

# MOUNTAIN ECHOES

DECEMBER 2025

180<sup>th</sup> Edition



*Jim Harris created this idyllic farm scene from 1957. Beautiful memories.*

## **KEEZLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Rev. T. Joel Robinette, Pastor

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

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The hardest thing about celebrating Christmas is how loud grief becomes when you notice who is missing from the table. The best thing about Christmas is knowing that we celebrate the very gift that came so we can meet again.  
(ullie-kaye)

**View Worship Online:** view the livestream of the 11:00 AM worship live on Keezletown UMC YouTube Channel at 10:45 a.m. or a link on the Keezletown United Methodist Facebook page. If you would like to give a tithe online, please visit this link: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=6261418> . Let us know you worshipped with us by filling out the KUMC Virtual Connection link: <https://forms.gle/YdbvYW93MjZEGrL38>. Thanks and be blessed.

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## **OUR PASTOR CHATS**

Merry Christmas during the Twelve Days of Christmas from December 25 – January 5. One of the joys of Christmas is that when God was born to us in the flesh as Jesus Christ there were people and places ready to receive him, and make room. Mary made womb room. Joseph made room in his family. When there was no room in the guest room in Bethlehem, room was found for Jesus in the manger. Shepherds went to welcome Jesus that night at the angel invitation. Magi traveled far, star guided to provide gifts and reveal that Jesus was the newborn king (which we celebrate January 6 on the Day of Epiphany). Since the birth of Jesus, people continue to welcome Jesus. John the Baptist welcomed him to baptism. Peter welcomed Jesus into his home in Capernaum. Martha and Mary welcomed Jesus to their grief and sorrow. Joseph of Arimathea welcomed Jesus to his new tomb. People have been welcoming the resurrected Jesus Christ into fear-filled upper rooms (the eleven), doubting hearts (Thomas), and wrong-way lives (Saul of Tarsus) ever since. Welcoming and receiving Jesus takes more than a day. It is a welcoming that changes the rest of our lives like the birth or welcoming of a child into your life. Twelve Days of Christmas is a good length for beginning and renewing a lifetime (and eternity) with Emmanuel, Jesus, God with us. May God give us joy as we make room to welcome Jesus in sabbath, prayer, worship, fellowship, service, and generosity. A joyful Christmas to you all as God peace is shared with us in Jesus Christ who is with us.

*Pastor Joel*

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## **\*\*\*NOVEMBER EVENTS THAT HAPPENED\*\*\***



*Pictures from the Taps Across America ceremony on Nov 11th*

**SHEEP OR WOLF?** “The Dangers of False Teachers” was the message Pastor Joel presented for the Nov 16<sup>th</sup> Worship Service from Psalm 119. Psalm 119 is the longest book of the Bible and gives us images for the laws of God—a lamp—an oil lamp. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path, all the way to eternity. In Peter we hear the warning about false teachers and prophets in the Church. False teaching is all around us, twisting the teachings of God to use for their own self pleasures and purposes. Peter is warning us to beware of these wolves in sheep’s clothing. Peter says we are giving you the gift of God. Assisting today were Leonard leading, Faye (Cochran) reading Scripture; the Worship Team with music; and Pastor Joel talking to the children about God’s word on our heart.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Carl and Marjorie Zimmermann joined KUMC by transfer from Olivet Methodist Church in Lusby, Maryland during the Worship service on Nov 16<sup>th</sup>. We welcome you, Carl and Marjorie, into the KUMC family.



**CHILL-N-CHAT** met on Nov 20<sup>th</sup> with 8 ladies and Pastor Joel. Thanks to all for helping stuff the newsletters for mailing as we chatted and fellowshiped.

**CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY:** “Jesus is Coming to Make All Things New” was the message from Pastor Joel on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> for worship, taken from Peter’s message in 2 Peter 3:1-18. This is Peter’s last words, messages telling us not to give up on our faith or be led astray by false prophets, and to live our faith. He called us “beloved”. Peter loved all those he was writing to. Christ the King Sunday is the last Sunday of the Christian year. Peter has scoffers about Jesus’ return, trying to lead them astray. We face scoffers today too. But God is patient, waiting for man to come to Him. The day of the Lord is coming—be patient—it will be like no other day. Assisting today were Wendell leading and talking to the children about “Thanks” & “Giving”; Diana on the organ; and Barrett reading scripture.

**Operation Christmas Child:** Millions of Children are learning about the love of Jesus through a filled shoe box. Thank you to all who helped spread the love by filling shoe boxes with toys, care items, and school supplies, or donated money that I used to shop with. Collection Sunday was Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, and with your generosity, we blessed and delivered 88 boxes. Thank you so much, Lynn



**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE:** At 3:00 p.m. on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, KUMC, along with St Jacob's and Trinity Lutheran Churches, sponsored a Community Thanksgiving Service at KUMC. Approximately fifty were present from the three listed above, as well as other United Methodist and Catholic churches. Diana played the gathering music on the organ. Pastor Joel gave the Preparation for Worship, and Karen and Sharon sang the Prelude, "Bless Us All". Pastor Joel then gave the welcome and greeting and led the opening prayer, before we sang "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come", as Ann Royer accompanied on the piano. The KUMC choir then presented "Give Thanks". George Coffman read the Old Testament Lesson, Pastor Joel led the Psalter responsive reading, Ken Thomas read the Epistle Lesson, and Barrett Bowman read the Gospel Lesson. Rev Don Hawks, Pastor of St Jacobs and Trinity, presented the message "Gratitude that Moves the World" from Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Philippians 4:4-9; and John 6:25-35. The sermon explored gratitude not as a feeling, but as a way of seeing—where love is still alive, beauty still breaks through, and God is co-creating hope with us. In a divided world, thanksgiving becomes a quiet, courageous act of healing. The sermon was followed by singing "Seek Ye First", the Affirmation of Faith, the Time of Prayer, Invitation, Confession and Pardon, and Passing the Peace. Ann played "Thank You, Lord, For Your Blessings on Me" as the offertory. The Great Thanksgiving, led by Pastor Joel, with Communion followed. Communion assistants were Jim and Carol Dillard, Barrett Bowman, D R Cooley, Rev Don Hawks, Ken Thomas, and Pastor Joel. "Eat This Bread" was played during Communion, followed by a prayer, and the closing hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" with the piano and organ. Pastor Joel gave the benediction. Attendees were asked to bring non-perishable food for Massanutten Food Pantry, with the offering also going to MPC. Light refreshments and fellowship followed in the Social hall.



**TIME TO DECORATE:** at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, fifteen folks came to help decorate the Church for Christmas. Along with sitting up and decorating the tree in the Social Hall and the one in the Sanctuary, they hung all the wreaths on the pathway into the Church, all the wreaths in the Social Hall, and the one below the cross, plus laying out the wreaths, the garland, and the holly and the ivy for the Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, Nov 30<sup>th</sup>. The beautiful white Nativity Scene given by Geraldine Armentrout was also placed in the Sanctuary. Everyone was invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the Social Hall following the decorating. A big Thank You to all who helped.



A lovely message: Once upon a time! When Window was just a square hole in a room and Application was something written on a paper. When Keyboard was a Piano and Mouse just an animal. When File was an important office material and Hard Drive just an uncomfortable road trip. When Cut was done with knife and Paste with glue. When Web was a spider's home and Virus was flu. When Apple and Blackberry were just fruits - that's when we had a lot of time for family and friends. Anon

**FIRE:** There was a fire in the kitchen area at the home of Perry, Virginia, Nicholas, and Winston Mitchell on Thanksgiving Day, Nov 27th. They are all okay, as well as all their animals, and are very thankful for all the help and support they have received from first responders, family, neighbors, employers, insurance company and more. Praise God for our community with ways ready to help.



**THANKSGIVING:** "Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your blessings, see what God has done. Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings, see what God has done."

**HANGING OF THE GREENS:** We celebrated the Hanging of the Greens during worship on Sunday Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, as Pastor Joel welcomed all to worship and Diana played "O Come, All Ye Faithful" on the organ. He then led the Call to Worship, with the Choir responding with "Deck the Halls". The Cedar Branch Scripture from Jeremiah was led by Pastor Joel before we sang "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" followed by the Guilliams family leading the Wreath and Garland reading from Isaiah and singing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". Josh read the fourth reading from Isaiah for the Holly and Ivy, followed by the Choir singing "The Holly and the Ivy". Jenny read the Mystery of the Incarnation from John and gave the Blessing and Lighting of the Chrismon Tree, as little Remi turned on the Christmas tree lights, followed by the Choir singing "O Christmas Tree". Jenny and Haiden gave the Blessing of the Nativity, followed by singing "O Little Town of Bethlehem". Marjorie and Carl led the Legend of the Poinsettia with the Choir responding with "What Can I Give Him?" Becky and Brenda led the Blessing of the Advent Wreath, as we lit the first candle, and sang "Light the Advent Candle". Jenny talked to the children about the Legend of the Candy Cane, then

passed out candy canes to everyone in attendance. Cheryl came to read the Gospel lesson from John 1:1-18. Pastor Joel spoke on “God Became Flesh and Lived Among Us”. Advent is the beginning of the Christian New Year. We are beginning the study of John. John tells us who Jesus, “the Word”, is. John lets us know that even before creation Jesus existed. Everything we have He helped create for us. Jesus has been active in the world for all times to bring salvation for all people. God came down among us lighting our hearts and the world in love. Passing the peace, the Morning Prayer, and the Collection of Offerings followed the message, before we sang the closing hymn, “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”. Pastor Joel gave the benediction and Diana played “O Come, All Ye Faithful” refrain as the postlude. What a beautiful celebration and a beautifully decorated House of God.

## **FAMILY FUN PICTURES**



*Vacationing*



*“Seesters”*



*Getting the tree*



*Len goes to Ohio*

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

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

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 10 AM – 1 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month from 4 – 7 PM; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month from 4 – 7 PM.

**MPC Food Pantry Thank You:** Thank you for contributing the Thanksgiving service collection of food and monetary donations. The food (over 162 pounds) and \$150 will be beneficial to our pantry. Your congregation has been a faithful supporter of our food

pantry all year, with over 400 pounds of food donated in 2025. We are serving an average of 30 households each month, representing 120 people. Your support helps us continue to serve the community. Dorothy Dobroth, Food Pantry Coordinator.

## **BIBLE STUDY:**

**Everyday Epiphanies Study:** Everyday Epiphanies: Meeting Christ in the Ordinary Moments of Life is a book by James Harnish that we will read and study together on Mondays at 10 AM and Tuesdays at 7 PM for eight weeks beginning Jan 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. In Everyday Epiphanies: Meeting Christ in the Ordinary Moments of Life, James A. Harnish invites you to see the presence of Christ in the everyday moments of our lives. In seven chapters, he takes you through the moments in the gospels where ordinary people experienced the extraordinary revelation of Jesus as the Son of God. As you read this book, you'll learn to pay attention to the ordinary epiphanies in your own life, the small revelations of Christ that point to God's dramatic self-revelation to the world. Study books are \$14.00 through the church or you could order an eBook from Cokesbury.

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

**Steve Suter** began a new Substack "**The Bible Reader**". You can read it online at <https://thebiblereader.substack.com>

**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](http://www.keezletownumc.com).

**A Disciple's Path: What's a United Methodist?** is a once a month class for new comers/and new members at KUMC, which began on Sunday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> from 3 – 5 PM. Sign up with Pastor Joel, bring a Bible along and study books if you already have them.

## **MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES**



*Getting festive*



*Ruritan tree*



*Dillard's ready*



*1<sup>st</sup> JMU game*



*Randy & Janet*

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

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH:** The UWIF met for the first time in a day meeting on Dec 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in the Church social hall with thirteen members present. Judy called the meeting to order, opened with prayer, and led the recitation of the Purpose. Diana gave the devotions, then read the Nov minutes which were approved. Cheryl gave the Treasurer's report and advised that the CD was rolled over. We approved giving the Virginia Mitchell family money to use as needed until they can return home. Sharon advised that she, Judy, and Andrew picked up and delivered the 31 poinsettias to the Church on Nov 29<sup>th</sup>. Judy thanked all of the ladies who helped make the Thanksgiving Community Service reception a success. Sherry advised that the UWIF will supply the table décor, the appetizers, and the desserts for the Christmas dinner on Dec 13<sup>th</sup>. Cheryl will be in charge of the Bingo and games again this year. We will also be making chicken salad sandwiches and pimento cheese sandwiches for the Ruritan Tree Lighting on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>. The glove/mitten/hat tree is now up in the narthex. We approved making vegetable soup again on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, along with a bake sale. The Love bags will be assembled in Feb. We will be trying to do a new UWIF directory and perhaps a new church directory in the new year. Chris read from the prayer calendar and we signed 11 cards. Determining that those in attendance preferred the daytime meeting during the winter months, the meeting dates for Jan and Feb were set as Jan 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. and Feb 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Judy closed the meeting with prayer.

**JESUS IS COMING! JESUS IS COMING!** On this, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Joel spoke from John 1:19-28, "A Voice Crying in the Wilderness". Today, John the Baptist, is crying out in the wilderness. Advent means coming and John is telling people to get ready for Jesus' coming. People were coming to John to hear his message and be baptized. God's grace is coming and will stay forever. John still calls to us today. John was clearing a path for Jesus. Do we keep the path open? John was drawing attention and the Pharisees questioned him. He told them he was a voice crying in the wilderness, but one standing among them will bring salvation to all. Assisting today were Ken leading and leading the Children's Time; Mike reading Scripture; Chris on the Piano; and Ken, Leonard, Haiden, Jim, and Carol helping with Communion.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Cory Guilliams** for earning the Conservationist of the Year award for NRCS at the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts convention on Dec 8<sup>th</sup>. Lynette writes: "Carson, Conner, and I are so proud of you and everything you do! I see every day what a blessing you are to us, but also to our community. You are beyond deserving of this honor!"



**CHILL-N-CHAT** met on Thursday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup>, with nine ladies and two gentlemen. Along with the fellowship, we were able to help get the social hall set up and decorated for the

Christmas party on Saturday for the Church family. After the meeting, four of the ladies went out to Galley to enjoy more time together and have a great lunch.

**WHAT A WONDERFUL EVENING:** The UWif and the UMM joined together to provide a wonderful Christmas party evening for approximately eighty of the Church family and their guests. It started at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, with appetizers of raspberry punch, a cheese ball, spinach dip, mixed nuts, and a vegetable tray, for all to munch on as they mingled, provided by the UWif. Judy welcomed everyone at about 4:30 p.m., and Diana read a devotional poem she had written about a lonely shepherd on Christmas night. We then sang "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing", followed by Pastor Joel and John leading the group in "Joy to the World". Scott then gave the blessing and invited everyone to come. The table was set and we dined on a feast of Sunday chicken with mushroom gravy, baked ham with pineapple and peaches, cheesy potato casserole, green beans, baked apples with raisins, kale salad, and rolls, prepared and provided by the UMM. The UWif provided the desserts—four kinds of cobblers and a rum cake, with whipped cream and ice cream to top them off. Joe set out some take home containers and people helped themselves to the leftovers. After supper, Karen and Sharon came to sing "There's a New Kid in Town". We had drawings for door prizes, and played Christmas bingo for prizes. As is the annual tradition, Jenny came to read us a Christmas story entitled "The Christmas Tree for Jesus", then passed out little painted tree ornaments to all the families in attendance. Judy asked all to join in singing "Silent Night" and we closed with the Lord's prayer. Even during the cleanup, folks were still mingling, talking, and laughing. It was a joyous celebration of Christ's birth and the love we share.





**NOTES TO MYSELF:** Stop spending more money to get free shipping. Your coffee is still in the microwave. Don't throw the box with the directions away until it's 100% done. Glasses are on top of your head. Wearing headphones does not make your farts silent. Just because it pops in your head doesn't mean it should come out of your mouth. Don't use your phone as a flashlight to look for your phone. You're never going to remember to do that thing later. Do it now. (From New Cranky Old Lady)

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

- Dec 14      **Sunday School, 9:45 AM**  
Worship, 11:00 AM; Message: "Revealing the Lamb of God" from John 1:29-34
- Dec 15      **Heaven in the Bible Study, 10:00 AM**  
**Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM**
- Dec 16      **Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM**  
**Heaven in the Bible, 7:00 PM**
- Dec 17      **Choir practice 6:30 PM**
- Dec 18      **Chill & Chat, 11:00 AM**
- Dec 20      **Walk to the Manger, 6:00 PM; Church carpool at 6:00 PM**
- Dec 21      **Jesus' Birthday Party, 9:45 AM**  
Worship, 11:00 AM; Message: "Come and See" from John 1:35-51  
Advent Lament Service at Weyers Cave UMC, 6:00 PM
- Dec 22      **Heaven in the Bible, 10:00 AM**
- Dec 24      **Christmas Eve Service, 8:00 PM; Message: Luke 2:1-20 "Good News for All People"**  
A Baby Shower for Jesus collected
- Dec 25      **CHRISTMAS—MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL**
- Dec 25-Jan1 **Vacation for Pastor Joel**
- Dec 28      **Sunday School, 9:45 AM**  
**Worship, 11:00 AM**  
Message: "Faith: The Substance of Things Hoped For and the Evidence of Things Not Seen" by Lay Servant Len Williams
- Dec 31      **NEW YEARS DAY—HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Believe like Mary; Trust like Joseph; Hope like Shepherds; Seek like Wise Men; Worship like Angels, and Love like Jesus. (From Timeless Rewind)

**MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES**



*Brayden is 17*



*Evalyn ringing*



*Heatwole elves*



*Happy BD Beth*



*At Charge Conference*

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

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

|        |                 |        |                  |
|--------|-----------------|--------|------------------|
| Jan 1  | Brian Kelley    | Jan 18 | Ryan Sprague     |
| Jan 2  | Maynard Michael | Jan 21 | Charlie Liskey   |
| Jan 3  | Margie Martin   | Jan 22 | Jade Bahle       |
| Jan 6  | Melissa Johnson | Jan 22 | Tanya Eppard     |
| Jan 7  | Gary Heatwole   | Jan 23 | Leah Siler       |
| Jan 8  | Mark Ramsey     | Jan 23 | Kelli Sprague    |
| Jan 8  | Barbara Propst  | Jan 24 | Chris Threewitts |
| Jan 9  | Cora Combs      | Jan 27 | Brayden Carter   |
| Jan 11 | Josh Wangter    | Jan 29 | Faye Crowe       |
| Jan 15 | Donna Carrier   | Jan 30 | Brent Combs      |
| Jan 15 | Tristen Myers   | Jan 31 | Davis Kelley     |
| Jan 17 | Bryan Wamsley   |        |                  |
| Jan 18 | Lauren Holliday |        |                  |

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

|              |                        |          |
|--------------|------------------------|----------|
| Jan 2, 2010  | Wesley & Sarah Crisman | 16 years |
| Jan 30, 2015 | Tyler & Courtney Sacra | 11 years |

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**JANUARY EVENTS CALENDAR**

- Dec 25 – Jan 1 Vacation for Pastor Joel
- Jan 4      **Small Group Leaders Gathering, 8:45 AM**  
              **Sunday School, 9:45 AM**  
              **Worship, 11:00 AM; Message “Water to Wine: The First Sign” from John 2:1-12**
- Jan 5      **Backpack Project Packing, 9:00 AM**  
              **Heaven in the Bible, 10:00 AM**  
              **Study Lunch at Chili’s, 11:15 AM**
- Jan 6      **Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM**

- Jan 7           Choir Practice, 6:00 PM
- Jan 8           United Women in Faith, 11:00 AM
- Jan 11          Sunday School, 9:45 AM  
                   Worship, 11:00 AM; Message "Temple Turnover and a Sign Requested" from  
                   John 2:13-25
- Jan 12          A Disciple's Path: A Disciple's Path Defined, 3 – 5 PM  
                   Everyday Epiphanies study, 10:00 AM  
                   Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM  
                   Worship Planning at Vito's at Noon  
                   Newsletter items due
- Jan 13          Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM  
                   Everyday Epiphanies study, 7:00 PM
- Jan 14          Lunch Bunch, 11:30 AM at Galleys  
                   Church Council, 7:30 PM
- Jan 15          Chill-N-Chat, 11:00 AM
- Jan 18          United Methodist Men, 8:00 AM  
                   Sunday School, 9:45 AM  
                   Worship, 11:00 AM; Message: "Healing of a Son: The Second Sign" from  
                   John 4:43-54
- Jan 19          Taco Bar and Open Doors Sharing with Nate Riddle, 12:15 PM  
                   Everyday Epiphanies study, 10:00 AM  
                   Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM
- Jan 20          Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM  
                   Everyday Epiphanies study, 7:00 PM
- Jan 21          Choir Practice, 6:00 PM
- Jan 22          Chill-N-Chat, 11:00 AM
- Jan 25          Sunday School, 9:45 AM  
                   Worship, 11:00 AM; Message: "Healing of a Paralytic: A Sabbath Sign" from  
                   John 5:1-18
- Jan 26          Everyday Epiphanies study, 10:00 AM  
                   Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM
- Jan 27          Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM  
                   Everyday Epiphanies study, 7:00 PM
- Jan 28          Lunch Bunch, 11:30 AM at Vitos
- Jan 29          Chill-N-Chat, 11:00 AM

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**12/20: Walk to the Manger at Camp Overlook** on Dec 20<sup>th</sup>, an outside walk to remember the story of Jesus' birth with angels, shepherds, wise ones, Mary and Joseph. Meet at KUMC at 6:00 PM to carpool. Dress warmly. We'll return to KUMC afterwards for hot chocolate and time together until 8:00 PM.

**12/21: Jesus' Birthday Party** during Sunday School on Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:45 AM in the social hall with cake, refreshments, devotion, games, and fellowship. Come celebrate Jesus' birthday.

**12/21: Advent Lament Service:** Weyers Cave UMC invites us to join them on Sunday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM, with several local UMC pastors participating in the service. This service in Advent is one where we may bring our laments, sorrows, and grief to God for grace. Meet at KUMC at 5:15 PM if you would like to carpool to the Weyers Cave.

**12/24: Christmas Eve Service** will be Wednesday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM with hymns, communion, candle lighting, and A Baby Shower for Jesus. We'll be collecting items for newborn essentials to be given through the Mission Central Children's Clothing Closet. You may give funds or items from a list that will be in the bulletin soon.

**Taco Bar and Open Doors Sharing with Director Nate Riddle:** Open Doors shelter director Nate Riddle is coming to our church to share about the shelter's work and needs on Sunday, Jan 18<sup>th</sup> during a Taco Bar Lunch after worship provided by the United Methodist Men. There will be a freewill offering at the lunch for Open Doors.

**KUMC Backpack Project:** We will provide weekend food for students in need at Cub Run Elementary School this year. To sponsor students checks can be made to "KUMC Backpack Project" and given to Jenny Dillard. Packing bags is OFTEN Mondays at 11:15 AM but sometimes at other times and help is always welcome.

**Relay for Life 2026:** Keezletown United Marchers for a Cure team is registered for the new year. Let's do it for the 25<sup>th</sup> year. You may join the team on line at [secure.acsevents.org](https://secure.acsevents.org). Any questions, see Lynn Siler.

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### **MY PERSONAL NOTE**

Dear Jesus: You came in the quiet of the night, helpless, needy, and vulnerable, feeling the cold, lying in a feed trough, animals surrounding you. Who would believe that our Savior would come to us like this? Who would believe that God, the creator of everything, including us, would humble Himself to be one of us, and yet, not one of us, far greater than any of us. People believed, people disbelieved, even when they were there with you. Today, we believe because of what you did, and are continuing to do for us

every day, interceding with the Father, helping answer prayers, loving us, in spite of us. We can never repay the sacrifice that You gave, but You are not asking us to. Your request is more simple: love each other and love You. May our hearts feel You anew this Christmas.

*Diana*

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**Editor's Note**

**The January deadline for submissions is Jan 12th.** My home number is 540-269-8511 or e-mail me at [AntDyna@comcast.net](mailto:AntDyna@comcast.net). I hope that you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoy preparing it for you. God bless you all.

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Now is the time for you to decide if you have room in the inn of your heart for Jesus.