

DECEMBER
2023



Marshall United Methodist Church

The Circuit Writer

NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY MESSAGE from the PASTOR

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

Hello beloved, I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we enter December, we are reminded by the world that we are entering the Christmas season. However, that season doesn't really begin until Christmas Day. Right now, we are in the season of Advent.

Advent is a time of the church year when we prepare for the coming of our Messiah. We remember that the world was in darkness, and Jesus came to bring the light of God into this world. We also remember the promise that our Lord has given us through the prophet Isaiah. In Isaiah 7:14, we see that God has promised us a Messiah, born from a virgin, and called Immanuel. In Isaiah 9:2, the author continues, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

During this precious season of Advent, we are still living in the dark until Christ comes back into our world with hope and eternal life. Our lives will be a time of hope-filled struggle. However beloved, I want you to remember that Jesus delivered us from the slavery of sin and death, which started with Mary giving birth to our Messiah.

During this Advent season, we will be looking at the story of Jesus and how each gospel writer introduces Jesus to the world. I am excited for this series,* and I hope that you are too. Check out the list of our services and topics!

Blessings - PJ



*Christmas Sermon Series:

The Story of Jesus
told by the Gospel Writers

Advent Week 1 – December 3

Sermon: Mark's Story
Scripture: Mark 1:1-14

Advent Week 2 – December 10

Sermon: Matthew's Story
Scripture: Matthew 1:1-25

Advent Week 3 – December 17

Sermon: Luke's Story
Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 & Luke 2:1-21

Advent Week 4 – December 24

Sermon: John's Story
Scripture: John 1:1-18

Christmas Eve – December 24

Sermon:
The world has never been the same.
Scripture: Luke 2:1-21

*"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can,
at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." John Wesley*

Pastor John Rowe . 703-357-5446 . johnrowe@vaumc.org . www.marshallumc.org . www.facebook.com/MarshallVAUMC



Marshall United Methodist

Christmas

2023

Wednesdays,
November 29 - December 20
Weekly Dinners @6:30pm
Advent Studies following at @7pm

Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24
Morning Service @10:30am
Children's Christmas Eve Service @3pm
Christmas Eve Service @7pm

New Year's Eve
Sunday, December 31
Morning Service @10:30am

Sunday, January 7
Christmas Cantata @7pm

*Don't miss one magical moment of this holiday season
celebrating the glorious birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.*



MUMPS - PRESCHOOL POST

December is always an exciting month in a preschool! MUMPS will have a couple special events in the spirit.

On December 8th at 6pm, there will be some gingerbread building fun! To purchase a house, anyone can see Kezia Glascock by December 5th.

On December 14th, all are invited to come enjoy the students in their Christmas pageant.

Thanks always to everyone for their participation and support of MUMPS.

United WOMEN In Faith

MUMC ladies will be busy for the holidays with Christmas decorating, the Angel tree for 4 families and several seniors this year, the Marshall parade on 12/2, a cookie day fundraiser, the cantata on 1/7/24, and more!

All women are invited to the Christmas party on December 15th with a white elephant exchange (gifts not to exceed \$15).

See how you can support the women's group or join in any of the activities you can.

Anyone new wishing to join the group can always attend a meeting on the first Saturday of each month at 9am at the church.

Be merry with our wonderful women!



DECEMBER birthdays & anniversaries

- 6 - Betty West
- 11 - Frances Snider
- 14 - Mallory Wyne
- 17 - Adam Kowalczyk
- 20 - John Egeland
- 22 - Ruth Umbel
- 25 - Jimmy Edmonds
- 26 - Cathy Harris
- 28 - George Murphy Sr
- 30 - Heather Wheeler

As updates to our celebration rosters are underway, please email any **JANUARY** birthdays or anniversaries you'd like posted next month to admin@marshallumc.org.

MISSION & OUTREACH



GIVING

Please remember that our church's missions and expenses require your support! You can mail in your donations anytime to the church at MUMC PO Box 144, Marshall, VA 20116; or simply leave gifts in the offering plate at services. (The "give" button on the website is under repair.)

We routinely donate 10% of general funds received to local non-profit charitable organizations as we "Share God's Gifts." A batch of donations was recently disbursed as shown in the SGG Chart (to the right). You can take great pride in assisting our local community through your tithes & offerings.

PRAYER


If you have or are aware of prayers to be shared outside of Sunday services, please direct them to:

Pastor John Rowe at johnrowe@vaumc.org or 703-357-5446; and/or prayers@marshallumc.org.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

MISSION

The church and preschool will be collecting for **Toys for Tots** this year. You can donate new unopened toys for the drive through 12/8. Also continue bringing items for our **Blessings Box**. Your generosity and compassion for our neighbors is greatly appreciated. If you have any missions questions, please contact Terri Hill, terih57@msn.com or 540-270-3068. Thank you!



"We make a living
by what we get,
but we make a life
by what we give."

Winston Churchill

SGG report

God's Gifts
shared in November
from July - September 2023 giving

Morgan's Message - \$250

MUMPS - \$500

Sam Clarke Scholarship/
Kingdom Force Academy - \$200

Salvation Army
Fauquier Chapter - \$350

Fauquier Shop with a Cop - \$500

UMCOR Hawaii Disaster Relief - \$806

UMW Angel Tree Project - \$500

TOTAL: \$3,106

SERVING in DECEMBER:

Worship Leaders:

December 3 - Betty West
December 10 - Candy Glascock
December 17 - Doris Edmonds
December 24 - Jeff Machamer
December 31 - Terri Hill

Communion Stewards:

Rick & Cheryl Kowalczyk

Counters:

December 3 - Bob Lambert & Wendy Emery
December 10 - Jeff Machamer & Terri Hill
December 17 - Laurie Bersack & Cheryl Kowalczyk
December 24 - Debbie Machamer & Betty West
December 31 - Cathy Lambert & Joe Bersack

A Prayer for Advent

Prayer is a beautiful way to help cut away from distractions of the season and open your heart to prepare for the joy and hope of Christ's birth. Here is a prayer to use to focus your heart and mind on just that!

This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.
Fill me with Your presence from the very start.
As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,
remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven.
The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever.
You came as a baby born in a manger,
wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree
waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.
Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,
when He left the riches of Heaven
and wrapped Himself in rags of earth.
Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night.
And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light."
"Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field.
Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.
Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call.
Setting distractions and worries aside,
to You I surrender them all.
Surround me with Your presence, Lord,
I long to hear Your voice.
Clear my mind of countless concerns
and all the holiday noise.
Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.
In the midst of parties and planning,
I want to feel Your hush.
This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart.
Invade my soul like Bethlehem,
bringing peace to every part.
Dwell within and around me,
as I unwrap Your presence each day.
Keep me close to You, Lord.
It's in Your wonderful Name I pray.

~Renee Swope

"The Manger of My Heart" from [Proverbs 31 Ministries](#)

citation

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/what-is-advent.html>



FOR

UNTO US

a CHILD IS

BORN, UNTO US

a son is given: and

HIS name SHALL BE CALLED

Wonderful, COUNSELLOR

THE MIGHTY GOD

THE EVERLASTING FATHER

The Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6

2023 Marshall Leadership

Church Council Chair: Bob Lambert

SPRC Chair: Terri Hill

Lay Leaders: DeAnna Taylor, Joe Bersack

Recording Secretary: Candy Glascock

Worship Chair: Cathy Harris

Finance Chair: Debbie Machamer

Finance Committee: Amy Glascock, Jeff Machamer, Joe Bersack,
DeAnna Taylor, Bob Lambert, Cheryl Kowalczyk, Terri Hill

Trustee Chair: Jeff Machamer

Trustee Committee: Rick Kowalczyk, Rich Umbel, Jeff Machamer, Phil Harris

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Michelle Rowe

District Steward: Wendy Emery

Young Adult Ministries:

Older Adult Ministries, Memorials: Doris Edmonds

Children's Ministry:

Education Lead: DeAnna Taylor, Terri Hill

Family Life Ministries: Kezia Glascock

Mission Leads: Cathy & Bob Lambert

Outreach Lead: Laurie Bersack

Communications Lead: Terri Hill

Nominations Chair: Pastor John Rowe

Nominations Committee: Smokey Jacobs, Mo Lawrence, Bonnie Murphy,
Joe Bersack, DeAnna Taylor



Serve.



MARSHALL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 • 9 - 10am Sunday School (Adults & Kids)
 • 10 - 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Time
 • 10:30 - 11:30am WORSHIP SERVICE
 location: 8405 West Main Street
 Marshall VA 20115
 mailing: PO Box 144
 Marshall VA 20116
 contacts: 540-364-2506
 admin@marshallumc.org
 OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.



Marshall United Methodist . Circuit Writer Newsletter . December 2023 Calendar

SUN 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI Dec 1	SAT 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sunday School (Adults) 10am Fellowship/Coffee Time 10:30am Worship Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm ESL Beginners 7:30pm Choir Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Advent Dinner 7pm ADVENT Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm ESL INT 7pm Finance & Council Mtg 		Senior Trip <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Women's Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sunday School (Adults) 10am Fellowship/Coffee Time 10:30am Worship Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm ESL Beginners 7:30pm Choir Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Advent Dinner 7pm ADVENT Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Monthly Luncheon 6:30pm ESL INT 	MUMPS/Fam GINGERBREAD	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sunday School (Adults) 10am Fellowship/Coffee Time 10:30am Worship Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm ESL Beginners 7:30pm Choir Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Advent Dinner 7pm ADVENT Study 	MUMPS Christmas Pageant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm MUMPS Board Mtg 6:30pm ESL INT 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sunday School (Adults) 10am Fellowship/Coffee Time 10:30am Worship Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm ESL Beginners 7:30pm Choir Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Advent Dinner 7pm ADVENT Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm ESL INT 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sunday School/10am 10:30am Worship Service 3pm Children's Christmas 7pm Christmas EVE Service 	MERRY CHRISTMAS!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm ESL Beginners 7:30pm Choir Practice 	NO Bible Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm ESL INT 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sunday School (Adults) 10am Fellowship/Coffee Time 10:30am Worship Service 	HAPPY NEW YEAR!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm ESL Beginners 7:30pm Choir Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm WEEKLY Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Monthly Luncheon 6:30pm ESL INT 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Women's Meeting