

# MOUNTAIN ECHOES

JANUARY 2026

181st Edition



*A snowman and his dog; making fun of the cat. Photos courtesy of Facebook.*

## KEEZLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. T. Joel Robinette, Pastor

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The manger is empty. The cross is empty. The tomb is empty. But our hearts are FULL because JESUS CHRIST is seated on the throne!  
That is the true JOY of CHRISTMAS.

**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**

January 6 is Epiphany Day and the season after Epiphany runs through Transfiguration Sunday which is the last Sunday before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Epiphany is the revealing of God with us in Jesus Christ. This year we have sermons during this Epiphany time on the signs in John's Gospel that point to Jesus' identity and actions. There is also a book study by retired United Methodist pastor James Harnish called "Everyday Epiphanies: Meeting Christ in the Ordinary Moments of Life" on Monday mornings and Tuesday evenings. The study opens with a quote from Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "Earth's crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God; but only he who sees takes off his shoes; the rest sit around it and pluck blackberries." Browning asserts that God's presence and grace are all around, filling the earth. Moses, saw the burning bush and went to see and then encountered God and God's commission to set the Hebrew slaves free. Magi saw the star and went to see the new born king and met Jesus and they went home following God's guidance. I have found I realize God's presence and grace is here filling the earth when I take time to look and see the ordinary signs that point to God. I read scripture and pray and open my ears and heart to God's words. I go to worship and Christian fellowship and see and hear people of faith sharing where they have encountered God, pointing me to where and how Jesus is moving in the world so I may go and see. I take time for Sabbath rest, break from work, to interrupt the work schedule for time with God. God has placed ordinary signs all around us: scripture reading, prayer, corporate worship, Sabbath, Christian fellowship and sharing, serving one another. Turn aside like Moses to see, follow the star-sign all the way to where Jesus is like the Magi, join Christians around the world in the signs that help us recognize God is with us. *Pastor Joel*

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**2025 CHALLENGES:** For those of you who would normally be expecting to see the 2025 Challenges posted in this issue, I do apologize. Due to physical challenges and my upcoming procedures for repairs to my body, and wanting to get the January newsletter out before that time, something had to wait. It will be in February's newsletter. Thank you for understanding.

**KINGSWAY APPLE TREE PROJECT:** We collected gifts for children of incarcerated parents during the month of Nov for the Apple Tree Project. We celebrated dedicating 65 gifts on Sunday, Nov 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your caring and giving.



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

**JOHN IS POINTING:** For the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Joel used John 1:29-34 to lead us in “Revealing the Lamb of God” during worship. If the Gospel of John was a courtroom and we had to decide what to do with Jesus, the first witness would be John. He would be pointing at Jesus, saying, see the Lamb of God. This is really good news. Jesus has come to take away the sins of the world. We need to put our eyes on Jesus every day and God will give us the way to live like Jesus in love and service to others. Assisting Pastor Joel today were Diana on the organ, Karen lighting the third Advent candle, Judy reading Scripture, and Karen and Sharon leading the Children’s Time with a story about Christmas trees.

**NEW MEMBER RECEIVED:** During worship on Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, Brenda Kaye Hoke, reaffirmed her faith, and transferred her membership from Dayton UMC. We welcome you, Brenda. A time of remembrance for all in worship was held after she was received.



**CHILL-N-CHAT** met on Thursday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, but due to the lack of a key and the cold, they retreated to their warm homes. Instead, three of them came out on Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup>, and printed, stuffed, labeled, and mailed the Dec Newsletters, as well as having a wonderful chat time.

**JESUS’ BIRTHDAY PARTY!** On Dec 21st during the Sunday School hour, we had a Birthday Party for Jesus! Our devotion and story were entitled – “Happy Birthday Jesus” - and called us to reflect on the amazing gift we have been given at Christmas. Karen Mooney made a beautiful and delicious cake for us to enjoy, along with nuts, fruit, and punch. Brenda Hoke, our newest member, blew out the birthday candle. We sang Away In A Manger and enjoyed a time of fellowship together. We had an ornament exchange game we played and the handmade basket Nativity ornament made by Lynn Siler proved to be the most coveted and went through several hands before landing and remaining with Chloe Robinette. Karen also provided tree table decorations with some adorable Santa coat ornaments that each person got to take. It was a fun and spirit filled morning. Hip Hip Hooray, it’s Jesus’ special day!! Jenny



**FINDING JESUS:** John 1:35-51 was the Scripture used by Pastor Joel as he gave the message “Come and See” for worship on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Dec 21<sup>st</sup>. We don’t find Jesus or God on our own. We have others that lead us. We need help to show us Jesus. Shepherds were led by angels, wisemen by a star, and John’s followers by John. We are led by the witnesses God has placed in our lives to bring us to Jesus. Jesus asks “What are you looking for?” He knows the desires of our hearts, and our lives are better because we follow Him. Assisting today were the Worship Team musicians, Wendell leading, the Youngs lighting the Fourth Advent Candle, Barrett talking to the children about Christmas tree decorations, and Scott reading Scripture.



**SANTA BRIGHTENS CHRISTMAS!** Santa visited a little boy and his sister to help brighten their Christmas, as he and the family are going through a very serious illness. Thanks to Santa Ken for helping make the Holidays special.



**CHRISTMAS EVE DEC 24<sup>th</sup>:** The Christmas Eve service opened with the playing of the “Little Drummer Boy” by Diana on the organ. The Christ candle was lit as a



Christmas Candle Litany was read. Prayers and hymns followed. The Choir presented “A Manger So Far From Home”, before Pastor Joel read Luke 2:1-20, the Christmas story, and gave his message, “Peace on Earth”. The angels sang “Peace on Earth”, telling of the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, who went to see. They were changed when they returned. The darkness cannot overcome the peace and joy we receive from God.

Everything is not perfect, then or now, but Jesus comes in the darkness with peace that passes understanding for all people. Peace on Earth, Thank you, Jesus. The Great Thanksgiving and the Sharing of the Bread and Wine followed.



Assisting with Communion were Sherry, Mike, Parker, Jenny, and Ken. The service closed with Candle Lighting as we sang “Silent Night”. Happy Birthday, Jesus.

**THANK YOU!** As has been a Christmas tradition at KUMC, a **Baby Shower for Jesus** was held during December. Church family, you repeatedly bless Mission



Central Children's Clothes Closet (MCCCC)! Here is a count of some of the wonderful gifts you gave: **over 26,000 baby wipes**; 417 baby diapers; 45 washcloths; 79 onesies; 9 sleepers; 10 bottles of baby wash/shampoo; 8 diaper rash care/prevention products; 9 baby hats; 9 burp cloths and 11 gift bags. Many other needful gifts such as pacifiers, bottle brushes, crib sheets, swaddling blankets, teething rings, nasal aspirators, nail clippers, sippy cups, shoes and socks were also generously donated. What a blessing you are to moms and babies in need of these items! Thank you! Your heartfelt baby gifts have been delivered to MCCCC.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**

**WALK BY FAITH:** For worship service on Dec 28<sup>th</sup>, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas, Leonard Williams gave the message “Faith: the Substance of Things Hoped For and the Evidence of Things Not Seen”, as he filled in for Pastor Joel, who was on vacation. What is faith? The ability to manipulate God? Believing the right doctrine? Taking a blind leap in the dark? None of these. It is obedience to God’s word and obeying Him. Each of us has faith in someone or something. We need to put our faith in Jesus. Assisting

today were Jenny leading and talking with the children about “Thank You, Jesus”, and Chris on the piano.

**Mary Jo Mitchell**, 88, friend of KUMC and outstanding in the Keezletown community passed



away on Sunday, Dec 28<sup>th</sup>. Mary Jo was married on Aug 2, 1959 to Arthur W Mitchell. She was a teacher at Broadway High School, Montevideo High School, Spotswood High School, and retired in 1991. She was a member of Otterbein United Methodist Church. She enjoyed working with Art on the farm and in her flower garden and vegetable garden. She is survived by her brother, Charles B.

Sheets (Norma); niece, Judy Sheets; nephews Marty Sheets (Cindy), and Mike Sheets (Patty); sister-in-law, Ellie Downs (Doug); and numerous cousins, close friends and neighbors. The family received friends on Thursday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, and held a service celebrating her life on Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**MUSIC & MRS. MILLER** by Jim Harris, December 2025

I find myself appreciating Nelson Miller’s work more and more as the years go by. This season always brings back memories of the annual Christmas Pageant at Keezletown Methodist Church. I was part of those productions from the age of four. Music was at the heart of the program, but we also had our memorized lines and our little roles to play. I was usually a shepherd, though I believe I may have been honored with the role of a wiseman once. One memory still makes me wince. Mrs. Miller gathered a choir of teens and pre-teens and, to my surprise, chose me to sing a solo. During the very first rehearsal, my voice cracked—and just like that, I was replaced. It stung at the time, but it has become one of those stories that grows softer with age. My deepest appreciation for Mrs. Miller comes from my elementary school years, when she taught music in the classroom behind Keezletown Elementary—better known to all of us as The Cannery. It was there that we learned to sing “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” already one of my favorite songs because of *The Wizard of Oz*. Even now, I often catch myself humming it as I take walks through the quiet beauty of nature. She also taught us the song “Trees,” based on Joyce Kilmer’s poem. Kilmer was tragically killed in World War I just a year after his poems were published. That poem—and the way she taught it—has stayed with me all my life. Its sentiments have inspired several pieces of my artwork. One of those paintings now hangs in the Prayer Room at Bridgewater United Methodist Church, and was selected by Sun’s Out Puzzle Company. It is currently available through them, along with a second puzzle featuring my art. Looking back, I realize I didn’t fully understand or appreciate all that Mrs. Miller did for us. She could be abrupt, even harsh at times, and we children quickly learned not to test her patience during pageant rehearsals. And when she dismissed me as a first-time soloist, she did so without much gentleness. Yet when I was asked to speak at her funeral, I felt both surprised and honored. Even then, I don’t think I fully grasped how deeply she had shaped and blessed my life. Mrs. Miller endured a hard life, but she met it with strength, faith, and determination. She never allowed her struggles to dim her love of music or her commitment to sharing it. For that, and for her presence in my life, I thank God.

## FAMILY FUN PICTURES



*The Puseys*



*The Underwoods*



*The Morrises*



*Carson and Connor*

Anybody interested in a ride in a helicopter for 4 people? I'm still looking for 2 more adults to join us. We leave early Saturday morning from the Airport and will fly to St Augustine, Florida, where we will have breakfast, then have lunch on a yacht. Then we'll do a flight up the east coast to see the lights, returning to Florida for dinner. If interested, please message me. Preferably someone with a helicopter and yacht, otherwise...we can't go.

## 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 twice 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.

## 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>. The book invites you to see the presence of Christ in the everyday moments of our lives, 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 Preschool – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Class; Grades 2 – 5 Elementary School Class; Middle and High School Youth Class; An adult class *Disciples of Christ*; An adult class taught by Chris Cole using *Adult Bible Studies* materials. Join in a Sunday School Class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM..

**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**



*Awwwwwww!*



*Gotcha day 1-2010*



*Jade & Carmella*



*Charlie is 1*

## **\*\*\*JANUARY EVENTS THAT HAPPENED\*\*\***

**Gary Curtis Knupp, Sr.**, 80, of Harrisonburg, who attended KUMC, passed away Sunday Jan 4<sup>th</sup>.



*He was a big fan of the New York Yankees and the Indianapolis Colts, and worked as a meat cutter. Surviving are a sister, Barbara Green; a brother, Donnie Knupp (Joan); brother-in-law, Tom Showater; sisters-in-law, Mary Knupp and Alda Knupp; many nieces and nephews including Carroll "Tim" Knupp, and Leonard Shoemaker; his companion Joy Dean, and beloved dog,*

*Ben. Services were held Jan 12<sup>th</sup> at Kyger Funeral Home with Pastor Joel Robinette officiating.*

**HE TURNED THE WATER INTO WINE:** For Epiphany Sunday, Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Joel used John 2:1-12 as the Scripture for his message "Water to Wine, the First Sign". Epiphany is Jan 6<sup>th</sup> every year, revealing the wisemen seeking to reveal Jesus. The story of Jesus turning the water into wine is often used to reveal Jesus. People started

pointing to Jesus after this sign. Signs tell us directions, but there are many signs of God's grace. John has given us the first sign pointing to Jesus. When you read "on the third day" be ready for something. Mary told Jesus the wine was gone—He turned the water into wine. He shows us the abundance of His grace to all the world. Assisting today were Diana on the organ, Pastor Joel showing the children how water became grape KoolAid, Ken leading, Jim reading Scripture, and Carson, Connor, Cory, Ken, and Josh, assisting with Communion.

**STUDY COMPLETED:** The Monday morning class completed their study of "Heaven in the Bible" on Monday Jan 5<sup>th</sup>. To celebrate, ten of the participants enjoyed lunch together at Chili's following the class time.

**RURITANS ARE SERVED:** Four ladies from the United Women in Faith served the monthly meeting meal to the Keezletown Ruritans on Monday, Jan 5<sup>th</sup>. Included in the meal were meatloaf, hashbrown casserole, green beans, rolls, dessert, and tea.

**Keezletown United Women in Faith** met Jan 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m., with 14 members and Pastor Joel present. Judy called the meeting to order, and presented a program called "Small & Mighty" based on Scripture from Matthew 14:13-21, "Jesus Feeds the 5000". Even something small can make a big impact. How do you sense God when you are feeling small? Cheryl read the Dec minutes in Diana's absence, which were approved. Judy made one amendment to say due to the cancellation of the Ruritan Tree Lighting, the sandwiches made were given to a needy family. Cheryl gave the Treasurer's Report which was approved. Mission of the Month will be to Open Doors. Karen passed the sign-up sheet for programs for 2026. Easter will be Apr 5<sup>th</sup>, so Karen will have the order forms in the bulletin Mar 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and flowers will be picked up Apr 4<sup>th</sup>. Sherry reported the Keezletown Ruritans were served Monday Jan 5<sup>th</sup>. We will serve Keezletown again in Mar, Apr & Sept. Mt. Crawford will be served in May, Aug and Nov. The soup and bake sale will be Feb 7<sup>th</sup>. A list for donations was passed and completed. Baked items will be voluntary. The Lent meal will be Ash Wednesday, Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. Chili and cornbread will be served. Conference kit time is coming up. Sherry will be sending a list for Feb collection for Health Kits. Karen will check with Kingsway to see if they can accept Love Bags and will get a list of possible items. Judy reported the Christmas dinner was a great success. Feb meeting will be Feb 5<sup>th</sup> at 11 am and Mar meeting will be Mar 5<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. Chris read from the Response Magazine in lieu of having the Prayer Calendar. Fourteen cards were signed. Judy read an article that talked about "decluttering your life". Recognize what you need to discard or keep physically, emotionally, spiritually or digitally. Take a step back and focus on things that matter. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting Feb 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

**JESUS GOT ANGRY:** Pastor Joel spoke from John 2:13-25, the temple and the moneychangers, for Sunday worship on Jan 11<sup>th</sup>, with a message entitled, “Temple Turnover and a Sign Requested”. When rights are questioned and protests happen, people may join or disappear. Mind your own business seems to be prevalent. Jesus protested and people looked and listened. At Passover, when Jesus went to the Temple, He found it packed with visitors, moneychangers, sheep, and cattle. Jesus became angry and took a whip and ran them all out. The people wanted a sign of His authority. We are all temples of God—is there anything in our Church and lives that keeps others from seeing Jesus? Ken helped lead the service, Chris played the piano, and Ken lead the children’s time with a story about miracles.

**BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, AND RECEPTION:** What a glorious Sunday worship, watching two baptisms, a confirmation and profession of faith, and a transfer of membership to KUMC! Ramilia Ann Davis (Remi) and Ramira Autumn Davis (Mira) were both baptized. Remi said, “It’s really wet” as Pastor Joel blessed her three times. Mira didn’t even cry. It was a touching sight. Emily Ann Clatterbuck confirmed and professed her faith and was anointed with oil. Cathy Ann Miles transferred her membership from Asbury and was blessed with water. It was a beautiful ceremony and we are so happy to welcome all of you into the “family of KUMC”.



**Everyday Epiphanies Study:** “Everyday Epiphanies: Meeting Christ in the Ordinary Moments of Life”, a book by James Harnish, is being studied on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. and Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning Jan 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to join us.

**Robert (“Baldy”) Beidler Smith, 85**, friend of many at KUMC, passed away on Jan 12<sup>th</sup>. He is survived by a daughter, Teresa Circle (Keith), and brothers, Charles, William, Alfred, and Tom; four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren, He was also preceded in death by his wife, Janice (of 61 years), his daughter Vicki, a brother Joseph, and a great-grandson, Dalton. Private services were held.

**LUNCH BUNCH** met on Jan 14<sup>th</sup> at Galley's for an enjoyable time of good food, fellowship, and good conversation. We had four ladies, one gentlemen, and one little precious girl. Join us anytime—you are always welcome.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL** met Wednesday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> with nine members and Pastor Joel present. Susan called the meeting to order and Pastor Joel opened with prayer. Chris read the Treasurer's Report, which was approved; all Apportionments for 2025 have been paid. UWIF - Sherry reported serving Keezletown Ruritans on Monday, Jan 5<sup>th</sup>; Annual Soup/Bake Sale Event is scheduled for Saturday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>; will serve the 1st Lent Meal on Ash Wednesday, Feb 18<sup>th</sup>; and may be packing Love Bags for the Kingsway Prison Ministry Dinner group in Feb. UMM - Ken reported the UMM will have a breakfast meeting Sunday morning, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> and will be serving a Taco Bar meal after Worship, with Nate Riddle, Director of Open Doors as the guest speaker. There will be a Free Will Offering to support Open Doors. Trustees - Sharon Martin will be the new chair. Bathroom & Kitchen floor projects in the parsonage have been completed. Mike reported that the hood over the stove needs to be inspected twice a year and is due to have the chemical tank hydro tested. Missions & Outreach - Sherry reported for 2025 missions (will be in the Feb newsletter along with the challenges). Membership - Pastor Joel reported 2 Baptisms - "Remi" Ramila Ann Davis & "Mira" Ramira Autumn Davis, 1 Confirmation of Faith - Emily Ann Clatterbuck, and 2 Transfers of Membership - Brenda Kaye Hoke, from Dayton UMC & Cathy Ann Miles, from Asbury UMC. PPR - Jenny Dillard reported that the Pastor Performance form had been sent indicating that the wish is for Pastor Joel to remain at KUMC. Pastor's Report - Pastor Joel reported he had received information from Lauren Yoder of CarePortal, a national organization that began in June 2025 that supports Social Services with the needs of children and/or family needs both physical and financial in our communities. Presently there are 15 churches that have signed up and was asking if we thought this might be something we would want to consider, with no obligation for signing up. Sherry offered to schedule a Mission & Outreach Committee meeting to discuss this while trying to learn more about the CarePortal. Pastor Joel also mentioned that there may be a need in Feb to have individuals to assist with providing Nursery services during worship. The church website contract that we have had with Don Hawks is coming to an end and this will now be managed through our Realm Account. It was recommended that the focus of our website should be more for providing information for visitors & non-members vs members. We want to also begin loading information into Realm for an On-Line Directory. Jenny and Sherry are interested in helping with these projects. Pastor Joel also mentioned trying to come up with a way to inform our new members about opportunities to get more involved in the church (ie church committees, small groups) in Feb. Pastor Joel made a motion by stating that Faye Cochran said she would be willing to serve on the Finance Committee; Ken seconded; it passed. Youth - Pastor Joel stated that there is interest in scheduling a Confirmation Class this year for Carson Guilliams, and Cole & Levi Lipscomb. "Bless Your Socks Off" - Pastor Joel nominated Ramona Crowe to be blessed this week through prayers, visits, calls, sending a card. share a token of grace and/or sharing faith together. Ramona Crowe, Brookdale Harrisonburg, 2101 Deyerle Avenue, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Robert Smith passed away on Jan 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next Meeting will be Wednesday, Mar 11<sup>th</sup> after the Lent Meal.

I DARE YOU NOT TO SING IT: From Christian Humor: "Dashing through the snow, in my rusty Chevrolet, down the road I go, sliding all the way. I need new piston rings, I need some new snow tires. My car is held together by a piece of chicken wire. Oh, rust and smoke, the heater's broke, the door just blew away. I light a match to see the dash and then I start to pray-ay. The frame is bent, the muffler went, the radio is okay. Oh what fun it is to drive this rusty Chevrolet." Face it...you couldn't do it either!

**\*\*\*JANUARY EVENTS IN NEXT ISSUE\*\*\***

- 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**  
               **Taco Bar and Open Doors Sharing with Nate Riddle, 12:15 PM**
- Jan 19      **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**



**\*\*\*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 33 years

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**FEBRUARY EVENTS CALENDAR**

Feb 1 Small Group Leaders Gathering, 8:45 AM  
 Sunday School, 9:45 AM  
 Worship, 11:00 AM: Message "Feeding the Five Thousand: A Provision Sign" from John 6:1-15

Feb 2 Everyday Epiphanies Study, 10:00 AM  
 Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM

Feb 3 Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM  
 Everyday Epiphanies Study, 7:00 PM

Feb 4 Choir Practice, 6:30 PM

Feb 5 United Women in Faith, 11:00 AM

Feb 7 UWIF Soup and Bake Sale

Feb 8 Sunday School, 9:45 AM  
 KUMC Souper Bowl MPC Food Pantry Collection  
 Worship, 11:00 AM: Message "Healing the Blind: A Sign of Seeing and Blindness" from John 9:1-41  
 A Disciple's Path: Prayer, 3 - 5 PM

Feb 9 Everyday Epiphanies study, 10:00 AM  
 Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM  
 Worship Planning at Vito's at Noon

Feb 10 Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM  
 Everyday Epiphanies study, 7:00 PM

Feb 11 Lunch Bunch, 11:15 AM

Feb 12 Chill & Chat, 11:00 AM

Feb 13 Newsletter Items Due

Feb 15 United Methodist Men, 8:00 AM  
 Sunday School, 9:45 AM  
 Worship, 11:00 AM: Message: "Raising Lazarus: A Resurrection Sign" from John 11:1-16, 28-57  
 Valentine's Potato Bar Lunch after worship

Feb 16 Everyday Epiphanies study, 10:00 AM  
 Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM

Feb 17 Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM  
 Everyday Epiphanies study, 7:00 PM

Feb 18 Ash Wednesday Supper and Service, 6:30 PM

Feb 19 Chill & Chat, 11:00 AM

Feb 22 Sunday School, 9:45 AM  
 Worship, 11:00 AM: Message: "The Anointing of Jesus" from John 12:1-11

Feb 23      Everyday Epiphanies study, 10:00 AM  
 Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM  
 Feb 24      Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM  
 Everyday Epiphanies study, 7:00 PM  
 Feb 25      Lunch Bunch, 11:15 AM  
 Lent Supper & Service, 6:30 PM  
 Feb 26      Chill & Chat, 11:00 AM



**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**KUMC Souper Bowl:** It is time for the 2026 KUMC Souper Bowl. There will be two bins at KUMC on Jan 26th – Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, where you can place shelf-stable foods for the Massanutten Presbyterian Church Food Pantry with the teams for the Super Bowl and support your pick to win and provide good food for our neighbors.

**Blessed Are the Meek: SOSA 2026 Lenten Devotional:** The Society of Saint Andrew has provided a Lenten Devotional for 2026; “Blessed are the Meek” and there will be printout copies available at KUMC beginning Feb 1st. There are daily devotions, prayer, and scripture for the forty days of Lent and Easter Day beginning Feb 18th on Ash Wednesday. The devotional is also filled with ways you can join the feeding ministry of the Society of Saint Andrew.

**Valentine’s Potato Bar:** The UMM are planning to provide a Valentine’s Potato Bar meal after worship on Sunday, Feb 15th at 12:15 PM. Come for worship and stay to eat a good meal.

**Lent Supper and Services:** will be Wednesdays from Feb 18th – Mar 25th at 6:30 PM at KUMC. Ash Wednesday Service and Supper will be on Feb 18th. We’ll eat at 6:30, transition to worship at 7:00, and wrap up around 7:30 each night. If you would like to help with providing a meal or music for a night please talk to Pastor Joel. St. Jacob’s and Trinity Lutheran Churches plan to join us this year for these Lent Services.

**John: The Gospel of Light and Life:** Read through the Gospel of John and learn about its major teachings about Jesus Christ. The study book is by United Methodist pastor Adam Hamilton and will be six weeks long. The study will be Mondays at 10:00 AM (beginning March 9) and Tuesdays at 7:00 PM (beginning March 10). There are books available for regular print \$15 or large print \$20. Sign up in the narthex or with Pastor Joel.

**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

HALLELUJAH!!! I made it with a lot of your help. I've had numerous people say to me, don't worry about getting the newsletter out on time. But, if you know me, you also know that it would have been eating on me to not get it out for one month. God is so good, and He has made many things fall in place in the last few months, including getting you all the news about Christmas at KUMC and seeing the beautiful face of Remi all scrunched up with water running down her face. I want to thank all of you who have cared, supported, loved, and prayed for me while I've been waiting for this healing coming up. I can see God's hand in all the planning, the struggles, the questions, the answers, and the blessings that have already been, and will be given to me. All we have to do is TRUST HIM. I'm looking forward to the beautiful plan He has waiting for me on the other side of healing. Your prayers and love will be greatly appreciated during this time. God bless you all.

*Diana*

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Editor's Note

**The February deadline for submissions is Feb 13th .** 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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“For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>22</sup>Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. <sup>23</sup>You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart, <sup>24</sup>I will be found by you, says the LORD.” (Jeremiah 29:11-14a)

