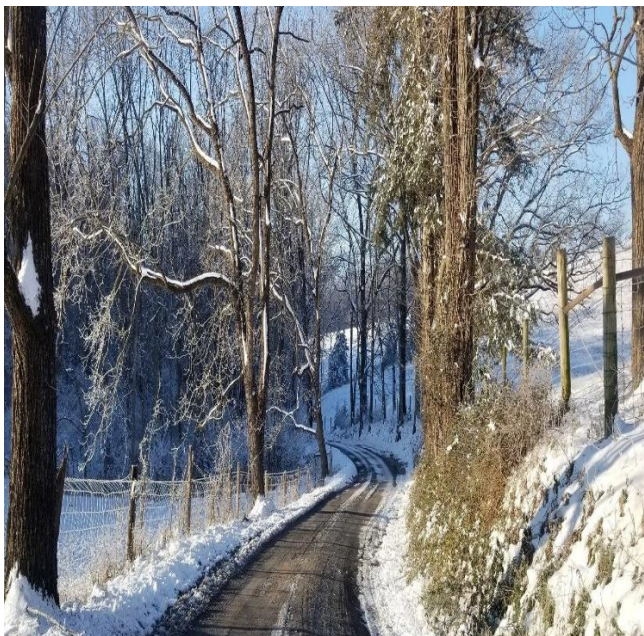


MOUNTAIN ECHOES

DECEMBER 2024

168th Edition



Coming home to find a "heavenly visitor". (Past pictures from Facebook)

KEEZLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. T. Joel Robinette, Pastor

1456 Indian Trail Road
Keezletown VA 22832

Church phone: 540-269-8531
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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LUKE 2:10-14: "And the angel said unto them, **Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.** And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**"

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

“God is with us.” That is the meaning of the name Emmanuel which is one of the names of Jesus. Joseph was told by the angel of the Lord, “She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.... ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,’ which means, ‘God is with us’” (Matthew 1:21, 23 NRSV). Joseph awoke from a dream to the reality that God really was with them in the flesh in Jesus. It is huge that God comes right where we are in Jesus. Here are some words I wrote to a song years ago about Emmanuel:

Emmanuel
Emmanuel
This baby ain't going nowhere
With little fistfuls of his mama's hair
Passed around by the shepherds
Clean the slop out of the manger
For Emmanuel
Emmanuel
Stargazers lay their treasures down
A little boy beat the drum loud
Tap, tap, tap, tap, ta-pa-da-did-ity-did-ity-tap
Herod didn't want no new king around
He couldn't stop the birth
Decrees don't silence the Word
Darkness can't cover the Light
Death can't kill the Life
Hate won't stop Love
Borders won't keep out
Emmanuel
He's God, God with us
Emmanuel
He's God, God is with us
Emmanuel

The joy of Christmas is that God has come to be right where we are bringing us the hope of heaven. Praise be to God the Father who sent the Son. Praise be to Jesus the Son who came to set us free and be God with us. Praise be to the Holy Spirit who stays with us and reminds us of this good news.
Pastor Joel

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

In Virginia “Advocate:”: Thankful for our Missional Church: In the wake of Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, when the need was greatest, the Virginia Conference came together with incredible strength and compassion. Through the generosity and dedication of local churches and districts, 2,810 flood buckets were collected to support families facing the devastation of the storm. Thank you, Virginia Conference, for your spirit of connectionalism and desire to serve in disaster recovery. Together, we’re making a difference, one bucket at a time.

FIGS OR NO FIGS: For the Nov 17th worship service, Pastor Joel gave a message entitled “The House of Prayer”. Jesus talks about the House of Prayer in Mark’s gospel (11:12-26). On His way to the temple, He was hungry, and rebuked a fig tree for not having fruit. Figs and fig trees are all thru the Bible as parables. Jesus went to the temple and overturned the tables of the money changers, then sat down to teach the people the rest of the day. Good fig trees product fruit and the temple should be a place of worship and prayer. It was to be a House of Prayer where we meet with the Living God, to converse and listen. When Jesus returned to the temple the next day, the fig tree was withered. Jesus wants us to celebrate the Living God, and be the fruitful fig trees. Believe in what you are praying for, because you are praying to God, the giver of all things. Assisting in the service today were Wendell leading, the worship team of Barrett, Sharon, and Karen with music, Barrett reading Scripture, and Pastor Joel leading the Children in a story of “Mine and Ours”.



“Mere Christianity” Study met on Monday, Nov 18th, and Tuesday, Nov 19th to discuss how much faith each individual person has; why bad things happen in the world if God is in control; and why doesn’t He fix everything.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH to Becky, Jenn, Judy, and Cathy for taking the time on Tuesday, Nov 19th to sort, fold, stuff, and label the November newsletters for mailing. Also, thank you to Becky for helping me to stamp them at the Post Office and get them mailed.

LUNCH BUNCH group enjoyed a delicious buffet at Golden China on Wednesday, Nov 20th. Pastor Joel, Jenn, Becky, Kathy, Chris, and Diana had a good time conversing, listening, and laughing as Jenn told stories about growing up with a little sister.

Our Thanksgiving week to-do list: count our blessings; let go of what we can’t control; practice kindness; listen to our heart; be Thankful; and just breathe.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS? On Christ the King Sunday, Nov 24th, Pastor Joel gave the



message “Asking for Signs and the Call to Watch” from Mark 13:1-37 during the worship hour. Today finished the Mark sermons. What are we doing as we wait for Jesus to return? Mark 13 tells about Jesus at the temple, a beautiful place, with the disciples marveling at the grandeur. Jesus tells them it will be destroyed, not one stone lying on the other. Our hope should not be in buildings, but in the mercy and grace of Jesus

Christ. The disciples wanted to know the signs of the end coming. Jesus tells them wars, nation against nation, storms, and famine are the birth pains, and the end is still to come. Jesus will come then and make everything new. Assisting today were Diana on the organ and Haiden reading Scripture. Lynn led the Children’s Time (see next article).

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES: Today, Nov 24th, during worship, was the final day of collection for the OCC Shoeboxes. When we entered the sanctuary, there was a shoebox set on each end of each pew. Lynn called the children forward for Children’s Time and asked them if they enjoyed getting Christmas presents. She then explained that some of the children receiving these gifts may have never gotten a gift. The children and the Church Family then brought the shoeboxes forward and placed them on the altar. Lynn gave a blessing over them and Pastor Joel recognized Lynn for all her hard work in keeping this mission going. We collected 68 shoeboxes which were loaded into Lynn’s vehicle after Church for distribution. Thank you to all for your generosity and caring.



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE: The first Community Thanksgiving



Service since before Covid was held on Sunday afternoon, Nov 24th, at 3:00 p.m. with approximately forty folks in attendance from KUMC, St Jacobs, Trinity, and Massanutten Presbyterian churches. Diana played the gathering music, and Pastor Joel gave the Preparation for Worship. Sharon and Karen sang the a cappella prelude

entitled “Bless Us All”. Pastor Joel gave the opening prayer, following by all singing “Come, Ye Thankful People Come”. Ann Royer and Jeanne Ritchie read the Old Testament lesson from



Joel, the Psalter from Psalm 126, the Epistle lesson from 1 Timothy; and Judy Coffman read the Gospel lesson from Matthew. Pastor Joel then spoke on “The Gifts of God, Life, Food, and Clothing”. Don’t worry—be happy, was the recurring theme of the message. Jesus tells us not to worry about life, food, drink, your body, clothes, or tomorrow. We worry a lot. Jesus knows what you worry about. He tells us to look at the birds—God provides for them. Life is a gift from God—every good gift is a gift from God. Seek God first and don’t worry, be happy. “Seek Ye First” was then sung before the Nicene Creed, Our Time of Prayer, and the Invitation, Confession, and Pardon, and the Passing of the Peace. An offering, along with canned goods, was collected for the Massanutten Food Pantry, as Janice and Tim Kyger sang “God’s Coloring Book”. The Great Thanksgiving and the Giving of the Bread and Cup followed, as we sang “Let Us Break Bread Together”. D R Cooley, Pastor Joel, Ann Royer, and Ken Thomas administered the Sacraments. “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” was the closing hymn, with “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” as the postlude. All were invited to the social hall for refreshments and fellowship.



“Mere Christianity” Study on Monday, Nov 25th and Tuesday, Nov 26th focused on C S Lewis’s thoughts on morals, our behavior, fair play, and how morality has implications for eternal life.

DECORATING THE CHURCH: a Huge Thank You to all helped on Monday, Nov 25th after Bible Study and Backpacking to and the Social Hall in preparation you to Judy for organizing; Pastor Giovanni, for carrying trees and decorating the top of the tree; for Diana for decorating the new Chrismons made by the ladies of moving the risers out for the Poinsettias that will be there on Sunday. Then on Dec 2nd, after Bible Study, Ken, Judy, and Kathy decorated the Social hall tree. Great Job, All.



decorate the railing, the Sanctuary for Christmas festivities. Thank Joel, Mike, Ken, Sherry, and hanging wreaths; for Carolyn for Chris, Kathy, Judy, Jenn, and Sanctuary tree with the new the Church; and for Pastor Joel for

ENGAGEMENT: Jared Kyger and Allyse Dillard are pleased to announce their engagement on Thanksgiving day, Nov 28th. Allyse is the daughter of Aaron and Cheryl Dillard and the granddaughter of Jim and Carol Dillard. Congratulations from the KUMC family and best wishes.



THANKSGIVING BLESSING: May your stuffing be tasty, may your turkey be plump, may your potatoes and gravy have never a lump, may your yams be delicious, may your pies take the prize, and may your Thanksgiving dinner stay off your thighs!

SCOTT AND JENNY GO TO SPAIN: "When your kid goes to college you might get to go



to a big football game, a special homecoming, or an elaborate sorority party - OR - you might get to go to Spain (and celebrate your Nov 22nd birthday there!) She is having an incredible experience and we are so very proud of her and enjoyed every action-packed minute of our visit with her!! Spain is beautiful and the architecture and history are awe inspiring! On this day of Thanksgiving, Nov 28th, we are so thankful to have had this experience with her. Jenny & Scott

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Haley is 21



Alissa is 25



Geraldine is 92



Beth is 50



Janet's Bday



Brayden is 16

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 18 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.

BIBLE STUDY:

Sunday School Classes includes Grades 1 – 5 Elementary School Class; Middle and High School Class; An adult class taught by Cathy Sites; An adult class taught by Chris Cole using *Adult Bible Studies* materials.

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.

FAMILY FUN PICTURES



"Missile Toad"



Ryan in Concert



Christmas shopping



Barbara's turkey
Adalida

OLD TIMERS THOUGHTS:

It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.

Finally I know why that call me a grown up—I groan every time I get up.

I had my patience tested. I'm negative.

When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"

Managing my weight around the holidays first requires taking the batteries out of my scales.

To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.

When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.

I am swift as a gazelle. An old one. With Arthritis. Run over by a land rover. Seven days ago.

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

God remains faithful when we have nothing left to give. We celebrated the Hanging of the Greens during worship on Dec 1st, starting with an Introduction to the Hanging of the Greens; Faye Cochran presenting the Cedar Branch; Pastor Joel presenting for the Mitchell family the Wreaths and the Garland; Scott, Jenny, and Haiden presenting the Holly and Ivy; the Guilliams presenting the Mystery of the Incarnation and the blessing and lighting of the Chrismon tree; Pastor Joel and Chloe presenting and blessing the Nativity; the Young family presenting the Legend of the

Poinsettias; and Wendell presenting the Advent Wreath, as Faye lit the first candle of Hope. Cathy C read the Old Testament lesson from Ruth 1:1-22, Naomi's story. Pastor Joel then spoke on "Two Went to Bethlehem". Naomi was done—just done—with Moab, the death of her husband, the death of her sons, her daughter-in-laws—just done with everything. She told Orpah and Ruth to go back to their homes and blessed them, because she had nothing left to give them. Orpah left, but Ruth stayed with Naomi, promising to go where she went and take care of her. Ruth showed Naomi faithfulness. Naomi means sweet, but she changed her name to Mara meaning bitter. She felt that God and the world were against her. The Good News is that God was not done with Naomi and sent her to Bethlehem where there was food in abundance, and where people greeted her with love and kindness. Hope is all around us if we look. God remains faithful when we have nothing left to give. The Great Thanksgiving and Communion followed the message. Servers were Pastor Joel, Cathy C, Bob and Susan, and Scott and Haiden. Also assisting today were Chris at the piano and the choir singing a number of hymns during the Hanging of the Greens.

KINGSWAY MINISTRY APPLE TREE: This year, we selected assisting Kingsway Ministry



in the quest for Christmas gifts for the children of incarnated parents and the inmates. Apple tags on the tree were selected by the Church family and one gift was bought per a request by the child, along with wrapping paper and tape. For the inmates, toothpaste and donations for specified notebooks and chapstick, was collected. The generosity of the Church family showed again, as we filled 62 apple requests and collected 18 tubes of toothpaste. Thank you to Sherry for organizing and delivering these items on Dec 2nd.

"Mere Christianity" Study met on Dec 2nd and Dec 3rd and discussed the fact that the Church is not perfect; that there is a lot of blame placing and disillusion; there is a desire for heaven; and that we have to live by our faith. Forgiveness is recognizing the depth of the sin.

Scholarship Winner: On Dec 6th, Bridgewater College Health and Human Sciences announced their Congratulations to Kendra Dodrill, who was awarded a 2024-2025 scholarship from the National Association Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences (NATFCS).



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING: The Keezletown Ruritans held their



annual Christmas tree lighting event on a cold Dec 6th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. KUMC helped with soup and sandwiches, and Sharon and Karen singing. Many members of the Community turned out to celebrate, and



Santa was greeting all that came. Thank you to the Ruritans for this special event and to all that participated.

How great would it be to have an Elf on the Shelf that at night will do your laundry, your dishes, and mop the kitchen floor?

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR: On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service attacked the neutral United States at Naval Station Pearl Harbor near Honolulu, Hawaii, killing 2,403 Americans and injuring 1,178 others. The attack sank four U.S. Navy battleships and damaged four others. It also damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, and one minelayer. Aircraft losses were 188 destroyed and 159 damaged. Canada declared war on Japan within hours of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the first Western nation to do so. On December 8, the United States declared war on Japan and entered World War II on the side of the Allies. In a speech to Congress, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called the bombing of Pearl Harbor "a date which will live in infamy."
(Taken from Wikipedia)

RUTH TRIES TO BE INCONSPICUOUS: Pastor Joel spoke on Dec 8th, from Ruth 2:1-23, the story of Ruth gleaning in the fields of Boaz and him noticing her, in a message entitled "Gleaning in the Fields of Boaz". Ruth was going to glean after the farm workers had gone thru the fields to pick the barley and wheat for about seven weeks, so that she and Naomi could live. As a Moabite, she tried to slip in the back with the other women and pick quietly. Moabites were shunned, but Ruth was faithful to Naomi and to God. After seeing her, Boaz inquired about her and was told her story. Boaz, a man of nobility in the community, told the workers to leave more for her to glean and not to bother her. Boaz realizing she was a distant relative, and seeing her work so hard, gave her hospitality and protection. Giving compassion is what Jesus asks all of us to do every day with all we meet. Assisting in the service today were Chris at the piano, Wendell leading the service, Scott reading Scripture, and Karen reading "Twas Christmas Night" to the children during Children's Time and then giving them Nativity Ornaments. Linda Liskey spoke to the Church family reminding them about the birth of Baby Jesus and the Christmas Eve Baby Shower for Jesus, and the needs of MCCC.



You know it's the holidays when you have Jack Frost nipping at your nose, and Jack Squat in your bank account.
(Christian Humor)

A NEW TRADITION STARTED?: Hopefully, from now on, we can come together as the "Family of KUMC" at an annual Christmas dinner and festivity, just like on Dec 8th at 4:00 p.m. Widows and widowers from the community, the Church family, the UMM, and the UWIF were invited and what a nice crowd of forty-six were able to attend. From 4:00-5:00 p.m. we were welcomed by Judy, had devotions led by Diana and Geraldine about what Lucifer had to say about Jesus coming to earth, and enjoyed hearing

“There’s a New Kid in Town” by Sharon and Karen. Then we enjoyed a delicious meal of Sunday chicken, baked ham w/pineapple, cheesy baked potatoes, green beans, baked apples w/cinnamon and raisins, broccoli salad, and rolls, prepared by Joe and Linda and the UMM. The UWIF provided appetizers and punch before, and a plethora of desserts for after the meal. After the meal, Cheryl led us in many rounds of Christmas bingo w/prizes, and Jenny handed out door prizes which included the Reindeer centerpieces made by Jim Dillard, and candle ornaments that were on the tables. Pastor Joel, Scott, and John led singing carols, and Jenny read a Christmas story, “The Legend of the Christmas Kiss”, and gave out snow flake gifts. We all sang “Silent Night” before departing. The fellowship, the food, the laughter, the pure joy filled our hearts that night. So, thank you, to Judy, Scott, the food preparers, the singers, the bingo gift givers and participants, and most of all, to each of you that attended and made Sunday such a Special evening. We need to get it on the calendar for next year!



"Decrees don't silence the Word. Darkness can't cover the Light. Death can't kill the Life. Hate won't stop Love."
(Pastor Joel)

"Mere Christianity" Study met on Dec 9th at 10:00 a.m. and Tues Dec 10th at 7:00 p.m. The discussions focused on chastity and happiness in sexuality, people, and feelings; the changes in marriage; and the great sin of pride and self-conceit. After the Monday class, ten members of the group went to lunch together at Vito's in Penn Laird.

LUNCH BUNCH met on Dec 11th for a wonderful buffet meal at Traditions. Ken, Jenn, Chris, and Diana enjoyed the warmth of fellowship and food, although the pretty chilly rain was coming down. No more meetings this month, but you are welcome to join us in January.

TWO PEOPLE AT CHURCH: In person services were cancelled today due to sleet and snow, however, thankfully, Pastor Joel and Jenn were at church to bring us the Good News online. Pastor Joel started the abbreviated service with the "Canticle of Mary" as the Call to Worship. He then lit the candle of JOY and sang "Light the Advent Candle". His message was entitled "Proposing at the Threshing Floor" from Ruth 3:1-18. Naomi has changed from being empty, bitter, with nothing left to give, to hope, a plan, seeing God's grace for her in Bethlehem. Bethlehem means the "house of bread". If we are unsure of the future, hang around Bethlehem, God is not done yet. Naomi tells Ruth to go to the threshing floor and uncover Boaz's feet when he sleeps. The question in this place is would Boaz be a faithful kinsman redeemer, as God is faithful to redeem us thru Jesus. We are asked to bring in those who need help, kids, parents, widows, students, farmers, workers, care-givers. Lift them up in their vulnerability and give them the faithfulness of God. There is joy for Ruth and Naomi because redemption is coming. We have an Advent Joy—Jesus has come to save us and will come again. Pastor Joel then led a morning prayer, and closed with singing "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly". Hope to see you next Sunday.

MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES



Brynleigh and Ka'Leah Nathan/Barbara Thankful Underwoods 2nd Anniversary Don in Africa

Legend of the Christmas Spider: A long time ago in Germany, a mother was cleaning for Christmas. Spiders fled up to the attic to escape the broom. On quiet Christmas Eve, the spiders slowly came down for a peek. "Oh, what a beautiful tree!" In excitement, they scurried up and out along each branch. They were filled with happiness as they climbed amongst the glittering beauty. But alas! By the time they were done, the tree was shrouded in their dusty grey web. When Santa came with

gifts for the children and saw the tree covered with spider webs, he smiled because he saw how happy the spiders were, but knew how heartbroken the mother would be if she saw it covered in dusty webs. So he turned the webs to strands of silver and the tree was even more beautiful than before. That's the story of tinsel on trees and why every tree should have a Christmas Spider in its' branches.

DECEMBER EVENTS IN NEXT ISSUE

- 16 "Mere Christianity" Study at 10:00 a.m.
Backpacking at 11:00 p.m.
Assemble gift bags for shut-ins after Bible Study at 11:00 a.m.
- 17 "Mere Christianity" Study at 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Choir practice at 6:30 p.m.
- 19 **Serve Kingsway Meal**
- 21 Winter begins
Walk to the Manger at Camp Overlook from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- 22 **Sunday School 9:45 a.m.**
Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Message: "The Redemption of Ruth and Naomi" from Ruth 4:1-22
Christmas Program at 6:00 p.m. with refreshments to follow
- 24 **Christmas Eve Service on Dec 24th at 8:00 p.m. with --Baby Shower for Jesus.**
- 24-1/1 Vacation for Pastor Joel
- 25 CHRISTMAS
- 29 **Sunday School 9:45 a.m.**
Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Message: TBA
- 31 New Year's Eve

THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS: An adaptation of 1 Cor 13: If I decorate my house perfectly with lovely plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny glass balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator. If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not love my family, I'm just another cook. If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing. If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point. ...In other words, Love stops the cooking to hug a child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens. Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust. But the gift of love will endure.

***** 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 6	Melissa Johnson	Jan 18	Ryan Sprague
Jan 7	Gary Heatwole	Jan 21	Charlie Liskey
Jan 8	Mark Ramsey	Jan 22	Jade Bahle
Jan 8	Barbara Propst	Jan 22	Tanya Dawn Eppard
Jan 9	Fay Higgs	Jan 23	Leah Siler
Jan 9	Cora Combs	Jan 23	Kelli Sprague
Jan 11	Josh Wanger	Jan 24	Chris Threewitts
Jan 12	Mac Coffman	Jan 29	Faye Crowe
Jan 15	Donna Carrier	Jan 30	Brent Combs
		Jan 31	Davis Kelley

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 2, 2010	Wesley & Sarah Crisman	15 years
Jan 30, 2015	Tyler & Courtney Sacra	10 years

JANUARY CALENDAR

1	NEW YEAR'S DAY
2	UWIF meet 7:00 p.m.
5	Small Group Leaders Gathering at 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship at 11:00 a.m. with Communion; Message: 'God's Midwives' from Exodus 1:1-22
6	UWIF serve Keezletown Ruritans
8	Choir practice at 6:30 p.m. Admin Council meeting at 7:30 p.m.
12	Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Drawn from the Water" from Exodus 1:22-2:10Baptism and Confirmation w/Reception and Potluck Meal at 12:15 p.m.
13	Worship Planning at 9:00 a.m. "Mere Christianity" Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. Backpacking at 11:00 p.m.
15	Lunch Bunch carpool at 11:15 a.m.
16	Serve Kingsway Meal
17	Newsletter items due
19	UMM Breakfast meeting 8:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Message: "The God Who Hears, Remembers, Looks, and Notices" from Exodus 2:11-25
20	Martin Luther King Holiday "The Message of Jesus" Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. Backpacking at 11:00 p.m.
21	"The Message of Jesus" Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.

- 22 [Choir practice at 6:30 p.m.](#)
- 25 District Training Day at Dayton UMC from 10:00 a.m. to Noon
- 26 [Sunday School 9:45 a.m.](#)
[Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Partnering God" from Exodus 3:1-4:17](#)
- 27 ["The Message of Jesus" Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.](#)
[Backpacking at 11:00 p.m.](#)
- 28 ["The Message of Jesus" Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.](#)
- 29 [Lunch Bunch carpool at 11:15 a.m.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

Christmas Eve Service on Dec 24th at 8:00 p.m. with Communion, Candle Lighting, and Baby Shower for Jesus: The Mission Central Children's Clothing Closet prepares baby kits for newborns and has needs for the youngest children who come. You can help by giving to A Baby Shower for Jesus. We will collect items at the Christmas Eve Service and through the Twelve Days of Christmas. If you need a shopper, funds will be accepted and Linda Liskey will pick up needed items: Newborn disposable diapers; Receiving blankets; Larger baby blankets; Cloth diapers; Baby wash/shampoo; Baby lotion; 12-18 month sleepers; Feminine and Nursing Pads; Stretch mark cream for Mom; Changing pads; Nasal aspirator; Thermometers; Baby nail clippers; Brush / comb; Small, thin adult-size wash cloths; "Butt" creams for Baby; and Baby bottles.

Vacation for Pastor Joel from Dec 24th to Jan 2nd. Rev Deb Washer from McGaheysville UMC will be on-call.

The Message of Jesus Study: In this six week Bible study learn more from study author Adam Hamilton about what Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, parables, the "I am" sayings in John, and more. Study books are \$13 you may sign up in the narthex or with Pastor Joel. The study will be on Monday mornings at 10:00 AM (beginning January 20) and Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM (beginning January 21).

A Disciple's Path Class: This seven week class is especially for new comers and new members to KUMC. Learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ as a member of Keezletown United Methodist Church. This class will meet during Sunday School beginning February 2, 2025 at 9:45 AM. Sign up in the narthex or with Pastor Joel.

MY PERSONAL NOTE

I want to wish for each of you a happy and love filled Christmas celebration with those who love you. Enjoy and remember the moments shared with your family and friends. Cherish the love, the hugs, and the laughter. And say a little prayer for those of us who, after being with family during the day, come home to an empty house. Christmas, filled with its' joy, is also a sad day for some, as they remember and miss those who have passed. May the

out stretched arms of the Baby Jesus in the manger and the out stretched arms of Jesus the Savior on the cross help us all to realize the true meaning of Christmas—our Savior came to save us—rejoice. Blessings on you all.

Diana

Editor's Note

The Jan deadline for submissions is Jan 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.



*MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR
KUMC FAMILY! AND HAPPY
NEW YEAR!*