



The Perry Scope

Perry Hall United Methodist Church Newsletter
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A Message from The Pastor

Greetings,



Summer has gone, Fall is dwindling away, and Winter is not far behind. However, with Winter coming we are reminded that we are once again approaching that great celebration of the birth of our Savior. This year perhaps more than any other in recent history we need to hear the story of Christmas anew and be reminded of the hope that the Birth of Jesus brings into the world. As we approach this Christmas season, let us consider the peace that our God bestows upon us.

We are told in scriptures that God does not desire for us to be in turmoil, but to be at peace. As the Psalmist writes: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea" (Ps 46:1)

Despite the current turmoil in the world, we can be confident that we can take refuge in our Lord God. Jesus came to deliver us from the fear of death and enable us to be confident that we are saved through faith.

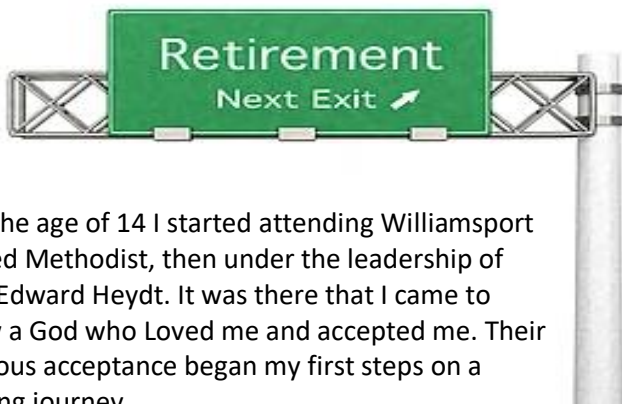
Therefore, let us rejoice this Christmas for the peace we are given through the Gospel! As Jesus himself says, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Mt 11:28-29).

Join us as we celebrate the coming of our Lord, and the peace he provides us!

Peace,

Pastor Vic





At the age of 14 I started attending Williamsport United Methodist, then under the leadership of Rev. Edward Heydt. It was there that I came to know a God who Loved me and accepted me. Their gracious acceptance began my first steps on a lifelong journey.

At the age of 18 I went to my pastor, Rev. Donald Burgard and told him I thought I was being called to the ministry. He explained I would first need to be baptized and officially join the church. He spent that next year mentoring me in what it would mean to serve the church full time.

A year later I wrote a letter to Reverend Kenneth Tyson asking to be accepted into the ordained ministry candidacy track. Upon acceptance and approval by my local church I began the process to fulfill my calling.

Thirty-five years and 6 churches later I find myself preparing to enter into a new season of life and ministry. At the conclusion of this conference year I will be retiring.

While I never thought at the age of 61, I would be seeking retirement I do believe it is the best decision for my family and myself.

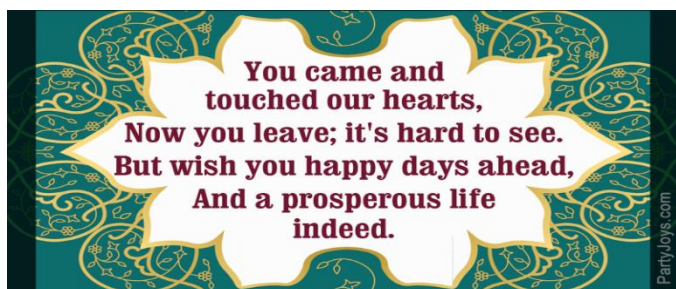
The SPRC committee has met with the District Superintendent to begin the initial work of preparing to receive a new Pastor July 1. The appointment season does not officially begin until January and notification to the church would happen sometime in the Spring.

As we enter into this new season, I encourage you to continue to pray and support the church as you prepare to receive a new Pastor.

I would ask that you keep my family in your prayers as well as we transition into the new stage of our life's journey.

It has been good to be here at Perry Hall and I pray the best for all of you.

Humbly,
Rev. Victor E Harner
Perry Hall UMC



DECEMBER Updates: HOLIDAY BASKETS



The Thanksgiving Holiday Basket was a great success – 46 families received your wonderful gift – all the fixings for a great Thanksgiving Dinner! (from the \$15 gift card for their turkey/ham to the dessert of brownies/cake!)

Because of your kindness, the bags were filled and the families were so grateful! Even the weather cooperated – chilly but sunny!

The Christmas Holiday Basket preparation is going very, very well! In fact, we will have enough baskets for all the 50 families that have registered (and maybe even 60 families!) The distribution will take place on Saturday, December 17th from 10 – 12. The items are the same and we will continue to collect all the way through December 16th! We need mostly – the \$15 gift cards; boxes of corn muffins, boxes of mashed potatoes, frosting for the cake mixes, and cans of mixed vegetables. Do know that any and all extra items collected will be given to families that come through the pantry – so your generosity will make families happy throughout the holidays!

One last item we would love to add to the bags - a new hat or pair of gloves for adults. We have been adding 'these gifts' to the bags, but we need about 10/15 more donations. Just adding a little surprise makes the bags more special.

DO YOU KNOW OF A FAMILY THAT NEEDS A HOLIDAY HELP??



We have about 6/7 more openings for families that would like to receive a holiday basket. The families who receive a holiday basket come from everywhere (they are not necessarily a pantry family). So if you

know of someone who could use some holiday cheer/help – please have them contact the pantry (410-256-1897) to register. The only requirement is that the family must live in Baltimore County and did not receive a Thanksgiving basket.

THE GROWTH OF THE PANTRY

The pantry has been very, very busy these past few months. We are now serving about 145 families in a

thirty-day period. This is almost at the level we served during the height of the pandemic. But with the generosity of you and Camp Chapel UMC and the community food drives – we continue to meet the needs of so many! Last week we received over 1500 items from 3 different school/church/organizations based off their holiday food drives! All this kindness is what makes your mission able to reach so many! THANK YOU!!!!

GIFTS FOR THE PANTRY FAMILIES

Did you hear about the wonderful gifts the Santa elves have been making? Okay, maybe ‘elves’ are more like the ladies of the church! In any case, the ladies have been making wonderful special gifts for the pantry families – they are ‘cookie mason jars’ filled with all the ingredients to make holiday cookies! The Mason jars are beautiful, the ingredients contain everything from flour to the M&M’s and are made with lots of love. These gifts will be given out to the pantry families in December as they arrive on their appointment dates. THANK YOU!!!



Family Ministries had a great turnout for BINGO and Potluck on November 20th. Everyone had a wonderful time!



We will be decorating Gingerbread houses again this year. That will be on Sunday, December 11th from 10:45-11:45 am. There will be one Gingerbread House kit per family supplied. (This is also the day of the Christmas Tea, so there will be refreshments for everyone!) Flyers are available in the Narthex.



On Nov. 1st Adult Family Ministries held a Meet & Greet at The Silver Spring Mining Company. We had 11 people in attendance. This event provides a relaxed atmosphere to just have fun and get to know your fellow church members. The evening was enjoyed by everyone. I believe we will have one again in 2023.

On November 15, a group of us met at AMF Lanes across from Perry Hall Middle School for an evening of bowling. We had a wonderful time and were cheered on by Pastor Vic, Eddie Lawrence, Margaret Hubbard, Denise Boyd, and Debbie Siegert. Dan Kalendek and Brenda Rhinehart challenged us and Diane Lawrence, Sue Funk, Becca, and I did our best to meet the challenge. Even Trystan and Layla Boyd showed good improvement for the first time rolling the Big Balls. (We made them honorary "adults" for the evening.

Adult Family Ministries had a showing of Sight and Sounds "JESUS" in Sept. 2022 and we are now looking at a second showing in late March date TBD but it will be in conjunction with Easter. This is an event for the whole family to see and learn about the adult life of Jesus.

~~Ideas for 2023~~

We are tentatively considering taking in an Ironbirds' game, miniature golfing, or a picnic and walk at Jerusalem Mill.

Meanwhile we would like suggestions from you for some indoor activities that we could enjoy during the colder months. (movies, concerts, plays or game nights.) Let us know if any of these ideas appeal to you or additional ones that could be considered.

Keep an eye out for our events coming in 2023!!



PHUMC Veteran's Day Tribute:

On November 6th, PHUMC honored its veterans as Veteran's Day approached. The children gave each of our veterans a Thank You for Your Service card and a handmade



ornament or magnet recognizing his service to our country.

After hearing a little from each veteran about their time serving our country, the children shook their hands and thanked each of them for their service, followed by a huge round of applause and gratitude from the congregation. So blessed we are for their service - and to have them in our lives!



Operation Christmas Child:

Our OCC shoeboxes are on their way, all 126 of them! On Nov. 20, Pastor Vic blessed our shoeboxes full of school supplies, hygiene items, toys, and many more treasures that will warm the hearts of 126 children SOMEWHERE in our world.



Thanks to all of you, each child will not only be thrilled with a gift (many for the first time!) but will also be

given the chance to learn about Jesus' love for them in a VBS-type Bible-study called The Greatest Journey. They even graduate, with a cap and gown, and are given a Bible in their own language! So many children, and their families and communities, are led to Christ because of this wonderful Samaritan's Purse ministry.

Please know that however you helped, whether by filling shoeboxes (even some on-line!), sewing beautiful cloth books (thank you, Mrs. Anne!), making really special cross necklaces, giving money to help with shipping costs or helping pack OCC boxes for war-torn countries with Mr. Jeff, it is greatly appreciated!



And as the shoebox journey begins, please pray for all of the dedicated volunteers who will help deliver these shoeboxes to the millions of children over the next months. Pray especially for the children who will receive the boxes and learn of God's love for them.

Your friends in PHUMC Sunday School



Sunday
December 11th
10:00 – 11:45 am

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a delicious treat!



Perry Hall Community Chorale

The Perry Hall UMC Performing Arts Ensemble, Community Chorale and Kids' Chorus will present their Christmas program on Friday, December 16, 2022, 7:30 P.M., at Perry Hall United Methodist Church, 9515 Belair Road, Nottingham, MD 21236.

There is no charge/admission fee. A free-will offering will be taken and donated to the church.

Program includes Christmas carols, traditional favorites/popular songs incorporating dance, instruments, audience participation and a special visit from Santa.

This program is suitable for the entire family and will DEFINITELY give you the Christmas spirit!!



Don E. Appel
Founding Director



You've Got Mail!

Our **Church Post Office** is open for business. You will find the alphabetized boxes in the Narthex. You can drop off your Christmas cards to others in the congregation, as well as stop by and pick up those sent to YOU! Just remember, please do NOT include cards to people who are no longer attending here. We do not have the resources or funds to mail them. Any cards not picked up by the second week of January will be discarded.



The **Digital Greetings** are already being displayed. And they sure are beautiful! If you are still interested in having one made, contact Denise ASAP! For just \$20, we will display your greeting that you have made. If you wish to have Denise create your greeting for you, it will be an additional \$5.



December

- 4 (Sunday) – Private Party in Fellowship Hall -2-6 pm
- 10 (Saturday) – Private music recital in Sanctuary - 3-4:30 pm
- 10 (Saturday) – Private Party in Fellowship Hall 3-7 pm
- 11 (Sunday) – Christmas Tea 10:00-11:45 am
- 11 (Sunday) – Gingerbread House decorating 10:45-11:45 am
- 16 (Friday) Perry Hall Community Choral Concert -7:30 pm
- 17 (Saturday) Christmas Baskets Distributed - 10 am-12 pm
- 24 (Saturday) Christmas Eve Services
 - 7:30 pm – Candlelight and Communion
 - 10:30 pm – Choral Concert
 - 11:00 pm – Candlelight and Communion
- 25 (Sunday) **Merry Christmas! ONE CHURCH SERVICE ONLY** at 11:00 am

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January 1 – (Sunday) **ONE CHURCH SERVICE ONLY** at 11:00 am

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February 12 – Superbowl Sunday Sub Sale
21 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

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March 11 – Drive-thru Spaghetti Dinner
30 – Seder Meal

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April 8 – Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt

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May 13 – May Festival

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July 24-28 VBS
30 – VBS Sunday – **ONE CHURCH SERVICE ONLY** followed by potluck luncheon

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