



# UNION TIMES



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**Greetings in the name of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords,**

Here we are in the season of Advent. It is so hard to believe that it's here already! There is so much busyness this time of year. Everything from all of the Christmas events happening in the church and community, to all of the gift buying, wrapping, and everything else, it's hard to even get a breath in edge-wise. In the midst of all of this hustle and bustle that comes along with this time of year, let us remember the real reason that we celebrate.

Let us come down from all of the busyness and remember that simple family. A family who went from place to place looking for somewhere to have the Christ child, and being told that there was "No Room at the Inn." A family who had their child in the humblest of settings, in a barn with all of the farm animals in a manger.

It must have been a quiet and serene night when the Christ child was born. Let us center ourselves and remember the stillness and joy of that time. And when Jesus was born, it was a time of great joy! The shepherds rejoiced, the angels rejoiced, and all of creation rejoiced at the birth of Christ the savior. Let us in the midst of the busyness of this season, remember the reason why we celebrate. Take some quiet time to pray and reflect about the importance of this sea-

son. Take some time to rejoice that Christ is born, the Son of God who redeemed us all from sin through his death upon a cross. Let us be the light of the world and the salt of the Earth, spreading the joy of the birth of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Jim Penuel III



**December Preaching Schedule**

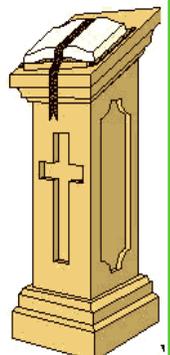
4th—"Love that Gives (Love)" - I John 4:7-12  
Advent Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10

11th—"The Peace of God (Peace)" - John 14:25-31  
Advent Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

18th—"Advent Cantata" (Joy)  
Advent Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

24th—Christmas Eve Service  
"The Blessing of the Savior" - Isaiah 9:2-7  
Advent Reading: Titus 2:11-14

25th—Christmas Day Service  
"Good News of Great Joy" - Luke 2:1-20



**Special points of interest:**

**Advent**

**Nativity Scene Display**

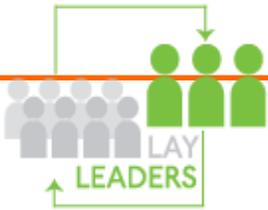
**Winter Silent Retreat**

**Christmas Parades**

**Christmas Candy Canes**

**Twelve Days of Christmas**

**Mitten Tree & Baskets**



## Lay Leader's Message *(Notes from Nancy)*

Blessings of JOY! I pray that your spirit is awakened to begin this most beautiful season of the Christian year: ADVENT.

Advent means to *prepare for the coming or the arrival.*

I remember a time in my life when I was not really aware of the significance of Advent and my focus was more upon Christmas. I wanted my children to understand the manger and Christmas tree's symbolism. I wanted us to sing the great carols and to listen to all of the stories. As the mother of two young daughters, I wanted to make certain that we were truly focused on the meaning of Christmas. This was that year that I set out upon a journey of a new and deeper discovery: ***There is no Christmas without Advent.*** Advent allows us to prepare our hearts for the renewal of the joy of the Messiah's birth. Advent is a season of **VISIONING** the past, the present and the future. It is the season that brings together all of God's great promises and gifts to us as we recall the prophecies, the stories, the legacies, and the promise of the second coming of our Christ, the King!

My first Advent discovery was the Jesse Tree, where each day, we gathered as a family and recalled a story from the Old Testament, weaving together a beautiful story tapestry of how God had planned for the Messiah since Genesis and that Christmas celebrates the birth of the Messiah 2000 years ago. Advent continues the story as the vision is not only of the past, the moments of the present, but the joyful anticipation of the Second Coming of Our Christ the King in Victory. The story is not over. The story continues for our God is a God of eternal love and forgiveness.

It was during the year of the Jesse Tree celebration that our family focused our giving beyond our family. On the tree that year, a small gift was wrapped and marked for Jesus. Little did I know what an impact that framed picture of a small boy from India would have upon our family. Raj grew up into adulthood as our sponsored child through World Vision. Then we adopted Clementino in Honduras, and he grew up. And now, we have precious 7 year old Fernanda, who shares the same birthday as our granddaughter Bethany. We adopted Fernanda when Bethany was born in order that Bethany would grow to understand that God's family is everywhere. We also began participating in the Heifer International Program, where our gift to a family in need becomes a gift that continues to give to others by passing on the offspring of the animals to another family in need. Union does so much with Advent Adventures, such as the Samaritan's Purse, the Christmas Baskets, and the Angel Tree Ministry. Advent takes our focus away from us and shines God's love onto others. For the message is not only about Jesus; the message is about the never ending love of our God.

*Advent*  
A Season of Hope  
& Expectation

Preparing our hearts to become the hands of Christ is what Advent is really about. It is the season of JOY, HOPE, LOVE, PEACE, and always, FORGIVENESS. We have a beautiful story to tell, and even more so, we have a beautiful story to LIVE. As you prepare for Christmas, remember to take the Advent journey with joyful anticipation, preparing for the coming of Christ anew in your lives this year and always.

Blessings of Great JOY!  
Nancy





### A Ministry of DelMarVa Teen Challenge

The Home of Hope is the Mission focus of Union Church and is located at :

**10936 Leadership Way (off of Rifle Range Rd.)**

**Bridgeville, DE 19933**

*Is your Property Eligible for Historic Tax Credits ???*



**Join Joan Larrivee, State of Delaware Tax Credit Program Manager**

**As She Explains Tax Credits for Rehabilitation of Bridgeville Historic Property**

**Thursday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Bridgeville Public Library  
600 South Cannon Street**

Sponsored by the Bridgeville Economic Development Committee & the Bridgeville Historical Society

### “Baked Beans ” Month

December has been designated as “baked beans month”. Place donations in the designated area in the narthex, in the church office, or drop off at the Food Pantry.



## WINTER SILENT RETREAT

February 19-24, 2017



Facilitated by Rev. Karen Moore and Anita Wood, it's your chance to come and experience a daily rhythm of prayer, reflection, simple meals, and communion with God.

You can choose to stay with us for one day or all week---it's up to you!

Register online by visiting [www..Pecometh.org](http://www.Pecometh.org) or call us at 410-556-6900.



## Aging Faithfully

**Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 7th at Noon for a light lunch and fellowship in the hall.**

**This program is open to all and there is no cost or materials to purchase. Just bring your Bible and be ready to share your experiences. For more information please contact Joan at 302-337-7156.**

**If you plan to attend please let me know so that I can prepare for lunch. Hope to see you in December for a time of fellowship and discussion.**

*Joan Hastings  
Coordinator*





# ADVENT

The season of Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians. *[Liturgical -- from liturgy, which means the forms and functions of public worship.]*

During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

Celebrate Advent at Union this Christmas season . . . .

- 1st Day of Advent—Sunday, November 27th
- 2nd Day of Advent—Sunday, December 4th
- 3rd Day of Advent—Sunday, December 11th
- 4th Day of Advent—Sunday, December 18th



## Nativity Scenes

**On Sunday, December 18th (10am) , we want to display nativity sets at the reception being held immediately following the service. After the joint worship service, there will be a reception honoring the music department. We would like to have nativities on display as part of the reception.**

**You can bring your nativity display to the church by the 16th of December, or with you the morning of the 18th by 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Your nativity set can be taken back home with you at the end of the reception that morning.**

**Please contact Jeanne Wilson during the 9am service or Cathy Warrington at 11am service if you have any questions. The nativity sets are a wonderful addition to the reception and we hope to include yours this year as well.**



# What's Happening in Sunday School!



## NEWS

### December Lesson Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson # and topic</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
12/4	#12—Jesus Heals People	Luke 4:38-40 & 5:12-16 (2nd Sunday of Advent)
12/11	Bonus Christmas Lesson	(3rd Sunday of Advent)

### SPECIAL SCHEDULE

12/18	Christmas Music and 4th Sunday of Advent (One Worship Service at 10am—no Sunday School classes that day)
12/25	Christmas Day (One Worship Service at 10am—no Sunday School classes that day)



**JOY TO THE WORLD Next — WELCOME A NEW YEAR 2017**



## **Christmas Dinner** **Saturday, December 10th** **4pm to 6pm**

Make plans to join us and celebrate the season with us here at Pecometh. Join us at our Riverview Retreat Center for our **Annual Christmas Dinner**. Plus, everyone who attends receives a Pecometh Christmas ornament.

To view this year's menu and to register, visit us online at [www.pecometh.org](http://www.pecometh.org) or call 410-556-6900.



When you prayerfully consider your Christmas offering this holiday season, keep in mind the following. Based on expected expenditures for 2016 plus the unanticipated Capital Improvements required in the Senior Parsonage and Church facilities, it was determined that we need approximately \$276,000 in Tithes and Pledges to meet all of our obligations.



To date, we are approximately \$59,000 behind where we should, and need to be. There are 4 Sundays remaining in 2016, with the last Sunday being Christmas Day. We need our church family to join together in closing this gap by year end so that all obligations of the church can be met.

We have met the challenge in the past. The Finance Committee has no doubt that we can once again count on everyone pulling together. Merry Christmas to our church family!



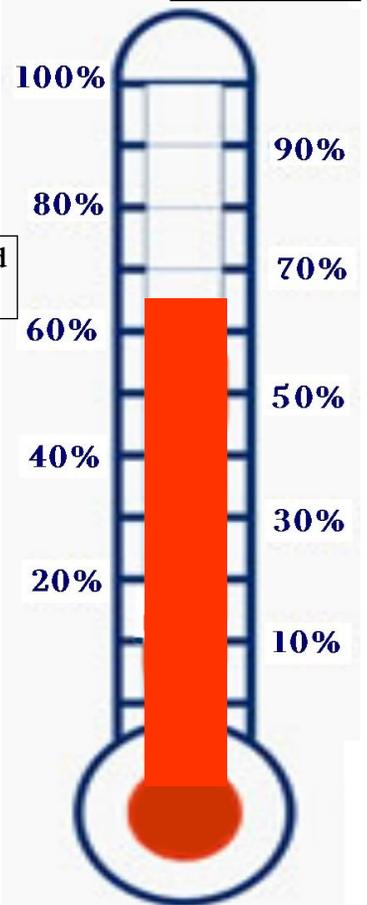
*Pete Stephens*  
Church Treasurer

# Lily's Fence



Goal: \$7,000

\$4,440 Received To Date



We are now approximately 65% of reaching our goal of \$7,000 for "Lily's Fence". As you know, the Union parsonage is located at a busy intersection here in town. Installing a fence around the parsonage was crucial to enable Lily to play in the yard more safely and eliminate the danger of her running out in the road. We've stepped out on faith and the supplies arrived right before Thanksgiving and the fence has been constructed. A donation of \$30 covers the cost of one foot of fencing. Donations should be clearly designated "Lily's Fence" and placed in the offering plate on Sundays or dropped off to the church office. Thank You!



## "All Aboard"



"All Aboard" is the theme selected for this year's Christmas Float by the Float Committee. The float is looking AWE-SOME and will be a great representation of Union Church to our neighbors and local communities.

The float will be participating in both the Seaford and Bridgeville Parades.

**Seaford Parade**—Saturday, December 3rd at 7pm. For more information on the parade route, rain date, parking, etc., go to: [mychristmasparade.com](http://mychristmasparade.com)

**Bridgeville Parade**—Saturday, December 17th at 4:30pm.

**See you there!**



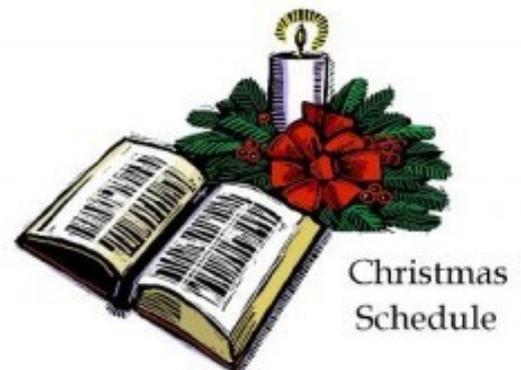
## Christmas Day Camp & New Year's Eve Lock-In

- ◆ Friday, Dec. 23rd (9AM-3PM)—Christmas Day Camp—(for children ages 5-10 years old) [Cost-\$15]
- ◆ Saturday, Dec. 31st (7PM) thru Sunday, Jan. 1st (10AM)—(Lock-In is for 9-12 year old campers only). Campers and staff spend the night and welcome in the New Year. (Snacks and breakfast are included.) [Cost-\$20]

**Contact the Church Office at 337-7409 for additional information or to register.**



## Christmas Holiday Schedule



Sunday, Nov. 27th—**First Sunday of Advent**  
(9am & 11am)

Sunday, Dec. 4th—**Second Sunday of Advent & Communion Sunday** (9am & 11am)

Sunday, Dec. 11th—**Third Sunday of Advent** (9am & 11am)

Sunday, Dec. 18th—**Christmas Musical** (10am Combined Worship) & **Fourth Sunday of Advent**—Join us for a musical celebration of Christmas followed by a luncheon reception in honor of the music ministries and participants. Enjoy the nativity display during the reception.

Saturday, Dec. 24th—**Silent Communion** (6pm to 7pm)  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** (7pm) - "The Blessings of the Savior"

Sunday, Dec. 25th—**Christmas Day** (10am Combined Worship) - "Good News of Great Joy" (no Sunday School classes that day).

Sunday, Jan. 1st—**New Year's Day & Communion Sunday** (9am & 11am)

**Please join Central Worship  
Center for our Live Nativity on  
December 10th and 17th from  
5:30-8:00.**

**The nativity will be at the  
pavilion on Market St. Square  
Park in Laurel, DE.**

**(Near the Bank of Delmarva & No 1 Chinese Restaurant)  
For More information call 302.875.7995**

*Merry Christmas!*



*Announcing the Bridgeville Christmas Parade*

*On the Evening of December 17, 2016*

**4:30 PM**

*Register to join Santa and his followers to march in the parade*

*Open to all that wish to show their holiday spirit.*

*Save the Date - Details to be Announced*

*Go to:*

[http://www.paradecloud.com/online\\_registration.php?pid=T1RFPO](http://www.paradecloud.com/online_registration.php?pid=T1RFPO)

*To register your group or individual entry.*

*Deadline for entries is November 1, 2016*

*To volunteer to participate with the Parade Committee please email  
Dottie.Harper@BrookfieldHomes.com*

## **Needleworkers Ministry**



### **YARN needed!**

The needleworkers in our crocheting/knitting ministries are in need of yarn to continue their handcrafting of scarves, mittens, blankets, and more to give away to those visiting our Food Pantry.

Partial or full skeins of any color yarn may be dropped off to the Food Pantry or church office at any time.

Contact Daryl King if you need more information.



## The Christmas Candy Cane

A candymaker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols from the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and firmness of the promises of God.

The candymaker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior. It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candymaker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.

Unfortunately, the candy became known as a Candy Cane — a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time. But the meaning is still there for those who "have eyes to see and ears to hear." Every time you see a Candy Cane, remember the Wonder of Jesus and His Great Love that came down at Christmas, and that His Love remains the ultimate and dominant force in the universe today.



***Remember our college students, military, and shut-ins over the holidays. Let them know they are in your thoughts and prayers by sending***

***them a card or letter over***

***the holidays. Contact the church office for a complete listing of our shut-ins and college students.***



## The Origin of the Twelve Days of Christmas

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written. It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts. Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic.

The song's gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."

The other symbols mean the following:

- 1 Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus Christ, Son of God
- 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- 4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- 5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
- 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation
- 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
- 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed



# 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



*Christmas at Barratt's*

**Sunday, December 4th (5pm) - Lessons & Carols**  
*A consortium Choir under the direction of Dr. James Wilson*

**Wednesday, December 14th (6:30pm) - A Christmas Concert by The Reminders**  
*Donations taken at the door.*

**Saturday, December 24th Christmas Eve (5pm) - Candlelight Communion Service**  
*Led by Bishop Peggy Johnson - ASL Interpreting for the deaf.*



*Each year a Christmas tree is on display in the Barratt's Chapel lobby and decorated with ornaments from different churches in the Peninsula-Delaware Conf.*



**Visiting Barratt's Chapel**

Barratt's Chapel and the Museum of Methodism are open on Wednesdays (10am to 2pm) and Saturdays (1:30pm to 4:30pm). Open other times by appointment only.



**Barratt's Chapel Museum**  
 6362 Bay Road  
 Frederica, Delaware 19946



**Advent Wreath**

**1st CANDLE** – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

**2nd CANDLE** – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

**3rd CANDLE** – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

**4th CANDLE** – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angles announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

**5th CANDLE** – (white) **“CHRIST CANDLE”** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

# Christmas Food Baskets



# Christmas Food Baskets



Christmas Baskets will once again be prepared for those in need within our community. We will begin collecting food and monetary donations now through December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Food items needed are:

Peanut Butter

Stuffing

Cereal

Crackers

Fruit Cups

Jelly

Gravy

Chicken Noodle Soup

Pudding Packs

Spaghetti O's

Macaroni and Cheese

Instant Mashed Potatoes

Vegetable Beef Soup

Applesauce

Ravioli



# Mitten Tree



Union Church will also be having their traditional Mitten Tree in the narthex displaying dozens of mittens representing boys and girls in our area that need our help to make their Christmas a special one. Toys, games, and clothing are needed. Each mitten will designate the gender, age, and clothing sizes for each child.



***Sunday, Dec. 4th is the last Sunday to take a mitten. All presents should be gift-wrapped and returned by Sunday, Dec. 11th.***

Thank you.



***If making a monetary donation for either the Christmas Baskets or the Mitten Tree ministries, please clearly designate on the check and envelope and place in the offering plate or drop off at the church office.***

## "Almost Home" Women's Retreat

Mark your calendars for January 27-29, 2017 Women's Work Retreat, **Almost Home** at the home of our first retreat, the A. Felix duPont Memorial House in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Like all past retreats we will be building on an established foundation and making a few changes too. In returning to this venue we will be limiting to our UUMC ladies and immediate family. "Immediate family" is used to qualify those who have attended over the years, sisters in Christ, mothers and best friends. Memorial House is an all-inclusive venue.



You can reserve your space with a \$50 deposit payable to UUMC and given to Laura Lee Mitchell or Candi Allebach. The total cost for the weekend — \$200. Any questions contact Candi (443-359-1391) or Laura Lee (302-258-6334).

**Retreat is now full!**

Candi & Laura Lee

## The Church Mouse Consignment Boutique & Art Gallery

Open 10am-4pm Thursday – Saturday – A ministry of UUMC located at 210 Market St.

Bring us your items and we'll sell them for you. Come join our consigning team. We're looking for home décor items, furniture, quilts, glassware, ladies accessories, and much more (for a complete listing visit [www.unionunitedmethodistde.org](http://www.unionunitedmethodistde.org). Any questions, please call (302-956-0591) or e-mail: [church\\_mouse@comcast.net](mailto:church_mouse@comcast.net).



"Don't forget the **Church Mouse** when doing your holiday shopping and at other times during the year. In addition to our unique inventory, a new **Princess Corner** has recently been created with items available for young girls".



## Thanksgiving Dinner Update!

A big THANK YOU to the many volunteers that helped to make this year's Community Thanksgiving Dinner a success. Many people within our local communities received a home-cooked and delicious traditional turkey dinner with all of the trimmings, free of charge. What a wonderful testimony of Union Church and ministry to our Bridgeville Community.

The donations of food, supplies, and many volunteer hours made this joint effort possible. Special thanks to Shirley LaChance for the outstanding job she did coordinating this large-scale event.



## Offering Envelopes

Distribution of numbered offering envelopes for 2017 will take place during the month of December. Please remember to pick up your envelopes in the Narthex. If you have any questions about the envelopes, please see Sherry Holmes.



## Union United Methodist Church

2 N. Laws St.  
Bridgeville, DE 19933  
302-337-7409



“Building Bridges Together”

Using Our Head, Hands & Heart for Jesus

Email: [uumchurch@comcast.net](mailto:uumchurch@comcast.net)

Web site: [www.unionunitedmethodistde.org](http://www.unionunitedmethodistde.org)

## The Church Mouse

210 Market Street  
Bridgeville, DE 19933  
302-956-0591

Open: 10 am to 4 pm—Thursday thru Saturday

Featuring local artists and crafts; estate jewelry; many gift items; furniture—including lamps, bedroom sets, dining room sets, chairs, tables, shelves, small decorative items, pillows, sofas and more! Reasonable Prices marked to sell! Consign your items to us! Proceeds assist the mission outreach ministries of UUMC.



### MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

The following music ministries at Union welcome new and returning participants — contact the church office for additional information.

- Joyful Singers
- Joyful Handbell Ringers
- Jubilee Handbell Ringers
- Praise Team
- Anthem Choir
- Instrumentalists
- Soloists
- Special Music

### Christmas Music Service December 18th— 10am

Join us for a combined worship service filled with praise and special music. Immediately following the service there will be a reception in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to participate.



### Meetings



- Wednesday, 12/7—Aging Faithfully, Noon
- Tuesday, 12/13—Pastor’s Bible Study
- Thursday, 12/15—UMW



### “Trinkets & Treasures” Yard Sale

Saturday, Dec. 3rd (8am-11am)

To benefit the Camp Pecometh scholarship fund. Begin your fall cleaning and set aside some gently-used items for the yard sale. Items may be dropped off now and placed upstairs in Room 204 or in the fellowship hall during the days prior to the yard sale.

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES



- 9 am—Contemporary Worship
- Children’s Sunday School (Pre-K through 6th Grades)
- 10 am—Youth Sunday School (7th—12th Grades)
- Adult “Son-Seekers” Class
- 11 am—Traditional Worship



Monday to Friday:  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Phone: 302-337-7409  
Debbie Vogelsang  
Office Manager