



The Grapevine

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

Editor's Note

Wow, we have made it to the last month of the year and the hustle continues to move at a quickening pace. Don't forget to take time to enjoy what this season of **CHRIST-**mas is all about. Take care of yourself and your loved ones. See a tip list on page 6 and 7 for ideas on how to accomplish a bit of peace through it all. Finding time for rest and reflection can be very difficult for many of us and it has a tendency to rob us of the joy that should surround the holidays.

Lord, during all the hustle bustle of the holiday season, I want to stop and spend an intimate moment from time to time with you. You are the most important piece in my life. You are the beginning and the ending of each of my days, and you are the real reason for the Christmas season. Thank you for loving me, and giving me eternal life because of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Monthly Scriptures :

December 3:

Luke 1:5-25

Sermon Title: "Hope!"

December 10:

Luke 1:26-38

Sermon Title: "Faith"

December 17:

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon Title:
"Peace"

December 24:

Matthew Luke 2:1-14

Sermon Title:
"Joy"

December 31:

Luke 2:22-40

Sermon Title:
"The Favor of the Lord "



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Pastor Ken's Corner

Pastor Ken's Corner

Luke 2:1-14 (NRSV)

The Birth of Jesus

² ¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

December is upon Us and We are all busy getting the House and in some cases the yard decorated for this Season of Great Joy. We prepare dinners and family "get togethers" and office parties and **Our Cantata on Dec 17th**, and luncheon afterwards. Mark your calendar!

I think of how the year has passed, the challenges you as a church and your leadership have worked steadily to determine and then conduct the transition to the Global Methodist Church and all the changes, administratively and logistically, that have had to happen in short timelines. A well-deserved "Thank You" for our Church Council and our Leadership and the many who have assisted.

Now there are some administrative aspects which we will continue to explore and work out for the next few months. Initially most of the changes will be transparent to the church in general. As I said last month Clarksbury Church will transition into our new denomination, The Global Methodist Church, holding fast to our traditions and our ministries.

I reiterate that this time of transition is an opportunity for each of us at Clarksbury to **rededicate** ourselves to our service to **God and community and where possible our witness**. We will continue to be welcoming, and warm in our reception of all who come to Clarksbury. There will be some cosmetic changes as to be expected with a denomination change.

There will be changes to our webpage, our Grapevine newsletter as well as some changes to email addresses moving forward. Of note I will be transitioning to kenteec12@gmail.com as the old vaumc.org email will not be available to me at some point.

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Your Leadership and You as a congregation have decided to be Faithful to the **traditional** interpretation / understanding of The Scriptures. Not to be negative, rather to be positive.

We as a Church have determined to continue to render, as guided in the scriptures ***to God the things that are God's***. To serve God as the **Scriptures**, our **Wesleyan Tradition**, our **Christian Experience** and our understanding and **Reason** call us to.

There is **some** remaining **work including legal and other efforts** which will follow to transition fully to Global Methodist Church.

Continue to Lift up our Leadership and our Church in this time of Transition that we may remain focused on the MAIN purpose for us being a CHURCH... service to God and proclaiming the Good News and encouraging our community to turn to Jesus.

On a personal note, I want to thank the Church for the wonderful robe presented to me on Pastor Appreciation Day.

Clarksbury will continue to be welcoming, loving, faithful and connected with our community. We will continue to love our neighbors, we will comfort the sick and the poor, we will serve our community with Peace, Love and Mercy, and honor the Sacraments as prescribed in scriptures.

What are your **expectations and anticipations** for this December and the future ahead?

I anticipate Days of Celebration during ADVENT as we Prepare for Christmas and the celebration of the arrival of the "Christ Child" to Mary and Joseph over two thousand years ago.

Imagine being among those shepherds that night, when the Angels of the Lord announced to them the wonderful event. The Angels were Shining in the Glory of the LORD; how the shepherds were at first terrified but were assured by the Angel to not be afraid, and that the Angels were bringing the "***good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.***" ¹³ ***And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"***

We have much to celebrate!

I urge all of us to Pray for our Nation; for safety for those returning from school and peaceful activities in all our communities. We need to be in Prayer as Many will pause from school and jobs, make trips to visit family members around the country to celebrate the Birth of that Babe born years ago far away in Bethlehem.

As we celebrate His birth, we also Look to His second coming, His return.

We do not know the Day of His return; God alone knows that appointed day! However, we do know and Have Faith that when He does return there will be no doubt He is Back.

God is here among us **when we pray** and **as we pray**. His promise is on **THAT DAY we will be with Him in the clouds**. What a powerful **promise**.

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Until that day we have a mission...we are called to ...encourage each other and Pray without ceasing!

I will state again from last month because is very important to FOCUS on God not his fallen world.

Christ is risen...Christ is Risen Indeed!

We are reconciled to God through Christ and our Faith in Him.

As we walk in the world **physically** following the footsteps of Christ, others will see us and what we do.

Use your Gifts of the Spirit to give Glory to the Father above.

We continue to lift the health concerns of our Church family as well as life events and even the routine daily events of our community around us.

We must continue to pray for all the agencies that work to improve the lives of those devastated by storms and other natural disasters.

Pray for our **local first responders** of Law Enforcement, Fire and Rescue and Emergency Medical Teams, as well as our Military Service members that work around the world and all the families waiting patiently for their safe return.

Our **Cryer Mobile Food Pantry has been scheduled for December 2 from 9to 11 a.m.** We need willing hands and prayers for this event as we always do on the first Saturday of the month in partnership with the Cryer Center.

We pray for all our community outreach services: food pantry, meals on wheels, and other ministries.

We pray for the hurt people of this world. We pray for those who are in the path of hurricanes and other storms. We pray for the victims of violence. We pray for our country and our leaders that they may be blessed by our Lord to do His will. We pray.

May we be a loving witness to our community to **demonstrate God's love for us.**

May God richly bless all of you and your loved ones. Peace & Grace, Pastor Ken



LAY LEADER — WARREN WRIGHT

Why Jesus is Better Than Santa Claus

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 must 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 **CHRIST**mas, 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).

SELF CARE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Here are a few things we can do for self-care:

1. Take time to be aware of God's presence and breathe. Spending time in prayer brings peace and relaxation and prepares you for what lies ahead.
2. Remember boundaries. It's ok to say no to things that are just too much for you and it's ok to say yes to things that bring you joy.
3. Listen to your body and rest when you are weary. You are no good to yourself or anyone else when you are over-tired.
4. Go outside and enjoy a little sunshine, even if it's only 5 minutes because it's cold, soak in some Vitamin D and enjoy God's magnificent creation.
5. Sure, we are suppose to eat healthy, and our bodies are better for it but sometimes a little comfort food goes a long way on our mental well-being. Let yourself off the hook and enjoy a slice of pie or some homemade cookies every now and then.
6. Don't try to keep up with the Joneses or the perfect lives posted on Facebook. Any life can look amazing long enough for a picture. Live a life enjoyable to you and within your limits.
7. Do something you enjoy, with or without others. Read a book, go see a movie, go out to lunch. If you are not up for being in social situations, at least keep in touch with those who know and understand you. Phone a friend or check in with loved one.
8. Allow yourself to grieve if you have lost a loved one. The holidays are always difficult when we no longer have our loved ones around the table with us. Spend some time looking at pictures or sharing stories with others about your loved one. Enjoy the memories and feel free to laugh and cry. Don't be afraid to reach out to others.
9. Make lists, lots of them. Things to do, Things to be thankful for, Things you'd like to try one day, People who could use a visit or a card, People who have been there for you during difficult times, Favorite scripture verses for times of need, and another very important option would be a list of Blessings.
10. Remember you are never alone! You have friends, blood family, church family, and above all God. Take time to reflect on His love for you and the whole reason for the season!!

CARING FOR OTHERS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Once you have taken care of yourself, find time to take care of others who may need you!

1. If you know someone that may be grieving the loss of a loved one, call them, stop by for a visit, send a card. Let them know they are not alone. Ask about favorite traditions and allow them to share memories of loved ones.
2. Listen closely to those around you when they speak. Watch their mannerisms and body language. Be aware of situations they may be going through. Allow them to share without judgement.
3. If someone is juggling their job, children, household responsibilities and trying to catch their breath and you have a little free time, ask what you could do to help. Maybe you could run an errand or provide a meal.
4. You may want to invite those who are alone and feeling isolated out for an uplifting activity or maybe even a meal with a group of friends. Invite them to church activities if possible.
5. Visit with elderly in nursing homes. Bring them a book, or a treat if you like but it's your presence that is the best gift.
6. Donate toys and gift cards to families in need if you are in a financial position to do so.
7. Donate your time to homeless shelters, food pantries, or soup kitchens. Bring your smile God's love, and an open mind.
8. Remind those who are trying to create the perfect holiday that Mary couldn't even create the perfect birthplace for Jesus. Memories made with loved ones during the holidays last longer and mean more than the gifts given. If you exchange gifts maybe try something homemade or heartfelt and not expensive so others don't feel they have to keep up.
9. Invite others out for a stroll on a sunny afternoon. Maybe visit a park and watch children play or walk one of the many beaches we have here. Take time to appreciate God's creation.
10. Be mindful of others and their situations when you share your holiday plans. Others may not be as fortunate as you. You may not be trying to boast but to someone who is alone or without the means to shop or have holiday plans, it may come across that way. The best thing we can do during this happiest time of the year is to show grace and mercy to ourselves and others just as God has done for us. The "holiday" will come and go whether we are prepared or not but the Christmas Season is something

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Ministries:

UMM

The Clarksbury Church Men will not meet during December. Our next meeting will be Monday January 22nd at 7 PM. We will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at Howard Dooleys for breakfast. 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 Carl Tate

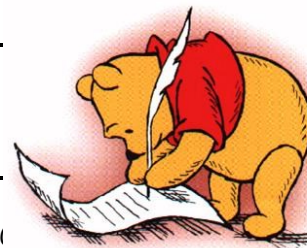
Nurture & Outreach Jerry Dant

Thanks to all, who brought gifts, craft items and love with their gifts for Dockside. A van, and I mean, packed, was delivered to Dockside with love from our church family. Also, "Turkey Coasters" were delivered to the residents for Thanksgiving. A Thanksgiving table decoration was delivered to the residents at Fishing Bay Estates with their Thanksgiving dinner. We are working on plans for Christmas for Dockside and Fishing Bay Estates

Our Prayer Group on Tuesday at 10:00, under the leadership of Linda Bartz, is a Blessing and we invite all to come and it is open to the community. Hope to see you on Tuesday.

Any suggestions for our committee will be greatly appreciated.

*"Life without Liberty
is like a body
without spirit."
Kahlil Gibran*



Myrtle Clark (10/2)
P.O. Box 302
Deltaville, VA 23043

Mickie Crittenden
c/o Commonwealth Senior Living
7657 Meredith Drive
Gloucester, VA 23061

Betty Johnson (804) 384-3618 (4/26)
Dockside Health & Rehab Ctr
74 Mizpah Road Room 504
Locust Hill VA 23092

Lewis Musick
6023 Dixon Lane
Gloucester, Va., 23061

Marion Miller (08/06)
c/o Commonwealth Senior Living @ Gloucester House
7657 Meredith Drive
Gloucester, VA 23061

Connie Robertson (7/28)
Dockside Health and Rehab. Ctr.
74 Mizpah Road, Room 107
Locust Hill, Va., 23079

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 2, 2023
9:00am-11:00am
Clarksbury United Methodist,
Deltaville, VA 23043, United



Church Service Assistants for the month of *December*

Ushers:

Cacky Guill and Paulette Topping

Liturgist:

Cheryl Teagle

Counters:

Lee White and Eileen Crittenden

Open Hearts Open Minds
Open Doors

Deadline for the January newsletter is Wednesday, December 27

Please send your emails and articles to pwalian2@gmail.com for inclusion in the newsletter.



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Facebook!

Check out our

Website

Annual Budget 2023 Operating Funds	118,440.00
Total Received for Operating Funds 11/12/2023	120,596.97
Total Needed by end of November	-12,026.97

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Thanksgiving Dinner Prep for our Shut-ins



December 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2 <i>Elijah West</i>
3 <i>Suzanne Ramsburg</i>	4	5 <i>Becky Foster</i>	6	7 <i>Spencer Crittenden</i>	8	9
10	11 Ladies ornament ex- change 2pm	12	13	14	15	16 <i>Mason Duke</i>
17 <i>Christmas Cantata –covered dish luncheon. Caroling 5pm</i>	18	19 <i>David Dobson</i>	20	21 <i>Alyssa West</i>	22	23
24	25 <i>Christmas</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31						