white and goes up? A confused snowflake.
A snowman's favorite snack is Ice Krispy treats.
Snowmen and women go to dance at the snowball.

Cards for **Richard and Fay Higgs**, Bridgewater Retirement Community, Wellness House, 302 N Second Street, Bridgewater VA 22812

DALE'S CORNER by Dale Dodrill

Luke 2:7 "She brought forth her firstborn Son... and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." ROOM FOR JESUS: No room for Jesus? No room for the King of kings? No, but room for others and for other things. There was no room for Jesus in the world that he had made -- imagine! Things have not really changed since that Bethlehem night over two thousand years ago. God is still on the fringes of most of our lives. We fit Him in when it is convenient for us, but we become irritated when He makes demands on us. If God would only stay in His little box and come out when we pull His string! Our lives are so full. There is so much to be done. But in all our busy activities are we in danger of excluding from our hearts and lives the One who made us. "Oh, come in my heart, Lord Jesus: there is room in my heart for you.

(2008 Billy Graham Devotional Book)

THE CHURCH FAMILY IS PROUD

Congratulations to **Barrett Bowman**, who has received her Provisional License to teach English as a second language. After taking three more classes, she will receive her Masters.

Kim Taylor's son, **Jared Kline**, is now on NBC29 at sunrise & at noon. Congrats.

Congratulations to the Keezletown Ruritan Club 2023 President, **Nate Riddle** and Vice President, **Linda Riddle**.

Winter tip: A good winter tip? Never catch snowflakes on your tongue until all the birds have flown south for the winter.

E-MAIL OR REGULAR MAIL: I would like to offer to anyone that would like it, the availability of receiving their newsletter via e-mail rather than the Postal Service each month. If you would like to try this, please e-mail me at AntDyna@comcast.net, with your request. Please put Newsletter in the subject line.

Pastor Joel will be on vacation Dec 26th – Jan 1st. BJ Smith will be on call for pastoral care during that time and he can be reached at 540-908-0061.

MY PERSONAL NOTE:

I wanted to write a pity party violin playing on your fingers sympathy article, but...I can't. God has allowed events to happen to E.L. and me in the last two months that were scary and emotionally draining and I have had my share of meltdowns. But God is good, and God is understanding, and God is, most of all, patient with me. Christmas is coming. Cards were not sent; gifts were not bought; cookies were not made; decorations were not put up, but does that make it any less Christmas? No. Christmas, Christ, our Savior, came without the frills, offering only His love and eternal life. Who needs a greater gift? I have a cup and it's half full; I don't need a full one. God will and does provide everything I need in my cup of life, whether through my tears or my joys. He wakes me gently in the morning, walks with me thru the day, and sits with me until I fall asleep at night, then watches over and protects me. And He does the same for you, every day. As you enjoy this Christmas and New Year season, may His love fill your heart and may you feel His presence in your life. Hold up your cup, and say "Thank you". *Diana*

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Editor's Note

The January deadline for submissions is January 13th . 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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*HE CAME TO PAY A DEBT HE DID NOT OWE, BECAUSE WE OWED
A DEBT WE COULD NOT PAY. THE GREATEST GIFT WE WILL
EVER RECEIVE CAME AT CHRISTMAS. ACCEPT YOUR GIFT.*

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!