

MOUNTAIN ECHOES

JANUARY 2025

169th Edition



(Photo courtesy of Evalyn Campbell, our dear sister from Florida, as she visited on Dec 29th)

KEEZLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. T. Joel Robinette, Pastor

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As 2024 ends and 2025 begins, remember this promise: "The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deuteronomy 31:8). God is already in tomorrow preparing and waiting for you.

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

Here is a history moment for 2025. 2025 is the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea in AD 325 which was the first gathering of Christian bishops. It came in a time when widespread persecution of Christians had ceased in the Roman empire. Due to Emperor Constantine, Christianity came into favored status by the state. Justo González pointed to the early Christian historian Eusebius of Caesarea (Eusebius was there!) who described the scene like this in his *Life of Constantine*: There were gathered the most distinguished ministers of God, from the many churches in Europe, Libya and Asia. A single house of prayer, as if enlarged by God, sheltered Syrians and Cilicians, Phoenicians and Arabs, delegates from Palestine and Egypt, Thebans and Libyans, together with those from Mesopotamia. There was also a Persian bishop, and Scythia was not lacking. Pontus, Galatia, Pamphylia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Phrygia sent their most outstanding bishops, jointly with those from the remotest areas of Thrace, Macedonia, Achaia, and Epirus. Even from Spain, there was a man of great fame who sat as a member of the great assembly. The bishop of the Imperial City could not attend due to his advanced age; but he was represented by his presbyters. Constantine is the first ruler of all time to have gathered such a garland in the bond of peace, and to have presented it to his Savior as an offering of gratitude for the victories he had won over all his enemies. It was joyous indeed as about 300 bishops from all over the world gathered. They had much good work to do. What could not be avoided was the Arian controversy. González wrote in his *The Story of Christianity* that since Arians used scripture to bolster their views, that the council decided it needed a creed to clarify the doctrine of the Trinity. Here is that early form of the Nicene Creed which included opposition to Arian doctrines: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten of the Father, that is, from the substance of the Father, God of God, light of light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, of one substance [homoousios] with the Father, through whom all things were made, both in heaven and on earth, who for us humans and for our salvation descended and became incarnate, becoming human, suffered and rose again on the third day, ascended to the heavens, and will come to judge the living and the dead. And in the Holy Spirit. But those who say that there was when He was not, and that before being begotten He was not, or that He came from that which is not, or that the Son of God is of a different substance [hypostasis] or essence [ousia], or that He

is created, or mutable, these the catholic church anathematizes. Emperor Constantine added exile from their cities for Arian bishops and church leaders. González notes before that time, there were plenty of controversies among Christians which usually got worked out over long periods through persuasion, diving into the scriptures, and holy living. The Council of Nicea did not end the Arian controversy but introduced state and emperor influence on church matters. Leaders of different groups within the church could now appeal to state and political leaders to favor, sanction, and enforce their views. And they did! Not so long after the Council of Nicea, Arian leaders won the favor of Constantine and then he exiled Nicene bishops from their cities. This dynamic of Christians appealing to empire and state government to settle church matters and controversies has continued since. González notes the grace of God that even in the empire sponsored Council of Nicea that right doctrine about Jesus Christ was affirmed and has been passed on to us. I am looking forward to learning more about the Council of Nicea this year and how those Christians witnessed to the grace of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Joel

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

NEW BABY: Charles Colton Singleton (aka "Charlie") was born on Saturday morning Dec 21,2024, weighing 6 lbs and 12 oz at 19 inches long, to Sarah-Grace Singleton. Mama and baby are doing great. Grandma "Gigi" Dawn Marie and Great Grandma Martha are both excited and proud.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS! During the Sunday school hour on Dec 22nd, approximately 30 folks celebrated Jesus's birthday with cake, cookies, and punch. Pastor Joel led the devotions; Karen made the cake; Remi blew out the birthday candle; and Jenny led the ornament exchange, trying very hard not to get the "octopus", which Remi eventually stole from Scott on the last exchange. It was a fun time for all.



RUTH AND NAOMI ARE REDEEMED: For Sunday worship in Dec 22nd, Pastor Joel spoke on "The Redemption of Ruth and Naomi", completing the study of how God continued the lineage of Jesus, using Ruth 4:1-21. Naomi was returning to her home village bitter and sad, with Ruth. Ruth was showing the faithfulness of God by taking care of Naomi. Gleaning the fields of Boaz, Ruth challenged Boaz to marry her and get their land back. Boaz went to the city gates to make the arrangements with the next of kin to get the land, who refused to take it when he found out that Ruth and Naomi were included. Boaz redeemed the land, married Ruth, and gave her a son. Naomi became the nanny to Obed. Obed is a descendent at Judah, who is in the genealogy of David and Jesus.



God's salvation can be strange and great, the empty and bitter filled, the second in line saved. Jesus has come to us, to redeem, to give eternity. Assisting today were the Worship Team with the gathering music, Diana reading Scripture, Chris on the Piano, Cathy leading, and Pastor Joel leading the Children's Time talking about the meaning of the Chrismons on the Chrismon tree.



"COME, LORD JESUS", a Christmas Program, was presented on Dec 22nd at 6:00 p.m. Gathering music, "Mary Did You Know" and "Hallelujah", were led by the Worship Team of Pastor Joel, Barrett, Karen, and Sharon. Pastor Joel then gave the welcome and announcements to the thirty plus in attendance. The KUMC Church choir presented "Birthday of a King", followed by Jenny and Scott singing "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear". "Joy to the World" was sung by all attending with Diana on the organ. We then read the Christmas story with John reading Luke 2:1—7, then we sang "Away In a Manger"; Karen reading Luke 2:8-14, then "The First Noel"; Scott reading Luke 2:15-20, then "O Little Town of Bethlehem"; and Sharon reading Matthew 2:1-12, then "We Three Kings". Karen and Sharon presented a cappella, "The Holly and the Ivy", followed by Diana reading "The Christmas Rifle" by Matt Miles, the story of a boy who in wanting a rifle for Christmas discovered what Christmas really was about thru the actions of his father. Haiden then played a beautiful rendition of "Angels We Have Heard on High" on the piano, and John sang "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas". Jenny read from John 3:16-17 and John 14:1-4, with all reading a written response. The program ended singing "Silent Night", and Pastor Joel giving the benediction. Refreshments and fellowship, and a visit from Santa, followed in the social hall. Thank you to all helped make this program a Glory to God.

BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: With a gathering of about fifty people, Diana played "Joy to the World", "There's a Song in the Air", and "What Child Is This?" on the organ as the gathering music. Pastor Joel welcomed all who had come, before Diana played "Little Drummer Boy" as the prelude in memory of Dorothy Deeds (her favorite Christmas hymn), as Carson and Connor brought in the Light of Christ. The Guilliams family led the Lighting of the Christmas Candle, with little Connor reading part of the litany, followed by "Light the Advent Candle". Josh gave the Bidding Prayer and led the Lord's Prayer, before Pastor Joel gave a blessing on all in attendance. Sharon and Karen read the hymnal Antiphons between each verse that we sang of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", followed by singing "The First Noel". The story of Christmas from Luke 2:1-20 was read by Ken. Pastor Joel spoke next on "The Lord Has Come". What does God want us to count with this Scripture--the count in Bethlehem, where to stay, when the baby would come? Shepherds were counting sheep, the stars, the wolves, the hours until dawn. Only one angel came to radiate the Glory of God, then a multitude. When glory comes, we can go with Him and share it, or we can hide from Him. This is the choice God gives us. The shepherds went to Bethlehem, a small place, insignificant, but very important, because the Lord had come, in a stable, in a manger. The Light of the World, God in human form, to bring peace, grace, and eternal life. The

Lord has come. We then sang “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”, followed by Linda Liskey reporting on the Baby Shower for Jesus (see results later in newsletter). Communion was celebrated through the Invitation, the Confession and Pardon, the Great Thanksgiving, and the Giving of the Bread and Cup, assisted by Ken, Sherry, and Becky, as “O Little Town of Bethlehem” was played. Pastor Joel then led the prayer “Christmas”, before the candle lighting and the singing of “Silent Night, Holy Night”. Seeing the candles held high and flickering gave a sense of peace and warmth. Pastor Joel gave the Dismissal Blessing, the candles were extinguished, and Diana played “Beautiful Star of Bethlehem” as all departed the service.

A Sunday School teacher asked her class, “What was Jesus’ mother’s name?” One child answered, “Mary.” The teacher then asked, “Who knows what Jesus’ father’s name was?” A little kid said, “Verge.” Confused, the teacher asked, “Where did you get that?” The kid said, “Well, you know they are always talking about Verge ‘n’ Mary.”

CHRISTMAS PICS



Best buddies Dillard’s after dinner Heatwole Clan Barbara’s family Evalyn in town



Guilliam’s ornaments Momma Ann’s décor Rylynn/Triton opening presents Patti’s family

The Mood of Christmas by Howard Thurman

“When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among people, To make music in the heart.”

Dec 29, 2024 **President Jimmy Carter**, the 39th US president who served one term and went on to become a globe-trotting elder statesman and humanitarian icon, died at the age of 100. He was a peanut farmer who won the presidency in the wake of the Watergate scandal and Vietnam War, and then redefined life after the White House as a global humanitarian. “My faith demands — this is not optional — my



faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can, with whatever I have to try to make a difference," Carter once said.

WHAT DID YOU SPILL TODAY? Lay Servant Ken led the worship service today, Dec 29th, by speaking from Matthew 23:25-28, the cleanliness of your cup. His message was entitled "What's in Your Cup?" The word cup is mentioned 68 times in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Matthew 23 says Jesus was reprimanding the Pharisees for their dirty cups on the inside. New clothes don't clean the inside, only hide it. All show, but no Go! You cannot partake of both the Lord's table and the devil's table. Psalm 23 tells us our cup overflows. Pessimists see the cup half empty; optimists see the cup half full; Christians see the cup running over with God's love. Don't complain about what you desire; be thankful you have what you deserve. You're carrying a coffee cup and someone jostles you—what spills out of your cup is what was in there. Your cup is your heart, and when the world jostles you, what spills out? If your heart is filled with love, and peace, and joy, that's what will spill out. Make sure your heart is clean, inside and outside. Assisting today were Wendell leading the service, Scott reading Scripture, Chris on the piano, and Ken talking to the children about staying grounded in God.

FROM EVALYN: Keezletown UMC service last Sunday (12-29). "Fill My Cup, Lord!" What spills out of our cups when we are challenged? That which we have filled it with, right? Asking the Lord to fill me with what He wants, not me. Happy New Year everyone!" Evalyn Campbell

HAPPY NEW YEAR—WISHING YOU BLESSINGS FOR 2025!

NEW YEAR'S JOKES

Did you hear about the guy who shoplifted a calendar on New Year's? They gave him 12 months.

What's the easiest way to make an eggroll on New Year's? Just push it.

I called out sick from my job on New Year's. When I came back, my manager yelled at me for missing work. I told him he was wrong. I didn't miss it at all.

What did the mother cow say to the baby cow at midnight? It's pasture bedtime.

Why didn't the skeleton go to Times Square on New Year's Eve? He had no body to go with.

Why do you want it to be chilly on New Year's Eve? So you can celebrate the holiday in a cool way!

Shenandoah River District December Newsletter: (excerpts):

District Members at-large to VA Annual Conference: 43 persons were elected on Nov 3rd for the 2025 VA Annual Conference on June 12th-14th in Roanoke, including **Wendell Cochran**, Co-District Lay Servant Director, and **Chris Cole**, At-Large Member.

Camp Overlook: We are planning Registration for Winter Camp from Feb 14th to 16th and Summer Camp from June 22nd to July 25th. Registration begins Dec 1st. Emmaus retreats will be Jan 24th-25th for Women and Jan 31st-Feb 1st for Men.

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.

NEW STUDIES:

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.

FAMILY FUN PICTURES



Vacation w/Zach



Healing friend



Ka'Leah & Brynleigh



Gotcha Day 1/1

JANUARY EVENTS THAT HAPPENED

MORE NEW YEAR'S JOKES

What is the best snack to tide you over until the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve? A Dick Clark Bar!

How do ducks like to celebrate New Year's Eve? By setting off fire quackers!

Did you know that if you eat 12 grapes on New Year's Eve it will bring good luck in the following year? Just doing my part to raisin awareness so that people can have a grape year!

Who looks forward to the new year the most? The calendar companies!

Want to know what you can always expect in the new year? 365 more days!

SHENANDOAH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER FOR JAN (excerpts):

From **Rev Dr Victor Gomez**: "As we begin this new year 2025; as we seek Jesus; as we are reminded on Epiphany of the wise men who offered homage to Jesus, as we are pilgrims and seek the light, let us always remember the least of these, and offer them the love and care we learn from Jesus. When we do it to the least of these our brothers and sisters, we do it for Jesus. May we find our King in Jesus."

From **John Stelzl, President, PiM**: "It's okay if our goal is to end homelessness and hunger in our community but at the end of the year only some of the people are helped. Just because your "coat" became a "blanket" doesn't mean you failed. It means you tried and God blessed your efforts in ways you hadn't expected."

Camp Overlook: We are planning Winter Camp from Feb 14th to 16th, with registration beginning Dec 1st. We are studying "The Greatest Love of All", the power of God's love in our lives.

From **Wendell Cochran, Co-Lay Servant Leader**: The Lay Servant Academy will be held Saturday, March 15th at McGaheysville UMC, with time TBA.

Paula Ford, Kingsway Ministries: "And thanks for your many gifts to Kingsway this year. Your generosity helped us meet everyone who came through our door with the love of the Prince of Peace! He is the only one who can give peace instead of their rush, anxiety, and push to hurry. Thank you so much!"

BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS AND HAT/MITTEN TREE: A big THANKS for your



generous, caring hearts! Baby shower gifts and love gifts were delivered to MCCCC the first week of January. Baby Shower for Jesus gifts included: 52 washcloths; 45 baby blankets of varying weights and sizes; 30 onesies and 18 sleepers; 596 diapers along with 1044 wipes; 15 bottles of baby wash, 12 bottles of baby shampoo, and 6 bottles of lotion; 5 jars of "Vaseline" and 4 tubes



of diaper creme; 4 bottle brushes; 6 teethers and 60 nursing pads. Also, a generous amount of cash was given to purchase items to complete the fill of the “New Baby” bags. Also taken to Mission Central this week were love gifts of 34 pairs of young men’s underwear, 8 knitted hats and 22 pairs of mittens/gloves, and some nice pieces of winter wear. Also, 98 pairs of socks were delivered to MCCCC! Wow! What amazing love offerings. Thank you for your unceasing support of Mission Central Children’s Clothes Closet. In Christ, Linda Liskey



United Women in Faith met on Thursday, Jan 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Social Hall with 14 members present. Judy called the meeting to order, gave the opening prayer, and led a devotional time on “New Year, New Me”. Nov minutes were dismissed, followed by a brief discussion of how wonderful the Dec meeting/meal with the UMM was, how good the food and fellowship was, and how we would like it to become a tradition. After Cheryl presented the Treasurer’s report, a motion was made to give \$200.00 to the Backpack program for our Mission of the Month. Karen passed a sheet for the 2025 monthly programs, and announced that the flower calendar had been posted in the narthex. Sherry advised that we would be serving the Keezletown Ruritans on Monday, Jan 6th, and that she will send out an e-mail to coordinate quantities needed. She also reminded us of the Birthday party on Feb 1st that we are serving. Arrangements and details are still being finalized. The February Soup/Bake sale is scheduled for Feb 15th. Undecorating the Church will be done on Tues, Jan 7th at 10:00 a.m. “We Remember” love bags for the shut-ins will be made in Feb. Start collecting and bringing your items. Pastor Joel reminded the group that a Zoom meeting with John Nday will be held on Thursday, Jan 9th at noon in the social hall for those who would like to attend. Chris read from the prayer calendar, and 10 cards were signed. Before adjournment, Judy expressed her gratitude at how much the group had participated in mission work in 2024, and asked all to think about possibilities for 2025. Judy adjourned the meeting with prayer. The next meeting is Feb 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church social hall.

CELEBRATING JAN 4TH SPAGHETTI DAY, WITH THE “SPAGHETTI SONG”: “On top of spaghetti, all covered with cheese. I lost my poor meatball when somebody sneezed. It rolled off the table, and onto the floor, and then my poor meatball, rolled out of the door. It rolled in the garden, and under a bush. And then my poor meatball was nothing but mush. The mush was as tasty as tasty could be. And early next summer, it grew into a tree. The tree was all covered with beautiful moss. It grew lovely meatballs and tomato sauce. So if you eat spaghetti all covered with cheese, hold on to your meatballs, and don't ever sneeze.” Did you sing it?

AND...was the beginning of the message entitled “God’s Midwives” presented by Pastor Joel on Jan 5th for the worship service. AND...points to something else. Exodus points to Genesis; Abraham received the covenant; Gods begins building His people. Jesus comes today so that we can be light and salt. AND, God will be faithful in 2025. He’s not done. God can work out any situation. Though Pharoah enslaved the Hebrews, they prospered, so he tried to have all the baby boys killed at birth by the midwives, who

would not do it. Will we be God's midwives, bringing justice and mercy to others? The Church is a midwife, delivering people by sharing the Good News. God's AND works all the time. Today we celebrated Communion as Cathy, Denise, Cory, Carson, Connor, and Ken assisted. Ken also led the service, Bob read the Scripture, Pastor Joel talked to the children about Three Wisemen, Chris played the piano and Diana, the organ.

JAN 9TH NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DAY: To all hardworking sheriffs, deputies, and police officers, who put their lives on the line every day to protect us, we say THANK YOU!

UNDECORATING the Church was done on Jan 9th at 10:00 a.m. by Judy, Carolyn, Kathy, and Pastor Joel. Jenny and Scott helped in taking down all the wreaths outside. Thank you.

THANK YOU: The KUMC family would like to Thank Geraldine Armentrout for her beautiful gift, to the Church, of the white ceramic Nativity that we were able to display for the last two years during Christmas. The joy and serenity that it brings each year enhances the Christmas spirit as we enjoy seeing it each week of the Christmas season. Thank you, Geraldine, for such a lovely gift.



MISSIONARY SPEAKS: Pastor Joel and others got to hear from our covenant missionary John NDay in Mozambique on Jan 9th, via Zoom. He requested prayer due to the political unrest in Mozambique that is happening at this time. John noted there are people not working, there is violence, there is interruption of services like electricity and internet access. Chris Cole from KUMC has been to Cambine and other locations in Mozambique several times and there are many United Methodist congregations there. Let us be in prayer for Mozambique and our missionary John NDay.

LIL MOSES, mother of Sherry Summers, passed away on Thursday, Jan 9th, peacefully in her sleep. She would have been 99 on her birthday, March 19, 2025. Moving from Newport News, she was transferred to English Meadows Assistant Living Community in Harrisonburg on Dec 23rd which allowed her & the family to have a wonderful Christmas – as Kristin stated, “It was a Christmas Miracle.” All got to visit with her & she got to see her two Great Grandsons – seeing Connor in person for the 1st time. There will be a Graveside Service on Saturday, Jan 25th at 11:00am at the Peninsula Memorial Park in Newport News where she will join her husband, Al, her son, Danny, & his girlfriend, Judy. Rusty Beck, Retired Pastor, from Lil’s church, Parkview Baptist Church, will officiate this service. There will also be a Celebration of Life at KUMC in March, a date close to her birthday. The family hopes that you can join them at one or both services to help Celebrate her life! Her Obituary will be on the website of the Peninsula Funeral Home in Newport News, VA.



DO YOU HAVE A NAME? The worship service on Jan 12th focused on Moses being “Drawn From the Water”, and the Confirmation of two new members. Pastor Joel began his message from Exodus 1:22—2:10, the story of Moses being rescued from the Nile, stating that Exodus Chapter 1, gives us the family tree of Israel by name. In

Exodus Chapter 2, we do not get names, as Pharaoh commanded that all newborn Hebrew boys be thrown in the Nile River. Nameless people carried out this deed, while nameless people watched. A Levite Mother saw thru God's eyes, how good her baby was, and hid him for three months. She then put him in a basket with protective coating and placed him in the Nile near where the Pharaoh's daughter bathed, and had his sister watch. When Pharaoh's daughter came to bath, she found him, and decided to keep him as her own, and named him Moses. The sister asked if she could get a Hebrew woman to nurse him, and the story of Moses begins. When we do good, our names do not need to be known. God alone knows. Today's service also included a renewal of our baptism and the Confirmation of two new members (see next article). Assisting today were Leonard leading, Chris at the piano, Jenny reading scripture, and Pastor Joel talking to the children about baptism during the children's time.

WELCOMING TWO NEW MEMBERS: On Jan 12th, during the worship service, the Church family was honored to take part in the Confirmation and joining the KUMC family of Chloe Hayden Robinette and Haiden Grey Dillard. Many of us have watched these two beautiful hearted young ladies grow up at KUMC and we are so proud of them. Congratulations and welcome. A potluck lunch was held after worship to celebrate.



Quote from Ann Youell, grandmother of Haiden: "There has never been a day when I have not been proud of my youngest granddaughter - on this day I was even more so. This was Haiden's Confirmation Day as she became a member of the Keezletown United Methodist Church. I was honored, along with her mom, dad and sister to be a part of this ceremony. I know the Lord has great plans for her life. She has certainly been a blessing to mine."

UWIF SERVE RURITANS: After two postponements due to bad weather, the UWIF were able to serve the Keezletown Ruritans their Jan meeting meal on Jan 13th. The attendees thoroughly enjoyed the Chili, Cornbread, Fruit Cup, Cake & Ice Cream, and Tea, served by the four ladies that helped. Thank you to all who donated or helped.

"Mere Christianity" Bible Study: the last session of this study was held on Monday, Jan 13th and Tuesday, Jan 14th, and focused on perfection and holiness, sanctification, counting the cost, and changing into a new person living for Christ.

CARSON ATTENDS: On Tuesday, Jan 14th, Carson and the Montevideo Middle School FFA members attended the Parliamentary Procedure Workshop at BRCC to learn more about Parli Pro. They had a great time!



LUNCH BUNCH GETS TOGETHER: Seven folks got together on Jan 15th for fellowship and good food at Wood Grill. Lots of good conversation was heard around the table. Though it was cold outside, it was warm being together and enjoying each other's company.

Happy National Winnie the Pooh Day! - January 18th-- "You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."– Winnie the Pooh

IT'S SO COLD:

It's so cold today, it could freeze the hinges off the gates of hell!

It's so cold, my plumber actually pulled his pants up!

The secret to not getting cold in the winter is to put so many layers on that you won't fit out the door!

JANUARY EVENTS IN NEXT ISSUE

- 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.
- 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. to Appleby's

MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES



Barrett's G-babies Sleigh rider Evalyn Snowy Winston Carson's Kitty

FROM WINTER HATERS: I'd rather be sunburnt and covered with mosquito bites trying to figure out how to stomp a copperhead with my flip flop than deal with winter weather!

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*** FEBRUARY EVENTS HAPPENING***

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb 2	Clint Martin	Feb 18	Nancy Armentrout
Feb 3	John Phalen	Feb 20	Courtney Sacra
Feb 3	Caleb Combs	Feb 22	Reese Pellegrin
Feb 4	Alexander Mansfield	Feb 22	Rick Layman
Feb 7	Lynn Siler	Feb 23	Loretta Eklund
Feb 7	Steve Suter	Feb 23	Steve Zylich
Feb 9	Cole Liskey	Feb 23	Joe Johnson Jr
Feb 10	Kevin Mason	Feb 24	Stephanie Liskey
Feb 12	Rylynn Bishop	Feb 25	Owen Summers
Feb 14	Noah Robinette	Feb 28	Tyler Sacra
Feb 17	Ken Thomas		
Feb 18	Kahlyn Smith		

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 12, 1993 Joseph & Melissa Johnson 32 years

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FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 1 UWIF/UMM serve private Birthday meal
- 2 Small Group Leaders Gathering at 8:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Disciple's Path Class begins during Sunday School
Souper Bowl Collection Begins
Worship at 11:00 a.m. with Communion; Message: "Affirmation and Rejection of God's Mission" from Exodus 4:18-5:23
- 3 "The Message of Jesus" Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
Backpacking at 11:00 p.m.
- 4 Worship Music Practice at 6:00 p.m.
"The Message of Jesus" Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
- 6 UWIF meet 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Souper Bowl Sunday Collection
Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Who Is the Great I AM" from Exodus 6:1-30
- 10 Worship Planning at 9:00 a.m.
"The Message of Jesus" Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
Backpacking at 11:00 p.m.
- 11 Worship Music Practice at 6:00 p.m.
"The Message of Jesus" Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Lunch Bunch carpool at 11:15 a.m.
Choir practice at 6:30 p.m.
Admin Council meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Newsletter items due
VALENTINE'S DAY

- 15 UWiF Annual Vegetable Soup/Bake Sale
- 16 UMM Breakfast meeting 8:00 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
 Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Let My People Go" from Exodus 7:1-8:32
 VALENTINE'S DAY lunch after Worship at 12:15 p.m.
- 17 "The Message of Jesus" Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
 Backpacking at 11:00 p.m.
- 18 "The Message of Jesus" Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Serve Kingsway Meal
- 23 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
 Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Changing Hearts" from Exodus 9:1-10:29
- 24 "The Message of Jesus" Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
 Backpacking at 11:00 p.m.
- 25 "The Message of Jesus" Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Lunch Bunch carpool at 11:15 a.m.
 Choir practice at 6:30 p.m.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

District Training Day: Shenandoah River District will be having a training day on Saturday, Jan 25th at Dayton UMC from 10 AM – Noon, for: Staff-Parish Relations; Trustees; Finance; Administrative Council; Lay Leader; Fresh Expressions; and Simple Accountable Structure. Sign up in the narthex or with Pastor Joel if you would like to attend.

Souper Bowl Sunday: Bring items for our local MPC Food Pantry and share your pick to win the Souper Bowl on Sundays Feb 2nd and 9th.

UWiF Annual Vegetable Soup and Bake Sale will be on Feb 15th.

Valentine's Day Luncheon after worship on Feb 16th.

For those of you who look forward to seeing the past year "Challenges", please bear with me—they will be coming in the February issue.

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MY PERSONAL NOTE

The ten darkest weeks of the year are from five weeks before and five weeks after winter Solstice or Dec 21st. WE MADE IT! The sun is going down a little later, and we are all wishing for longer light in the evenings. Winter is when we get "cabin fever" from staying in so much, especially in the dreadful cold we have had this winter. The sunshine affects us physically and mentally, but more so emotionally. Winter "blahs" come easily, and are not always so easily gotten rid of. A good friend, a telephone call, a good lunch,

just getting out and moving does help. But more than needing the sun during these times, we need "the SON", whose love can help us overcome anything. As the sun continues to stay out a little longer each day, may "the SON" grow in you. Pray, alone, or with someone, and let His love fill your heart and your soul. Then you can shine for others. God bless you all. *Diana*

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Editor's Note

The Feb deadline for submissions is Feb 14th. 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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And just like that...Santa is gone until next year. But...**Jesus** is here forever with gifts that never end.