

# MOUNTAIN ECHOES

JANUARY 2023

145th Edition



*(Matt: 19:14 "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven". Thank you, Connor, for reminding all of us.)*

## KEEZLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. T. Joel Robinette, Pastor

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Pastor's office hours: Monday & Wednesday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Keezletown UMC website: [www.keezletownumc.com](http://www.keezletownumc.com)

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Isaiah 40: 28-31: "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint

**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.

**Giving by check, the address is:** KUMC, 1456 Indian Trail Rd, Keezletown VA 22832

## **OUR PASTOR CHATS**

“It is hard to understand,” is what one person said about the book of Revelation in an introductory session for the study *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation*. “That was clear as mud,” is what another said after a first teaching video. The imagery and style (genre) of Revelation is particularly challenging for many American Christians. Revelation is not the only difficult piece of scripture in the Bible. One of the graces of challenging passages is the reminder that we do faith together. Our difficulty may spur us to seek God’s revealing through Jesus Christ, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and the insights and learning that comes through group study, group reading, and group wrestling with the scriptures. Another grace is that while there are parts of scripture that are challenging, there are also parts that are quite plain and simple to understand. Those parts of scripture being clear do not mean they are easy to apply. Things like “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God” (Micah 6:8) or “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44) are just a few examples. When things in the Bible or even life are “hard to understand” or “clear as mud” I think it can be a good time to focus on what is most clear, even as we wrestle with what is difficult to understand. “God is love” (1 John) and “God is with us in Jesus” (Matthew 1 and John 1) and “Love God, love neighbor, and love yourself” (Mark 12) help us when things are either easy or difficult. The clearest parts of scripture—especially the life, teaching, resurrection, and lordship/servanthood of Jesus Christ—may even help untangle puzzling passages. A good insight from the current Revelation study is the meaning of the first three Greek words which begin the book: “The apocalypse of Jesus Christ”. Apocalypse does not translate as disaster or calamity but as “unveiling” or “revealing.” So, Revelation is “a revealing of Jesus Christ” and what is most clear about that book is what it says about Jesus and how we may live in faith, hope, perseverance, and confidence in God, even when there is unrest in the world. Is there something difficult for us in the scriptures or world? May it drive us together for the graces of God that we may live and love in the clear ways of Jesus.

*Pastor Joel*

### **\*\*\*DECEMBER EVENTS THAT HAPPENED\*\*\***

**Longest Night Service** was Dec 20<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Presbyterian in Harrisonburg and there were leaders participating from Community Mennonite, Keezletown UMC, Muhlenberg Lutheran, Park View Mennonite, RISE UMC, Shalom Mennonite, Saint Stephen's United Church of Christ, and Trinity Presbyterian. We shared in scripture, prayer, communion, and lighting candles where even in our grief



and longings we could bring our hopes and prayers for God's grace. Pastor Joel had two things that particularly blessed him that night. The first was the Community Mennonite Choir which beautifully sang a few songs acapella. Singing acapella is a regular practice in many Mennonite congregations and it was a blessing to hear their prayers and praise and in that form. A second highlight was how God touched him during communion. The person serving the bread broke off a piece from a crumbly loaf and handed it to the person serving the cup. The crumbly portion was dipped into the juice in the cup and placed into waiting hands to be taken back to your seat to eat. He had a front row seat and noticed the wood floor which was receiving quite a few bits of bread and drips of juice between the feet of those serving and receiving communion. He was struck by the messiness of the passion of Jesus when he was scourged, beaten, and crucified and how parts of his body and blood touched those who afflicted him but also the ground. Even on that dark Good Friday, Jesus prayed for those first touched by his broken body and blood, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Even during longest nights, the grace of Jesus Christ comes.

**IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE!** Dec 24<sup>th</sup> we gathered at 8:00 p.m. to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior. The bell rang and Pastor Joel gave the preparation for worship. Diana played "Do You Hear What I Hear" as the prelude, and Ryan brought in the Light of Christ. Pastor Joel gave the welcome and led the Opening Prayer, followed by the singing of "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing". The Gospel lesson, read by Pastor Joel, was Christ's birth story from Luke 2:1-20. He then spoke on "They Went to See" by talking about the shepherds working in the fields at night, how they received the message, and went to see the Baby Jesus. God wanted the shepherds to know. Angels told them and invited them to go see this gift that was given. We have angels today. God comes to the humble ones, to everyone. Believers can be God's messengers as we care for and about others. The shepherds were excited about going to see this humble birth of the Savior wrapped in bands of cloth. They left praising God with joy, and ready to share the good news. Tonight we share our love for others in the giving of gifts for the Baby Shower for Jesus for MCCC and the new mothers that will be accepting these much needed gifts. After a prayer of blessing for the baby gifts, we sang "Joy to the World" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem", followed by the choir presenting "A Communion Hymn for Christmas". All then partook in the Great Thanksgiving, led by Pastor Joel, as "Away in a Manger" was played. "Silent Night, Holy Night" was sung as each person's candle was lit. The blessing was given, the candles extinguished, and Diana played a portion of "O Holy Night" as the postlude. **MAY JOY FILL YOUR HEART TONIGHT.**



**Baby Shower for Jesus:** We had our annual Baby Shower for Jesus on Christmas Eve, asking for newborn kits, baby clothes, and accessories needed for new mothers and babies, which will

be shared in our community through The Mission Central Children's Clothing Closet. Many thanks for the very generous donations that filled the altar.



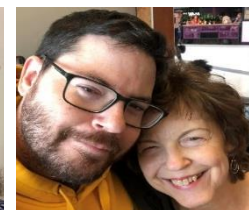
**THE SAVIOR IS BORN!** Merry Christmas! Some in our pajamas, some in our Sunday clothes, but all gathered to worship on Dec 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas morning, as Carol plays “Do You Hear What I Hear”, “Christmas Carillion”, and “O Holy Night” for the gathering music, and the bell rings. Ken gave the preparation for worship greeting and Carol presented “Joyous Morning” as the prelude, as Ryan carried in the Light of Christ. Ken gave the greeting, welcome, and announcements, and the choir sang “Arise, Shine” as the Call to Worship. All were asked to Pass the Peace before we sang “Sing We Now of Christmas”, “The First Noel”, and “Good Christian Men Rejoice”. Pastor Joel used the Children's Time to tell what some of the ornaments on the Chrismon tree meant, before the choir presented “The Birthday of a King” as the anthem. Neil came to read the morning Gospel lesson from John 1:1-14, “The Word Became Flesh”, which was also the title of the message. Pastor Joel began with Jesus is born. God comes in person into the world so that all the senses can be filled with His love. Though sin is in the world, though anxiety and war, though sickness and suffering, though fear and doubt, Jesus came to overcome it all and share the love and salvation of God. We love Christmas here at KUMC and actually start way before the actual day. Christmas is about relationships and connecting to others. KUMC connects with others through the Shoebox project, the Salvation Army angel tree, the Cub Run Elementary School gifts program and backpack program, the hat/sock/mitten tree and the Baby Shower for Jesus on Christmas Eve for MCCC. There are also all the cards, calls, visits, and most of all, prayers that are given throughout the year. Jesus is born. Jesus has come. He isn't going anywhere. He is here...the word has become flesh for all. We then sang “He Is Born”, followed by Ken leading the Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer. Pastor Joel then gave thanks and a blessing over the Hat/Sock/Mitten Tree. As Carol played “Love Came Down at Christmas”, the offering was collected, the doxology sung, and Ken gave the offertory prayer. The closing hymn was “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”, before Ken gave the benediction, Ryan carried out the Light of Christ, and Carol played “Hallelujah Chorus” as the postlude. **THE WORD BECAME FLESH TO SAVE US ALL.**



## **CHRISTMAS PICTURES**



*Angel or elf*



*Zach and Mom Barb*

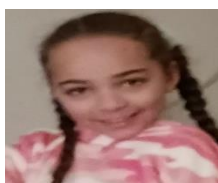


*Christmas morning*





*The Morrises*



*Jazzy*



*Brayden/Triton*



*The Johnsons*



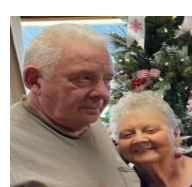
*"Joke" sweaters*



*Baby Jade*



*Pops and Triton*



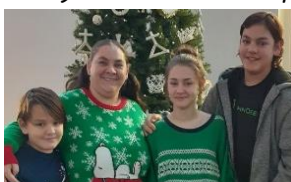
*Gary/Barbara*



*Darryl/Tanya*



*The Jarrell/Masons*



*The Mitchells*



*Sherry & Mike*



*John & Len*

## **WAYS TO GIVE AND HELP OTHERS**

**Gathering Non-Perishable Food items:** Drop off items at KUMC for our local food pantry. Non-perishable foods and hygiene items are welcome. Items are distributed through Massanutten Presbyterian Church for residents of Keezletown, Penn Laird, and McGaheysville. The pantry is open 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays from 10 – 11 AM and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays from 7 – 8 PM.

**Salvation Army Meal:** Ann and Wes Ford are 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 Equipment for Caring:** The medical equipment loaner closet at Mission Central loans out and receives donations of (1) durable medical equipment like hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers, canes, bedside commodes, etc. and (2) disposable supplies like adult diapers, briefs, and wound care items. It is open Mondays 5 – 7 PM and Thursdays 9 - 11 AM.

**Mission Central Children's Clothes Closet:** gives and receives donations of children's clothes including winter coats and shoes from sizes infant to 15 years old. New underwear, socks, and undergarments are also received. It is open 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 10 AM – 1 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month from 4 – 7 PM; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month from 4 – 7 PM.

**KUMC Backpack Project** is in the 2022-2023 school year. Along with McGaheysville UMC and Mountain View Brethren, 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.

## **KUMC's 2022 Accomplishments, Challenges, and Activities**

**With the Pandemic and the challenges of staying home, these reflect what we did during the pandemic and after in 2022.**

**Church family:** KUMC Facebook page shares pictures of events, and dates of upcoming events; have worship CD's available for homebound; Geraniums adorned Church for Pentecost Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>; provided new online way to give offerings or donations; 22 people wrote devotions for "The Word Became Flesh" Advent Devotional book; 12 folks gathered and decorated the Church for Christmas on Nov 21<sup>st</sup>; 28 poinsettias adorned the Sanctuary for Christmas; different families and individuals helped with the Hanging of the Greens and the Advent Wreath during the Advent season

**Special Outreach:** Church purchased reference books for BJ Smith, who is Assistant Minister to the Blue Ridge Charge; Kelli Sprague spearheaded a collection of cards and candy from nine different schools and organizations that her family distributed to First Responders in Rockingham County and Harrisonburg on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>

**Special Recognition:** Commissioning of BJ and Kelly Smith on Jan 30<sup>th</sup> to minister at the Blue Ridge Charge; recognized Jenn Robinette during March Pastor Spouse Appreciation Month; Diana sang "Seeking Me" on Mar 20<sup>th</sup>; Parker Young played the Ukranian National Anthem on the flute on Mar 20<sup>th</sup>; Sharon and Karen sang on Mar 27<sup>th</sup>; Diana read her story "Go Thru the Dark to Find the Light" on Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>; Mary Nankivell recited three Easter poems via video on Apr 10<sup>th</sup>; Makenna Eppard sang "Holy City" on Apr 15<sup>th</sup>; Honor and Memory names were read for the flowers purchased for Apr 15<sup>th</sup>; Nora Grace helped read the scripture on May 8<sup>th</sup>; all church ladies given roses before leaving on May 8<sup>th</sup>, Mother's Day; Jenny Dillard sang "What a Wonderful Day" on Service of Hope Sunday; names of family members lost in war read on May 29<sup>th</sup>; Pastor Joel read a poem by Paul Harris on Pentecost Sunday; BJ and Kelly Smith blessed for continuing serving at the Blue Ridge Charge; Diana played "The Lord's Prayer" as special music on June 12<sup>th</sup>; Three 2022 Graduates recognized on June 12<sup>th</sup>; Diana played "What a Wonderful World" as special music on June 19<sup>th</sup>; InMotion Summer Praise Dance Team presented "Speak the Name" during worship on July 10<sup>th</sup>; Connor Guiliams was recognized on Aug 24<sup>th</sup> for entering kindergarten; Sunday School teachers and helpers were recognized and dedicated on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>; Chris Cole received the UWF mission pin of the year from the UWF on Sept 18<sup>th</sup>; Lay Servants recognized at SPR meeting on Aug 30<sup>th</sup>; Twelve men sang "Rise Up Oh Men of God" on UMM Sunday Nov 13<sup>th</sup>; Ann Ford read "The Hope Tree" to the children on Dec 11<sup>th</sup>; Diana read "Jeremiah T Mouse" to the children on Dec 18<sup>th</sup>; Pastor Joel participated in Longest Night Service at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Dec 20<sup>th</sup>

**Sunday school special studies:** Three classes returned to Sunday School on Jan 16<sup>th</sup>; Seven classes returned on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>

**Website:** allows visitors to hear up to four sermons, and read up to twelve newsletters

**Worship:** CD's for Homebound; online services on Facebook and Youtube; seating and cameras arranged for those not wanting to be on the videos; Childrens Time began again on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>

**Messages:** "Word in the Flesh"; "The Grace of Christian Baptism"; "When the Wine Runs Out"; "One Body, Many Members"; "The Excellent Way of Love"; "The Call of the Sinful and Unsuccessful Fisherman"; "Sermon on the Plain: Blessings & Woes"; "Sermon on the Plain: Give As Good As You Get from Jesus"; "Listening for Jesus"; "Who Would Betray Jesus?"; "Sleeping and Swords, and the Actions of Jesus"; "Questions and Allegations Aimed at Jesus"; "Signs, Miracles, & Spectacle Instead of Jesus"; "The Crowd Was Shouting, Crucify"; "Save Yourself and What Jesus Did"; "Dawn of the Risen Jesus"; "Revelation Jesus"; "Revelation Worship"; "Prevenient Grace"; "Justifying Grace"; "To All Nations"; "Trinity Grace"; "Sanctifying Grace"; "Perfecting Grace"; "The Mission of the Seventy"; "Name of the Faithful"; "Marry Who?"; "Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar: When Leaders Change"; "Deborah: Glory Shared"; "Gideon: Mighty in the Lord"; "Samson: Unfaithful Leader and Faithful God"; "Cost of Discipleship"; "Value of Sinners"; "The Error of Setting for Riches"; "Lament and Grief"; "Live, Eat, Multiply, and Pray"; "In Our Hearts"; "Inheritance in Christ"; "Jesus: Making God Visible"; "Child of Promise"; "Joseph Names the Savior"; "When Those From Far Believe"; "There Are Still Tears at Christmas"; "The Word Became Flesh"

**Special Messages:** Scott Dillard spoke on "The Power of Hope" on May 15<sup>th</sup> Service of Hope Sunday; Ken Thomas spoke on "A New Commandment" on May 29<sup>th</sup>; Dale Dodrill spoke on July 17<sup>th</sup> on "A Magnet and Nails"; Leonard Williams spoke on "Do You Find It Hard to Pray?" on July 24<sup>th</sup>; Brenda Robey, playing Minnie Pearl, spoke on UWF Sunday Sept 18<sup>th</sup> on "Keep On Keepin On"; Mac Coffman spoke on Laity Sunday using "Are You a Stranger to God?"; Homecoming on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> with Rev Ed Pruitt speaking on "A Resurrection Home"; Charles Sargent spoke on "Time to Make a Choice" on UMM Sunday Nov 13<sup>th</sup>; "They Went to See" by Pastor Joel on Dec 24<sup>th</sup>

**Witnesses:** BJ Smith spoke on Jan 30<sup>th</sup> to thank the Church family for their support of his ministry and for the reference books; on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> Scott Dillard, Dale Dodrill, Jennifer Young, Sharon Martin, Michele Dodrill, Jenny Dillard, Scott Dodrill, and Beth Morris all came to express their pain about the shootings on Feb 1<sup>st</sup> at Bridgewater College; Sharon Martin spoke on Feb 20<sup>th</sup> about being married fifty years; Faye Crowe spoke on May 8<sup>th</sup>, Mother's Day, about her life, her children, and her faith; E.L. Davis read "Remind You", a poem about caregivers on Service of Hope Sunday; Jim Dillard spoke on being a Father on Father's Day, June 19<sup>th</sup>; Michele Dodrill encouraged card making for the military and gave a report as to the progress so far for 2022 on July 17<sup>th</sup>; Sherry Summers encouraged folks to collect for school kits and the hygiene closet at SHS on July 24<sup>th</sup>; Kelli Sprague and Jenny Dillard spoke about Weekday Religious Education on Sept 4<sup>th</sup>; Sharon Martin and Karen Mooney expressed their thanks on Oct 30<sup>th</sup> for their experiences on their Emmaus Walk

**Special Guests:** Artie Frederick from Mission Central gave thanks to KUMC on Undie Sunday, Oct 9<sup>th</sup>; Dorothy Dobroth from MPC on Oct 16<sup>th</sup>; Captain Duane Burleigh from the Salvation Army spoke on Nov 13<sup>th</sup> about the Angel Tree and the work of the Salvation Army

**Emmaus Journey:** both men and women, as well as teamers and helper volunteers, participated in the Emmaus Walks on the weekends of Oct 8th and 15th

**Prayer:** Prayer Warriors receive e-mails about prayer requests

**Bible Study:** "The Way"; "Entering the Passion of Jesus"; "Psalms: Epic of Eden"; "Twelve Women of the Bible"

**Special Study:** Bishop Lewis's "2022 Bible reading Challenge" distributed; Pastor Joel's "The Bible in a Year" distributed

**United Methodist Men:** Met Jan 16<sup>th</sup>; renamed Camp Overlook scholarship fund to Noland Suter Memorial Scholarship fund; gave widows and ladies of the Church Valentine flowers; prepared food for Ash Wednesday Lent Service Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>; held Pancake Supper on Mar 19<sup>th</sup>; presented a Mother's Day Tea on May 8<sup>th</sup> for Church ladies; completed gravel project at MCCCC in May; built a ramp for a community member in May; recognized with Donuts for Dads reception on Father's Day, June 19<sup>th</sup>; presented a BBQ chicken luncheon for the church family after worship on July 10<sup>th</sup>; made cards for Military at July meeting; served Cross Keys/Mill Creek Ruritans meal on Aug 4<sup>th</sup>; met Sept 18<sup>th</sup>; Provided picnic after outdoor worship on Sept 25<sup>th</sup> at Ruritan Park; led service on Nov 13<sup>th</sup>; held annual Christmas Dinner at Camp Overlook on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>

**United Methodist Women:** Served Keezletown Ruritans meal Jan 4<sup>th</sup>; helped take down Christmas decorations Jan 5<sup>th</sup> and prepared Hat/Glove/Sock tree and Baby Shower for Jesus gift items for MCCC; Met Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>; had Soup/Bake sale on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>; served Keezletown Ruritans meals in March and April; had Dale Dodrill speak on Military card making, then made 75 cards at April meeting; also made 20 Easter baskets for shut-ins; attended UMW District Evening Together on Apr 21<sup>st</sup>; served Mt Crawford Ruritans on May 4<sup>th</sup>; held Call to Prayer and Self Denial program on May 5<sup>th</sup>; providing desserts at Susie McGlaughlin Memorial celebration on May 21<sup>st</sup>; 21 ladies enjoyed an "Evening Together" at Ciro's in Elkton on June 7<sup>th</sup>; met July 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss upcoming events; served Mt Crawford Ruritans meal on Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>; held annual picnic meeting at Judy Coffman's on Aug 4<sup>th</sup>; served Keezletown Ruritan meal on Sept 12<sup>th</sup>; lead United Women in Faith Sunday worship on Sept 18<sup>th</sup>; 6 ladies attended the District UWF meeting on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>; fed Mt Crawford Ruritan meal on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>; 5 ladies attended Annual Prayer Breakfast; received 6 star certification for mission giving; served Mt Crawford Ruritan meal on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>; collected for World Thank Offering at Nov meeting; purchased items for six children at Cub Run for Christmas; held Christmas get together, served by UMM; put together and distributed 25 gift bags for shut-ins at Christmas; served Wayland Women Christmas Dinner on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>

**Relay Team:** served Easter Sunrise Breakfast to 35 on Apr 15<sup>th</sup>; weaved seven baskets in May for "Weave for a Cure; held Service of Hope May 15<sup>th</sup>; celebrated Relay for Life on June 4<sup>th</sup>; served Dayton High School Class reunion meal on July 16<sup>th</sup>; catered Josh and Alissa Wanger's wedding reception on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Community/Mission:** maintain Facebook page and Web page for church; vowed covenant with missionary John Nday; collecting food items for a Massanutten Food Pantry each month; collect items for conference kits; served Salvation Army meal once a month; UMM completed spreading gravels at MCCC on May 19<sup>th</sup>; UMM completed a ramp for a community member in May; served Open Doors on May 26<sup>th</sup>; invited and fed community members at Outdoor Worship Service on June 26<sup>th</sup>; 165 pairs for socks collected for MCCC Sock Drive; Scott Dillard helped build dorms in Smoke Hole, WV, the week of Jun 27<sup>th</sup>; Carol Sacra and her sister Gwen volunteered at the RAM Clinic in Luray the weekend of July 9<sup>th</sup>; collected school kits and hygiene items for return to school on August 24<sup>th</sup>; 177 cards were completed on the afternoon of Aug 14<sup>th</sup> for the Military; Undie Sunday, Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, collected over 800 pairs of underwear for Mission Central; Cards for the Military collected 716 cards on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>; Community Harvest Party at Ruritan Park on Oct 30<sup>th</sup> with hayride; participated in Community Tree Lighting Service at Ruritan Park on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>; collected Hats/Socks/Mittens at Christmas for MCCC

**"Souper Bowl Sunday":** Collections completed on Feb 20<sup>th</sup> with two overflowing tubs

**Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes:** Lynn, Leah, and Molly gave "pep" talk on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> to begin collecting; dedicated 112 shoeboxes on Nov 21<sup>st</sup>

**AVACARE:** served meal in July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, and Dec

**Kingsway Ministry:** served Apr 28<sup>th</sup>; served May 19<sup>th</sup>; served July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, and Dec

**Special Services:** Healing anointing and prayers on Jan 16<sup>th</sup>; Maunday Thursday, Apr 14<sup>th</sup>, held at KUMC with Rev Bill Nabors speaking on "Fast Food"; Good Friday Apr 15<sup>th</sup>, held at St Jacob's with Pastor Joel speaking on "Jesus, the Passover Lamb"; Easter Sunrise Service Apr 15<sup>th</sup> at Keezletown Cemetery with Pastor Joel speaking on the "Empty Tomb and Risen Lord"; the Outdoor Service at the Ruritan Pavilion on June 26<sup>th</sup>; A Celebration of Life for Noland Suter was held on July 23<sup>rd</sup>; Held Christmas Eve Service on Dec 24<sup>th</sup>

**Lent Services:** Ash Wednesday, Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>, Pastor Joel spoke on "Practicing Piety in Secret", then anointed attendees with Imposition of Ashes; 2<sup>nd</sup> service Mar 9<sup>th</sup>, BJ Smith spoke on "What is Your Spiritual Journey?"; 3<sup>rd</sup> service on Mar 16, Louise Jennings and Rev Vicki Barb spoke on behalf of Kingsway Prison and Family Ministry; 4<sup>th</sup> Service Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>, Rev Al Tuten spoke on "Coming Late to Jesus"; 5<sup>th</sup> Service on Mar 30<sup>th</sup>, Sharon & Karen sang for special music and Rev Gordon Meriweather spoke on Humility; 6<sup>th</sup> Service on Apr 6<sup>th</sup>, "The Jammers" provided special music, and Rev Eduardo Carrillo spoke on "Prayer Being a Spiritual Discipline"; collected \$1540.00 for Kingsway Ministry

**WOW (Witness on Wednesday) Services:** Scott Dodrill spoke on "Is This My Church?" on Oct 5<sup>th</sup> with the UWF serving the meal; Judy Coffman spoke on "The Dash" on Oct 12<sup>th</sup> with the UMM serving the meal; Ann and Sharon (two friends of Ken Thomas) spoke about their (grand)daughter Kara in Belarus on Oct 19<sup>th</sup> with a potluck meal; Ken & Faye Thomas and the ladies of the church provided pizza and desserts, as Cathy Sites told a "Fairy Tale or Real" story of her life on the final service on Oct 26<sup>th</sup>

**Charge Conference:** Held Oct 29<sup>th</sup> in Front Royal with Pastor Joel and others attending; main discussion was the departure of many churches from the United Methodist denomination

**Camp Overlook Campers:** Adalida, Austyn, and Andrea Crisman, Nolan Mason, Cora and Caleb Combs, Nora Jarrells, and Connor Miller

**Salvation Army:** a class, group, or individuals served a dinner meal on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month; 20 names were taken from "Angel Tree" and gifts were dedicated on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>

**Feeding the Children Backpack Ministry:** Lynette Guiliams and her boys packed Valentine's bags for the backpack children at CRES; began backpacking for 22-23 year on Sept 9<sup>th</sup> for 17 children

**Conference kits:** we collected 14 cleaning buckets, 55 school kits, and 64 hygiene kits for a total of 133

**VA Annual Conference:** Pastor Joel gave report for Jenn Robinette and himself on what took place at Conference during worship Aug 7<sup>th</sup>

**Church/Parsonage repairs & maintenance:** New commode installed in Ladies Restroom; handicapped commode repaired; new in ground lighting at the front of the church installed; termite problem is being fixed; new copier has been delivered; railing installed on other side of ramp to parking lot; radon remediation was done in the parsonage basement and upstairs; handicapped lines were repainted in the parking lot with non-slip paint

**Deaths:** Olivia H Samuels; June Wise; Susie Sheffer McGlaughlin; Janet Faye Hoover-Thomas; Allen Ross Martin

**Weddings and Babies:** Jade Alexandria Bahle on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>; Owen Matthew Summers on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>; Chris & Lauren Threewitts on Oct 8<sup>th</sup>; Josh and Alissa Wanger on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Graduates:** Alissa Dodrill; Damon Daff; Haylee Hawley; Ryan Welsh; Cari Martin; Aiden Roach; Creed Combs, and William Painter from high school or college; Cameron Bishop from CSVF Fire Academy

**Retirees:** Leonard Williams (Mar 31<sup>st</sup>); Mike Summers (April 13<sup>th</sup>)

**Over 50 years of marriage in 2022:** Allen & Sharon Martin; Frank & Carolyn Baker; Kennis & Carolyn Armentrout; Al & Jackie Liskey; Robert & Janice Smith; Mac & Nancy Coffman; Richard & Faye Higgs; Bruce & Barbara Hoover; Dale & Lula Belle Dodrill; Jim & Carol Dillard; Gary & Barbara Heatwole; David & Mary Nankivell; and John & Virginia Phalen.

**God has again blessed us in 2022; let us continue to be His hands and feet in 2023.**

And every day, the world will drag you by the hand, yelling, 'This is important! And this is important! And this is important! You need to worry about this! And this! And This!' And each day, it's up to you to yank your hand back, put it on your heart and say, "No. This is what's important.'

Iain Thomas

## **ONGOING STUDIES:**

**Monday Morning Bible Study:** "Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation", a 7 week study began meeting Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on Jan 9<sup>th</sup>. Chairs still available.

**Monday Night Bible Study!** Monday night Bible study begins Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m., with an 8 week video study on the book of Jonah. Each session is approximately 90 minutes long. The series is led by Dr. Sandra Richter who is knowledgeable on Old Testament language, history and society and makes it relatable to today's world. Contact Tanya Eppard or Pastor Joel to sign up or learn more. Hope to see you there.

**The Bible in a Year:** KUMC has a Bible reading plan for reading the entire Bible in a year. This plan has four chapters of Bible reading 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. Printouts available at KUMC or online at [www.keezletownumc.com](http://www.keezletownumc.com).

## **\*\*\*JANUARY EVENTS THAT HAPPENED\*\*\***



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** We gathered for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of 2023 on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> and heard “Love Has Come”, “The First Noel”, “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”, and “Once in Royal David’s City” played by Chris as the gathering music. The bell rang and Ken welcomed everyone to prepare for worship. Randy Clatterbuck brought in the Light of Christ as Chris played “Star of the East” as the prelude. Ken again welcomed all, and gave the announcements, before the choir sang “O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful” as the Call to Worship. The church family read the Opening Prayer in unison before Passing the Peace, and then singing “Angels We Have Heard on High”. Diana talked to the children about worry and how a little sparrow had brought a message to her friend. The choir then presented “Another Year is Dawning”. Cathy Sites read the Gospel lesson from Matthew 11:2-11, John’s expectations. Guest speaker, BJ Smith came to talk on



“Expectations, Building Walls, and Escaping Prison”. He began with talking about the Sears Roebuck catalog that his grandmother gave him to mark the pages of things he wanted for Christmas when he was little (mostly to occupy his time). At Christmas, his expectations for the gifts under the tree were very high and waiting was hard. Though blessed, he really didn’t want to open socks and underwear, which he usually got. We have expectations that the sun will come up, church will be open, others behavior will be what we expect, and that things will happen. We allow hope and dread to imprison us. The sparrow story in the Children’s time was me, worrying over my sick cat. I built a wall and put God in a box, not trusting that He could handle it. Our expectations shape who God is and what He can do. We question Him. We trust our expectations instead of trusting what He is already doing. John expects a new ruler, powerful, that will fix everything. In prison, he hears what Jesus is doing, and starts doubting Jesus. He sends disciples to make sure He is the Messiah. We want Jesus to make us strong, but He works in our weakness. If you doubt, look at Scripture and what God is doing in your life. Turn it over to God. Tear down the walls you have built. Jesus finished the work, on the cross, so that we could go thru any trial. We are never alone. Lay your burdens at the foot of the cross and leave them there. We build our prison cells and we hold the key. Open the cell, a whole new world awaits. God will always come to His former inmates. We serve a limitless God. Don’t handcuff Him. “What Child Is This” was sung before the Morning Prayer and Lord’s Prayer by Ken. Chris played “We Would See Jesus” as the offering was collected; we sang the doxology, and Ken gave the offertory prayer. The closing hymn was “Star-Child”, followed by a responsive benediction, led by Ken. Randy carried out the Light of Christ as Chris played “Auld Lang Syne” for the postlude. **YOU HOLD THE KEY TO YOUR PRISON CELL.**

**REMEMBERING:** **Shelvie Jean Ritchie Carr**, 84, who passed away on Jan 5<sup>th</sup> at her home. She is survived by her son, Phillip Carr, wife Cheryl, and granddaughter, Emily, who are members of KUMC. She will be missed. RIP.

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH** met on Jan 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Church social hall with 13 members and Pastor Joel present. Judy called the meeting to order. Ann presented a devotion on “What is Gratitude?” and gave out jars to put slips of paper in that expressed your gratitude for something or someone to read when you are feeling discouraged. Diana read the December minutes and Michele gave the Treasurer’s report. Our Mission of the Month was given to Tunnels of Towers, a foundation that helps First Responders, Veterans, and their families, in memory of Allen Martin. At the Feb meeting, we will be assembling 25 bags for shut-in’s for Valentine’s Day. Sherry presented the menu for the Jan 9<sup>th</sup> serving of the Keezletown Ruritans. We will be serving the Keezletown Ruritans in March and Sept, and the Mt Crawford Ruritans in May, Aug, and Nov. The Christmas decorations will be taken down and

stored away on Friday, Jan 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. We decided to do a Soup Sale on Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, with soup ready at 11:00 a.m.. We will also have a Hat knitting workshop that day for anyone interested, led by Ann and Ginny. The group will be serving the Salvation Army one of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays that Ann and Wes serve them. Chris read from the prayer calendar. Six cards were signed. Pastor Joel gave the dismissal. Next meeting is Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday School Discovery** was held on Sunday, Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8:30 a.m. with a hearty breakfast of hash browns, homemade cinnamon rolls, muffins, donuts, fresh fruit, yogurt, orange juice and coffee! Afterwards, a one-room Sunday School was held with a short study of a passage from Ephesians. Then each of the five tables were given different Bible scriptures and had to act out the scene hoping the other tables could figure out the story. It was such fun that we may do this once every quarter!

**PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER:** On Baptism of the Lord Sunday, Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, Chris began with "Hymn of Promise", "Come Away With Me", "Just a Closer Walk with Thee", and "I've Got Peace Like a River" as the gathering music before the bell rang and Cathy gave the preparation for worship. Chris played the prelude, "Because He Lives", as Carson carried in the Light of Christ. Cathy gave the welcome and announcements, before a video from the new "Bishop Sue" was shown, and we passed the peace. "Holy, Holy, Holy" was the first hymn, after which Pastor Joel spoke to the children about baptism, followed by the choir singing a version of the "Lord's Prayer". Carson came to read the scripture from Matt 6:9-13, the Lord's Prayer. "Our Father, Which Art in Heaven Hallowed be Thy Name" was the title of Pastor Joel's message, which began with: Epiphany day has passed—the day the world was shown that God is here with us. For six weeks, I will preach on the Lord's Prayer. "Our" is the important word. We need to boldly pray the Lord's Prayer, not just repeat it. This prayer is a gift from Jesus Christ. Here is a way you can talk to God. In Luke 11 the disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. We keep walking with Jesus when we pray, when we stray. Think about "our"—we don't own God, but we are His children. We are saved by God and by others praying for us. We hear "we" words, not "I" words. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. When we say "Our Father" we are not praying alone, but to the God of all creation. "Who Art In Heaven" tells us where God is, above all. "Hallowed Be Thy Name"—holy and set apart, to be worshipped. Pray boldly this week. "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" was the second hymn, before all partook in the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant led by Pastor Joel. All were invited to dip their hands in the Baptismal Fount and remember their baptism. Cathy then led the Morning Prayer, the Tithes and Offering were gathered, Cathy prayed over the collection, and we sang "Baptized in Water" as the final hymn. Cathy gave the benediction, and Carson carried out the Light of Christ as Chris played "Only Believe" as the postlude. **PRAY BOLDLY THIS WEEK.**

**"Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation"** study began Jan 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. with 14 men and women present and Pastor Joel leading. Today we talked about why we were studying Revelation and had a question and answer period, along with an introduction to Revelation.

**RURITANS SERVED:** on Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, four ladies from the UWF served the Keezletown Ruritans in the Church social hall, a delicious meal of baked chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, cake with ice cream, and tea. Thank you to all who donated and helped.

**Administrative Council** met Jan 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Church social hall with ten members and Pastor Joel present. Susan called the meeting to order and Pastor Joel led the group in reciting the Lord's Prayer. Minutes and Financial report were approved. Ann reported the UWF met in Nov, Dec, and Jan; the UMM served their Dec Christmas gathering; they prepared Christmas bags for shut-ins for Dec and are preparing ones for Valentine's Day; they served Mt Crawford Ruritans in Nov, Wayland Women in Dec, and Keezletown Ruritans in Jan; and are planning a soup sale for Feb 11<sup>th</sup>. Scott reported the UMM will met Jan 15<sup>th</sup> and are planning a Tenderloin/Catfish dinner for Jan 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Concerning the flickering lights in the social hall, Scott asked if LED lights could be installed when they are purchased again, which was approved. He is also going to repair the ramp light at the cross by installing a photo light rather than a timed light. Nominations for Tanya Dawn Eppard, Mac Coffman, Sherry Summers, Cathy Sites Chouiniere, and Judy Coffman for various positions were approved. Sherry announced that Missions will meet Jan 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Membership reported one death: Faye Hoover-Thomas. SPRC met in Dec for appointment review; both the Committee and Pastor Joel have submitted the paperwork to retain Pastor Joel. In Pastor Joel's report, he began with accolades to BJ Smith for his outstanding message on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> and the work he is doing. He reminded all that Rise Against Hunger will be held in March. He is also working with Rev Bill Nabors about Lent suppers and Easter services. Pastor Joel suggested a Potluck lunch for Feb 12<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Valentine's Day. Joe will coordinate a potato bar. A free will offering will be taken for Rise Against Hunger. The Lord Provides funds are low and the committee asked if one or more of the Lent service offerings could be given to this fund. All agreed. Next meeting date in Mar 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

**"Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation"** study met on Jan 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. with 13 men and women present and Pastor Joel leading. After watching the video, we discussed scripture from Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Revelation in relation to the symbols used during that time period that the people would understand when being warned of what was to come.

**CAN YOU SAY THY WILL BE DONE?** We gather to worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany Jan 15<sup>th</sup>, as Carol plays "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and "Joyful Jig" as the bell rings and Pastor Joel invites all to worship. Carol then plays "Joy in God" as the prelude as Ryan carries in the Light of Christ. Pastor Joel gives the morning greeting and announcements, before the opening prayer "For Holiness of Heart" and we pass the peace. "Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire" was the first hymn, followed by the Children's time, where Pastor Joel talking about needing a pilot when you fly. The choir presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> rendition of "The Lord's Prayer". Josh Shifflett came to read the Gospel lesson from Matthew 6:5-6 and 9-13, the Lord's Prayer. In his continuing series on the Lord's Prayer, today Pastor Joel spoke on "Thy Will Be Done on Earth as It Is in Heaven". The Lord's Prayer is a gift from Jesus to us so that we can boldly talk to God, asking for things, marking us as His followers. Thy kingdom come on earth will one day happen. Jesus faced temptation when the devil was going to give him all the kingdoms, but Jesus was not interested. He talks about growing seeds, yeast in dough, things that grow His kingdom of love, like sharing with souls, food, work, money, the poor, immigrants, those in need, our enemies, and how we hurt others. Political leaders were scared of Jesus. When the kingdom of God comes, everything will be turned upside down. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven—this is hard for us to say. We are a me will, my way society. Getting what we want isn't always enough. We were made to be in a relationship with God and with others. This prayer invites God to be God, directing and guiding us, giving us joy, and drawing Him near to us. The singing

of “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” followed the message. Pastor Joel led the morning prayer, and the Lord’s Prayer. A special offering for Rise Against Hunger and the morning offering were collected while Carol played “Woodland Peace”, followed by the doxology and the offertory prayer by Pastor Joel. Our final hymn was “Bring Forth the Kingdom”. Pastor Joel gave the benediction as Ryan carried out the Light of Christ and Carol played “Hear Our Prayer, O Lord” as the postlude. **WHOSE WILL ARE YOU FOLLOWING?**

### **MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES**



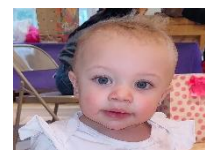
*Gotcha 1-10*



*Caleb/Harper*



*On Evalyn's flag*



*Jade is 1*

### **\*\*\* JANUARY EVENTS IN NEXT ISSUE\*\*\***

**Words from the Cross:** words Jesus said on the cross will be the focus for sermons in Lent. Hear again the words on Jesus’ lips as He gave His life that all might know the salvation of God.

- 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     **UMM Tenderloin/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**
- 31     **Mission and Outreach meeting at 6:30 p.m.**

### **\*\*\* FEBRUARY EVENTS HAPPENING\*\*\***

#### **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Feb 2	Clint Martin	Feb 18	Nancy Armentrout
Feb 3	John Phalen	Feb 18	Kahlyn Smith
Feb 3	Caleb Combs	Feb 20	Courtney Sacra
Feb 4	Alexander Mansfield	Feb 22	Rick Layman
Feb 7	Lynn Siler	Feb 22	Reese Pellegrin
Feb 7	Steve Suter	Feb 23	Loretta Eklund
Feb 9	Cole Liskey	Feb 23	Joe Johnson Jr
Feb 10	Kevin Mason	Feb 23	Steve Zylich
Feb 13	Flossie Walters	Feb 24	Stephanie Liskey
Feb 14	Noah Robinette	Feb 25	Owen Summers
Feb 17	Ken Thomas	Feb 25	David Nankivell
		Feb 28	Tyler Sacra

#### **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Feb 12, 1993     Joseph & Melissa Johnson     30 years



## **FEBRUARY EVENTS CALENDAR**

**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 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Rise Against Hunger** special offering #2 collected on Feb 19th; packaging on Mar 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Valentine's Potato Bar:** There will be a potato bar after worship on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> for a time to celebrate Valentine's Day. If you would like to help preparing the meal please see Joe Liskey. There will be a freewill offering for Rise Against Hunger.

**Psalms for Faith and Prayer:** The Keezletown UMC 2023 Lenten Devotional Coming soon for Lent. Watch for its release near Feb 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Special Session of the VA Annual Conference:** There will be Special Session of the VA Annual Conference on Saturday, Feb 18th at 9:00 AM via Zoom to vote on congregations that fulfilled requirements to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church.

**Lent Suppers and Services:** There will be Lent Suppers and Services on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. from Feb 22nd – March 29th. The first service will be Ash Wednesday with a meal, music, and the imposition of ashes. There will be a freewill offering each night to benefit The Lord Provides. If you or a group would like to provide a meal for one of the services, please talk to Pastor Joel. One special evening will be Wednesday, March 15th when we are invited to St. Jacob's Lutheran at 6:30 p.m. for a carry-in potluck and night of learning about Saint Patrick.

- 2      UWF meet 7:00 p.m.
- 4      Choir Practice 9:30 a.m.
- 5      Small Group Leaders Gathering 8:45 a.m. in Social Hall  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Communion; Message: "Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil" from Matt 6:9-13 (The Lord's Prayer series)  
Begin receiving Souper Bowl items
- 6      Worship Planning meeting at 9:00 a.m.  
"Breaking the Code" Bible Study 10:00 a.m. with Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.  
Jonah Study at 6:30 a.m.
- 11     UWF Soup sale at 11:00 a.m., with Hat knitting workshop at 11:00 a.m. in the social hall
- 12     Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Souper Bowl Sunday  
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, Forever. Amen" From Matt 6:9-13 (the Lord's Prayer series)  
Potato Bar Valentine's Day celebration after worship at 12:15 p.m.
- 13     "Breaking the Code" Bible Study 10:00 a.m. with Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.  
Jonah Study at 6:30 a.m.
- 14     VALENTINE'S DAY
- 17     Newsletter items due
- 18     Special Session of the VA Annual Conference 9:00 a.m.  
Choir Practice 9:30 a.m.
- 19     United Methodist Men's Breakfast and Meeting at 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Transfiguration Sunday

- Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message by Ken Thomas  
Rise Against Hunger offering #2
- 20 Last "Breaking the Code" Bible Study 10:00 a.m. with Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.  
Jonah Study at 6:30 a.m.
- 22 Ash Wednesday Lent Services began at 6:30 p.m.
- 26 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; 1st Sunday in Lent  
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Father, Forgive Them" from Luke 23:32-38 (Words from the Cross)
- 27 Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.  
Jonah Study at 6:30 a.m.

### **DALE'S CORNER by Dale Dodrill**

This message by Phil Ware has been a lift to me and I trust it will be to others. "My Dad would never let me walk slouched over with my head down. "Remember son, you are a Ware. That's nothing to be ashamed of, even on your worst day you are still my son and a child of God." God is our protector and our proud Father. He gives us glory because He loves us. Because He is our Father who gives us gracious gifts, we don't walk with our head bowed low and our spirits slumped over. He gives us ultimate victory! Even on those dark days when victory is hard to find, we are still God's children. Our Father paints the sunsets and holds the stars in their orbits. He guarantees our future. How can we walk dejectedly when we remember this?"

### **THANK YOU**

Dear KUMC Family, You really blessed Mission Central Children's Clothes Closet this time! Here is a count of some of the wonderful gifts you gave at the **Baby Shower for Jesus**: 32 footed sleepers, 24 baby blankets, 68 onesies, 675 diapers, 824 baby wipes. Plus, many other useful gifts: feminine pads, nursing pads, nail clippers, baby shampoo and lotion, diaper rash cream, burp cloths and wash cloths, bibs, baby toys and teethingers. *Muchas gracias* for these lovely "swaddling" gifts. Linda

### **THE CHURCH FAMILY IS PROUD**

Congratulations to **Leigha Dillard** and **Kendra Dodrill** for being named to Bridgewater College's Fall 2022 Dean's List.

**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](mailto:AntDyna@comcast.net), with your request. Please put Newsletter in the subject line.

.....

MY PERSONAL NOTE:

What more can happen? How much is enough? How much longer is this suffering going to continue? All things I have asked God (mostly yelled at Him) in the last three weeks. It has been a trying time. For those of you who do not know, E.L. has had two surgeries, four emergency room visits, a six day hospital stay, was bleeding internally, had four units of blood, and received a fracture in a vertebrae in his back during a test. Needless to say, my worry level was extremely high and my patience level was almost nil. He is now home and slowly improving by the Grace of God, and wonderful nurses and doctors. During those days of wondering what was next I kept trying to tell myself that God allows all things to happen for a purpose, that His healing will come, that everything is in His time, that He is right there with both of us, loving and caring, feeling our pain, catching our tears, that after every big storm the sun (SON) will shine. We weathered the storm, with His help, and the many continuing prayers of all of you who love and care about us, who lift us up when we are weak and just plain tired. Thank you so much. If love could be repaid, we would never have enough money to do it. God bless you all.

*Diana*

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Editor's Note

**The February deadline for submissions is February 17th .** My home number is 540-269-8511 or e-mail me at [AntDyna@comcast.net](mailto: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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**FINALLY:** My bills are washed, laundry is paid, clothes are baking, and dinner is in the dryer. I got This! The true test of your faith is when you don't understand anything at all that is happening, and yet still trust that God is handling it.



Liked this so much,  
just had to share.  
**SO SORRY SANTA!**