

Sunset Rays  
*The "Son" still shines at Sunset Drive Church*  
**December 2020**

**Newsletter for SUNSET DRIVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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**Rev. Dr. Thomas (Tom) Murphy**

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***"Giving and Receiving"***

Christmas is upon us. Even before the traditional Thanksgiving celebration of food, family and rest was observed, the season's songs of Christmas and the merchants' parade of ads began. The internet has punctuated bargains and discounts on merchandise available with the slight touch of a key on the computer, iPhone, or iPad. Such is the current situation. Minds have turned to thoughts of **gift**-giving for family members and friends.

In the spirit of giving, I am reminded of the story of the Wise Men who came from the East bearing **gifts** for the "Promised One" foretold in scripture. Balthazar, Gaspar and Melchior were of Jewish heritage. They had studied the ancient texts; and through their studies, they knew that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. So, they came to present **gifts** of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the One who was to be the "King of Kings." As they left their homes and traveled many miles to honor a Savior, Christ left the glories of heaven so he could share himself with us. That **gift** of his love and friendship will never forsake us. He came to be your friend and mine, and that spirit is to be conveyed beyond self to others as we practice our discipleship. We can always captivate that spirit through acts of love and through our giving, as well as receiving; that is the mission of Sunset Drive United Methodist Church.



In response to our Finance Committee's budget requests for 2021, we thank you in advance for your support of our ministries. If you feel you can increase your giving, it will help us meet the slight increases we anticipate. As faithful members and friends, we are most grateful for your commitment. Amidst these unusual times, you have been faithful. **Thank you!** Now, with God's help, we face a New Year and new challenges. Your attention to your church's needs will be greatly appreciated. As we come from many areas across our community, trying to meet the needs of our ministry, **giving** is essential and our receiving of the Lord's blessings are bounteous. Let us delight in this holy season of the year. Realizing that as we have been given much in Christ our Lord, much is required from us. God bless you. God bless us all!

***Dennis Turner,***  
Finance Chair

***Pastor Tom***

## *Joy to the World, the Lord Has Come!*



### **“Pathways to Bethlehem”**

An Advent Journey

During these trying times, we reach out to the Lord for guidance, for comfort, and for hope. Scripture reminds us that our Savior is with us and came to be our Redeemer. So, with the prophets’ cries of old, we sing out: **“O Come, O Come Emanuel and ransom captive Israel.”** So, let us travel together the path to the manger’s edge and behold the Lord of Lords, the Anointed One, Jesus Christ the Lord.

Advent Sunday Services  
Sanctuary and Parking Lot

- November 29<sup>th</sup> “Seeking the Faith of Christmas”
- December 6<sup>th</sup> “Seeking the Promises of Christmas”
- December 13<sup>th</sup> “Seeking the Peace of Christmas”
- December 20<sup>th</sup> “Seeking the Christ of Christmas”
- Our Children’s virtual Christmas play
- December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m.

Join with us and bring family and friends as we celebrate the birth of Our Savior and Lord.

## Keep current with News & Events

submitted by Barry Davis

A friendly reminder that you can find an up-to-date calendar, bulletins, sermons, newsletters, upcoming events and online giving information on our website. Please take a few minutes and browse the site to see what's there. You'll be surprised at how much information is right at your fingertips.

If you have any comments or suggestions about how we can improve our website or our Facebook page, please feel free to contact me at [barry8360@yahoo.com](mailto:barry8360@yahoo.com)

Our website: <https://www.sunsetdriveumc.com>

Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/sunsetdriveumc>

## Happy Birthday

### December

- 1 Dawn Murray
- 2 Elizabeth Reeves
- 3 Ken Reeves
- 5 Becky Hoover Harris
- 7 Phyllis Mason
- 8 Hilda Runion
- 10 Brian Craig
- 12 Jaxen Phillips
- 13 David Lee
- 15 Kay Powell
- 17 Gavin Halterman
- 18 Matt Clarke, Natalie Craig, Richard Sharpe, Jess Coffman
- 19 Steve Shifflett
- 20 Will Freds
- 22 Cricket Driver
- 23 Dianne Fulk, Heidi Jordan
- 27 Grayson Hawkins, Bruce Price
- 28 Jeremy Turner, Zach Roberts
- 30 Donna Tinsley
- 31 Lowell Turner



## Happy Anniversary

### December

- 16 Wilton and Helen Thomas
- 17 Larry and Kay Bowman
- 23 Sterling and Meridith Peele
- 31 Dave and Micki Peoples



# Happy Birthday

## January

- 2 Sandy Cupp
- 4 Quinton Thomas
- 6 Jerry Arbogast, Jean Kinsey
- 7 Ann Grandle, Rosemary Mumaw, Trent Bowman
- 8 Joe Adolph
- 10 Cole Clarke
- 12 Janet Hadley
- 13 Jeff Deavers, Steve Phillips
- 17 Susan Olson
- 21 Cole Turner, Michele Moore
- 22 Tanner Craig
- 23 Becky Halterman, John Sellers, Doug Wager
- 27 Tonya Turner
- 31 Skylar Phillips



# Happy Anniversary

## January

- 8 Terry and Cheryl Stoehr
- 28 Zach and Lacey Roberts