

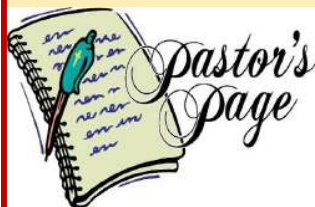


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Special Points of Interest:

Poinsettias at Christmas
Season of Advent
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Christian Education



Today is just a few days before Thanksgiving and I looked at the schedule for this coming Sunday, December 1st. There on the schedule was "Hanging of the Greens", and the first "Advent Reading". It confirmed a thought I had floating somewhere in the back of my mind, "Christmas season is coming soon" – however, that thought had quickly been replaced by, "It's here!"

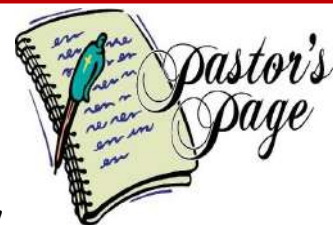
Soon Christmas trees will be going up in our houses, and many brightly and beautifully wrapped presents will start to appear under the trees! Children will have a few weeks or more of looking at the presents under the tree that they must wait to open! It reminds me of the old "Heinz" catsup commercial where the bottle of catsup is tipped up and the catsup is slowly making it's way toward the opening of the bottle as in the background the song, "Anticipation" is playing.

I remember those childhood days with my brother and sisters, days and nights of lifting the gifts, when Dad and Mom were not around, and trying to guess what was hidden underneath the wrapping. Christmas carols sang their persistent warning from every hidden speaker in cars and grocery stores and shopping malls, *"he sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake, he knows if you've been bad or good... so be good for goodness' sake!"* It wasn't long before my brother and sisters and I realized that the size and number of our gifts had less to do with how good we had been that year and more to do with the family's budget.

We could usually gauge what kind of Christmas to prepare ourselves for by how much attention (or lack thereof) our parents could muster for our nightly guided tours of the toy sections of our dog-eared and well-marked copies of the annual JC Penny's and Sears Christmas catalogues.

Still, in the quiet corners of my heart, I do think I held on to the idea that the gifts we received represented some form of reward from my parents for good behavior, an evidence of their love. Although we knew it was probably highly unlikely that they would spring for "Red Ryder BB Guns" for my brother and I and the "Easy Bake Oven" for my sisters, we held on to hope that if we were just good enough, our parents just might find a way.

(continued on page 2)

(Pastor's Page cont'd.)

As our economy continues its lode toward the end of the year, some are celebrating the holidays in grand style, some are celebrating in a more restrained fashion than they might want or be used to. Some continue to struggle with unemployment and underemployment. Although we may know that on an individual level very little of this is our own fault, it's hard to feel like we're not being punished. At times we experience hardship like children finding coal in their stockings on Christmas morning.

Whichever place you find yourself this year, in abundance or need, hear the Good News once again this Christmas season: in Christ Jesus, God gives us a gift beyond comparison, a priceless treasure – not because of how we have behaved or what we have or have not done, but because of who we belong to. We are a child of the King!

In Jesus of Nazareth God takes on human flesh and we celebrate the Christ child's divinity and birth. Heaven and nature sing! Together we become more than we have ever been alone, and the world is set free by Jesus. Set free to love like Him and be loved unconditionally by Him. Wrapped up in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, or wrapped up in your family celebration or waiting at the unemployment office, or wrapped up in the business of the secular holidays and standing in a



checkout line – God arrives for us as one of us, and yet God, to save His creation. No matter what circumstances you find yourself in this Christmas season, as you take your family on that guided tour of the Bible's Christmas story in that dog eared copy of your Bible, know that the Father has given us the best gift of all time – His Son Jesus Christ, "Immanuel", "God with us"!

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our family to yours.

Serving Immanuel,
Pastor Mark, MaryAnn, Ian and Joshua




HANGING OF THE GREENS

A worship service to begin the season of Advent

Sunday December 1, 2024 at 10 am

Evergreens symbolize the eternal life available when Jesus comes into our lives. The wreath itself, a never-ending circle, also reminds us of the endless love of God. We hang the greens to reflect our joy in the abundant life we find through Christ.





Sunday School & Christian Education—9am

Sunday Worship & Praise—10am

Sunday "Son-Seekers" Adult Class—11am

Food Pantry—10am to 1pm (Wed. & Fri.)

Praise Team—Varies

God's Fire Youth—6:15pm (Wednesdays)

Mitten Tree Ministry & Gift Wrapping—thru Dec. 20th

Sunday, 12/1—1st Sunday of Advent & "Hanging of the Greens" Service—10am

Monday, 12/2—Methodist Women serving the Kiwanis Dinner—6pm

Monday, 12/2—Friday, 12/13—Food Pantry sorting from WHS Food Drive

Friday, Dec. 6th —Blue Christmas Holiday Service—7pm

Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall immediately following

Saturday, Dec. 7th—Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon—11:15am @ Emma's Rest.

Sunday, Dec. 8th—Second Sunday of Advent—Worship & Holy Communion Service—10am

Monday, Dec. 9th—Methodist Women serving Kiwanis Christmas Dinner—6pm

Tuesday, Dec. 10th—Dessert drop-off for "Feed the Troops" Outreach—9am to 3pm

SPRC Meeting—7pm

Wednesday, Dec. 11th—Drop-off Desserts to Dover AFB for "Feed the Troops" - 9am

Friday, Dec. 13th—Greenwood Christmas Parade—7pm

Saturday, Dec. 14th—Methodist Men's Breakfast in Seaford—8am

Wreaths Across America Ceremony @ Bridgeville Cemetery—Noon

Bridgeville Christmas Parade—6pm

Sunday, Dec. 15th—Third Sunday of Advent

Thursday, Dec. 19th—Set-Up for Caroling-in-the-Courtyard—10am

Friday, Dec. 20th—Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Program—6pm

Saturday, Dec. 21st—Mitten Tree Delivery Day—8:30am to 11:30am

Caroling-in-the-Courtyard—6pm [*helpers arrive at 4pm*]

Sunday, Dec. 22nd—Fourth Sunday of Advent

"A Wild West Christmas" Christmas Program—6pm

"Taste of Union" Reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following

Monday, Dec. 23rd—Parenting Sunday School Class Night-Out Activity—4pm to 8pm

Tuesday, Dec. 24th—Silent Communion—6pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—7pm

Wednesday, Dec. 25th—CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, Dec. 26th—Church office is Closed

Monday, Dec. 30th—"Noon-Year's Eve" Winter Day Camp

Tuesday, Dec. 31st—"Noon-Year's Eve" Winter Day Camp



CAROLING In The COURTYARD

Saturday,
December 21st
at 6p.m.

2 N. Laws Street
Bridgeville

*Tis
the
Season
to be jolly
Fa la la la
laaaaaa
la la la la!*

**Special
Holiday
Music**

**Hot
Cocoa**

**Live
Nativity**

**Cookie
Station**



All Are Welcome



Christmas Poinsettias

\$9.00 Each

If you would like to place a poinsettia (8" pot) in the church in honor of, or in memory of a loved one, please complete an order form available in the narthex or at the church office. Orders are due on, or before, Sunday, December 1st. This Christmas we'll be purchasing the poinsettias from the FFA at the Woodbridge High School. Make checks payable to: UMC

Please return your order form and payment to the Church Office or clearly designated and place in the offering. Flowers will be displayed on Sundays, Dec. 15th & 22nd.

Blue Christmas Service

Friday, December 6th

7pm



A Blue Christmas service recognizes that during the holiday season there are many individuals that find this time of year very difficult. It may be that this will be the first Christmas without a loved one, a recent separation or divorce, difficulty finding employment, or a family crisis. Whatever the reason may be, it is hard to find joy in what should be such a happy time of celebration.

On Friday evening December 6th, there will be a service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary Chapel. The service will include an uplifting message as well as appropriate music selections. Following the service there will be light refreshments served in the Fellowship Hall.

The event is open to everyone: congregation and community. If you, or someone you may know, who struggles with the holiday season, please let them know of this event. Our prayer is they find comfort in knowing they are not alone and able to find peace in the celebration of the season.



December 1, 2024—FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT—HOPE

[Advent Readers: The Cameron Satchell Family]

December 8, 2024—SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT—PEACE

[Advent Readers: Larry & Sandy Grantham]

December 15, 2024—THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—JOY

[Advent Readers: The Jason Dean Family]

December 22, 2024—FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—LOVE

[Advent Readers: Bob & Linda Burket]

December 24, 2024—CHRISTMAS EVE—JESUS CHRIST

[Advent Readers: Bob & Sally Vankeuren]



National Wreaths Across America Day Ceremony

December 14, 2024—Noon

at the Bridgeville Cemetery and Union Church Parking lot

Did you know there are more than 300 veteran graves at the Bridgeville Cemetery? Each year we endeavor to give recognition and honor in their memory. Join us in our mission. “Live with Purpose” is the theme this year across the country as we draw inspiration from the sacrifices and honor our veterans have shown.

If you would like to be a part of the wreath laying taking place immediately at the conclusion of the ceremony, please check-in by 11:45am when you arrive.

Special thanks to Logan Jackson and the Jackson family for their oversight of this ministry.



Town of Bridgeville

Dec. 3—Town Hall Tree
Lighting Ceremony—6pm @
Town Hall



Dec. 7—48th Annual “Christmas in
Bridgeville Craft Show” @ WMS

Dec. 14—Bridgeville Christmas
Parade—“Holiday Movie Magic”

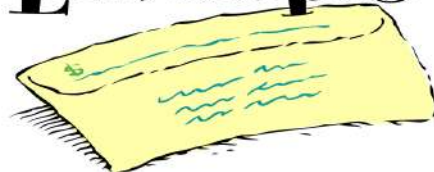
Go to www.bridgeville.delaware.gov/events

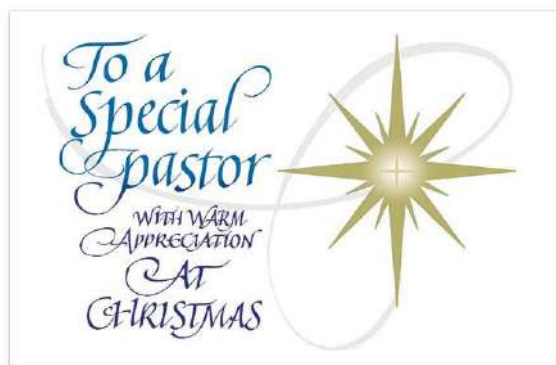
for additional information on town events.

Distribution of numbered offering envelopes for 2025 will take place during the month of December.

Please contact Sherry Holmes at 302-337-7066 by Dec. 6th if you do not currently have envelopes and would like to receive them, or if you no longer wish to use the numbered offering envelopes issued to you each year. 2025 envelopes will be available in the narthex for pick-up on Sunday, Dec. 8th.

Offering Envelopes





Christmas Love Gift for Pastor Mark & MaryAnn

At the Christmas holiday each year, we take the time to show our thanks and appreciation to our Pastor with a monetary love gift for his faithful watchcare over our Union Church family throughout the year.

Your love gift may be given by Sunday, December 22nd to John Clawson [Lay Leader], dropped off to the church office, or placed in the offering plate clearly designated "Pastor- Christmas" so that we may make one combined presentation to him.

Thank you.



CHRISTMAS IN BRIDGEVILLE

December 7, 2024

9AM to 3PM



Sponsored by the Bridgeville Historical Society, this vast craft and artisan show has become an annual tradition in Bridgeville on the first weekend of December. The craft show is held at the Woodbridge Middle School, located in the middle of town at 307 Laws St.



DECEMBER birthdays



3—Melissa Mitchell

11—Jerry Jones

Larry Snyder

16—Janet Snyder

22—Walt Rudy



23—Sandy Supers

25—Roger Hovermale

30—Grant Parker

If you have a birthday this month and have not been listed, please contact Debbie in the Church Office so you can be included in our birthday listing. Thank You.

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians.

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.

The Christmas season begins at sundown on December 24 (Christmas Eve) through Epiphany of the Lord (January 6). This period is popularly referred to as "the twelve days of Christmas."



ACOLYTES



ACOLYTE MINISTRY

We are seeking children and youth (2nd Grade or higher) to light and extinguish the altar candles during a worship service.

A new schedule has been posted in the hallway by Pastor Mark's office for available Sunday dates for our Acolytes to sign up for.

If you are currently not an acolyte, but are interested in being involved in this ministry, please contact Joan Hastings, Pastor Mark, or call the church office.



GREENWOOD
Friday, Dec. 13th—7pm

BRIDGEVILLE
Saturday, Dec. 14th—
6pm

Bible studies & small groups

Small group studies are important to the spiritual health of a church. They help to increase our awareness of God's Word, create a "team" atmosphere, develops self-motivation, helps us to investigate issues, listen to viewpoints other than our own, and get to know others in our church family even better. It is our goal to have several small group studies in 2025. If you are interested in leading a small group study (approximately 6-8 weeks), or have a particular subject you would be interested in being part of a small group study on, please contact Pastor Mark.

METHODIST MEN

Saturday, December 14th
8:00 AM

The men's monthly breakfast fellowship will take place at the Golden Eagle Diner in Seaford. See you there!



Methodist Women's
Christmas Fellowship
Saturday, Dec. 7th

For our Christmas luncheon this year we'll plan to meet at 11:15am at Emma's Restaurant (12418 Sussex Hwy., Greenwood).

If you would like to help pack the Christmas tins for several in our church family that are seniors, have limited mobility, or in need of encouragement, we'll meet at 10:30am at the church kitchen prior to our luncheon at Emma's. Ladies are requested to bring individually packaged snack items to add to the Christmas tins.

[The luncheon will serve as our December meeting—there will be no UMW meeting on Dec. 19th.]



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Class	Time	Teachers	Classroom
Pre-K – 1 st Grade	9 AM	Joan Hastings	Room #201
2 nd – 5 th Grades	9 AM	Joanne Jones	Room #205
Jr. & Sr. High School	9 AM	Pastor Mark & MaryAnn Bell	Room #205
Parenting	9 AM	Rita Hovermale	Room #202
Ladies	9 AM	Pam Tull / Polly Mervine	Conference Room
Discovery [Adults]	9 AM	Roger Hovermale	Room #206
"Son-Seekers" [Adults]	11 AM	John Clawson	Conference Room

Joan Hastings

Sunday School/Christian Education

Sunday School
learning to live the life

The Month of December—Community Food Pantry



"Baked Beans" Month!

Donations of any type of baked beans, chili beans, kidney beans, etc. are needed to help keep our Food Pantry stocked.

Donations may be dropped off directly to the Food Pantry when they are open (Wednesdays & Fridays from 10am to 1pm).

THANK YOU!



**Update your
contact info!**

We need your help to maintain an accurate directory for our church family. If you have had any changes to your contact information (address, phone, e-mail, etc.), please notify Debbie in the church office so the directory can be updated.

Thank You.

We are in need of nursery volunteers for the fall & winter months. If you are available to help occasionally, please contact Tiffany Schutt at:
tiff.snyder89@gmail.com.



FEED OUR TROOPS

A unique Feed Our Troops opportunity has taken place since 2004 at the Dover Air Force Base. A delicious home-cooked holiday dinner will be provided for approximately 1,000 of our military troops. Our Union Church family began several years ago and will once again be providing the dessert. We will need to provide approximately 1,000 pieces of dessert for a very sweet ending to their meal and to show our thanks and appreciation for their service to our Country.



We are looking for donations of sheet cakes, brownies, bar desserts, and homemade cookies *[no pies or refrigerated desserts please]*. Place donations in disposable pans or on cardboard trays as your containers will **NOT** be returned to you. *[Individual dessert size of approx. 3" x 3" is ideal.]*

Donated desserts must be dropped off to the church between 9am and 3pm on Tuesday, Dec. 10th. Donna Mowbray, Pastor Mark and MaryAnn Bell will be transporting the desserts up to the Air Force base the following morning (Wednesday, Dec. 11th).



Call the church office at 302-337-7409 if you have any questions.



WINTER MINI-DAY CAMP

Monday, Dec. 30th and Tuesday, Dec. 31st

Wrap up 2024 in style at Union's Noon-Year's Eve winter camp! These two days will be packed with activities to keep campers engaged and looking forward to 2025.

Our camp will kick off Monday, December 30th with lots of games, crafts, and NYE-themed activities. Tuesday will include a glamorous Hollywood-style party including the paparazzi, a served lunch, a dance, noisemakers, and ending with a massive balloon drop!

Lunch, afternoon snacks, and all materials are included both days. You have the option to select extended care for your camper, at an additional charge. Campers must be 5-11 years old. Due to the probable colder temperatures of December, the majority of our activities will be indoors. *If your child struggles with loud noises, please contact the Camp Director before registering.* Camp enrollment will be very limited. Call the church office at 302-337-7409 to have a registration packet sent to you.

Registration closes on December 15th, or when capacity is met.



Start thinking ahead and looking for special sales on items boys and girls request at Christmas time. A mitten for each boy and girl in the Woodbridge School District in need of Christmas assistance will be hung on the Mitten Tree in the narthex along with additional information about them including their age, clothing sizes and items on their "wish list".



Requested items for the Food Baskets are: Peanut Butter, Jelly/Jams, Macaroni & Cheese, Stuffing Mix, Gravy, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Boxed Cereals, Chicken Noodle or Vegetable Beef Soups, Crackers, Pudding Packs, Applesauce, Fruit Cups, Spaghetti O's, Ravioli, etc.

In 2023, the Mitten Tree ministry and Food Baskets were able to provide for 147 children.

www.delmarvamodelrailroadclub.org

Proudly Promoting Model Railroading Since 1984

103 East State St • Delmar, Delaware 19940
Camelot Hall • 2nd Floor (stairs only)

Free Admission & Parking Behind St. Stephens Church

TrainsTrainsTrainsTrainsTrainsTrainsTrainsTrainsTrainsTrainsTrainsTrainsTrainsTrains

Nov 30 - Dec 1, 2024

Dec 7 - 8, 2024

Jan 4 - 5, 2025

Jan 11 - 12, 2025

Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Over 8,000 Sq. Ft. of
Operating Train Layouts**



Z Scale
N Scale
N Trak Modules
HO Layout
S Gauge
O Gauge Tinplate
O Scale Lionel
LGB (G Gauge)

**Railroad Café - Food & Beverage available for purchase benefiting
Christ Connections Youth Group of St. Stephens Church**

Check our website for next seasons Holiday Open House.
Typically held the week of Thanksgiving.

Typically held the weekend after Thanksgiving and the 1st weekend in December, the weekend after New Year's and the following weekend. For exact dates and more info Follow us on FB/DMRRC or <https://www.delmarvamodelrailroadclub.org> or call 302-548-4586

UNION APPAREL



STOP BY THE VESTIBULE AND SEE THE
DISPLAY OF HIGH QUALITY POLO SHIRTS AND
T-SHIRTS CUSTOMIZED WITH OUR UNIQUE
UNION METHODIST CHURCH LOGO.

POLO SHIRTS (\$25) ARE AVAILABLE IN A RAINBOW OF COLORS AND
SIZES. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A PURCHASE,
COMPLETE AN ORDER FORM, ATTACH YOUR PAYMENT, AND PLACE
IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR DROP OFF TO THE CHURCH OFFICE.



A Wild West Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 22nd

6pm



Join us for an evening of fun and laughter as the Sunday School children,
along with many in our church family, present to you

“A Wild West Christmas” program filled with colorful characters like:

Wild Bill Hiccup, Calamity Claire, the Sherriff and
his Deputy, Butch and Annie, Doc, and many others.

The Christmas program is always a highlight of the season —
and year — as we come together to celebrate the Advent
season and the miracle of such a lowly birth by the
King of Kings —Jesus Christ.

Our traditional “Taste of Union” reception
will take place immediately after the program.





UNION METHODIST CHURCH

2025 Leadership & Committee Listing



CHURCH COUNCIL:

Church Council Chairperson.....Rita Hovermale [1st term -2yr.]
 Church Council Vice Chairperson....Robin Daugherty [1st term-1yr.]
 Church Council Secretary.....Margaret Workman [1st term -2yr.]
 Church Treasurer.....Pete Stephens [1st term -2yr.]
 FinanceJim Adelsperger [1st term -2yr.]
 Hands Ministries.....Kathy Carlisle [1st term -2yr.] & Vacant
 Head Ministries.....Jenny Keim [1st term -2yr.] & Dionne Keeler [1st term -2yr.]
 Heart Ministries.....Jean Wilson [1st term -2yr.] & Joanne Jones [1st term -2yr.]
 Lay LeaderJohn Clawson [1st term -2yr.]
 Methodist Men.....Vacant
 Methodist Women.....Debbie Vogelsang [1st term -1yr.]
 SPRCJeff Allen [1st term -2yr.]
 Sunday SchoolJoan Hastings [1st term -2yr.]
 TrusteesJerry Jones [1st term -2yr.]
 Youth Representative.....Logan Jackson [1st term -2yr.]
 Worship Committee.....Debi Adams [1st term -1yr.]
 Activities & Community EventsJoan Hastings [1st term -2yr.]

ACTIVITIES & COMMUNITY EVENTS: Chair – Joan Hastings

thru 2025 Aaron Jackson, Jill Jackson, Hunter Murray
thru 2026 Martha Callaway
thru 2027 Chris & Stephani Adams, Jeff Allen, Bob & Linda Burket, Marianne Chituck, Janet Snyder

FINANCE: Jim Adelsperger – Chair (*Ex Officio: John Clawson-Lay Leader; Jerry Jones - Trustee Chair; Pete Stephens-Treasurer; Sherry Holmes-Finance Secretary; Jeff Allen-SPRC Chair*)

thru 2025 Richard Carlisle, Garry Killmon, Melissa Mitchell
thru 2026 Jim Adelsperger, Roger Hovermale
thru 2027 Mike Breeding, Linda Pluznick, Debbie Vogelsang

HANDS MINISTRIES: Chair - Kathy Carlisle

Hands Ministries has oversight of: Military Support, College Students, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Community Food Pantry, Teen Challenge, Home of Hope

HEAD MINISTRIES: Co-chairs - Jenny Keim and Dionne Keeler

Head Ministries has oversight of: Easter Egg Hunt, God's Fire, Nursery, Church Library

HEART MINISTRIES: Co-chairs - Jean Wilson and Joanne Jones

Heart Ministries has oversight of: Card Ministry, Casserole Committee, Christmas Food Baskets and Mitten Tree, Hospitality Cart, Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry, Music Ministries, and Sports Teams.

LAY LEADER: John Clawson

NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP: Chair: Rev. Mark Bell (Ex Officio: Lay Leader - John Clawson)

thru 2025 Joan Hastings
thru 2026 Roger Hovermale, Jay Repa, Cameron Satchell
thru 2027 John Clawson, Grant Parker, Renee Parker

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SPRC): Jeff Allen - Chair (Ex Officio: John Clawson-Lay Leader)

thru 2025 Joan Hastings, Thane Keim, Debbie Short
thru 2026 Jeff Allen, Polly Mervine, Tammy Williamson
thru 2027 Linda Burket, Larry Grantham, Roger Hovermale

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Coordinator: Joan Hastings**TRUSTEES:** Jerry Jones – Chair [Trustee Oversight: Security & Endowment]

thru 2025 Chris Keeler, Dave Mitchell, Hunter Murray
thru 2026 Aaron Jackson, Renee Parker, Larry Snyder
thru 2027 Bob Burket, Marty Holmes, Walt Pluznick

WORSHIP: Debi Adams – Coordinator

Debi Adams, Stephani Adams, Bev Breeding, John Clawson, Sherry Holmes, Joanne Jones, Mary Noel, Marie Robinson, Robbin Twilley, Pam Tull, Tammy Williamson, Jean Wilson
 [Communion Stewards: Chris & Stephani Adams, Jane Clifton, Joan Hastings, Marty & Sherry Holmes]
 [Greeter/Usher Coordinators: Jane Clifton and Sherry Holmes]

YOUTH COUNCIL: Logan Jackson, Jordyn Matos, Melissa Mitchell, Tiffany Short, Pam Tull*****
Sub-Committees/Ministries:**Audio/Video:** Roger Hovermale, Aaron Jackson, Grant Parker, Karl Reighard**Bylaws:** John Clawson, Roger Hovermale, Aaron Jackson, Debbie Vogelsang**Church History:** Joan Hastings, Jerry & Joanne Jones, Debbie Vogelsang**College Outreach:** Debi Adams and Crystal Brock**Endowment [Trustee Oversight]:** Jerry Jones (Trustee Chair); Pete Stephens (Treasurer); Jim Adelsperger (Finance Chair); Jim Johnson (Member-at-large)**Facebook Page:** Brad Schutt**Food Pantry Oversight:** Pastor Mark Bell, Rita Hovermale, Debbie Vogelsang**Kitchen:** Jane Clifton, Joan Hastings, Rita Hovermale, Jerry Jones, Mary Noel, Jean Wilson, Margaret Workman**Lay Shepherds:** Leaders: Martha Callaway & Marie Robinson; Shepherds: Chris & Stephani Adams, John Clawson, Joan Hastings, Garry Killmon, Pam Tull, Debbie Vogelsang**Librarian:** Paula Kowalski**Marketing/Advertising:** Jeff Allen, Joan Hastings, Rita Hovermale, Debbie Vogelsang**Military & Veterans:** Roger Hovermale; Marty Holmes, and Jerry Parker**Missions:** Pastor Mark Bell, MaryAnn Bell, Linda Robertson, Joan Hastings, Debbie Vogelsang**Prayer Team:** Rev. Martha Callaway [Coordinator], Rev. Marie Robinson, John Clawson, Walt & Linda Pluznick, Pam Tull**Projection Team:** Aaron Jackson, Logan Jackson, Hunter Murray, Grant Parker, Trevor Schrock**Security Team [Trustee Oversight]:** Keith Brock, Tyler Brock, Bob Burket, John Clawson, Dennis Egner, Walt Pluznick, Larry Snyder**Theology:** Pastor Mark Bell, John Clawson, Marie Robinson, Martha Callaway**Visitors/New Members:** Rita Hovermale, Robbin Twilley, Debbie Vogelsang**Young Adult Ministry:** Pastor Mark Bell & Thane Keim

What's Happening



January

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 7 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 11 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 12 Recognition of Church Leadership & Committees
- 14 Worship Committee Meeting, 7pm
- 16 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 26 Recognition of New Members, 10am
- 28 Church Council Meeting, 7pm

February

- 8 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 11 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 17 PRESIDENTS DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 19 Soup & Sandwich Boxed Lunch Sale
- 20 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 28 Easter Egg Sales Begin

March

- 5 Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm
- 8 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 11 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 20 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 25 Church Council Meeting, 7pm

April

- 3 - 6 Egg Making
- 7 - 11 Egg Pick-Up
- 8 SPRC Meeting, 6pm
- 8 Worship Committee Meeting, 7pm
- 12 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 13 Palm Sunday
- 17 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 17 Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service, 7pm
- 19 Community Easter Egg Hunt, 10am
- 20 Easter Worship, Sunrise 6:30am, 10am
- 21 Easter Monday (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 27 Recognition of New Members, 10am

May

- 10 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 11 Mother's Day Celebration
- 13 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 15 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 18 Baccalaureate Service, 10am
- 25 Sunday School Ends
- 25 Recognition of Graduates & Children/Youth Sunday
- 26 MEMORIAL DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 27 Church Council Meeting, 7pm

June

- 1 Summer Worship Service hours at 9am begin
- 9-13 Summer Camp Staff Training
- 10 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 15 Father's Day Celebration
- 16-20 Summer Camp Week #1
- 23-27 Summer Camp Week #2

- Communion Service - First Sunday of each Month
- Sunday School - 9am (*Sept. - May*)
- Sunday Worship Service - 9am (*June - August*)
10am (*Sept. - May*)
- God's Fire Youth Group - Wednesdays 6:30pm
- Food Pantry - Wednesdays & Fridays 10am-1pm

What's Happening



2025

July

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 7-11 Summer Camp Week #3
- 8 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 14-18 Summer Camp Week #4
- 22 Church Council Meeting, 7pm
- 27 Recognition of New Members, 10am
- 28 – 8/1 Summer Camp Week #5
- 28 – 8/1 FCA Day Camp

August

- 4-8 Summer Camp Week #6
- 11-15 Summer Camp Week #7
- 12 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 18-22 Summer Camp Week #8
- 24 All-Church Breakfast, 8am
- 24 Summer Camp Sunday

September

- Month of September – Camp Scholarships Coin Drive*
- 1 LABOR DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 7 Sunday School resumes at 9am
- 7 Fall Worship hours resume at 10am
- 9 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 13 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 18 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 23 Church Council Meeting, 7pm

October

- Month of October – Camp Scholarships Coin Drive*
- 5 World Communion Sunday
- 10 – 11 Apple Scrapple Festival
- 11 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 13 COLUMBUS DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 14 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 16 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 26 Recognition of New Members, 10am

November

- 1 Mitten Tree Collection Begins
- 2 All Saints Day Service
- 8 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 11 VETERANS DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 11 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 20 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 20 Finance Committee Meeting, 6pm
- 25 Church Council Meeting, 7pm
- 27 THANKSGIVING DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 28 (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 30 Hanging of the Greens Service (*1st Sunday of Advent*)

December

- 5 Blue Christmas Holiday Service, 7pm
- 9 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 9 – 20 Fellowship Hall Reserved for Mitten Tree
- 13 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 13 Bridgeville Christmas Parade
- 18 Methodist Women's Christmas Lunch, 11:30am
- 20 Mitten Tree Delivery Day, 8:30am
- 20 Wreaths Across America, Noon
- 20 Caroling-in-the-Courtyard/Live Nativity, 6pm
- 21 Christmas Program, 6pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Silent Communion, 6pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 7pm
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Communion Service</u> - First Sunday of each Month <u>Sunday School</u> – 9am (<i>Sept. – May</i>) <u>Sunday Worship Service</u> – 9am (<i>June - August</i>)
10am (<i>Sept. – May</i>) <u>God's Fire Youth Group</u> – Wednesdays 6:30pm <u>Food Pantry</u> – Wednesdays & Fridays 10am–1pm |
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CHRISTMAS TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS

1. The Bible says Jesus was born in December.
2. Christmas wasn't celebrated for over 300 years after Jesus died.
3. The story of the Little Drummer Boy is found in the book of Mark.
4. Joseph is the father of Jesus.
5. Mary had other children after Jesus.
6. The Bible says sheep and other barn animals were present at Jesus' birth.
7. The three wise men were present at Jesus' birth.
8. Bethlehem is known as the city of Abraham.
9. Mary and Joseph had to travel 80 miles just to get to Bethlehem.
10. Seven angels spoke and gave the good news to the shepherds
11. The shepherds were supposed to look for a bright and shining star to find the Baby Jesus.
12. The three wise men brought gifts of gold, silver, and myrrh.
13. King Ahab was the one trying to kill the Baby Jesus.
14. The name Immanuel means "God with us".
15. In the Bible we read about the Birth of Jesus in the book of Luke chapter 2.

(Answers can be found on page 21)



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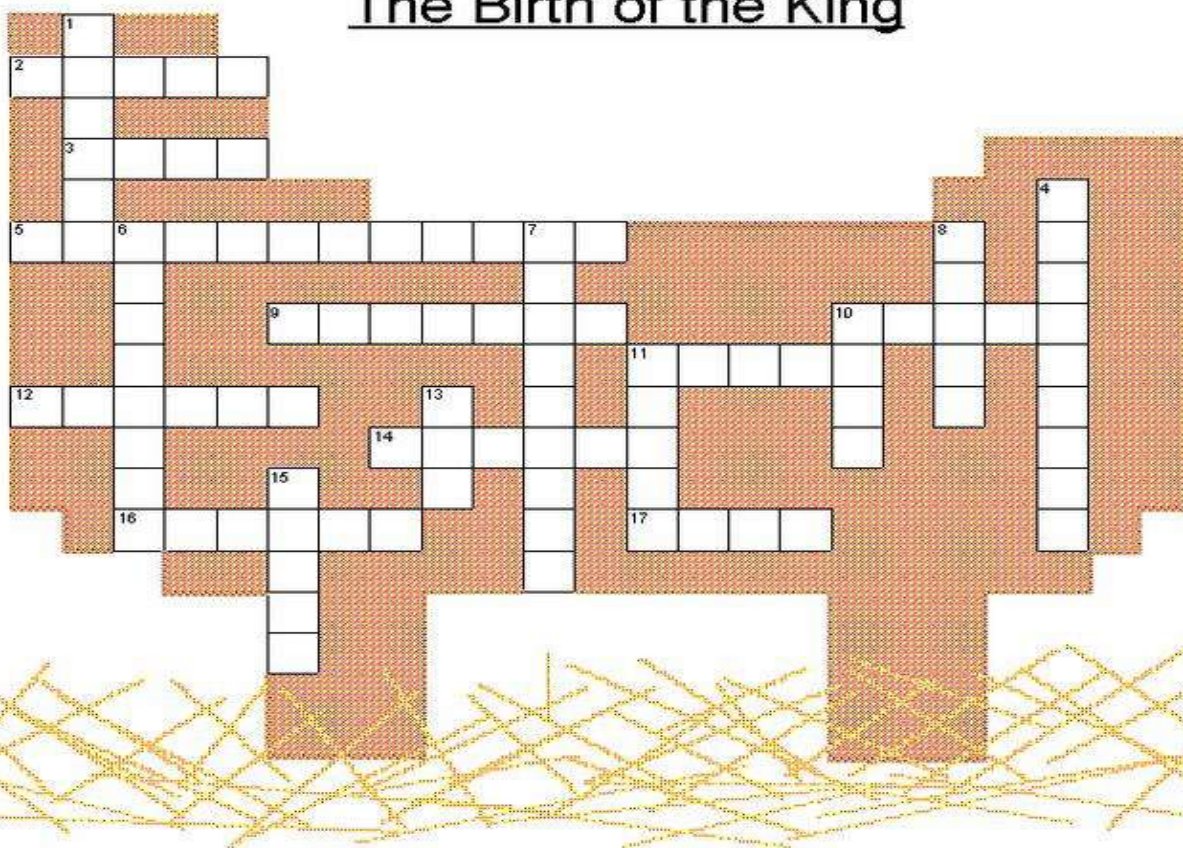
**ONLINE GIVING THROUGH APPLE PAY; GOOGLE PAY;
PAYPAL; OR CREDIT CARD** *(a 2.5% SERVICE CHARGE WILL APPLY.)*

ONLINE GIVING is available through the Union Church website for the following:

Tithes & Offerings
Memorial Gifts
Renovation Projects
Building Fund
Designated Giving
Other . . .

Local Missions
Foreign Missions
Love Gifts
Disaster Relief
Special Needs
Winter Mini-Day Camp

The Birth of the King



Across

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>2. Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to pay these</p> <p>3. A precious metal: one of the gifts from the 3 kings</p> <p>5. A fragrant gum used to make incense: one of the gifts from the wisemen</p> <p>9. The 3 kings from the east</p> <p>10. A pungent tasting herb: A gift from the wisemen</p> <p>11. Bethlehem is here</p> | <p>12. Mary's husband</p> <p>14. These appeared to shepherds and told them about the birth of Christ</p> <p>16. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a _____, which is Christ the Lord</p> <p>17. This led the wisemen to Jesus</p> |
|---|---|

Down

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. An open box to hold food for livestock: Mary laid Jesus in one</p> <p>4. The city of His birth</p> <p>6. The Roman emperor who taxed everyone</p> <p>7. Angels told these guys about His birth while they were watching their flocks</p> <p>8. The king of Judea when Jesus was born</p> <p>10. His mother</p> | <p>11. And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call His name _____</p> <p>13. He was born in a stable because there was no room here</p> <p>15. We celebrate His _____ at Christmas</p> |
|--|--|



WHS FOOD DRIVE

December 2nd—14th

The Woodbridge School District will be hosting a food drive during December which benefits our Food Pantry. If you are available to help sort and organize the food when it is dropped off, your help would be greatly appreciated.





THE CHRISMON TREE

A Treasured Union UMC Tradition

During this Advent season, as we prepare our home and hearts for the birth of Jesus, many of our thoughts center on those who came before to light the way in our Christian walk. I recently discovered a 1977 UUMC newsletter I had “tucked away” that brought warm memories of a dear friend and colleague, Kay Lewis, a lifelong member of this church family until her passing in 2016. Many of you will remember the faithful and dedicated servants Kay, and husband Richard, were to UUMC and the countless ways they touched the lives of members of our community.

The newsletter contained an article Kay wrote about the origin of our Chrismon tree ornaments and the tradition that we continue to enjoy to this day, forty-two years later. Kay was instrumental in designing and creating the gold and white Chrismons, symbols or monograms of Christ, which adorn our sanctuary trees during Advent. White represents the purity and perfection of Christ and gold represents Christ’s majesty and glory. As we unwrap the ornaments this year, let us reflect on those who came before...who gifted us with such a beautiful and meaningful tradition.

The following are Kay’s words written in 1977...

“As we enjoy the beauty of our second Chrismon Tree, it is interesting to note some of the facts about its beginning. In 1956, Frances Spencer volunteered to decorate the Christmas tree in her church, the Lutheran Church of Ascension in Danville, Virginia. She was a decorator by profession and desired to contribute her talent to the glory of God, through this tree. She thought about how to accomplish a totally suitable tree for a church for many months. Slowly ideas began to form...Christmas is Jesus’ birthday. How would Mary celebrate this day? Yes! That was it! Let the child be honored!

While searching for a way to honor Christ, Mrs. Spencer came across some drawings of designs called “Chrismons”. Chrismon is a combination of parts of two words: CHRIS and MONogram. That is just what the decorations are—monograms of Christ.

When our craft class began to work on the Chrismon Tree over two years ago, none of us dreamed there were so many Christian symbols. As we decorated each new shape, we learned more of our Christian heritage and we were blessed many times over. This year as we unwrapped the Chrismons, it was like greeting old, dear friends. It is our prayer that the tree of outward beauty will beautify each of us inwardly and draw us closer to Him whom it honors.”

Written by Joanne Jones in honor and loving memory
of Kay Lewis, a loving sister in Christ.



Online Church DIRECTORY

We need YOUR help to make our online church directory as accurate and updated as possible. If you are currently not in the church directory, please contact the church office. We

would love to have all of our Union church family included.

If you are listed in the directory, but have not submitted a photo. Contact the Church Office or Pam Tull and we'll be happy to take your photo or you may choose to select a favorite photo you already have (*your photo will be returned to you*). Having a complete pictorial directory is helpful to us all to learn names and recognize others within our church family.

Do you have the **CHURCH DIRECTORY** on your phone? It's easy to do. Go to the App Store or Google play and search Instant Church Directory. From there select Union UMC. You will need to enter your email — it must match the one on file with the church. Follow the instructions. You will receive a confirmation email for security purposes. If you have any problems, please contact the church office for assistance. **If you have had any changes to your contact information, keep us informed so the directory can be kept up-to-date. You do not need to be a Union church member to be included in the online directory. Contact Debbie in the church office at 302-337-7409 if you have any questions.**

ANSWER KEY to CHRISTMAS TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS

1. False. (The Bible does not state the exact date of Jesus' birth.)
2. True. (The first Christmas was celebrated on December 25th, 336 A.D.)
3. False. (The Little Drummer Boy is a fictional story.)
4. False. (Trick question, God is the Father.)
5. True. (Mark 6:3 seems to suggest Jesus had brothers and sisters.)
6. False. (No animals are specified.)
7. False. (They visited Him as an infant.)
8. False. (It is the City of David)
9. True.
10. False. (Only 1 angel spoke.)
11. False. (They were to look for a baby lying in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes.)
12. False. (They brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.)
13. False. (King Herod was the one trying to kill Baby Jesus.)
14. True.
15. True.



Union Methodist Church

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302-337-7409

“Building Bridges Together”
Using Our Head, Hands & Heart for Jesus

Email: uumchurch@comcast.net

Website: www.Unioninbridgeville.com



*Items for the monthly newsletter must be submitted to the church office
no later than the 25th of the month to ensure they will be included.*



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT UNION CHURCH

*Help is needed in the following areas—contact the church office
for additional information.*

Event/Activity Planning
Methodist Men & Women
Nursery Volunteers
Sunday School Helpers
Communion Helpers

Greeters and Ushers
Special Music/Instrumentals
Acolytes
Christmas Program Help



SUNDAY

Christian Education Classes for ALL Ages—9am
Morning Worship & Praise—10am
“Son-Seekers” Adult Class—11am



~~~~~  
**God’s Fire Youth Group**  
**Wednesdays at 6pm**  
~~~~~

Rev. Mark Bell

Church Office

Monday—Friday
9:00am to 3:00pm

Debbie Vogelsang
Office Manager

E-Mail:
uumchurch@comcast.net
Office: (302) 337-7409