

MOUNTAIN ECHOES

DECEMBER 2023

156th Edition



Ceramic Nativity scene belonging to Geraldine Armentrout

KEEZLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. T. Joel Robinette, Pastor

1456 Indian Trail Road

Church phone: 540-269-8531

Keezletown VA 22832

Pastor's Cell: 540-908-9482

Pastor's email: joel_robinette@hotmail.com

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

Keezletown UMC website: www.keezletownumc.com

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His first cry tore the silence. His second cry tore the veil. His
final cry will tear open the sky. (A Stirred Heart)

View Worship Online: view the livestream of the 11:00 AM worship on facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/keezletownumc/live>. After the service is completed it will be uploaded to YouTube and Facebook

ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE: To give through the church website, click on <https://tithe.ly/give?c=6261418> and use the **Tithely Giving App**, Download the Tithely App from the [App Store](#) (iPhone) or [Google Play Store](#) (Android), select your church, create an account, and 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. **If you wish to continue giving by check, the address is: KUMC, 1456 Indian Trail Rd, Keezletown VA 22832**

OUR PASTOR CHATS

The Twelve Days of Christmas are December 25 – January 5 every year. Immediately following on January 6 is The Epiphany of the Lord when we remember there were Magi from far away who traveled to pay homage to Jesus and brought him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Notice in this way Christians mark time that the birth of Jesus is not a single day celebration or event. The coming of Jesus has implications for many days to come. I like the way Christmas spans the end of the calendar year but does not end with the old as it pours over into the new. The ending of one year and beginning of the next occur in the hope and possibilities that come with the Christ child which affirms that God is with us. As we look back on 2023 and ahead to 2024 may the Holy Spirit open our eyes and lives to the time that Jesus has come and will bring us to that way of life filled with the love of God and neighbor. A merry Twelve Days of Christmas to you, a blessed New Year in Christ, an eye-opening Epiphany of the Lord that Jesus comes in surprising ways, and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Pastor Joel

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A THANK YOU FOR ONLINE VIEWING: The Young family just wanted to share a brief note for the December newsletter in support of the online services Keezletown UMC provides. At Thanksgiving we at the Young household had some unexpected illnesses including Parker recovering from a mild concussion, my getting diagnosed with the Flu on Thanksgiving a.m. and Jen with upper respiratory issues. The online church service option has been a real blessing and allowed us to stay connected despite our minor health issues. That and the online tithing are such a strength that allows us to feel connected in our spiritual faith. Thank you for this option when we may not be able to attend in person. It means so much and you do such a great job getting it to us! John, Jen, and Parker Young

***** NOVEMBER EVENTS THAT HAPPENED*****

GIVE THANKS: “Thanks for the Gifts of Christ” from Philippians 4:10-23, was Pastor Joel’s message title for worship on Nov 19th. Paul gives thanks for the gifts of Christ, rejoices in God, is content in God, can do all things in Christ, and shares Jesus with all. Paul received gifts from Philippi and sent them a letter via messenger. Paul is content in God, but we can have it too. What would you need? Jobs, relationships, and material things, cannot bring us the contentment of grace from Jesus Christ who provides all we need. Pastor Joel was assisted by Diana on the organ, Leonard leading, and Diana leading the Children’s Time with a story about being thankful.

SHOEBOXES COLLECTED: Thank you to all who so generously gave to fill the 94 shoeboxes collected and blessed on Nov 19th. A big thank you to Lynn Siler for leading this endeavor, buying, packing, and delivering the boxes.



NEW LAY SPEAKER LEADS: We were honored to recognize and bless KUMC’s newest lay speaker, Cathy Sites Chouiniere during worship on Nov 26th. Cathy spoke on Psalm 100:1-5, entitling her message “With a Grateful Heart”. This is her favorite Psalm, which she memorized in Sunday School when she was a little girl. It is the happiest scripture in the Bible, letting God know you are praising Him. All the Psalms teach us there can be joy in all situations. Why is this Psalm important? It invites us to praise God. He is willing to meet us anywhere. Singing and praising show our hearts and our thankfulness. True worship comes from the heart. Assisting Cathy were Chris on the piano, Ken leading, and Pastor Joel solving a mystery with the children.



ANGEL GIFTS COLLECTED: During worship on Nov 26th, the ten “Angel Tree” gift bags were blessed and dedicated. Thank you to all who participated and generously gave so underprivileged children will know the joy of Christmas gifts.



Asher James Deets, age 17, of Keezletown, and most recently of Morrisdale, PA, went to be with his Lord on Monday, Nov 27th. He was the son of Tara M (Deets) Miller and her husband Wes, of Keezletown, and his father, Aaron Keeler, of Morrisdale. Also surviving are Joshua Deets, Gabe Deets and Zachary Dougherty, Harley Miller, Alex Parker and Krisha, Gwendolyn Sanderlin and Matthew, Brandon Keeler, grandparents, Richard N Deets, Jr, Leslie Miller and Rodney Wampler, Lee and Rut Keeler, four aunts, Tabitha Sites and Sarah Wampler, Uncle, Todd Deet and Kristen, Aunt, Sheri Brown and Adam, Marcia Dupiche and Rebbekka Everitt. Asher was a member of KUMC and was a junior at West Branch Area High School, and attended Montevideo Middle School, where he was loved by many. He had plans to go into the Marines after he graduated. He was an incredible young man whose light influenced every life he touched. The goal is to build a small cabin or sports area in Asher’s honor at the church summer camp, Camp Overlook, Keezletown, that he attended since moving to Virginia for many years and was looking forward to a



promised counselor position this summer. A service was held at KUMC on Saturday, Dec 9th at Noon with Pastor Joel Robinette officiating, and KUMC providing a covered dish meal after, for all those who wanted to pay their respects. Rest in God's arms, Asher, may your wings be wrapped around everyone you touched.

DECORATING GOD'S HOUSE FOR CHRISTMAS: On Tuesday morning, Nov 28th, Ginny brought donuts and Pastor Joel got the coffee pot going (we drank two pots!) for those who came to decorate the Church. They included Ginny, Faye, Judy, Sherry, Becky, Diana, Chris, Mike, and Pastor Joel. In the sanctuary, we decorated the Chrismon tree, the Hat/Mitten tree, set the manger at the altar, put up the big wreath under the cross, and got the wreaths ready for the windows. In the social hall, we put up the wreaths and decorated the Christmas tree. Outside, the wreaths were hung on the ramp and the front of the church. Thank you to all who helped on Tuesday and on the Sunday before to bring all the decorations down to the church.



Social Hall tree



Chrismon tree



Advent wreath



Window wreath

NEW BOWS: In case you haven't noticed, please look at the new red and gold bows on the wreaths hanging in the sanctuary windows, and the new gold bow and ribbon woven thru the wreath hanging under the cross. Many thanks to our own Jenny Dillard for her hard work.

There was a guy who was looking for the best hollandaise sauce, and a friend suggested that he look in Nome, Alaska. When he asked why in Nome, the friend replied, "Everyone knows that there's no place like Nome for the Hollandaise!"
-Anon

FAMILY FUN PICTURES



Never too big



Watching Nutcracker



Happy BD Beth



Pellegrin kiddos



Happy BD Ginny

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.

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 loans out and receive 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. The location is Mt. Tabor UMC in Lacey Spring.

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.

The Bible in a Year: Keezletown UMC 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.

THE ELVES ARE BACK!



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

UWF SERVE WAYLAND WOMEN: On Saturday, Dec 2nd at 6:00 p.m., the UWF served



approximately forty members and guests of the Wayland Women their annual Christmas dinner. Included on the menu was: Pork Tenderloin, Mashed Potatoes, Dressing, Gravy, Baked Apples, Cranberry Salad, Rolls, Pie, Coffee/Tea. The social hall was beautifully decorated for Christmas. Thanks to all who donated and helped.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING: The Keezletown Ruritan Club's annual



Christmas Tree Lighting was held on Saturday, Dec 2nd from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Keezletown Ruritan Hall. KUMC participated again this year by donating sandwiches to help with the refreshments. Also, Karen Mooney and Sharon Martin led the singing of Christmas songs during the event. And, of course, our own Ken "Santa" was there with gifts and joy for the children and adults. Scott Dillard estimated about one hundred community members came out for the successful and happy event.



HANGING OF THE GREENS: During the Dec 3rd worship service, we participated in our annual Hanging of the Greens in the sanctuary. Diana led the gathering music on the organ, and played "O Come All Ye Faithful" as the prelude. Pastor Joel led the welcome and an Introduction to the Hanging of the Greens responsive reading, followed by the choir singing "Deck the Halls". Cathy Sites read from Jeremiah about God will send a righteous King, and we sang one verse of "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus". The Scott Dillard family read from Isaiah, where the Prophet declares a child will be born, followed by singing verse 1 of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". The Guilliams family read from Isaiah also, the fourth servant song, followed by the choir singing "The Holly and the Ivy". Mike and Sherry Summers led from John, the mystery of the incarnation, and the blessing and lighting of the Chrismon tree, followed by the choir singing "O Christmas Tree". Sharon Martin and Karen Mooney gave the blessing over the Nativity scene, graciously donated by Geraldine Armentrout, and we sang verse 1 of "O Little Town of Bethlehem". Sharon and



Karen than gave the Legend of the Poinsettias, and the choir responded with "What Can I Give Him?" Josh and Stacey Shifflett led the Blessing of the Wreath responsive reading and the Lighting of the First Advent Candle Reading. We then sang verse 1 of "Light the Advent Candle", which concluded the traditional Hanging of the Greens. Judy Coffman came to read the Gospel lesson from Mark 1:1-8. Pastor Joel spoke on "The Beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ". A new Christian worship year begins today. No matter what you are at the end of, there is a beginning Mark wants us to see. Mark has no stories of Jesus' birth, but talks about



repentance and beginning to prepare for God and His good news. John the Baptist was preparing people for the Christ, the Son of God, the Messiah, the Deliverer. God has a new beginning for you today. Are you preparing? The service concluded with Communion (with the Guillian family serving) and the playing of “Away in a Manger”.



BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS ANNOUNCED: As Austyn Crisman walked up the aisle during worship on Dec 3rd, she shouted “A BABY IS COMING!” and her grandmother, Linda Liskey, said, “yes, Austyn, a baby is coming”. She then reminded us to remember our annual Baby Shower for Jesus on Christmas Eve to provide young mothers that come to Mission Central Clothes Closet with the needed provisions for caring for their babies. She closed with, “And YES, a baby is coming!”.

ROMANS STUDY COMPLETED: The twelve week session of the study of Romans was completed by the Monday morning class on Dec 4th, after which nine of the class members enjoyed a meal together at Vito’s in Penn Laird. A new study on Mark will begin in January.

United Women of Faith Christmas Meeting: Twenty-five ladies of the UWF and their guests enjoyed being treated by the United Methodist Men to an “Italian Feast” served by smiling gentlemen. Judy provided pineapple punch and snack items. The room was filled with laughter as we ate and fellowshiped. Sharon and Karen led the group in singing Christmas songs. Diana and Geraldine gave the devotions for the evening, a story about when God changed time from BC to AD by the birth of Jesus. A few items of business that were taken care were: a reminder about the Jan 2nd feeding of the Ruritans; meeting at the church at 10:00 a.m. on Dec 14th to go to Journey’s Crossing in Elkton to deliver cookies and gifts to folks living there; 24 bags for the shut-ins—please help deliver if you can; cookies are needed for refreshments after the Dec 16th Christmas program. Cheryl and Emily led us in games of “Guess the Christmas Song From It’s Picture” and “Christmas Bingo”. We ended the evening in singing “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”. Next meeting is Jan 4th at 7:00 p.m.





WHERE IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD? During the second Sunday of Advent, Dec 10th Worship service, Pastor Joel spoke on “The Kingdom of God Has Come Near” from Mark 1:9-15. Christmas is close; Jesus was born; God is with us. What is the Kingdom of God that Jesus talked about? It’s not a place, not a building, not a program, not even a worship service. Mark says it is Jesus Christ, where He is, when He comes, where He stays. When we receive Jesus, we who live in Him are the Kingdom of God. Jesus is not afraid to be around sinners. Do you remember and know what God has done in you? If you are baptized, you are in the kingdom. Assisting today were Chris on the piano, Ken leading, Scott reading scripture, and the youth class leading the Advent Candle lighting.



CAMP OVERLOOK CAMPERS VISIT: On Dec 10th, we were pleased to welcome 40 plus Winter



Camp campers and Counsellors from Camp Overlook to join us during the worship service. Pastor Joel told them about the ornaments on the Christmas tree during the Children’s time. They were enjoying a Winter Camp from Dec 8th-10th for 3rd



through 12th grade. Along with many activities, they were studying “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” can be applied to the Christmas story. A special prayer of blessing was given over Director Christina Gibbs, by Pastor Joel and the campers, as she departs the end of Dec to direct Mt Shepherd Retreat Center in North Carolina. All of the campers were invited to take a knitted hat from the altar before they departed. Thank you for sharing Sunday morning with us.

KNITTED HATS BLESSED: Ginny Joseph gave a report on Dec 10th explaining all of the knitted hats on the altar. Over 400 hats have been knitted and distributed since this project began. Many of the elementary schools, many retirement homes, and MCCC have benefited from the enjoyment ladies in the church have gotten from knitting these hats. Pastor Joel gave a blessing over the hats. If you know of some place that could use them, please let Ginny know. Thank you to all of the participants and the donors of yarn. If you would like to help, Ginny will be having a class on a Saturday morning in January to teach you how. May many heads be kept warm with the love of God knitted into these hats.



UMM CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR OTHERS: The United Methodist Men held their annual Christmas Dinner for the Widows and Widowers of the church and community and

invited guests on Sunday, Dec 10th at 5:00 p.m. at Blessings Lodge at Camp Overlook. The approximately thirty-five attending enjoyed salad, ham w/pineapple, roast beef, sweet potatoes, green beans, broccoli, rolls, drinks, and apple or peach pie. We were entertained by South River Express singing a variety of songs, and Jenny reading her annual story. Although it was a rainy, cold evening outside, our hearts were warmed by the love and joy within the gathering. Thank you, UMM, for caring and sharing.



HOUSE FIRE IN KEEZLETOWN: On the morning of Dec 11th, an explosion was heard and an unexplained fire began in the home of Bruce and Ann Johnson, who live near KUMC on Miss Elton Lane. Seven fire departments responded to the blaze. The owners were away with their dogs at the time of the fire and are very grateful that everyone is safe. The Keezletown Ruritans and the Keezletown community are beginning fund raisers to aid the family in the rebuilding of their home.

SPREADING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS: On Thursday, Dec 14th, eight ladies from the UWF and Pastor Joel, along with “Santa” Ken, visited the folks at Journeys Crossing in Elkton. Pastor Joel, Diana, and Chris sang Christmas carols, as Becky, Ginny, Judy, Sherry, Karen, and Faye helped pass out cookies, brownies, and hot cocoa. They then helped Santa as he greeted each person and gave them a gift bag, a knitted hat, and/or some socks. It was a delight to see their faces light up seeing Santa and to see them singing along with the Christmas carols. Thank you, Becky, for your leadership on this joyful project. We also enjoyed good food and fellowship with lunch at Ciro’s afterwards.

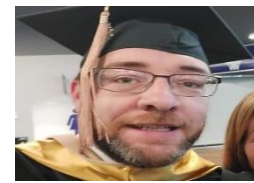




RELAY TEAM SERVES MEAL: The Keezletown United Marchers for a Cure served the Farm Bureau Association Board their Christmas meal on Dec 14th. The 28 in attendance enjoyed Ham w/fruit sauce, Sunday Chicken, Scalloped Potatoes, Baked Apples, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Pies & Ice Cream. Thank you to all who donated and helped.

UWF SERVE WHAM: On Dec 16th at noon, the UWF served approximately 20 members of the Vision of Hope Women of Hope, Action & Ministry their Christmas luncheon. They enjoyed appetizers, punch, spiral ham, baked macaroni, green beans, baked apples, rolls, pies, and tea/coffee. They, in turn, gave each of the ladies serving a small ornament as thanks. Thank you to all who donated and helped with the meal.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE! The family of Brandon Bowman is proud to announce that on Dec 16th, Brandon graduated from James Madison University with a Master's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Information Security. Congrats, Brandon. We are very proud of you.



JEREMIAH TELLS HIS STORY: On Saturday, Dec 16th, we presented our Christmas program, "Jeremiah T Mouse and His Special Night", written by Diana Davis. At 6:30 p.m., Karen Mooney welcomed all in attendance and those watching via



Facebook. To open the program, Chloe Robinette, accompanied on guitar by Pastor Joel, played "Angels We Have Heard on High" on her clarinet; Jenny Dillard, accompanied on guitar by Scott, sang "What Child Is This?"; and Karen Mooney and Sharon Martin sang an a cappella arrangement of "The Holly and the Ivy". Diana then introduced the



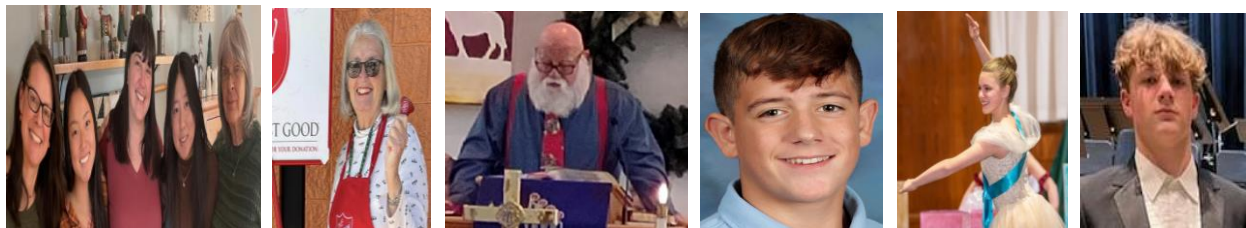
story before we sang "O Little Town of Bethlehem". She then began the story and introduced Jeremiah and his friends, after which Karen and Sharon sang "Friendly Beasts". Jeremiah then told of the baby being born, and we sang "Hark the Herald Angels Sing". The Angels talked to the



shepherds and we sang "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night". The

shepherds came to the stable and we sang “Away in a Manger”. The star appeared and we sang “Do You Hear What I Hear?” led by Pastor Joel. Jeremiah then told of the coming of the wisemen and we sang “We Three Kings”. He closed his story by letting us know how the baby had touched all who were present in the stable, visited the stable, and especially him. We then sang “Silent Night”. Haiden Dillard then played a lovely rendition of “Winter Wonderland”, and we closed the program by all singing “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” and Pastor Joel closing with prayer. Many thanks to Karen Mooney, Sharon Martin, Chris Cole, Jenny, Scott, and Haiden Dillard, Chloe, Pastor Joel, and Jenn Robinette, Sherry Summers, Lynn Siler, and Diana Davis for their hard work and participation in the program. Refreshments and fellowship were enjoyed by all in the social hall after the program.

FAMILY FUN PICTURES



Scott outnumbered Evalyn ringing Santa in the pulpit Brayden is 15 Becca dances Ryan performs

12 CHRISTMAS PRAYERS: JOY (Luke 1:44); LOVE (Matt 25:40); FAITH (Matt 1:24); PEACE (Isa 9:6); LIGHT (Isa 9:2); GRATITUDE (Luke 1:49); PROMISE (John 3:16); OBEDIENCE (Luke 1:38); SIMPLICITY (Luke 2:7); HOPEFULNESS (Dan 2:44); GENEROSITY (Matt 2:11); and TOGETHERNESS (John 1:12).

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

- 17 **United Methodist Men meet at 8:00 a.m.**
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 11:00 a.m.; 3rd Sunday of Advent with Message: “Jesus Called Fisherfolk to Discipleship” from Mark 1:16-20
- 18 **Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.**
- 22 **1st Day of WINTER**
- 24 **Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.-- Jesus’ Birthday Party during Sunday School**
Worship at 11:00 a.m.; 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve with message: “The Authority of Jesus” from Mark 1:21-34
Christmas Eve service at 8:00 p.m. with message: “The Birth of Jesus” from Luke 2:1-20, along with the Baby Shower for Jesus
- 31 **Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; First Sunday after Christmas**
Worship at 11:00 a.m. with Message by Lay Servant Len Williams

Right before the clock strikes midnight on December 31...make sure you lift your left leg. That way you will start 2024 off on the right foot!
(From the Laughing Christian)

AND THE SNOW BEGINS



Wintery pictures courtesy of Lynette Guilliams, Denise Sites, and Jim Harris

HOLIDAY EATING TIPS: Avoid carrot sticks. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the Holiday spirit. In fact, if you see carrots, leave immediately. Go next door, where they're serving rum balls. Drink as much eggnog as you can. And quickly, it's rare. You cannot find it any other time of year but now. So drink up! Who cares that it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not as if you're going to turn into an eggnog-alcoholic or something. It's a treat. Enjoy it. Have one for me. Have two. It's later than you think. It's Christmas! If something comes with gravy, use it. That's the whole point of gravy. Gravy does not stand alone. Pour it on. Make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes. Fill it with gravy. Eat the volcano. Repeat. As for mashed potatoes, always ask if they're made with skim milk or whole milk. If it's skim, pass. Why bother? It's like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission. Do not have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a Holiday party is to eat other people's food for free. Lots of it. Hello? Under no circumstances should you exercise between now and New Year's. You can do that in January when you have nothing else to do. This is the time for long naps, which you'll need after circling the buffet table while carrying a 10-pound plate of food and that vat of eggnog. If you come across something really good at a buffet table, like frosted Christmas cookies in the shape and size of Santa position yourself near them and don't budge. Have as many as you can before becoming the center of attention. They're like a beautiful pair of shoes. If you leave them behind, you're never going to see them again. Same for pies. Apple, Pumpkin, Mincemeat. Have a slice of each. Or if you don't like mincemeat, have two apples and one pumpkin. Always have three. When else do you get to have more than one dessert, Labor Day? Did someone mention fruitcake? Granted, it's loaded with the mandatory celebratory calories but avoid it at all cost. I mean, have some standards. One final tip: If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven't been paying attention. Re-read tips; start over, but hurry, January is just around the corner. Remember this motto to live by: "Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate and wine in one hand, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming " WOO HOO what a ride!" MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 2, 2010	Wesley & Sarah Crisman	14 years
Jan 30, 2015	Tyler & Courtney Sacra	9 years

JANUARY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
Pastor Joel on Vacation
- 2 **UWF Serve Keezletown Ruritans**
- 4 **UWF meet 7:00 p.m.**
- 7 **Small Group Leaders Gathering at 8:45 a.m.**
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 11:00 a.m. with Communion; Message: Mark 1:35-45, "Jesus in Deserted Places"
- 8 **Worship planning 9:00 a.m.**
"Gospel of Mark" Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.
- 9 **"Gospel of Mark" Bible Study 7:00 p.m.**
- 10 **Administrative Council meeting at 7:30 p.m.**
- 14 **Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.**
Worship at 11:00 a.m.: Message: Mark 2:1-12 "Your Sins Are Forgiven"
Rise Against Hunger offering #1
- 15 **Martin Luther King Jr Day**
"Gospel of Mark" Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.
- 16 **"Gospel of Mark" Bible Study 7:00 p.m.**

- 18 **Serve Kingsway Ministries Meal**
- 19 **Newsletter items due**
- 21 **United Methodist Men meet at 8:00 a.m.**
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Message: Ecumenical Sunday; message TBA
- 22 **"Gospel of Mark" Bible Study 10:00 a.m.**
Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.
- 23 **"Gospel of Mark" Bible Study 7:00 p.m.**
- 28 **Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.**
Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Message: Mark 2:13-22 "Jesus Calling All Sinners"
- 29 **"Gospel of Mark" Bible Study 10:00 a.m.**
Backpacking at 11:00 a.m.
- 30 **"Gospel of Mark" Bible Study 7:00 p.m.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

End of Year Giving Update: \$25,000 approximately will remain needed for unfunded budgeted items for 2023. We may be unable to fully support some things like local mission partners (like Camp Overlook, People Helping People, Missionary John NDay Covenant Relationship) and apportionments (like pastor health insurance, district ministries, conference ministries, jurisdictional ministries, and general church ministries). Tithing and regular giving through the year is the main support for KUMC ministries and budget and I am so thankful for those who share their gifts. If God would lead you to share your giving with KUMC regularly or in a special way at this time it would be a blessing to many.

The Gospel of Mark Bible Study begins on Monday morning Jan 8th at 10:00 a.m. and Tuesday evening Jan 9th at 7:00 p.m. This is a six lesson session with a book and videos by Amy-Jill Levine. Sign up in the narthex or with Pastor Joel.

Ash Wednesday and Lent Supper and Services will be Wednesdays in Lent from February 14 – March 20, 2024.

Youth Baptism and Confirmation: If you are a youth in sixth grade or above and ready to learn about following Jesus in baptism, confirmation, and joining the church please talk to Pastor Joel.

Rise Against Hunger on March 17, 2023 at 12:30 PM to package at least 10,000 meals.

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.

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MY PERSONAL NOTE:

Our greatest gift came, not wrapped in fancy paper of gold or silver, but strips of cloth, reserved for the poorest. There has never been, nor ever will be, a more precious gift wrapped so beautifully. The love that was born that night has spread around the world for over two thousand years. As you celebrate this year, especially as you wrap the last gift, please remember that there is a special wrapping that you can give as a gift—wrap your arms around your loved one, just as Jesus wraps His loving arms around you. Share His love—His precious gift.

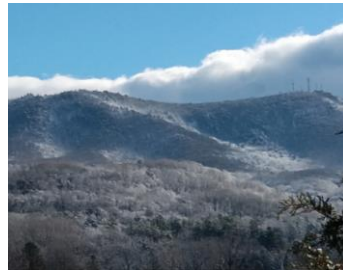
Diana

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Editor's Note

The January deadline for submissions is Jan 19th . 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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Santa in the pulpit A little child shall lead Majesty of the Lord Merry Christmas!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!