

The Grapevine

Our Mission: To receive and share God's love through worship, education, service and outreach.

Editor's Note:

Greetings and Blessings to all of you! I can hardly believe that we have moved into the season of preparation for Christ's Birthday. We seem to be on autopilot sometimes, so fast moves each month. In keeping with the theme of preparing spiritually for Christmas please take time to read 10 Ways to Prepare Your Heart for Christmas. Even though there is such enchantment surrounding the holiday and traditions that many of us

carry on from year to year it is especially important to remember Christ during our **Christmas** time. Advent comes from the Latin word "adventus" which means "a coming, approach, arrival." As you prepare your homes and hearts in joyful anticipation of Christ's birthday know the light grows brighter each week as we celebrate Hope, Peace Joy and Love throughout the season and year to come. **Merry Christmas!**

In Christ's Love

Petra



Monthly Scriptures :

December 4 :

Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon Title:

"Bear Fruit worthy of Repentance"

December 11:

Luke 1:46-55

Sermon Title:

Are you the One who is to Come?

December 18:

Luke 18:1-8

Sermon Title:

"and they Shall name him Emmanuel"

December 25:

John 1:1-14

Sermon Title:

The Word became flesh and dwelled among us

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Pastor Ken's Corner

John 1:1-14(NRSV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

December is here!!! Merry Christmas to All!!

The air is filled with Christmas Carols like "O Holy Night" and secular Christmas songs like "Jingle Bells" and families singing and spending days and evenings together shopping and worshipping.

Let **us** focus on the Real Meaning of Christmas.

*¹⁴ **And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.***

We all know that storms and tornadoes and worldly destruction and violence continues in this world. **He came to Bring Peace on Earth in the appointed Time.**

There is a promise of *Peace and Grace* in the memory and celebration of the birth of the Child in Bethlehem. He came in the human flesh of a baby, born of Mary as promised by the Angel and loved by His Father Joseph.

*¹² **But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,** ¹³ **who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.***

This Christmas season ... and all year long as well let us be mindful of Our Lord's Grace and Mercy brought to earth as a baby born in Bethlehem to a maid.

Whom Angels heralded with song ...

and shepherds came to witness ...

and Wisemen who traveled from far away came to pay homage and give this Child gifts of Frankincense, Gold and Myrrh.

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There are so many world events and local occurrences that we can and should lift up to the Lord. yet, our primary focus this time of year should be on the miracle of the Gift of the Father's Son, so special and precious.

We continue to lift up impending surgeries, and other health concerns as well as life events and even the routine daily events.

Pray for those UMCOR and other similar agencies and local first responders as well as National Guard, Coast Guard responders at work around the world.

We pray for school safety and productive learning environments for our children. We pray for the adults headed back to school in our universities and institutions of higher learning.

We need to be constantly in Prayer for our Congregation and our friends and Family. We pray that our country and our communities are covered by His Love, Grace, Mercy and Hope.

We need continue to pray for; **our teachers, our administrators and our first responders, law enforcement, medical/EMT, and other counselors for the students, and parents, and teachers, and others impacted by the New Year and what awaits.** We Pray with renewed faith and vigor.

We have this reassurance from Jesus that we should be mindful of all the Blessings we should give thanks for.

Keep all of those who are healing from COVID in your prayers. Be mindful also of the others in our congregation who are undergoing treatments and procedures.

Everyone is invited to come and help with our next mobile food pantry

Our Cryer Mobile Food Pantry has been scheduled for December 3rd from 9-11 AM

We pray for all of our community services: food pantry; meals on wheels; and other ministries; we provide to our community are for our **community outreach**. We are performing loving witness to our community to **demonstrate God's love to us**.

COVID restrictions and protocols are relaxed but many still remain, and we must keep in mind that the threat is not eliminated, **and in some cases is elevated again with the recent variants....** For some, the risks of COVID are very real and very present. **We continue to lift up in our prayers those who are at risk and still under many restrictions.**

Let us continue to pray for the people who may encounter COVID-19 and be exposed to or suffer from the illness.

Peace & Grace,

Pastor Ken

LAY LEADER — WARREN WRIGHT

Santa lives at the North Pole...

JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh...

JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year...

JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies...

JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited...

JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.

You have to wait in line to see Santa...

JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap...

JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"...

JESUS knew our name before we were born. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly...

JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO...

JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry"...

JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys...

JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but...

JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree...

JESUS became our gift and died on a tree...the cross.

We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas, Jesus is still the reason for the season.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).



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Ministries:

UMM

The UMM will **not meet** in December. We wish everyone a joyous Advent Season and remember that Jesus Christ is the reason for the season. Remember there are no membership or dues requirements to be a part of the United Methodist Men of Clarksbury, just a willingness to serve Jesus Christ within your church and community.

Mission-To Help Men Grow In Christ, So Others May Know Christ.

RECOVERING

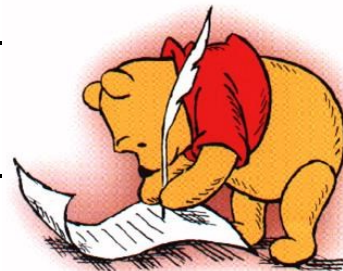
Betty Johnson Connie Robertson Val Bradley
Carl Tate

Nurture & Outreach Jerry Dant

Our committee is working on Christmas "Goodie Bags" for the residents at Fishing Bay Estates. Some of the ladies on the committee and some of the ladies of the church are busy making handmade gifts for each bag. There will be other useful items in the bags, as well as, a special keepsake from our church. We look forward to filling the bags as well as having them delivered by the "Soupie Girls" for Christmas.



"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more."
- How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Dr. Suess



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Myrtle Clark (10/2)
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Mickie Crittenden
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Betty Johnson (804) 384-3618 (4/26)
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Lewis Musick
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Gloucester, Va., 23061

Marion Miller (08/06)
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Connie Robertson (7/28)
74 spring Cove Lane
Topping, VA 23169

Pastor Jim Salmon 5/24
26306 Mattaponi Trail
Milford, VA 22514

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Ministries and ETC:



Mobile Food Pantry -
Clarksbury United Methodist
Saturday, December 3, 2022
9:00am-11:00am
Clarksbury United Methodist,
Deltaville, VA 23043, United



Church Service Assistants for the month of *December*

Ushers:

Nancy Quinn and Paulette Topping

Scripture Reader:

Linda Bartz

Liturgist:

Linda Bartz

Counters:

Lee White and Eileen Crittenden

Open Hearts Open Minds
Open Doors

Deadline for the January Newsletter is Monday, December 21!
 Please send your emails and articles to pwalian2@gmail.com for inclusion in the newsletter.



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Facebook!

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Website

Annual Budget 2022 Operating Funds	120,298.00
Total Received for Operating Funds 11/20/22	105,349.02
Total Needed by end of November	4,924.15

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Christmas Sing A-long



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Recording Secretary:

Betty & Carl Tate
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December Power of Prayer

Here we are, a week after giving thanks for all of our blessing right into “Black Friday”, “Cyber Monday”, and God knows what other frenzied commercial shopping experience the world can muster. As children, many of you likely made a list for Santa and wished hard that you might get it on Christmas morning. Knowing the hardships of the previous generation, many of you were likely happy for a new pair of shoes or socks, a warm coat, or just that your family was together and healthy. Blessings indeed.

My how things have changed. If there is one “wish” I could put on a list, it would be that everyone could experience the Light of Christ this Christmas season. This is indeed the only gift we should be satisfied with on Christmas morning. We gave our thanks, but let us all put together our Christmas lists we can share with others. They cost absolutely nothing, yet are priceless.

1. Salvation: This gift was given through Jesus’ birth, death and resurrection. Ephesians 2:8 tells us that “God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.”

2. Peace: That Passes All Understanding: Philippians 4:7 says, “And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”.

3. Provision: Other people may worry about the ups and downs of the economy, but we don’t have to because God has promised to provide for us.

4. Direct Line to God: We have a direct line to our heavenly Father, with FREE worldwide coverage!.

5. Joy: John 15:11 says, “I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!” These are Jesus’ words directly to us. Our joy doesn’t come from outside circumstances but from the Holy Spirit who resides within us.

6. Heaven on Earth: Luke 17:21 tells us “the Kingdom of God is already among you.”

7. Family and Friends: God places people in our lives to be a blessing to us, so we can also bless others.

8. Grace: Grace is God’s unmerited favor, His special gift to us.

9. Healing: First Peter 2:24 “He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds, you are healed.”

10. Abundant life: In John 10:10, Jesus tells us that “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”.

As we celebrate the birth of our greatest gift of all, don’t lose sight of these eternal truths of Christmas and all He has blessed us with.

Merry Christmas, David

10 Ways to Prepare Your Heart for Christmas

It's hard to believe that we are only a few days away from Christmas. The holidays can come and go before you know it. This year, slow down and truly experience this special season centered around family, joy, giving, and most importantly—Jesus. Here are a few ideas to help you prepare your heart for Christmas.



1. **Reflect.** Take note of the many reasons you have to be thankful this Christmas. Spend time thanking God specifically for ways He has provided for you—spiritually, relationally, financially, etc. Praise Him for His goodness, grace, and faithfulness in all seasons of life.
2. **Gather.** Spend uninterrupted time with the people you love. If necessary, limit the activities and parties you commit to so that you can focus on time with your family instead. We often rush through our busy Christmas schedules and miss time to really be present in the moments we are together with our loved ones. Make memories together as you celebrate Christmas.
3. **Sing.** This may seem a little silly at first, but spend time singing your favorite Christmas songs aloud. Pay close attention to the words, thanking God for His incredible gift of our Savior. Sing these traditional carols as worship songs to the Lord.
4. **Celebrate.** Jesus, the One who holds all things together, chose to enter the world in the humblest form—a small, helpless baby. Jesus' birth is the greatest gift we will ever receive and that is definitely a reason to celebrate! Embrace the joy found in the birth of Immanuel—God with us.
5. **Listen.** Practice the art of truly listening to others as you gather with family and friends. Whether you're having dinner, opening presents, or sitting around and catching up with those you haven't seen in a while, pay attention to what is said instead of thinking about how you will respond. Truly listening is one of the best ways to show your loved ones that you care.
6. **Remember.** Reflect on the fact that our Savior was born specifically so that He would one day die for our sins. Thank Him for His willingness to enter this messy, broken, hopeless world. Rejoice in the Father's love, reflecting on the reality that He sent His only Son to pay the price for sin—our sin. Remember what He went through on the cross to save us.
7. **Enjoy.** Christmas is a beautiful season—sparkling Christmas lights, decorations hung with care, memorable moments with family. Appreciate the little moments. Slow down long enough to delight in the beauty all around.
8. **Read.** Study the story of Christ's birth. Instead of rushing through the reading of Matthew 1 or Luke 2, take time to meditate on the words. Read the passages slowly, taking note of the details you may have missed before. Ask the Lord to help you notice new things as you read the story with fresh eyes.
9. **Pray.** Lift up those who do not know Jesus in prayer. Pray for the lost and hurting. Ask God to open your eyes to opportunities to share the gospel with those around you—with family, friends, and even strangers. Pray for those who are all alone this Christmas; pray they will encounter Jesus and find hope in the One who loves them and will never leave them.
10. **Worship.** Christmas is the perfect opportunity for worship. Worshipping God encompasses so much more than simply singing. Worship is a way of life. This Christmas, seek to honor Him with the way you live. Speak words to others that breathe life, not discouragement. Love the people in your life selflessly. Humbly serve your family. Praise God with the little moments in your daily life.

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December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Elijah West	3 Suzanne Ramsburg Food Pantry 9-11am
4 Sharon Tullos	5 Becky Foster	6 Choir Practice 10am	7 Spencer Crittenden Bible Study 2pm	8 Choir Practice 11am	9	10
11 Anna White	12	13 Choir Practice 10am	14 Bible Study 2pm	15 Choir Practice 11am	16 Mason Duke	17
18 Christmas Cantata Joy Potluck Caroling 5:30pm	19 Jenny Crittenden David Dobson	20 Tinker Purcell	21 Alyssa West Bible Study 2pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December Birthdays (If you know of any additions, deletions or corrections that should be made to the birthday calendar, please let the newsletter editor know.)