

MOuNTaiN ECHoeS

FEBRUARY 2023

146th Edition



KEEZLETOWN UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. T. Joel Robinette, Pastor

(Beautiful Valentine tree painting courtesy of our own Jim Harris)

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John 3:16-17 (KJV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

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

I would like to share about two things in the Pastor's Chat this month: (1) a message from our new Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson and (2) an update on the February 18 Special Session of the Virginia Annual Conference. Bishop Sue began as our bishop of the Virginia Annual Conference on January 1, 2023. A message she has shared several times already is that about 80 percent of our community does not have a faith community or church where they worship and are a part whether in-person or online. That is a whole lot of people right around us who would benefit from the grace of knowing Jesus Christ in a faithful community like a local United Methodist Church. When 8 out of 10 people around us are unchurched, de-churched, or out of the habit of being part of a church it calls to mind what Jesus said when he sent out disciples ahead of him, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2 NRSV). Bishop Sue has said, "We have work to do" and "Let's get to work!" Bishop Sue is beginning as our bishop in a season when she will preside over three special sessions of the Virginia Annual Conference with the purpose of facilitating disaffiliations (February 18, May 6, and October 7, 2023). It would be very easy for Bishop Sue, and perhaps most of us, to put a great focus on disaffiliations, gathering votes, and celebrating or grieving division within the UMC. Division within the church is something we will deal with in the time ahead, but having the greatest focus on division, protecting ourselves, or fighting among ourselves certainly takes us away from our mission, "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and the world." Bishop Sue is challenging us to focus on our mission and not forget the purpose Jesus has given us as the church. Jesus said the reason he came was to, "seek out and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10 NRSV). Will we hear Bishop Sue's call to share Jesus with our community? On February 18, 2023 the Virginia Annual Conference had a special session to vote on congregation disaffiliations. One of the first issues that came up was a motion to suspend all disaffiliations for the near future, but that was rejected allowing disaffiliations in our conference to continue, so that churches who desire to leave through the end of 2023 will still have an opportunity to proceed at this time. Later in the conference, 33 congregations were approved for disaffiliation and one was not. Among the congregations approved for disaffiliation are four from our Shenandoah River District which are: Markham UMC in Markham, VA, Redland UMC in Cross Junction, VA, Refuge UMC in Stephens City, VA, White Chapel UMC in Fort Valley, VA. One congregation was not approved for disaffiliation, New Town UMC in Williamsburg, VA. Some who spoke against disaffiliation for New Town UMC noted its strategic location as a valuable asset for the future of United Methodist ministries. Disaffiliation is difficult, heart-

wrenching, and humbling labor. Come Lord Jesus and give us grace in this disaffiliation season and even within it, so help us to clothe ourselves like Paul wrote to the Ephesians, “As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace” (6:15 NRSV). Holy Spirit, fill us with grace to share the love of Jesus with our neighbors. Almighty God, dress us with a readiness for the mission and life of the church.

Pastor Joel

A DISCIPLE’S PATH FOR NEWCOMERS AND NEW MEMBERS CLASS: A seven week class led by Pastor Joel will meet during Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. from Feb 19th to Apr 2nd. Learn more about being a follower of Jesus as a member of the church. Sign up in the narthex or contact Pastor Joel.

“Psalms for Faith and Prayer: The Keezletown United Methodist Church Lenten Devotional” is available in print as of 2/12 at KUMC. Lent begins February 22nd and is 40 days. There are 40 devotionals with readings and prayers from the Psalms, with an option to read through all the Psalter during Lent. A version should be ready to email out and post on the KUMC website soon.

*****JANUARY EVENTS THAT HAPPENED*****

The Men’s Corner: the **United Methodist Men** held their monthly gathering on Sunday, Jan 15th, with 11 in attendance. A big thank you goes out to Scott and Jim Dillard for a wonderful breakfast. Neil Sacra shared two devotions: the first had the theme that each of us are to spread our light into the world no matter how big or small it may be. Our light is us sharing our faith, God’s love, God’s word and a helping hand to the world especially to those who are in need. The second devotion was one of humor. God had planned the numbers of years for animals to live. The animals thought the number of years given by God were too many and thus gave some back to God. The humor came in that God gave those years to man and how man uses those years like the animals. After a prayer Chairman Scott Dillard called the meeting to order, followed by the approval of the minutes from Dec and the treasury report. The group discussed the planned upcoming events for the men and set dates for several of them. The men voted to hold a catfish and tenderloin dinner for the first time since COVID. They also agreed to serve one of the Lenten meals during the Lenten season. Other items discussed were helping with the potato bar for Raise Against Hunger, our annual pancake supper in March, and a possible bar-b-que in the summer. Several other small items were discussed and the meeting adjourned. Neil Sacra, Vice-Chairman

REMEMBERING: *With family by her side, Jacquelyn Marie Ditzler Liskey, “Jackie” went to be with*



Jesus, Sunday morning, January 22nd, after a seven-month battle against pancreatic cancer. On May 18, 1956, Jackie and Alan J. Liskey (Al), who survives, were married. Their children are: Joe (Alan J. Liskey Jr.) and Linda of Keezletown; Lynn Siler of Rockingham; and John William Liskey and Anne of Weyers Cave. One son, preceded his mother in death, George Hunter Liskey and Kathy (who survives). Jackie’s grandchildren are: Sarah Liskey Crisman (Wes); Lee Siler (Amanda); Mary Liskey Combs (Brent); Marie Siler Hardin (Steve); Michael Hunter Liskey (Brittney); Dale Patrick Liskey (and fiancé Tami); Julia Faith Liskey; and Scott William Liskey (Sarah). Preceding his grandmother in death was Jared Robert Liskey. Her great-grandchildren are: Annalie Sky Crisman; Creed Marshall Combs; Oktober Rayne Liskey; Caleb Michael Combs; Leah Brooke Siler; Andrea Mae Crisman; Austyn Carol Crisman; Owen Hunter Liskey; Cora Joseph Combs; Joseph Alexander Liskey; Adalida Irene Crisman; and Benny Simmons Liskey. Jackie worked at Valley Mall with the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus. She was an active member of the Keezletown United Methodist Church and their Relay for Life team. She, her daughter,

and granddaughter made thousands of the "Relay Angels" as a fund raiser for the American Cancer Society. Jackie was also the KUMC's coordinator for the Samaritans Purse Shoebox ministry. Jackie volunteered and served many years with the Rockingham County Fair Association. She was involved with the Family and Community Education Club for 50 years. She shared her smile and her love of Jesus with all and will be truly missed. RIP, Jackie.

GIVE ME OR GIVE US? The third Sunday of Epiphany, Jan 22nd, again focused on the Lord's Prayer, as we gathered to Chris playing "O Happy Day, That Fixed My Choice" and "Kum Ba Yah", and the bell rang. Pastor Joel gave the preparation for worship and Chris played "Kyrie", as Nora Grace carried in the Light of Christ. Pastor Joel then greeted everyone and led the Opening Prayer "For the Church", before we passed the peace, and sang "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah". Pastor Joel then talked to the children about how a monk invented pretzels to teach people how to hold their hands in prayer, followed by the choir singing a third version of "The Lord's Prayer". Nora Grace came to read the Gospel lesson from Matthew 6:7-13, the Lord's Prayer. Pastor Joel spoke Bread" by starting with Jesus formation prayer. Bread is reminds us that we are dependent need. As we seek, He provides. are connected to others when we learned to count on manna and how God provided just enough. Who is us and we? We draw the circle of our family too small; we need to draw our circles bigger. Is there someone you could break bread with this week or share food with? In the wilderness, Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread, but refused. Jesus fed the crowds with food and His words. We are asked to share food and Jesus's words, as we receive our daily bread. "Seek Ye First" was sung after the message, and before the Morning Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, and the Collection of the Offering. Chris played "Sweet Hour of Prayer" as the plates were passed, then the doxology before Pastor Joel gave the offertory prayer. Our closing hymn was "Fairest Lord Jesus", with Pastor Joel closing with the benediction, Nora Grace carrying out the Light of Christ, and Chris playing "Sent Forth By God's Blessing" as the postlude. **SHARE YOUR BREAD.**



VALENTINE'S JOKES

"What did one cat say to the other cat on Valentine's Day?" "You're purr-fect for me."

"What did one flame say to another on Valentine's Day?" "We're a perfect match."

"What do you call a ghost's sweetheart?" "A ghou-friend."

"What did one watermelon say to the other?" "You're one in a melon!"

"What do you call a very small Valentine?" "A valen-tiny."

"What do farmers give for Valentine's Day?" "Lots of hogs and kisses."

CELEBRATING LIFE: A Service of Death and Resurrection was held for Jacquelyn Marie Ditzler "Jackie" Liskey on Jan 25th at 4:00 p.m. Carol Sacra played the gathering music and the bell rang. "In the Garden" was played as the family entered. Dale Dodrill gave the greeting, and words of Scripture and remembrance, followed by Diana Davis playing "The Old Rugged Cross". Dale then led readings of a prayer and Psalm 23. Pastor Joel came to read from two passages in Luke and then talked about how Jackie was "Raised Up By Jesus" by preparing for Jesus and engaging in her many church activities, and by lifting others up. Karen Mooney and Sharon Martin presented an a cappella rendition of "I Won't Let Go" before the Commendation and Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer, led by Mary Combs.

The service ended with the singing of "It Is Well With My Soul", and a dismissal by Pastor Joel. "Blessed Assurance" was played as the family exited. All in attendance were invited to a sumptuous buffet meal provided by the Meals Ministry of KUMC to honor Jackie.

UMM SERVE COMMUNITY: Well after a few years break due to Covid our United Methodist Men were finally able to hold another Fried Catfish and Pork Tenderloin meal on January 28th. Along with the Fish and Pork, folks enjoyed mashed potatoes and gravy, baked broccoli casserole, baked apples, cornbread, coleslaw, assorted desserts, tea and coffee. With fish frying under a canopy off the back door, the mixer whirled beating mashed potatoes, iced clinked in the glasses, and yummy desserts were put on plates. The men scurried to keep the buffet table filled for hungry folks. It was so good to see our fellowship hall full of our neighbors and our church family as they ate and visited around the table together. We served approximately 125 meals and made over \$1500 to go to the many missions our group supports throughout the year. Thanks to all those who supported us with their service, making desserts, or buying a meal. Well done, UMM.

CAN YOU FORGIVE OTHERS? On the 4th Sunday after Epiphany, Jan 29th, we gathered to worship as Carol played "Be Still, My Soul", "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me" and "Under His Wings", and the bell rang. Ken invited all to prepare for worship as Carol played "Rigaudon" and Nora Grace carried in the Light of Christ. Ken then gave the welcome, announcements, and opening prayer, before we sang "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy". Dale led the Children's time by using a rope to illustrate trust. Ryan read the Gospel lesson from Matthew 6:9-15, "The Lord's Prayer". Pastor Joel's message was entitled "Forgive Us Our Trespases, As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us". In 1992 a sand truck driver was beaten by four men because of the results of the Rodney King trial. He had many surgeries and many scars for many years. Yet, years later he went to visit the families of his attackers, and even shook the hand of one of them, to let them know he had forgiven them. Would someone have to have brain damage to forgive others as he forgave those who beat him? Jesus gave us this prayer to mark us as His followers. We are not first forgivers, we are first forgiven. God is a forgiver; He wants a family—US. We pray forgive "our" sins. Confession of sin makes us vulnerable, liable, and assumes we are sinners. Many of us do not want to be in debt to anyone, including God. God forgives us all our debts—Jesus paid for it on the cross. A Prayer of Mercy followed the message, along with a pardon, and the passing of the peace. We then sang "Grace Greater than Our Sin". Ken led the Morning Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, and asked for the Collection of the Offering. Carol played "Jesus, My All", and the doxology, and Ken gave the offertory prayer. Our closing hymn was "Freely, Freely". Ken gave the benediction as Nora Grace carried out the Light of Christ and Carol played the postlude. **WE ARE FIRST FORGIVEN.**

Mission/Outreach committee, led by Sherry Summers, met on Jan 31st at 6:30 p.m. with 6 persons present. They Discussed the idea of creating a M&O calendar for all mission opportunities that members of the church can get involved with whether in our own church, the community, the state, nation or abroad. The thought was to have this calendar included in the Newsletter that could be removed & posted/placed in a spot as a constant reminder of upcoming events/opportunities. They also suggested that February be designated health kit month for collections. May will then be flood buckets, and August will be school kits. A list of needed items will be distributed in the bulletins and the newsletter.

HEALTH KIT COLLECTIONS: Starting in February, and going thru April, we will be collecting for Health Kits. Items needed are: Hand towel; Wash Cloth; Bar of Soap (no Ivory/Jergens); Toothbrush (in packaging); Comb (minimum 6" of teeth); Clippers (toe or finger); 10 ¾" Band aids; 1 gallon Bag

PLACES YOU CAN SERVE: The following service opportunities are now available in the Church. Please pray about them and volunteer as God leads you: (a) **Maintaining the Road Sign Ministry;** (b) **Financial Secretary**, which includes keeping track of church giving, attendance, statistics, and giving for the year records for tax purposes; and (c) **Greeters** for Sunday morning worship.

Missionary John NDay Email Update: Our missionary John NDay serves in Mozambique with agricultural ministry at the Cambine UMC Farm Project. Here is a recent email which highlights the need for an expanded irrigation system for the farm. KUMC has raised about \$2,000 for John's current priorities for irrigation and an egg incubator. I hope we can all smile when some of us are greeted below as "Bothers" remembering English is not John's first language. Dears Bothers and sisters in Christ, Happy New Year 2023! May God be with you all and bless yo u. Here by I would like to inform about the Cambine agriculture Project Advance number, New York Annual conference contribution and give general information. The Cambine agriculture project Advance number had the administrative issue and this issue was resolved. Now the Cambine Agriculture Advance project is working and it is where the funds for supporting this project can be sent: Project Advance #3020561. On the other end, I would to thank the New York Annual Conference which advanced partly in December 2022. Their contribution arrive in January 2023 after the administrative issue on the Cambine Advance project number was solved. I would like also to say that our plan of the agricultural activities of the Cambine UMC farm would have great impact on the project itself, communities and local UM Church for the sustainability only if the needs / priorities of the Cambine agriculture program are realized. To be more successful with agriculture we can't rely only on the rainfall. Here in Mozambique from November to end March, it is the rainy season period. Now we have registered about 3 weeks without raining. Crops and vegetables are suffering on the fields of the communities as well as at the Cambine UMC farm. Cambine has a great potential of having a lot of water in the river and the dam that is unfortunately far away from the operational field and the big problem is how to harvest this water. Having supports to our budget of the priorities of the Cambine UMC farm especially for the equipment for the increase of the water harvesting and the irrigation system is a great solution to solve many problems of Cambine agriculture UMC farm. Please we are praying for all of you, church members and conferences for your support to the Cambine Agriculture Project for this project to achieved the sustainability. As we are all involved in this mission of God, may God bless you all. John Nday

MORE VALENTINE'S JOKES

"What do you call two birds in love?" "Tweethearts!"

"What do you write in a slug's Valentine's Day card?" "Be my Valen-slime!"

"What did the tortoise say on Valentine's Day?" "I turt-ally love you."

"How did the squirrel get his Valentine's attention?" "He acted like a nut."

"What do you call a romance that starts at the aquarium?" "Guppy love."

"How do vampires know if they had a successful Valentine's Day?" "If it's love at first bite."

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 2nd Mondays from 10 – 11 AM and 2nd Thursdays from 7 – 8 PM.

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 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 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 10 AM – 1 PM; 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 4 – 7 PM; and 3rd 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 Guiliams. Backpacking is on Monday at 11:15 a.m.

FAMILY FUN PICTURES



Becky's g-babies



Char & Barrett



the Crisman girls



Smiling Karen



Johnson 30th Anniv

UPCOMING/ONGOING STUDIES:

Monday Morning Bible Study: Witness at the Cross will be a six week study that was written by Amy-Jill Levine that looks at the experiences of those who saw Jesus die and invites us to learn about what they saw and heard. This study will meet Monday mornings at 10 AM from March 6th – April 10th. Study books are \$13.50 for those who would like to contribute to study costs. Sign up with Pastor Joel or in the narthex.

Monday Night Bible Study began Jan 23rd 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.

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.

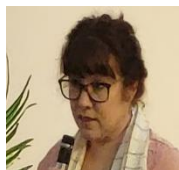
*****FEBRUARY EVENTS THAT HAPPENED*****

United Women in Faith met Thursday, Feb 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the church social hall, with 15 members and 1 guest present. Before the meeting began, Michele passed out 25 handmade cards to be colored for the shut-in bags to be assembled after the meeting. Judy called the meeting to order and led the UWF statement. January minutes and the Treasurer's report were approved. Our Mission of the Month was a donation to the Shelvie Carr Historical Fund in her memory. Karen asked if the March meeting could meet at 6:30 p.m. and spend some time talking with our speaker, as we ate finger foods. The April meeting will be the Call to Prayer and Self Denial, Chris will prepare the meal, and because of Maunday Thursday, the April meeting will be on April 13th. Sherry advised that all items have been donated for the Soup Sale on Feb 11th. We agreed to do this as a Freewill offering and all donations go to the Relay for Life Team. We agreed to serve the March 29th Lent Service meal. We will also the Keezletown Ruritans on March 6th. Eight people came out to the Hat making workshop that Ann and Ginny led. Many lovely hats were shown off and everyone seemed to really be enjoying the project. Many thanks to Geraldine for donating much of the yarn used. There will be a District Spiritual Retreat on March 25th. Sherry said that the Mission/Outreach committee suggested that February be designated health kit month for collections; May will then be flood buckets, and August will be school kits. A list of needed items will be distributed in the bulletins and the newsletter. Susan asked everyone please sign up for the Relay Team. A Buy One Get One sale is going on now for luminaria. Relay will be June 3rd. Chris read from the prayer calendar. We then signed all the completed shut-in cards. Judy closed the meeting with a reading about love. We adjourned and began assembling the bags. Next meeting is March 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 3RD—ITTTTTT'S SOOOOO COLD:

It's so cold our snowman begged to come to the barn to help me milk the cows this morning.
It's so cold that I chipped my tooth on my morning coffee.
I even opened the refrigerator fridge door to help warm the house.
It's so cold the cows are producing ice cream, instead of milk.
The cows are also farting snowflakes!

EVIL IS ALL AROUND: As we gathered on Feb 5th, Carol played "Abridge", "Whispering Hope", and "Bring Back Springtime" and the bell rang. Pastor Joel gave the preparation for worship and the bell rang. Carol then played "How Long Has It Been?" for the prelude as Carson Guillian carried in the Light of Christ. Pastor Joel gave the welcome and announcements, the opening prayer, and invited all to sing "Jesus Calls Us" as the opening



hymn. Barrett Bowman led the Children's Time today with pictures of the groundhog and talking about the news it brings, and the news we should share to others. Nolan Mason, with his children's Bible, read Matthew 6:9-13, the Lord's Prayer, to a round of applause and lots of "awwww's". Pastor Joel spoke today on "Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us from Evil" by beginning with the question why would we have to say that? When we start asking God for our needs and things,

we invite the Kingdom of God to come to earth. It's a risky prayer because it stirs up satan. Jesus knows about satan's rath, and faces all the temptations. He faced and overcame all of them. He breaks the power of evil in the world. We and the Church need to put on the whole armor of God in the midst of trials. God has given us the words we need to pray in the Lord's Prayer. The singing of "Take Time to be Holy" followed the message, along with the Morning prayer, the Affirmation of Faith, the Invitation, Confession and Pardon, and the Passing of the Peace. Everyone was reminded about "Souper Bowl" and the collection for MPC before the gathering of the offering, as Carol played "Forgiveness", then the doxology. Pastor Joel gave the offertory prayer and began the Great Thanksgiving, the Lord's Prayer, and the giving of the bread and cup, as the communion hymn "I Come With Joy" was played by Carol. Our closing hymn was "O Jesus, I Have Promised". Pastor Joel gave the benediction, Carson carried out the Light of Christ and Carol played the postlude. **EVIL CANNOT STAND AGAINST THE POWERS OF JESUS.**

The **United Women in Faith** held their annual February Vegetable Beef Soup & Bake Sale on



Feb 11th, starting at 8:00 a.m. Eight ladies, and our official "stirrer/scooper" Scott Dodrill, made 95 quarts of soup, which were all bought with a free will offering to go to the Relay for Life Team at KUMC. Special thanks to Scott, and to all who donated, helped, or purchased.

1 CHRONICLES 28:10-13: On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 12th, we gathered as Pastor Joel was singing "The Lord's Prayer" and "Amazing Grace", then Chris played "Happiness Is the Lord" before the bell rang. Pastor Joel gave the preparation for worship and Chris played the prelude "Come and See (Kyrie)" as Haiden brought in the Light of Christ. Pastor Joel then gave the welcome and announcements, and all were asked to Pass the Peace. "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" was the first hymn, followed by a skit presented during Children's Time by Jenny and Scott Dillard. Jenny was praying the Lord's Prayer and Scott was the Lord talking with her about what she was asking.



It was quite entertaining and enlightening. The choir then presented the seventh rendition (the original) of the Lord's Prayer. Pastor Joel read the Gospel lesson from Matthew 6:9-13, the Lord's Prayer. Today is the last message on the Lord's Prayer. It is the doxology: "For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. Amen" These last words give glory to God, yet they are not written in scripture with the Lord's Prayer in Matthew or Luke. They come from 1 Chronicles 28:10-13, from King David, a sinful, but repentant man. He points us to the Kingdom of God. What super power would you want if you could have it? Healing, forgiveness, peace, ending hunger? God uses His power through love to raise us up. The glory of God is Jesus dying on the cross. God saves. Amen means "let it be so"—we should all agree. The singing of "All Creatures of Our God and King" followed the message. Pastor Joel then led the Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer, then gave a blessing over the collected "Souper Bowl" items for MPC. The offering was collected as Chris played "There's Within My Heart a Melody" and the doxology and Pastor Joel gave the offertory prayer. Our final hymn for today was "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" as Haiden carried out the Light of Christ. Pastor Joel gave the benediction and a blessing on the Potato Bar Valentine Celebration that followed in the social

hall. Chris played “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” as the postlude. **BE A CHIEF AND LEAD OTHERS TO CHRIST AND FLY LIKE AN EAGLE.**

The **KUMC Souper Bowl** finished up today, Jan12th. Food pantry items to benefit the Massanutten Presbyterian Church Food Keezletown, Penn Laird, and from 2/5 to 2/12, to fill the it looked like the Chiefs were donations, but through the Eagles are in the lead. No Bowl, the real winners are your generous donations. Thank you so much. And, by the way, the Chiefs won the game 38-35. The final count was very close! Total items collected for: Eagles 141 and Chiefs 139.



Pantry which serves McGaheysville were brought respective bins. Last Sunday, in the lead with heavier week it now looks like the matter who wins the Super those folks who are fed by

Potato Bar Valentine’s Day celebration was held after worship at 12:15 p.m. on Feb 12th. Good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Valentine pictures were taken. Thank you to Joe Liskey for coordinating the event and to all who donated food. There was a free will offering for Rise Against Hunger taken. Pictures are Darryl/Tanya, Patti/Barrett, Frank/Jazzy, Scott/Jenny, Carol/Jim, Carol/Neil, and Jazzy/Grandma Becky.



NEW BABY IN THE FAMILY: **Rylynn Ashby Bishop** was born on Feb 12th, weighing in at 7 lbs



13.5 oz and was 19 inches long. She is the daughter of Cameron and Morgan Bishop and little sister to Triton. Grandparents are Steve and Beth Morris, Uncle Brayden Morris, and Great-grandparents are Frank and



Carolyn Baker. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY RYLYNN**, and welcome to the family.

VALENTINE’S DAY, FEB 14th—THE PRICE OF LOVE

REESE PELLEGRIN’S ESSAY ABOUT THE HARD PART OF LIFE:

My mother left me for six months and I admire her for it. She left me to care for my younger brothers, taking the youngest to birthday parties and school events, where all of the parents now know me by name. Reflecting upon this period of time during the winter and spring of 2022 I have come to the realization that my mother is the most selfless and compassionate woman I know, yet she left me. In early 2020 my grandmother, known as Nana, was diagnosed with myelofibrosis, essentially a bone marrow cancer. A long journey began with searching for a match for a transplant, which was the only possible chance of surviving. The only option left was for one of her children to donate, but they were each only a 50% match. My mother happens to be the only one under the age limit, so she is the solution. Nana begins chemotherapy and pre-transplant testing, my mother by her side, 2 ½ hours away from home each step of the way. Before this began, the doctors had a lengthy conversation with my Nana and mother, informing them the process was going to be strenuous. My parents then had a discussion with me, asking

me if I would be willing to step up at home so my mother would be able to be with Nana and oversee everything, since she was a nurse herself. I agree of course, but little did I know that I would be more alone than ever before, without the presence of my mom or any friends. After long preparation doctors extracted my Mother's stem cells. At the time of my birthday they made an exception with COVID policies to let me see my Nana before the transplant. I had not seen her in quite some time and when I did, I did not recognize her. Her face was discolored and disformed with fluid, body parts bruised and swollen, and a head sparse with hair. It was a shocking sight to see. In late March I got a phone call that I needed to pick up my brothers from school and bring them to the hospital hours away to say our goodbyes. Our family was gathered there and together we shed tears. I watched my great-grandmother hug her own daughter, say their last words to each other, and then walk out the door. I then had to walk out the door as well, that night holding and consoling my mother in my arms. At that moment, it came to me that my mother had to witness this everyday alone: her own mother in pain and deteriorating. I became aware of how selfless my mother is and her loyalty to the family. I learned what it meant to be a daughter from my own mother. She sat aside her own needs, put faith in me to step up at home, and not only stood by her mother's side, but altruistically gave a part of herself in an effort to save Nana's life. I learned what it meant to be a mother in a way, caring for my brothers in a way a mother would: fixing meals, accompanying play dates, showers, and nighttime stories. I learned what selflessness was through observing my mother's dedication and through my own actions at home. From this experience I now know the value of dedication to one's family. Although I was abandoned by my Mother, I was not only able to overcome this hardship, but learn from it, shaping me into the person who I am today. I have become more compassionate, responsible, and empathetic. I take advantage of every moment I have with my own Mother, cherishing the time we have together, and ensuring I will not have any regrets for the future. I can now say that I would selflessly do the same for my Mother without hesitation.

MORE VALENTINE'S JOKES

"What did one volcano say to the other?" "I lava you."

"What did one blueberry say to the other on Valentine's Day?" "I love you berry much."

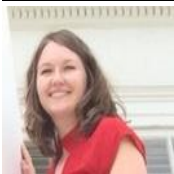
"How can you tell when a squirrel is in love?" "It goes nuts!"

"How can you get arrested on Valentine's Day?" "For stealing someone's heart."

"What did the paper clip say to the magnet?" "I find you very attractive."

"What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?" "I'm stuck on you!"

CONGRATULATIONS to Destin Shortell, who wrote that on 2-17 she marked a momentous



landmark in her PhD training. After over 4.5 years of classes, clinic, research, repeat and 8 months of internship applications, she found out that she will get to complete the FINAL year of her Neuropsychology PhD in the Boston Healthcare System, where her boyfriend of 4 years also lives. She is very thrilled and thankful! We are so proud of you, Destin. Best wishes.

***** FEBRUARY EVENTS IN NEXT ISSUE*****

18 Special Session of the VA Annual Conference 9:00 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. with Pastor Joel, speaker, and disposition of ashes
- 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) The words Jesus said on the cross will be the focus for sermons in Lent. Hear again the words that were on Jesus' lips as he gave his life that all might know the salvation of God.
- 27 Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.
Jonah Study at 6:30 a.m.

MORE VALENTINE JOKES:

"What did the man with the broken leg tell his Valentine?" "I have a crutch on you."
 "Why shouldn't you trust a pastry chef on Valentine's Day?" "Because he'll dessert you."
 "What do you give your Valentine in France?" "A big quiche."
 "What do you tell a pig on February 14?" "Happy Valen-swine's Day!"
 "Do you have a date for Valentine's Day?" "Yes, it's February 14."

*** MARCH EVENTS HAPPENING***

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mar 1	Andrea Crisman	Mar 9	Wyatt Martin
Mar 1	Austyn Crisman	Mar 11	Jennifer Young
Mar 1	Coty Milligan	Mar 13	Wesley Crisman
Mar 2	Donnie Underwood	Mar 13	Melissa Kelley
Mar 4	Eli Bowman	Mar 15	Esther McDaniel
Mar 6	Barbara Heatwole	Mar 18	Ann Ford
Mar 7	Whitney Krauss	Mar 21	Joshua Seaman
Mar 7	Brian Shafer	Mar 22	Becky Ryman
Mar 8	Leslie Pellegrin	Mar 28	Kate Ramsey
Mar 9	Macie Heishman		

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Mar 1, 2008	Chad & Michelle Higgs	15 years
Mar 7, 1998	Charles & Karen Harris	25 years
Mar 10, 2011	BJ & Kelly Smith	12 years
Mar 16, 1968	Frank & Carolyn Baker	55 years
Mar 28, 2009	Cory & Lynette Guilliams	14 years

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



Frank & Carolyn Baker for 55 years on March 16th
 Best wishes from your KUMC family. May you have many more.

MARCH EVENTS CALENDAR

Lent Suppers and Services: There will be Lent Suppers and Services on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. from Feb 22nd – March 29th. One special evening will be Wednesday, March 15th when

we are invited to St. Jacob's Lutheran at 6:30 PM for a carry-in potluck and night of learning about Saint Patrick. See calendar for persons speaking.

Church Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 8th at 7:30 PM following the Lent Supper and Service.

Meal packaging with **Rise Against Hunger** will return to KUMC on March 26th after worship.

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| March 1 | Lent Supper & Service, 6:30 PM with Rev Blair O'Quinn, speaker |
| March 2 | United Women in Faith meeting, 7 PM |
| March 4 | Emmaus Teaming at KUMC |
| March 5 | Small Group Leaders Gatherings, 8:45 AM
Sunday School, 9:45 AM
Worship, 11 AM: Message "Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise" (Words from the Cross) Luke 23:39-43 |
| March 6 | Worship Planning, 9:00 AM
Witness at the Cross study, 10:00 AM
Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM
Jonah Study, 6:30 PM
UWF Serve Keezletown Ruritans |
| March 8 | Lent Supper & Service, 6:30 PM with Rev. Costella Forney, speaker
Church Council Meeting, 7:30 PM |
| March 11 | Choir meet 9:30 AM
UMM Pancake Supper, 5:00 PM
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME—SET CLOCKS ONE HOUR AHEAD |
| March 12 | Sunday School, 9:45 AM
Worship, 11 AM: "Woman, Here Is Your Son" (Words from the Cross) John 19:25-27 |
| March 13 | Witness at the Cross study, 10:00 AM
Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM
Jonah Study, 6:30 PM |
| March 15 | Lent Supper & Service at St. Jacob's, 6:30 PM with Rev Bill Nabors, speaker |
| March 17 | St Patrick's Day
Newsletter items due |
| March 18 | Emmaus Teaming at KUMC |
| March 19 | United Methodist Men Meeting, 8:00 AM
Sunday School, 9:45 AM
Rise Against Hunger Offering #3
Worship, 11:00 AM: Message: "My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?" (Words from the Cross) Mark 15:33-36 |
| March 20 | Witness at the Cross study, 10:00 AM
Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM
FIRST DAY OF SPRING |
| March 22 | Lent Supper & Service, 6:30 PM with Rev Ashley Isernhagen |
| March 25 | Choir meet 9:30 AM |
| March 26 | Sunday School, 9:45 AM
Worship, 11:00 AM: Message: "I Am Thirsty" (Words from the Cross) John 19:28-29
Rise Against Hunger packaging after worship |
| March 27 | Witness at the Cross study, 10:00 AM |

March 29

Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM

Lent Supper & Service, 6:30 PM with Marquette Mitchell, speaker

DALE'S CORNER by Dale Dodrill

How 'X' Came to Mean 'Kiss': The idea of using a kiss to sign off on valentines also has a long history, according to the *Washington Post*. The use of "X" came to represent Christianity, or the cross, in the Middle Ages. During the same time, the symbol was used to sign off on documents. After marking with an X, the writer would often kiss the mark as a sign of their oath. As the gesture grew among kings and commoners to certify books, letters and paperwork, these records were described as having been "sealed with a kiss."

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.

MY PERSONAL NOTE:

It's been a long month, and a struggle, physically, mentally, and spiritually, due to the health of my husband, which is still not good. God has His reasons, which I have questioned many times, to no avail. His answers come when they are supposed to. Thank you to all of you for understanding, supporting, asking, caring, loving, hugging, and most of all, praying for the two of us. May God bless your lives in the same way you have blessed ours.

Diana

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Editor's Note

The March deadline for submissions is March 17th . 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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Isaiah 41:10-13 (NIV)

¹⁰ So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. ¹¹ All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. ¹² Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. ¹³ For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

