

December 2020



The Perry Scope

Perry Hall United Methodist Church Newsletter
9515 Belair Road, Nottingham, MD 21236

perryhallumc@verizon.net

410-256-6479

<http://www.perryhallumc.org>

A Message from The Pastor

Mark 1:1-8 from: NKJV



1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." 3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' " 4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

Christmas Greetings!

The Bible tells us the story of John the Baptist, whose primary purpose of ministry was to be the one who would prepare the way for the Messiah. This was so the Messiah would have an entry point into the lives of the people. Yet, before He could come into the hearts of the people, an important thing needed to take place in their hearts, and it's called "repentance."

We live in a day and age in which such a word may not necessarily be fashionable, yet it's as needed now as it was in John's day. While the people anticipated the presence of the Messiah, John prepared their hearts for His presence with a powerful message. This message was that before His presence, there must be repentance.

We too are called to "prepare the way" for Christ to enter the hearts of people around us. Our friends and families are looking for the reality of changed lives. Not perfect lives but changed lives!

Part of "preparing the way" is removing the obstacles that would keep people from getting to Jesus. These obstacles could be anything that would cause their focus to shift away from Christ.

I would ask that you pray during this time that God will help you to be one who "prepares the way" for the Messiah to impact lives around you. Pray that God will use you to bring honor and glory to not just the babe in the manger, but our soon, coming King!

Let us prepare the way!

Blessings,

Pastor Victor Harner





Finance Information

The Finance committee met via ZOOM on 11/23 to discuss our finances to date, and the 2021 budget. During a very challenging year, our awesome congregation tithed \$200,653 through the end of October. This is greatly appreciated, and we sincerely thank you for your offerings! Looking ahead to the final two months of the year, and praying for a bountiful Christmas, we are estimating total giving for 2020 to be \$241,545. While this is woefully short of our 2020 Budget of \$315,156, we did receive \$33,200 in CARES act money and our investments yielded interest of \$24,225! In all, total funds received for 2020 is approximately \$298,969. Considering the many challenges 2020 presented, we didn't do too bad!

Turning to 2021, we have cut back where possible including not filling the Church Administrative role at this time. There are members who have graciously stepped up to fill this role until such time the SPRC replaces the position. Through these savings, we have trimmed the budget to \$286,851. We know going into 2021, this will be a tough budget to meet, and we really need everyone's help.

If you would like a full copy of the budget, please email me @ debrown1962@verizon.net.

As a community of faith, we look to each other when the times are tough. We pray in 2021 you continue to remember your church and help us meet our faith-based budget. Merry Christmas and Peace and Health in the New Year!

Dawn Brown, Finance Chair



*Each one must give as he has decided
in his heart, not reluctantly or under
compulsion, for God loves a cheerful
giver*

2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV

www.motherhoodandchocolate.com

Pantry News Updates

2020, a year that most of us probably can't wait until it ends! It has been a year of stress, insecurity, anger, fear, and isolation for the world, for the community, for our own homes. But it has also been a year of unbelievable kindness, love, determination, and unity for many individuals, families, strangers, and communities. While the news constantly focuses on the despair, we would like to focus on the positives.



Yes, the number of clients the pantry now helps has grown exponentially since March. The pantry continues to add 2-7 new families each week while we have only removed 3 families since March. But while we are continuing to add, the food and monetary donations has also grown, to levels that are beyond our beliefs.

Last week alone, because of 5 different donors/organizations, we had over 100 grocery bags worth of donated food delivered! That was in one week! While this was amazing – it is just part of the story. Because of you, every week, the pantry receives your food/grocery donations, your generous monetary donations, and your continued support! Your caring, loving support has guaranteed that we will give 100 families their Christmas baskets on December 19th and this is after the 50 registered families that were given baskets for Thanksgiving on November 21st.

Between the donation boxes at Giant on Belair Rd near Outback and the Weis Market on Joppa Rd near Belair Rd – we receive 4-5 baskets of donated food every week. (last week it was well over 7 shopping carts!) Weis Bakery fills the pantry's freezers with baked goods twice a week with breads, desserts, and rolls/muffins. Matt Miller, an up-and-coming Eagle Scout held a food drive that produced over 200 bags of groceries on November 7th. Two young teens from the Belmont Neighborhood held a food drive that produced well

over 4 shopping carts of food. The White Marsh Police precinct delivered this past Tuesday, well over 50 bags of donated food. The Raven's Roost #140 Perry Hall South delivered 2 completely filled SUV's of donated food from their food drive. Camp Chapel and Perry Hall Family Worship Center both delivered SUV filled vehicles of donated food. The list does not even include the numerous individuals that arrive unexpected with groceries loaded in their trunks to donate!. How is all this possible?! It is the love, the caring, the kindness that people are showing for the members of their community that they know need help – and they want to help them!

So the pantry has been very, very, very busy! The phone rings often, the clients keep coming (both new ones and the old ones), the need is at its greatest – but the love, the support, the caring grows and grows! So thank you PHUMC – for your support, for your caring, for your sharing the word – your mission to help those that need extra support is working , even with a pandemic where the numbers continue to climb at an alarming rate.

May you be truly blessed this Holiday season. Stay safe, stay healthy.

Laura & Dave Hanna, PHUMC Food Pantry



Thank you for your continue prayers and support as I adjust to the changes in my life due to my disability.

Knowing that there are other who are concerned, and care has meant a lot. I now have a new KFO brace and I am continuing in physical therapy. As is the case many times for people it is two steps forward on step back – literally in my case. The meals that were brought to our house helped provide our family not only with nourishment but gave my husband a break from the kitchen. Thanks, to all who helped in that way.

A special thank you goes to Dewayne Rye for building a ramp for me into our home.

Blessings
Kim Harner



Sunday School News

We Thank You . . .

. . because even in the pandemic, your shoeboxes came in! Not only did we bless 62 shoeboxes at the Nov. 22nd PHUMC church service, we also heard from a number of you that you had gone online to pack your shoeboxes virtually this year. And others gave generous donations to help defray the cost of shipping. THANK YOU, THANK YOU – for all of your help and loving generosity!

And now, we need your continued prayers as the shoeboxes begin their travel to over 100 countries around the



world. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, has delivered more than 178 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 160 countries and territories. This year, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another 11 million children in countries like Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda and Ukraine. That is quite a feat – in the midst of COVID-19! But “we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

Shoebox gifts are collected in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Australia, Germany, Switzerland, Austria,

Finland, Spain, and New Zealand. Nearly 575,000 volunteers worldwide—with more than 270,000 of those in the U.S.—are involved in collecting, shipping and distributing shoebox gifts.

Delivered into the hands of children through local churches, every shoebox gift is an opportunity to share about Jesus Christ and God’s love. Since 2009, more than 23 million children who have received a shoebox gift have participated in The Greatest Journey—a 12-lesson discipleship program. Children learn from trained, local volunteers what it means to follow Jesus and share their faith with friends and family. What an incredible journey these shoeboxes take to share God’s love and the gift of eternity through His Son, Jesus Christ!

So, in the coming months, please continue to pray for those shoeboxes that are now on their way.

Please pray:

- For the children who will receive these wonderful shoeboxes as they are invited to OCC Outreach events. Pray that nothing and no one would hinder them from attending and hearing about the Gospel.
- For the health and well-being of all involved in this wonderful ministry, especially in the midst of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Pray for their safety and protection as they work to complete this mission.
- For the hearts of individuals who packed a shoebox, that the project would be a blessing to them, as well as the child who receives the shoebox.
- For the thousands of volunteers at OCC Collection & Processing Centers as they ready the boxes for the journey.
- For God to keep all Operation Christmas Child staff and the over 1,100 international volunteer teams around the world who steward the ministry within their country safe as they do their work in the name of Jesus.
- For God to use the 200,000+ “The Greatest Journey” teachers to make a lasting impact

on the children in their classes and that the children would become genuine Christ followers who share their faith with others.

- For the hundreds of churches that were planted last year as a result of the work of Operation Christmas Child and The Greatest Journey. In addition, pray for even more churches to be planted in the upcoming year.

And know that we are TRULY grateful for your help – and we thank each of you for your part in this awesome ministry.

We thank God for you and your gifts of love and prayers and time and talents to work in the name of Jesus and spread His love.

God Bless You All . . . and Merry Christmas from your PHUMC 5th - 7th Grade Sunday School friends,
Brady, Trystan, Layla, Alexis, Catherine, Samantha, Matthew, Austen, Paige, Jake, Sophia





Sounds of the Season

sacred and secular songs, and readings, to add joy to your Christmas season.

Friday evening, December 18th, we will be uploading a Christmas Concert onto YouTube and on our church Facebook page. Grab your cookies and hot cocoa (or cheese and wine, if you prefer) and let us treat you to an evening of beautiful music!

Be sure to check out the church Facebook page, and of course your email, for the link to the concert.



Christmas Season Worship



Sunday morning worship

10:00 am

Sunday worship will be live streamed on Facebook live and through Zoom. Join us for a time of worship.

- Pastor Victor Harner is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting for **Sunday Worship at 10:00 am**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82340290362?pw=MGtZTmZlc2pQZFFqTWpGQnJFclhMdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 4029 0362
Passcode: 164843



Blue Christmas Service December 20 at 7:00 pm

From the middle of November, shops, media, and advertising collude to convince us that Christmas is magical, full of joy and fulfilment. Cares are banished and laughing children reinforce the message that sadness and anxiety have no place in the festivities.

But what if bereavement, sadness, and loss are the overwhelming emotion felt at Christmas? How do you observe it then? A Blue Christmas service is designed for those whose mood is 'blue' in this season.

- You are invited to join me on **Zoom December 20 at 7:00 pm** for a time or prayers and scripture.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83982567578?pwd=c3gvNXBRSk9oZkQzUXVZWVlrZkNJUT09>

Meeting ID: 839 8256 7578
Passcode: 234104



Christmas Eve Service December 24 at 7:00 pm

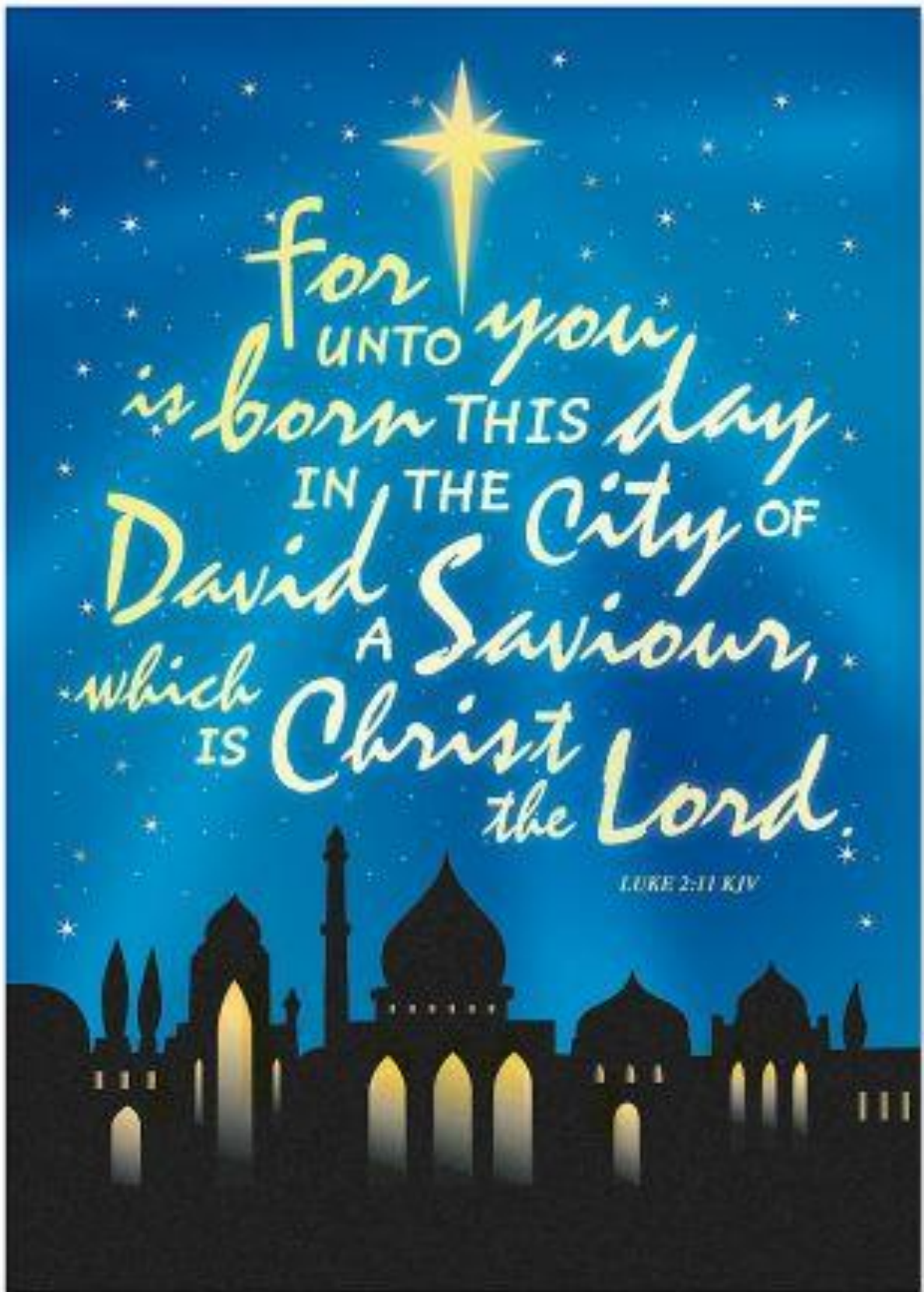
This year our Christmas eve service will be shared on **Facebook live and via Zoom at 7:00 pm**. Join us for a time of worship as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

- Pastor Victor Harner is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting December 24 at 7:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85454660442?pwd=RnIZaE02Zng2L0lLVThJNzlrMG9JQT09>

Meeting ID: 854 5466 0442
Passcode: 237064



Christmas Blessings

from the Pastor and Staff of PHUMC

Victor Harner, Don Appel & Denise Boyd