

Sunset Rays

The "Son" still shines at Sunset Drive Church

December 2022

Newsletter for SUNSET DRIVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Tommy Lewis-Crosby



From the Pastor's Desk

It's the most wonderful time of the year! I know you all sang those words in your head when you read it. It is a wonderful time with so much joy to be had. The lights on the trees and houses, the candy canes and cookies, the gatherings of friends and family and the most wonderful thing of all is celebrating the very son of God coming to walk among us. It is so easy to get so caught up in all the wonderful celebrations to forget the reason for all the festivities.

We celebrate Christmas each year and we have family traditions that we all remember from childhood or when we had young kids at home. Traditions of a particular Christmas morning breakfast, or riding out to see Christmas lights or going to a family members house. For me growing up we always went to my grandmother's house on Christmas Eve. It was my favorite day and often outshined Christmas day. I loved being together and sharing a meal and opening presents. I can close my eye and be transported back and remember the smells, the couch and the shag carpet! I also remember grandmother had to get a present to open first because she is the biggest kid of all!

With all the fun being had you would think that I was always bummed when it was time to leave to go to church for our Christmas Eve service. But no. Even as a kid I loved the Christmas Eve service. To this day the Christmas Eve candle light service is my favorite service in the church. Sure as a kid, like most kids I thought it was cool to get to have a candle in the church, but there is something deeply moving about gathering in the sanctuary with the lights down low and lighting a candle as we all sing silent night.

In all the chaos and excitement of the holiday that moment is a peaceful quiet moment that has always spoken to me. I look forward to sharing that moment with you all this year for the first time as your pastor. It is a holy moment where we can come in awe of what God is doing. God sent his son to come to us to draw us a little closer to the eternal and with each other. In all the chaos and excitement take time to come light a candle and sing to our newborn king and welcome God Incarnate into your life in new and wonderful ways.

Pastor Tommy

Inclement Weather and Cancellation Notice

Should it become necessary to cancel Sunday services or other activities during the week due to winter weather conditions, a cancellation notice will be posted through the following media: WHSV TV-3, the church website and the church Facebook.



Upcoming Church Events



- **UMM Community Breakfast** on Saturday, December 11th from 7:30am until 9am. Meal includes- bacon, eggs, sausage gravy, pancakes and biscuits. Donations in the form of a free will offering will be used support teachers and students at Plains Elementary. The breakfast is open to the community. All are welcome, bring a friend and enjoy a wonderful breakfast and some fellowship. Hope to see ya there!
- **Sunset Drives Ladies will** meet on Thursday, December 15th at 6:30pm.
- **Administrative Council** will meet on Monday, December 19th at 7pm.
- **January 2023 Newsletter Deadline:** Tuesday, December 20th. Please have all information to church office.
- **December Word Search** deadline is Tuesday, Tuesday, December 20th.

Prayer List

Our Church Family ...

Lois Dinges
Kathryn Ford
Jake and Amanda Reeves Gogola
Nancy Hoover
Virginia Ann Hulvey
Rosemary Mumaw
Richard and Kathy Sharpe
Mariam Selke
Dick Strawderman

Our "Extended" Church Family ...

Kinley Comer
Rhonda McDonald

Prayers for Our Military Families

Will Freds: U.S Army (son-in- law of CW and Peggy Grandle)
Mark Long: U.S Navy (son of Dawn Long)
Chris Mullenax: U.S Army Special Forces
Richard Ruley: US Air Force (great nephew of Michael and Esther Malloy)



Monthly Newsletter

Each Month the Newsletter will have a coloring or activity page and a Word Search.

Do you have any suggestions or ideas for information you would like to see in the monthly Newsletter? Please contact the church office at office@sunsetdriveumc.com.

Word Search

Congratulations to all who turned in the November Word Search.

Luke Boller

Erica Kann

Huck Kann

Sadie Kann

AA Roberts

Lisa Thacker

Thank you

- Many Thanks to the members of our wonderful community who attended the Sunset Drive Breakfast in November. JCMES received an amazing donation of \$1,600 from the proceeds! These funds will go directly to our teaching staff to spend on students needs. JCMES
- Thank you to all of those who have helped with the Kingsway Apple Tree gifts.

Worship Committee

submitted by Karla Dick

The **worship committee** is asking for people to sing, recite a reading, or share a talent, for our special music time in our worship services. If you would like to participate please contact Karla Dick at 540 560-1062, or email her at feelfree2emailme@comcast.net.

Children's Group

submitted by Erica Kann

Children's Christmas Musical Practice

Sunday, December 4th - Both speaking and singing

Saturday, December 10th - 10am- 11:30am: Dress Rehearsal

Mark your calendar:

January 2023, the children's choir will begin performing on second Sundays as they did prior to COVID. Most likely have choir practice directly after church on Sundays.

The Children's Easter Play on Sunday, March 26th. Watch the bulletin and Newsletters for more information.

If anyone is interested in co-leading the Children's Group, I would love it.

John C. Myers Volunteer

submitted by Jodi Clarke

We are looking for some help at JCMES for a few reasons:

1. We are in need of items for our backpack program (poster attached) and a box has been placed in the narthex.
2. We could use some volunteers to come in and sort stem lab donation items for student use (throughout the year).
3. We could use a few volunteers to help deliver backpack bags to kids' lockers on Fridays

Hygiene Closet

submitted by Lacey Roberts

We are helping a teacher at JCMES start a Hygiene Closet here at school. We will be collecting items starting next week for students in need at the school. There will be a box placed in the Narthex but if you have any questions, please contact Lacey Roberts or Jodi Clarke. The lists of the items needed are on the bulletin board or on the flyers in the Narthex. Thank you,

Missing



A few things have come up missing in the kitchen, and we're checking with everybody to see if anyone might have borrowed anything. Thanks for the help

John C. Myers Backpack Program

submitted by Lacey Roberts

What is the backpack program?

This program provides quick/easy food items to students of needy families. These students receive a bag each week and all bags are distributed confidentially. Students look forward to bringing food items home and appreciate this program. We appreciate the Broadway community for helping out our own families in need.

Below are items that are needed:

1. Go Go applesauce
2. Lance Cracker
3. Oatmeal (packs)
4. Ramen Noodles (Chicken or beef)
5. Mac and cheese (small containers)
6. Pop Tarts
7. Cereal bars (granola bars)
8. Gummies,
9. Capri Suns (small box juices)



If you'd like to help with the backpacks at John C., there is a box in the narthex with the Jake's sign.

John C. Myers Walk-to-School

submitted by Erica Kann

On **first Friday of December, Friday, December 2nd** there will be a table set up on **Sunset Drives parking lot for the JCMES walk to school day with** Christmas music playing and handing out candy canes. I will be doing some social media posts leading up to the event letting people know that they can park and SDUMC and walk their children from there to school. Go ahead and mark your calendars for **JCMES does this the first Friday of each month** to help spread joy by waving and saying good morning to people or just parking in the parking lot and walking up to school. It would be great to have some children there....teachers....I can take your kids and walk them up to school once our time is done.



Sunset Drive Youth Group

submitted by Lacey Roberts

December:

Sunday, December 4th - Youth Advent At Church (Youth To Have Children's Church)

Sunday, December 11th - Children's Program (10am)

Thursday, December 15th -Shop for Local Family and Dinner at Cici's 5:45pm

Monday, December 19th - Youth Group 6pm-7pm Dinner And Go Over Nativity

Wednesday, December 21st - Live Nativity/Walk to Bethlehem 6pm-8pm

Thursday, December 22nd -Make-Up Date

Merry Christmas and Have A Wonderful New Year!

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers brighten our Sanctuary as we come to worship. Why not give flower arrangements to the church to honor a loved one, living or deceased? Flowers may be given in honor, memory or thanksgiving of loved ones. Special occasions can also be celebrated with altar flowers. Your name and the names of your loved ones will be printed in the Sunday Worship Bulletin. Contact Judy Post at 540-209-3887 to make this happen for you.

For your convenience, Flower Order Forms are available on a table in the narthex just outside the Sanctuary doors. These forms can be dropped in the offering plate which is located also just outside the Sanctuary doors. Information about flower contributions is printed on the Flower Order Forms.

We hope that you will think about altar flowers when you consider the special people, days and events in your life.

The Altar Flower Fund is completely funded by your contributions.

Sunset Drive Ladies Ministry

submitted by Donna Belle Dove

We've been at it again.

- ❖ We're working room by room to do some long overdue organizing and cleaning. SO far we've worked in the conference room and one Sunday school classroom. We'll resume this in the New Year.
- ❖ There will be 50 Bibles delivered to persecuted Christians somewhere in the world. We are so blessed to be able to worship freely here in our country.
- ❖ We put together 21 goodie bags for our shut-ins. These will be delivered before Christmas.
- ❖ Our fall supper out to Olive Garden was a hit. It's great to just be able to talk and visit. ...and of course to eat.
- ❖ Some students at J Frank Hillyard Middle School will be blessed this Christmas from our donation to help make their season bright.
- ❖ A Christmas Tea will be held Sunday afternoon of December 18th. Stay tuned for more details.

Christmas Tea

submitted by Donna Belle Dove

Ladies of all ages mark your calendars.

On Sunday afternoon, December 18th we will have our 3rd Annual Christmas Tea (not counting the ugly COVID years). The time is yet to be determined. Come to the fellowship hall for light refreshments, tea, Christmas cheer, music, fellowship and fun. All ages are invited. There will be treats for the younger attendees.

There will also be a gift exchange for the adults who want to participate. Bring a wrapped gift valued at no more than \$12 for the gift table. Remember this is optional. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who wish to attend.

Shenandoah Valley Choral Society

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society, under the direction of Curtis Nolley, will present its 52nd annual Christmas concert on Friday, December 16th, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, December 18th, 3:00 p.m. at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. The concert will feature G. F. Handel's *Messiah* accompanied by the SVCS Chamber orchestra and student soloists from James Madison University's College of Visual and Performing Arts. The second half of the concert includes a variety of new and traditional carol settings and will feature the premier of a new carol arrangement by local composer Dr. John G. Barr. The choir has 115 voices, including church members John Sellers, Susan Holsinger, and Sue Olson.

Tickets are available at the door, locally at Harrisonburg Friendly City Food Co-Op, Bridgewater Foods Supermarket, and on-line at singshenandoah.org. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students.

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
- 25 Jessie Lewis-Crosby
- 27 Grayson Hawkins, Bruce Price
- 28 Jeremy Turner, Zach Roberts
- 30 Donna Tinsley
- 31 Lowell Turner



Happy Anniversary

December

- 17 Larry and Kay Bowman
- 23 Sterling and Meridith Peele
- 31 Dave and Micki Peoples



Happy Birthday

January

- 2 Sandy Cupp
- 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, Ivy Lewis-Crosby
- 23 John Sellers
- 27 Tonya Turner
- 31 Skylar Phillips



Happy Anniversary

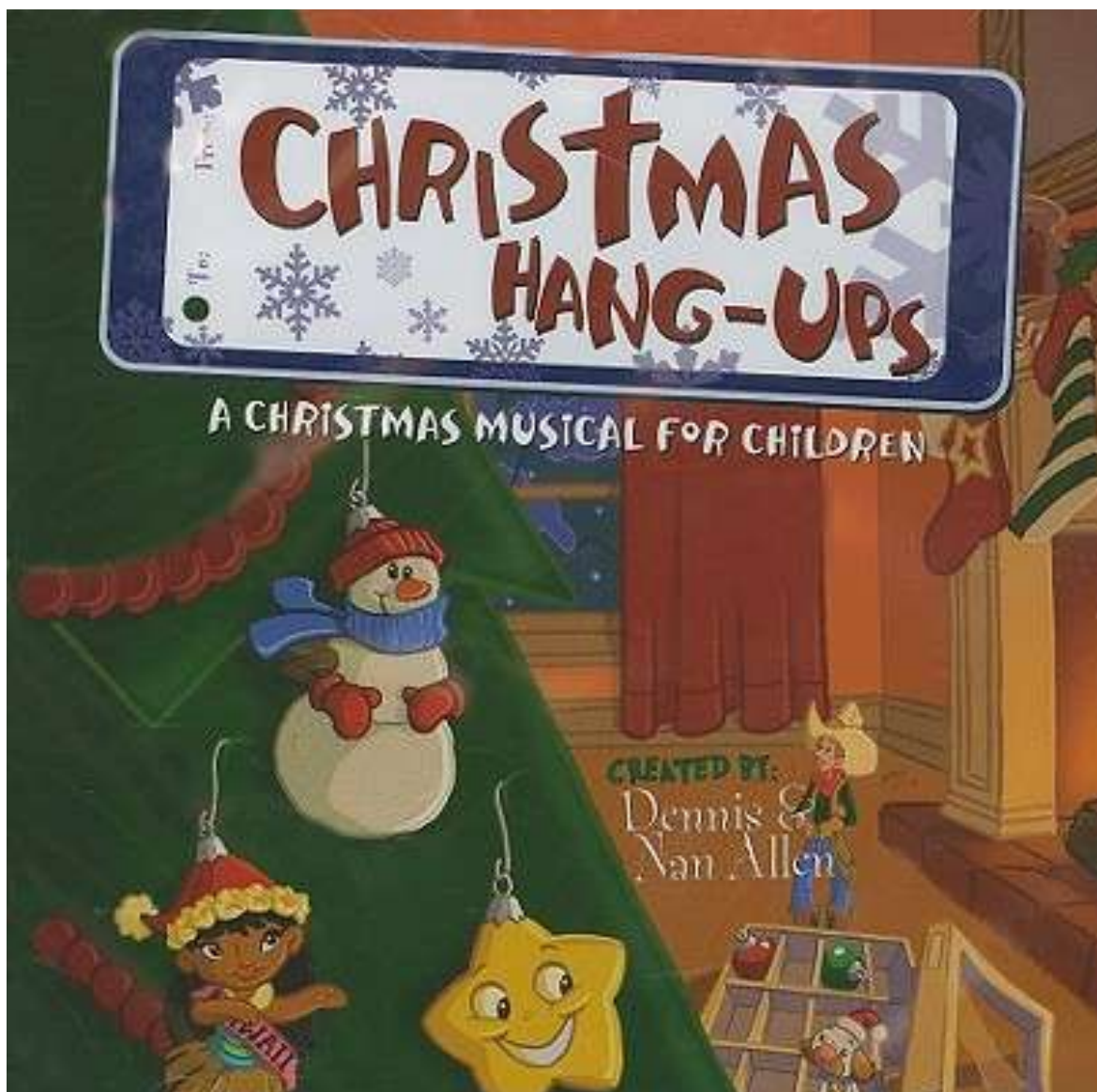
January

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



Sunset Drive United Methodist Church

invites you and your family to our
2022 Christmas play



on
Sunday, December 11th at 10am

encore performance
Sunday, December 11th at 6pm
followed by drinks and snacks.

"Come Let Us Adore Him"



Name: _____

Please color and return to Sunset Drive. There will be a box in the narthex to leave your coloring page. We will have to coloring pages displayed on the bulletin board in the narthex. Watch for new coloring or activity pages next month.