

# MOUNTAIN ECHOES

FEBRUARY 2026

182<sup>nd</sup> Edition



*And the snow and ice came. (Photo by Virginia Mitchell, January 2026)*

## KEEZLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. T. Joel Robinette, Pastor

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"Sometimes the Holy Spirit prompts us to talk to someone about God. And sometimes the Holy Spirit prompts us to talk to God about someone."

(Stacy Sanchez)

**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 by filling out the KUMC Virtual Connection link: <https://forms.gle/YdbvYW93MjZEGrL38>. Thanks and be blessed.

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## **OUR PASTOR CHATS**

“Observe a holy Lent” are words from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (February 18, 2026) and is forty days (not including Sundays) with the last day of Lent on Holy Saturday (April 4, 2026). This season comes before the great season of Easter. Forty days is a good long time and reminds us of seasons of preparation, or testing, or learning to follow God like the Hebrews in the wilderness forty years with the LORD before entering the Promised Land or Jesus forty days in the wilderness fasting and tempted. Early Christians had a forty day period before Easter when converts prepared for baptism and those who had committed serious sins would be reconciled and restored to life in the Church. Lent became a time all Christians may renew our faith. *The United Methodist Book of Worship* goes on: “Observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word.” I pray God helps us recognize this is a holy time, God’s time. I pray God will renew and refresh our faith and life in Jesus Christ. There are lots of ways to renew and rest in God this Lent: Sunday worship, Lent Suppers and Services, *Blessed Are the Meek* Lenten devotional from the Society of Saint Andrew, Maunday Thursday Service, Good Friday Service, and spiritual disciplines. Be rested, renewed, and revived in Jesus and “observe a holy Lent.”

*Pastor Joel*

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## **KUMC’S 2025 Accomplishments, Challenges, and Activities:**

**Website/Facebook:** KUMC Facebook page and Website shares weekly worship services and other events, and dates of upcoming events; and newsletters

**Church family activities: Community/Missions:** vowed covenant with missionary John Nday; collecting food items for a Massanutten Food Pantry each month; served private birthday party for community individual on Feb 1st; 12 Church members met at MCCC to volunteer on Mar 25<sup>th</sup>; Easter Egg hunt held on April 19<sup>th</sup>; Karen and Sharon sang at the Conference for Life Retreat at Massanetta Springs on May 3<sup>rd</sup>; treated to snow cones in the parking lot on April 27<sup>th</sup>; created Baby Card/Gift Basket for Jacob Hall’s baby; decorated church with geraniums on Pentecost on June 8<sup>th</sup>; made 80 brown bag meals for Open Doors on July 20<sup>th</sup>; Ice Cream Social on Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> for community; collected school supplies for MCCC during Aug; made sandwiches two times for Open Doors in Aug; Sunday School and Small Group Kickoff on Sept 7<sup>th</sup>; Participated in Trunk or Treat at Rockingham Park on Oct 25<sup>th</sup>; held Harvest Party on Oct 26<sup>th</sup>; Held ceremony at Keezletown Cemetery on Nov 11<sup>th</sup> for Veteran’s Day; decorated the Church for Christmas on Nov 24<sup>th</sup>; put poinsettias in Church for Christmas; Held Jesus’s Birthday Party during Sunday school on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>; held Christmas Eve service on Dec 24<sup>th</sup>

**Special Sunday services/speakers:** “Service of Hope” Sunday for Cancer recognition on April 27<sup>th</sup>; were visited by eleven Camp Overlook counsellors on June 8<sup>th</sup> during worship and for lunch after; celebrated VBS on July 27<sup>th</sup>; Wendell Cochran spoke on Laity Sunday Oct 19<sup>th</sup>;

Recognized Pastor Joel on Oct 26th for Pastor Appreciation; Blue Jeans Sunday was held on Oct 26th to help MCCC with blue jeans; Hanging of the Greens Sunday Nov 30th

**Prayer:** Forty-one Prayer Warriors receive e-mails about prayer requests

**Bible Study/Training:** "Mere Christianity"; "The Message of Jesus"; held "Disciples Path" class; "Unafraid: Living With Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times"; "We Believe: How the Nicene Creed Can Deepen Your Faith"; two teachers and two students attended the District Lay Servant Academy on Sept 13th; "Heaven in the Bible"

**United Methodist Men:** helped UWIF serve private birthday party/dinner on Feb 1st; prepared a Potato Bar for Valentines Day after worship on Feb 16th; served spaghetti for the 1st Lent service on Mar 5th; held a St Patrick's Pancake supper on Mar 22nd; gave to Camp Overlook for improvements and Weekday Religious Education; helped with construction at MCCC; gave donation to World Central Kitchen; led recognition of ladies at Mother's Day Tea on May 11th; sponsored Turks Baseball Night on June 17th; hosted other UMM Rally on July 16th; built a new ramp system for MCCC; had a church cleanup night on Sept 17th; led UMM Sunday on Oct 5th with a potato bar afterwards; assisted UWIF with Christmas Dinner/Party on Dec 13th

**United Women in Faith:** donated to Backpack program; served Keezletown Ruritans on Jan 13th; along with UMM, helped serve private birthday party/dinner on Feb 1st; held annual Soup and Bake Sale on Feb 15th; fed Keezletown Ruritans on Mar 3rd; held Prayer and Self Denial meal; served Lil Moses Celebration meal on March 16th; fed Keezletown Ruritans on Apr 7th; served the last Lent meal on Apr 9th; fed Mt Crawford Ruritans on May 7th; attended Annual District Evening Together on May 22nd; held Evening out at Lisa's in Elkton on June 5th; recognized the men of the church at Donuts for Dads and Dudes on June 15th; served Mt Crawford Ruritans on August 6th; completed 28 "Love Bags"; held Church picnic on Aug 7th at Ruritan Pavilion; fed Keezletown Ruritans Sept 8th; six ladies attended the UWIF Annual Prayer Breakfast in Bridgewater on Sept 13th; Rev Laura Douglas spoke on UWIF Sunday on Sept 21st followed by a sandwich/salad meal; fed Red Hats on Oct 21st; fed Mt Crawford Ruritans on Nov 5th; packed 29 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child; prepared food for reception after Community Thanksgiving Service on Nov 23rd; assisted UMM in Christmas Dinner/Party on Dec 13th

**Relay for Life:** 7th Weave for a Cure was held Mar 27th with 12 participants; served breakfast to all attending Easter Sunrise Service on April 20th; balloon donations in honor or memory taken on April 27th; "Carnival for a Cure" relay held May 3rd; 8th Weave for a Cure was held in Oct with 15 participants

**Kingsway Ministry:** serving Kingsway Ministry two meals a month

**"We Remember" Love Bags:** filled with "goodies" at various times of the year by the UWIF

**"Feeding the Children" Backpack project:** Ten folks are shopping, packing, and delivering bags during the school year to CRES for distribution

**Blue Jeans Sunday:** 89 pairs of boy's pants and \$1200 collected on Oct 26th for MCCC

**SHS Care Closet:** collected items were blessed on Sept 28th

**"Souper Bowl" Sunday:** MPC received 173 breakfast items, soups, cereals, ramen noodles, and many more items from the collections on Feb 2nd and 9th

**"World Cereals Sunday":** breakfast collections were blessed on Nov 2nd

**Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes:** Collected and delivered 88 shoeboxes on Nov 23rd

**"Apple Project" for Kingsway:** 65 gifts were blessed on Nov 30th

**Baby Shower for Jesus:** On Dec 24th we blessed 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.

**Conference Kits:** blessed 24 Feminine Hygiene kits; 80 health kits, and 19 flood buckets on May 25th; also gave a total of 101 Health Kits

**Camp Overlook:** Summer campers: Caleb Combs, Cora Combs, Jazzmine Cook, Adalida Crisman, Andrea Crisman, Austyn Crisman, Jaiden Gross, and Rozalynn Turner; BIG K diner held on July 12<sup>th</sup> for scholarships

**Vacation Bible School:** was held July 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with 17 young people studying the stories of the Lost Coin, the Lost Sheep, and the Prodigal Son.

**Lent Services:** Rev Karen Church led the Ash Wednesday service on Mar 5<sup>th</sup>; Pastor Joel spoke on "A Simple Way to Pray" for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lent service on Mar 12<sup>th</sup>; Nate Riddle spoke on Open Doors for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lent service; Rev Amy Pannell spoke on Martin Luther encouraging others for the 4<sup>th</sup> Lent service; Ramona Ritchie spoke about the work of Generations Crossing for the 5<sup>th</sup> Lent service; Rev Luke Smith spoke on Caring for One Another at the 6<sup>th</sup> and last Lent service; each meeting we recited the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer; offerings went to Massanutten Presbyterian Food Bank, Generations Crossings, and Open Doors

**Passion Week:** Maunday Thursday service on April 17<sup>th</sup> was held at Trinity Lutheran Church with foot washing and Holy Communion, led by Pastor Joel; Good Friday service on April 18<sup>th</sup> was held at St Jacob's Lutheran Church with a Tenebrae service led by Pastor Joel; Sunrise Easter Service was held at Keezletown Cemetery on April 20<sup>th</sup> led by Pastor Joel.

**WOW (Witness of Wednesday) Services:** Ken Thomas spoke on Oct 1<sup>st</sup> after a meal by the UWIF; Jenn Robinette spoke on Oct 8<sup>th</sup> after a potluck meal; Sherry Summers spoke on Oct 15<sup>th</sup> after a potluck meal; Billy Lilly spoke on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> after a fried chicken and fixin's meal; Leonard Williams spoke on Oct 29<sup>th</sup> after a spaghetti meal by the UMM.

**Community Thanksgiving Service:** held at KUMC on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> with Trinity and St Jacob's with approximately 50 folks from various churches

**Lunch Bunch:** meet twice each month at a different restaurant for fellowship and food

**Chill-N-Chat:** met each Thursday morning for fellowship and good conversation

**Church/Parsonage repairs/maintenance:** replaced water heater in parsonage; repaired ceiling in Church kitchen; repairs made to range hood; new Led lights in narthex; new flooring in kitchen and bathroom at parsonage

**Special recognition:** Kendra Dodrill named to Bridgewater College 2024 Fall Deans List; Barrett Bowman ranked #3 on Whova leaderboard at VA Middle School Assn; Leigha Dillard received Raymond and Virginia Andes Award; Haiden Dillard won 1<sup>st</sup> place for her project at Family, Community, Career Leaders of America conference; Noah Robinette was awarded a college scholarship by the Keezletown Ruritan Club; Carson Guilliams elected Vice President of FFA at MMS; Hayley Krauss received Masters; Leah Siler was elected President of the J Frank Hillyard Middle School FFA; Caron Guilliams project for VA FFA convention will be entered in Nationals; Parker Young's project at VA Agriscience Fair won 1<sup>st</sup> place; Haiden Dillard won Gold at National Food Conference; Florence Cochran had her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday; Parker Young and Leah Siler both placed with their entries at the National FFA convention; Parker Young placed sixth in the nation at the Environmental Service/Natural Resource Systems AgriScience Fair in Oct; Parker Young for placing in the State Soils Contest; Cory Guilliams earned Conservationist of the Year award for NRCS on Dec 8<sup>th</sup>

**Deaths (includes Church, related Church family, and community friends):** Lil Moses; Virginia Frances Whitmore Plecker; Sally Ann Green Cooley; Faynetta "Fay" Higgins Higgs; Ellen Geraldine Davis Armentrout; Esther Hensley McDaniel; Lula Belle Long Dodrill; George "Mac" Coffman; Mary Jo Mitchell

**Engagements, Weddings and Babies:** Emily Carr & Joshua Wilt wed on May 10<sup>th</sup>; Adeline Merle Hall born May 25<sup>th</sup> to Jacob and Winter Hall; Jared Kyger and Allyse Dillard wed on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>

**Graduates:** Macie Heishman, Alexander Mansfield, Marly McGlaughlin, Abigail Mitchell, Hunter Pellegrin, Noah Robinette, Ryan Sprague, Lataya Coffman, Annalee Crisman, Leigha Dillard, Kendra Dodrill, Jaden Hall, Hayley Krauss, Nate Riddle

**New Members:** Chloe Hayden Robinette; Haiden Gray Dillard; Carl and Marjorie Zimmermann; Brenda Kaye Hoke

**Over 50 years of marriage in 2025:** Kennis & Carolyn Armentrout; Bruce & Barbara Hoover; Wendell and Faye Cochran; Jim & Carol Dillard; Gary & Barbara Heatwole

**God has again blessed us in 2025; let us continue to be His hands and feet in 2026.**

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**2026 Mission & Outreach/Missions for Jan, Feb, Mar that are ongoing through the year:**

The Backpack Project resumed once the Cub Run Elementary School students returned to school after the Holiday Break. Kingsway Prison Ministry Dinners continue monthly. Some of the donations for the 1<sup>st</sup> meal in 2026 came from leftover food from the UWIF after serving the Keezletown Ruritans their dinner on Jan 5<sup>th</sup>.

**January:** UWIF Meeting Jan 8<sup>th</sup> monthly offering-\$200 for Open Doors. Card Ministry-14 cards were sent to members of the Church & community. Hats, Mittens, & Socks that were collected during the month of December for the Children's Clothing Closet and Open Doors were dedicated on Sunday, Jan 11<sup>th</sup>. Open Doors received 24 hats; 16 gloves/mittens; 63 socks; 30 toe warmers, and 40 hand warmers. MCCC received 32 hats; 65 gloves/mittens; and 30 hand warmers. UMM will be hosting a Taco Bar on Sunday, Jan 18<sup>th</sup> after worship. Nate Riddle, Director of Open Doors, will be the Guest Speaker. There will be a Free Will Offering going to support Open Doors.

**February:** During the month of February, we will collect items needed to pack Conference Health/Hygiene Kits which includes: a hand towel, wash cloth, bar of soap, toothbrush, comb, nail clippers, & 10 band-aids. (We completed 101 kits in 2025). Beginning Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, our Souper Bowl Competition will begin & food items will be dedicated on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. Food items will be taken to Massanutten Presbyterian Church Food Pantry. AFC Teams in the hunt: Buffalo Bills vs Denver Broncos, Houston Texans vs New England Patriots. NFC Teams in the hunt: San Francisco 49ers vs Seattle Seahawks & Los Angeles Rams vs Chicago Bears. UWF will be packing Love Bags to share with Kingsway potentially at their Feb meeting on Thursday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. UWIF Annual Soup & Bake Sale will take place on Saturday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>. The mission(s) that the proceeds will go to support has not totally been decided yet. UMM may host a Valentine's Day Potato Bar after worship on Sunday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. Not sure if there will be a Free Will Offering or what it will go towards. Ash Wednesday is Feb 18<sup>th</sup> & the 1<sup>st</sup> Lent Meal will be provided by the UWIF (Chili & Corn Bread). Not sure what mission(s) the Free Will Offering will go towards.

**March:** Lent Meals continue through the month of March on Wednesdays. The month of March will be Collection Month for items needed for packing Conference Feminine Hygiene Kits which includes: 2-2oz bottles of hand sanitizer, 3-4oz trash bags, 1 Travel Pack Wet Ones, 10 Tampons (5 regular, 5 super unscented), 10 Sanitary Napkins (long super ultra-thin unscented), 3oz Bar of Soap (no Ivory or Jergens), 1 pkg 42ct Flushable Wipes, 6 Laundry Detergent Sheets). (We completed 24 in 2025). UWIF will serve the Keezletown Ruritans on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. UMM will probably host their Annual St. Patrick's Day Pancake Dinner Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>.

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**FOLLOW UP ON BLUE JEAN SUNDAY:** In October of 2025 "Undies Sunday" became "Blue Jean Sunday." Blue Jean Sunday was a campaign to collect long pants for school age boys at Mission Central Children's Clothes Closet (MCCCC). During that campaign the KUMC family donated \$1400 (plus almost 90 pairs of pants). With this generous monetary donation, Artie Fredrick, director of MCCCC, was able to purchase **283** pairs of new pull-on pants for boys. WOW! PTL! and Thank you for your continual support of Mission Central.

**Hat, Mitten, Sock Tree Totals:** Hats: 24 - Open Doors, 32 – MCCC; Mittens/Gloves: 16 - Open Doors, 65 – MCCC; Socks: 63 - Open Doors, 73 – MCCC; Scarves: 2- Open Doors; Hand Warmers: 40 Open Doors; Toe Warmers: 30 - Open Doors. Thank you for your generosity.

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

**NEW JOB FOR BETH MORRIS:** “As of Jan 15th, after 30 years and 40 days...today is my last day at the radio stations. Starting a new adventure with Rockingham County Fire and Rescue as Administrative Assistant next week.” Congrats, Beth.

**Keezletown United Methodist Men** met on Jan 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. for a breakfast meeting with eight men present. Breakfast of a sausage-egg-cheese-biscuit bake and strawberries was served by Karen Mooney. Pastor Joel led a prayer for those in need. Wendell Cochran led the devotion: God is faithful. We may trust in God. God is dependable even if we are not. Wendell shared an Epiphany moment in seeing men in the church assist some in “remembering their baptism” by helping them to the font last week. Treasurer’s report was approved. A list of the total giving for 2025 was reviewed. The Christmas Meal partnership with the United Women in Faith for the whole church had about seventy participants and the good participation was noted. Len Williams noted it would be good to invite new men in the church to participate in United Men Ministries and we shared some names we could invite. A donation was approved to aid the Perry and Virginia Mitchell family with emerging needs in this season after their house fire. The Valentine’s Potato Bar will be Sunday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, after worship. Our morning meeting that day will include breakfast and washing potatoes. Scott Dillard will send out an email with a list of needed items. We will provide a meal for the Mar 4th Lent Supper and Service with a spaghetti supper. Pancake Supper on Saturday, Mar 21st beginning at 5:00 PM with a freewill offering for UMM. District Men’s Rally on Monday, Mar 2nd at 6:30 PM at Manor Memorial UMC. District Superintendent Rev Kyungsuk Cho will preach. Mission Central would like a light conversion to LEDs. Scott Dillard and Joe Liskey will check and advise. A donation was approved to give to Open Doors thermal shelter as their director Nate Riddle will be speaking at a Taco Bar we are providing for a meal after worship today. Next meeting: Sunday, Feb 15th, at 8:00 a.m.

**THE SECOND SIGN:** The message for worship on Jan 18<sup>th</sup> was “Healing of a Son: The Second Sign” in Pastor Joel’s series of Jesus’s Signs. This Galilean healing of Capernaum’s royal official’s son is the second sign of Jesus. Faced with an illness he cannot heal, the royal official comes to Jesus, at the Sea of Galilee, believing if Jesus comes, the boy will be healed. Instead, Jesus says you believe what you cannot see, return to your home. Servants run to meet the official and tell him his son is well. Asking what time it happened, he realizes it was exactly at the time Jesus said it. All of the



official's family then believed in Jesus and His healing powers. We walk by faith and not by sight. Assisting today were Len leading the service, Joel talking with the children about "Inside Out"; and Sharon reading scripture. We were blessed to have twenty-one of the Winter Campers and leaders from Camp Overlook worshipping with us today.



After the service, the Church family gathered to lay hands on and pray for healing for one of our own having surgery in the upcoming week.

**TACO BAR AND OPEN DOORS:** Following the Worship service on Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed a Taco Salad Bar, with all the fixin's, provided by the United Methodist Men. After the meal, Nate Riddle, Executive Director of Open Doors, a shelter for the homeless in the Harrisonburg area spoke on how Open Doors began and has grown to be more than just a shelter by offering counselling and other assistance to the homeless of the community. A free will offering was given.



**DO YOU NEED HEALING?** And it snowed—a lot—and we all stayed home on Jan 25<sup>th</sup>—all except Pastor Joel and Jenn, who braved the elements and presented the Worship service so we all could be blessed. He spoke from John 5:1-18, with the message "Healing of the Paralytic: A Sabbath Sign". The signs in John of Jesus are wonderful. Each sign shows Jesus and what He brings. The paralytic man of 38 years lying by the pool could not get to the healing waters. When we are paralyzed, stuck, God may send someone to give you His word to step out and get the healing you need. How does Jesus speak to me to help me get well? Pastor Joel used the illustration of Diana Davis suffering with her hip, but unwilling to move ahead until she heard from God. Thankfully, Ginny Joseph allowed her voice to be God's nudge to stop waiting and get on with it. Jesus sees and knows us and moves toward us, asking "Do you want to be made well?" He is the great Physician and Healer.

**YOU KNOW YOU ARE GETTING OLDER WHEN:** You and your teeth don't sleep together. You try to straighten out the wrinkles in your socks and realize you aren't wearing any. At the breakfast table you hear snap, crackle, pop, and you're not eating cereal. When your idea of a night out is sitting on the patio. When happy hour is a nap. It takes longer to rest than it did to get tired. Your address book

has mostly names that start with Dr. Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt--- doesn't work. You look for your glasses for half an hour and they were on your head the whole time.

## **FUN IN THE SNOW PICTURES**



*Carmella and Jade*



*Brayden*



*Winston and Nick*



*Nick*

## **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.

**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.

## **BIBLE STUDY:**

**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 16th) and Tuesdays at 7:00 PM (beginning March 17th). There

are books available for regular print \$15 or large print \$20. Sign up in the narthex or with Pastor Joel

**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, one Sunday afternoon during the month. Sign up with Pastor Joel, bring a Bible along and study books if you already have them. See the Sunday bulletins for the next meeting date and time.

## **MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES**

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*HB Princess Jade 4*



*Rylynn is 3*

### **\*\*\*FEBRUARY EVENTS THAT HAPPENED\*\*\***

**ARE YOU HUNGRY?** With icy roads, and an empty fuel tank, a few brave hearts came to worship in a very cold sanctuary on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, when Pastor Joel spoke from John 6:1-15, with a message entitled "Feeding the Five Thousand: A Provision Sign". Jesus' uncommon work of feeding 5000 men plus women and children with a boy's lunch of 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish jolts us awake. All are filled with Jesus' provision. Who provides for the birds, the fish, the trees? Jesus reveals that God provides for all. Where do our provisions come from? God provided the Hebrews for 40 years in the wilderness. Phillip did not know where enough food would come from for Jesus to feed the masses. Andrew found the loaves and fishes, and the boy shared with Jesus. Jesus shares His grace with all who come to Him. Ken assisted with leading today, and Jenn did the video.

**CLERGY VALENTINE LUNCHEON:** Twelve people, including our own Pastor Joel, braved the cold and joined together for the second Clergy Valentine Luncheon, which was held at Capital Ale in Harrisonburg on Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. What a great time of sharing.



**Keezletown United Women in Faith** met Thursday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am with 14 members present. Judy called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The UWIF purpose was read. Karen had the program and presented each member with two sugar cookies to ice and decorate, 1 for us and 1 to share. She then shared a memory of joy and asked everyone else to share. January minutes were read and approved. Cheryl read a thank you note from Western State for the contribution to their Operation Santa. Cheryl then read the treasurer's report which was approved. Mission of the Month was \$100 to Samaritan's Purse for Jamaica relief, and \$100 to UMCOR for US Relief. Sherry reminded everyone that the soup sale would be Saturday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Pre-orders was at 100 quarts. We will serve the Ash Wednesday meal of chili, cornbread, and fixings. We will serve the Keezletown Ruritans on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sherry presented a list of needs for Open Doors and we will add a tub in the narthex for donations. District Prayer Breakfast will be March 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at Braddock St UMC in Winchester. Karen and Sharon are singing and speaking and asked for our support. Susan gave a short report on the VDOT meeting for the 33 and Indian Trail Road plans. Love Bags will be made today for our list of 30 people. Eleven cards were signed. The meeting was closed with prayer. Love bags were assembled. Our next meeting will be March 5<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.

**COLD DAY, WARM SOUP FOR THE TUMMY:** The United Women in Faith held their annual Vegetable Beef Soup and Bake Sale on Saturday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>. Soup making began at 8:00 a.m., and was ready for pick-up around 10:30 a.m. We bottled and sold 129 quarts of soup. Baked items included rolls, peanut butter pie, cookies, chex- mix, a white sweet treat, cinnamon rolls, a coconut pound cake, and a pineapple coconut sheet cake, which all sold too. Ten UWIF ladies and Pastor Joel helped make this a successful day. A big thanks to Phil Carr for coming to our rescue providing help with the heavy lifting - hope that bowl of soup was payment enough! (HaHa!!) All donations for a great Soup and Bake sale will benefit UWIF ministries. Thank you for your support.

**ARE YOU BLIND?** It was good to be back for Worship on Sunday, Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, when Pastor Joel used John 9:1-41 for his message entitled "Healing the Blind: A Sign of Seeing Blindness". Jesus gave sight to a man who had been blind from birth. The question raised by the disciples and the religious leaders was "why was he blind?" After his healing, he chose to confess and tell more people about Jesus and what He had done. Jesus is the light of the world. The disciples and the religious leaders were shown to be blind in their beliefs and the grace of God. They couldn't see the mercy of God in the healing of the blind man. Jesus opens some of their eyes and leaves some blind. Lord

Jesus, open our blind eyes. Assisting today were Diana on the organ, Carol reading scripture, and Pastor Joel with the Children's Time, "Every Good Gift Comes from God".

KUMC'S 2026 SOUPER/CEREAL BOWL: Food collection (basically breakfast foods and cereals) began Jan 26<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Souper Bowl collection for Massanutten Presbyterian Church Food Pantry. The three bins (one for the Seattle Puppy Bowl, for either team). As Seattle won, but second. Thank you



final date was Feb 8<sup>th</sup> to fill the the New England Patriots, one Seahawks, and one for the those who didn't really like you can see from the picture, the Puppy Bowl came in a close all for your generosity.

A LONG LUNCH: Four lovely ladies met at Appleby's for the Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>. The food was hot and delicious, and the conversations were easy and comforting. They must have been—we were there three hours. It was a great time. Think about joining us.

CHILL-N-CHAT met at 11:00 a.m. on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> in the Social Hall with six ladies and Pastor Joel staying for a little while. We had some wonderful conversations and lots of laughter. We welcome you to join us any Thursday morning that you can.

CONGRATS to Barrett Bowman for completing her Postgraduate Professional License. She said "A. Long. Time. Coming. 5 yrs teaching, 3+ with provisional. FINALLY FINISHED HALLELUJAH, AMEN! "

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY, Feb 14<sup>th</sup>. "Love is sharing your fries." Charles M Schultz

THOUGHTS ON A STORM: In the last ice storm, we noticed something on our farm, and this year it stood out again. The trees that fall (or lose large treetops) in a storm are almost always the ones on the perimeter. They take the brunt of the wind and often the others lean on them until they can no longer stand. Sometimes when they fall, others leaning on them fall too. But when you walk deeper into the woods, the trees in the middle are different. They lean on one another - sometimes in different directions. There doesn't seem to be one holding a group up. Their roots intertwine. They break the wind for each other. And most of them are still standing when it thaws. Life brings storms — grief, sickness, discouragement, temptation. When we try to face it all by ourselves, we're like those outer trees, taking the full force of the wind. But when we're planted among other believers, when we pray together, worship together, and carry each other's burdens, we are strengthened by each other. Ecclesiastes 4:12 says, "A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." We are safer, stronger, and more stable when we are connected. If you've been standing on the edge, trying to do life alone, step back into the forest. Lean in. God designed the church to meet together so we can help one another. What a brilliant

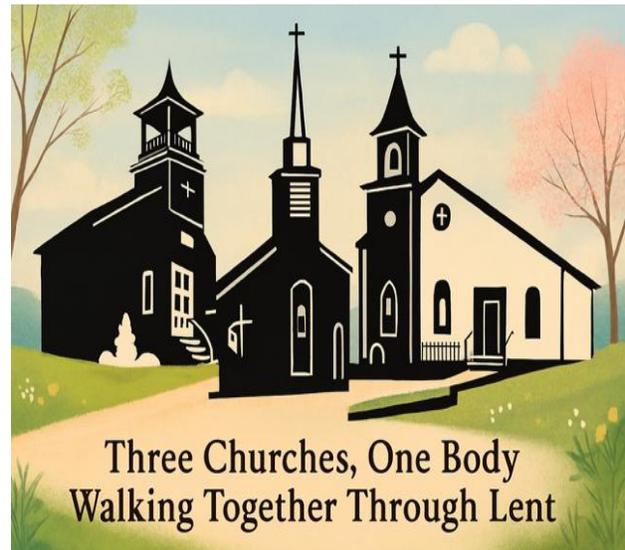
concept! We weather storms better together. (Sent to me by our own Evalyn Campbell. Author unknown)

### \*\*\*FEBRUARY EVENTS IN NEXT ISSUE\*\*\*

- 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**
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### **Lent Supper and Services:** will be

Wednesdays from Feb 18<sup>th</sup> – Mar 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at KUMC. Ash Wednesday Service and Supper will be on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. We will eat at 6:30 p.m. transition to worship at 7:00, p.m. and wrap up around 7:30 p.m. each night. Feb 18<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday, with Pastor Joel speaking, and Disposition of the Ashes; the KUMC UWiF will be serving Chili and Cornbread for the meal. Feb 25<sup>th</sup> the speaker will be Rev Deb Washer of McGaheysville UMC and is a Carry-in Potluck meal. Mar 4<sup>th</sup> the speaker will be Rev Alexis Owens from RISE; the KUMC UMM will be serving spaghetti and salad. Mar 11<sup>th</sup> the speaker will be Rev Dan Bassett of Bethel UCC; Fried Chicken with carry-in sides will be the meal. Mar 18<sup>th</sup> the speaker will be Rev Costella Forney from Edom UMC, Linville UMC, and Mt Tabor UMC; the meal will be soup and sandwiches. The final Mar 25<sup>th</sup> service speaker will be Rev Judith Nandikove from



John Wesley UMC; the meal will be by Trinity ELCA. We look forward to seeing all of our brothers and sisters in Christ from St Jacob's and Trinity Lutheran Churches who will be joining us, as well as other community friends and family.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS MAR 7<sup>TH</sup>—SPRING FORWARD**

**\*\*\*MARCH EVENTS HAPPENING\*\*\***

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

|       |                       |        |                   |
|-------|-----------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Mar 1 | Andrea Crisman        | Mar 9  | Wyatt Martin      |
| Mar 1 | Austyn Crisman        | Mar 11 | Jennifer Young    |
| Mar 2 | Donnie Underwood      | Mar 13 | Wesley Crisman    |
| Mar 2 | Cathy Sites Chouniere | Mar 13 | Melissa Kelley    |
| Mar 4 | Eli Bowman            | Mar 13 | Faye Cochran      |
| Mar 6 | Barbara Heatwole      | Mar 15 | Nicholas Mitchell |
| Mar 7 | Whitney Krauss        | Mar 18 | Ann Ford          |
| Mar 7 | Brian Shafer          | Mar 22 | Becky Ryman       |
| Mar 9 | Macie Heishman        | Mar 28 | Kate Ramsey       |

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

|              |                          |          |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Mar 1, 2008  | Chad & Michelle Higgs    | 18 years |
| Mar 10, 2011 | BJ & Kelly Smith         | 15 years |
| Mar 28, 2009 | Cory & Lynette Guilliams | 17 years |

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**MARCH EVENTS CALENDAR**

- Mar 1      **Small Group Leaders Gathering, 8:45 a.m.**  
**Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.**  
**Worship, 11:00 a.m.: Message: "Jesus Betrayed, Arrested, Denied" from John 18:1-27**
- Mar 2      **Everyday Epiphanies study, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 a.m.**  
**UWIF serve Keezletown Ruritans**  
**District UMM Rally at Manor Memorial, 6:30 p.m.**
- Mar 3      **Worship Music Practice, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Everyday Epiphanies study 7:00 p.m.**
- Mar 4      **Lent Supper & Service, 6:30 p.m.; UMM serve Spaghetti**  
**Choir practice after Lent service**
- Mar 5      **United Women in Faith, 11:00 a.m.**
- Mar 7      **District UWIF Prayer Breakfast at Braddock St. UMC, 9 :00 a.m.**  
**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME—SPRING FORWARD**
- Mar 8      **Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.**  
**Worship, 11:00 a.m.: Message "Pilate Handing Jesus Over" from John 18:28—19:16**  
**Keezletown Light Commission Annual Meeting , 7:00 p.m.**
- Mar 9      **Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 a.m.**  
**Worship Planning at Vito's at Noon**
- Mar 11     **Lunch Bunch at 11:15 a.m.**

- Mar 12 Lent Supper & Service, 6:30 p.m.  
Church Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Mar 13 Chill & Chat, 11:00 p.m.
- Mar 13 Newsletter items due
- Mar 14 Lay Servant Training at 9:00 a.m. at Otterbein UMC
- Mar 15 United Methodist Men, 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship, 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Jesus Crucified" from John 19:16-30  
A Disciple's Path: Presence, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
- Mar 16 "John: The Gospel of Light and Life" study 10:00 a.m.  
Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 a.m.
- Mar 17 Worship Music Practice, 6:00 p.m.  
"John: The Gospel of Light and Life" study 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 18 Choir practice before or after Lent service  
Lent Supper and Service, 6:30 p.m.  
Choir practice after Lent service  
Chill & Chat, 11:00 a.m.
- Mar 19 Weave for a Cure, 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 21 UMM Pancake Supper, 5:00 p.m.
- Mar 22 Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship, 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Jesus Dead and Buried" from John 19:31-42
- Mar 23 "John: The Gospel of Light and Life" study 10:00 a.m.  
Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 a.m.
- Mar 24 Worship Music Practice, 6:00 p.m.  
"John: The Gospel of Light and Life" study 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 25 Lunch Bunch at 11:15 a.m.  
Lent Supper & Service, 6:30 p.m.
- Mar 26 Chill & Chat, 11:00 a.m.  
Weave for a Cure, 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 29 Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship, 11:00 a.m.; PALM SUNDAY; Message: "The Triumphal Entry" from John 12:11-19
- Mar 30 "John: The Gospel of Light and Life" study 10:00 a.m.  
Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 a.m.
- Mar 31 Worship Music Practice, 6:00 p.m.  
"John: The Gospel of Light and Life" study 7:00 p.m.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**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.

**Skyline Literacy Seeking Volunteers** to teach classes in English, citizenship, digital learning, and GED. Training for teachers is provided. There is a current need for English teachers. Learn more by calling 540-433-0505 or visiting the website [skylineliteracy.org](http://skylineliteracy.org)

**Shenandoah River District Lay Servant Training** on Mar 14<sup>th</sup> at Otterbein UMC. Classes offered are Basic; Leading Prayer; Life Together in the United Methodist Connection; and Becoming a Church Where Young People Thrive. Registration fee of \$20; lunch provided; register online.

**KEEZLETOWN LIGHT COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING** will be Mar 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Social Hall.

**UMM PANCAKE SUPPER:** The Keezletown United Methodist Men will provide a Pancake Supper fundraiser on Saturday, March 21st at 5:00 PM. Enjoy good food, fellowship, and giving toward UMM ministries.

## **RELAY FOR LIFE: TEAM KUMC**



**AUCTION: MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> 4:00 P.M. WOODMEN LIFE IN DAYTON VA**  
**RELAY FOR LIFE: MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 5:00 P.M. ROCKINGHAM CO FAIRGROUNDS**  
**ANY QUESTIONS, TALK WITH LYNN SILER**

**WEAVE FOR A CURE:** Anyone interested in weaving a basket? The 9th weave for a cure



relay fundraiser will be March 19th & 26th in the church social hall. To make the group smaller I will offer the class at 2 times 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. or 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This first one will be the Jordan with a 8" wooden base and option of handles, cost will be \$65.00. Then



the 10th weave for a cure will be on Thursdays in April and that one will be Footed market at \$50.00. If you want to make the basket or both, please let Lynn Siler ([lsiler78@yahoo.com](mailto:lsiler78@yahoo.com)) know so the supplies can be gathered. Let's have a weaving good time together.

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## MY PERSONAL NOTE

I apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. It has been a busy time since the last one came out, and I had a lot of catching up to do. My hip surgery was a "God is merciful", wonderful success and I am having no pain—Thank You, Jesus. I know that I have already thanked my Church family for their prayers and support, but I would also like to thank all of you who prayed for me, sent me cards, or just gave me words of encouragement. God is good and I am looking forward to see what His plans are for my future. *Diana*

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### Editor's Note

**The March deadline for submissions is Mar 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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*"Once you hit 50 you got to sit on the edge of the bed and warm up like an old Buick before you get up."* (@Sunset Heaven)