

Dec. 2023/Jan.2024



# *The Perry Scope*

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



## *A Message from The Pastor*



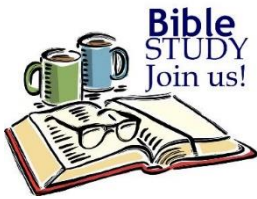
It can be difficult to write a message for the upcoming two months, especially when I am actually writing this in mid-November. So much could happen between the writing of these words and the time you read them. That is much like life, though, isn't it? We plan and hope and dream, but we can't know what will happen in the future. We trust God to care for us and to walk with us regardless of what the future brings. In the next two months, we will go from music and light and joy at Christmas to the dimness and cold of January. At least in the church, we celebrate Epiphany and hold onto a bit of the light and music until after January 6<sup>th</sup>.

I can feel kind of let down by the change from December to January. I need to remember that God is in the ordinary stuff of life. God is in the lights on the Christmas tree and also in the darkness of the January evenings. God is in the joy of gathered family and friends at the holidays and in the quiet after they have gone back home. God is just as much in the de-decorating as God was in the decorating. In fact, if we really think about it, maybe God prefers to be in the ordinary everyday parts of our life. Didn't God choose to be born in an ordinary stable to ordinary people? God chooses to be with us in our every moment, from turning off the alarm clock to brushing our teeth to how we interact with other folk throughout the day to doing laundry to every decision we make. God yearns to be part of every single second of every day of our entire lives. Christmas is a joy-filled celebration that I would never give up, but maybe I need to recognize more the reality of God in the conversation I have with a co-worker on January 11<sup>th</sup>. No matter what may happen between the writing of these words and when you read them, God is with us in the ordinary Moments of our days. Praise be to God, who goes before us, walks beside us, and follows behind us!

Blessings,

Pastor Margery





### ***It's Not Too Late to Join!!!***

#### **ADVENT STUDY BEGINS**

Our Advent Bible study begins the end of this month! The 4 week study begins on Monday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm and on

Tuesday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, at Noon, and ends on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. We will read the book, The Heart that Grew Three Sizes by Matt Rawle. The cost for the book is \$15. You may use the sign up sheet in the narthex or email Pastor Margery.



Join us for Christmas worship! A "Blue" Christmas service will be held on Thursday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm in the Chapel on the

second floor, Room 201. A Blue Christmas service is for those of us who don't want to join in the "merry" or "jolly" of the holiday. Some of us have lost a loved one; some have lost a job or a relationship; some of us struggle with depression or are feeling just plain blue. Come join us.



by  
*Laura Hanna*

As 2023 comes to an end and a new year

starts – the pantry is literally feeding hundreds of people each month. So much so, that the number of families served had literally increased by over 50% since January 2023! To conquer these numbers required the love and support from the community! There is a saying "that it takes a village to raise a child" well "it takes the entire community to feed those in need". In this case, the community has truly been amazing!

The pantry could not have handled the increase if it was not for Perry Hall UMC and Camp Chapel UMC continuous support! The weekly/monthly support in donations both physical and monetary have kept the shelves filled and the volunteers available to operate the pantry! God Bless you all! Truly, your generosity allows the pantry to handle the increase in requests without having to say 'sorry, we are full and cannot help you at this time'.

We also have had some wonderful help and support outside the two churches that I would like to recognize:

- 1) In November the Avenue of White Marsh held a fund raiser and raised over \$2500 for the pantry! Yep, over \$2500! This monetary donation will definitely help keep the shelves stocked through the long cold winter months! From our biweekly shopping at Aldi's, Dollar Tree, and even Wegmans – this donation will allow us to buy cases and cases of necessary items, as the supplies dwindle.
- 2) Several local schools held holiday food drives on our pantry's behalf and donated hundreds of non-perishables to the pantry. These food drives literally filled the shelves and even allow an overflow. Giving the pantry a chance to 'refill.' While at this time of writing, some schools were planning their food drives other schools had already held theirs. Some of the schools that had already helped include Perry Hall High School, Seven Oaks Elementary, Harford Hills to name just a few. While it is impossible to personally thank the families of all the local schools that supported the food drives – it does show the community cares!
- 3) Weis Super Market on Joppa Rd has donated every week for the last 3 years items from its bakery – bread products and dessert products. Not only every week, but twice a week! Literally they have given hundreds and hundreds of items – all wonderfully made and in-date!
- 4) Individuals – every week PHUMC and CCUMC members have given their love and financial and physical support to the pantry. Your kindness, your generosity has kept the shelves filled which enabled the bags to be filled! Even as the number of families kept growing and growing, your support has been there – Your gifts, made a difference! A very positive difference to the pantry, to the families it serves.
- 5) Throughout 2023 many organizations came with donations for the pantry – here is a list of many of the supporters: The Ravens Roost; The Masons; Salem UMC; Fallston UMC; The Rotary; and local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops from several churches in the Perry Hall / Fullerton/White Marsh areas.
- 6) Anonymous donors – throughout the year, the pantry has been the recipient of hundreds of dollars in actual non-perishable items and monetary gifts by donors who remained anonymous. While we can never personally thank



these donors, we do hope they know that their generosity was truly appreciated.

The pantry has been helping people for over 20 years and with your help, the community's help, the Maryland Food Bank's help – it will continue to help those who call! While the pantry's numbers of who it serves has grown every month during this past year (from 120 to over 180 families per month) – you have made it possible to continue and be there for those in need. God Bless you all for your kindness and support.



We try to be consistent on the donations given or purchases - so we have specific items that we keep in stock:

#### FOOD ITEMS:

Tuna fish - Cereal - Boxed /bagged rice (2# size) or boxed mashed potatoes - Pasta, pasta sauce - Diced tomatoes - Canned pasta – Soup - Peanut butter – Jelly - Side dishes (like flavored rice or noodles) - Macaroni and cheese - Canned beans: pork/beans, black beans, kidney beans - Canned vegetables: peas, potatoes, corn carrots, mixed vegetables, green beans - Canned fruit: peaches, pears, mixed fruit, applesauce - Ramen noodles - Boxed crackers or cookies - Canned chili - Canned meat like spam or canned chicken.

#### NON-FOOD ITEMS:

Shampoo - Soap – Toothpaste – Detergent -Toilet paper

\*The pantry also tries to keep available: diapers; incontinent products; feminine hygiene products; baby food/formula; and dried milk

**DON'T FORGET:** the pantry has 2 collections sites: the Giant on Belair Rd near Outback and the Weis on Joppa Rd near Belair Rd. Both sites have collection bins where donations can be left. Our volunteers collect from the bins twice a week!!

As with all our physical donations – each item is checked to make sure the item is 'in date' and 'not damaged nor open' before they go on the shelves to be given out.

The pantry may be small in size but big in heart! The love of the community in donations keeps the love and hope giving towards the families it serves!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO THE PHUMC FOOD PANTRY! You truly make a difference in so many lives!



## HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

Each year for at least the past 20 years, PHUMC made a goal in the fall– to provide holiday food baskets to members of the community for Thanksgiving and then again for Christmas. Not only was the Thanksgiving goal reached but your outpouring of love allowed the second goal (the Christmas baskets) to be certain! The Thanksgiving basket distribution occurred on November 18<sup>th</sup> to the 50 families that had pre-registered. But the love did not stop at Thanksgiving! Because of the generosity from the families of Perry Hall UMC and Camp Chapel UMC, the Christmas basket distribution will occur on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm to at least 50 other families!

While we have most of the items needed, we still need your help! The baskets are getting prepared for Christmas – but we don't have everything we need!

- \$15 Walmart Gift Card
- 1 Box of Mashed Potatoes
- 1 Med. Size can of Yams
- 1 can of Jellied Cranberry Sauce
- 1 can of gravy
- 1 box of stuffing mix
- 1 can of green beans
- 1 can of corn
- 1 can of mixed vegetables
- 1 can of peas or carrots
- 1 box of muffin mix
- 1 box cake mix with icing or 1 box brownie mix



**DON'T** forget to keep an eye on the display in the Fellowship Hall – the graph will show you how the Christmas basket food drive is going! We will continue collecting the actual food items, and gift card through December 10<sup>th</sup>! Remember: If shopping is not your 'fun thing to do' – that is ok, for we can shop for you! Your monetary donations will go to buy cases of the listed items and fill in any gaps! You can just drop your donation off while you are at Sunday service or directly at the office or even in the mailbox outside the office door. Just identify your donation to be used for the Holiday basket and we will take care of the shopping for you!

One more thought - in the past years, we have had the opportunity to add a 'surprise' gift to the Christmas baskets due to people's spontaneous generosity. These gifts have been everything from gloves, hats, gift cards to local restaurants/businesses, small toys, Christmas decorations for the home and many other joyful items. We would love to carry on this fun 'tradition'. If you would like to contribute a holiday gift for the basket that would be great – you may drop your gift off at the pantry or in the Meeting Room. These small gifts add a



big love to the baskets! Thank you for your wonderful support – the holiday baskets enable so many families to be able to enjoy their holidays with love and laughter.



## Month of DECEMBER

### Acolyte

12/3	Sydney Lee	<u>Children's Story</u>	Heather Mager
12/10	Sydney Lee		Denise Boyd
12/17	Trystan Boyd		Carole Webner
12/24	Leona Mager (9:30 am)	Debbie Siegert	
	Sydney Lee (7 pm)	Pastor Margery	
	Leona Mager (7 pm)		
	Catherine Reinhart (11 pm)		
	Trystan Boyd (11 pm)		

### Altar Guild

12/2	Kim Cole – Heather Zell – Peggy Winchester
12/9	Christy Moore – Pat Walter
12/16	Lois Welsh – Bettye Gramlich
12/23	Kay Pokrzywa – Gloria Barlow
12/30	Peggy Whiting – Judy Mayes



by Melanie Nolet

The trustees have been diligently working on getting several quotes to fix the roof on the education wing. This is a large project but is much needed and

detrimental to our building.

Other items of interest:

- BGE is working to replace the outside gas lines
- The elevator was inspected in October and passed
- Fire Marshal is inspecting the building 11/15.



### **Family Ministries** by Brenda Reinhart

Please come out and join us on December 10th immediately following the 9:30 church service for a time of fun and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. Family



ministries will have a gingerbread house for each family that would like to decorate and take home to enjoy.



Family ministries will be having a winter craft Sunday in January. Date TBD. Keep a look out in the bulletin. Please come join us for a time of fellowship and fun immediately following church in the Fellowship Hall. We will create some winter crafts and enjoy some yummy snacks.

### **Children's Ministries** by Debbie Siegert

We are busy getting ready for Breakfast with Santa so make sure you sign up. We will have crafts, games and face painting. Santa will even be here!



We would like to do some fun activities like bowling or a movie during the long winter months ahead so if you have any ideas or are willing to take part, please let me know. We have a great group of children in our church.



by  
Joyce  
Ziegler

### **PHUMC Veteran's Day Tribute**

On November 12th, PHUMC again honored its veterans over the Veterans Day weekend. In October, the Sunday School classes signed "Thank You for Your Service" greeting cards. A special thanks to Samantha Bosque and Paige McLaughlin for helping the congregation sign Thank You cards before and after the October church services. With the church's support, we returned 93 greeting cards showing our appreciation to our veterans.



When mailing off the cards to Paralyzed Veterans of America, I was fortunate to meet a postal worker, once a wounded soldier, who shared with me how, while waiting for surgery, he was given cards from children (similar to the ones we sent). He was truly touched seeing the envelope of cards we'd signed and told me to tell our congregation how important those cards are to the soldiers, requesting that we NEVER stop sending them off! He shared that "you will never know how much those cards meant to me". I felt extremely blessed to have met him to personally thank him for his service and promised I'd pass his words along.

During our Veterans Day celebration, our five PHUMC veterans came up front to receive Thank You cards that



the children had made, share a little about their service to our country and help the children identify pictures of



them during their time in the service. It was wonderful hearing the huge round of applause

for the veterans as the congregation stood to honor their commitment to our country.

### Operation Christmas Child

What a wonderful Operation Christmas Child season! On Nov. 19th, Pastor Margery blessed our 156 shoeboxes and we sent them on their way, filled with school supplies, toiletries, toys, handmade cross necklaces & cloth books that will warm the children's hearts and show them that others care and want to share their faith with each and every one of them, even halfway around the world!

In October, we traveled to "The Barn" in Carroll County to help the Taylor Foundation pack special shoeboxes for children in war-torn countries. Thanks to Carol, Dan and Mew Walker for helping pack those boxes!



Since 2001, Taylor Technologies has packed 256,268 OCC shoeboxes. What a blessing to see how dedicated

a corporation is to taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth!



A special thanks to Ann Smith for not only making the beautiful cloth booklets for our shoeboxes, but also for spending a Sunday in the Middle and High School class to show the students how she makes them and recruit them to help!

On Nov. 5, Ms. Debbie invited all of the Sunday School children to make necklaces for their shoeboxes. They were beautifully made, with brightly colored patterns and much enthusiasm. The children who find them in their shoeboxes are going to treasure them, for sure!



What fun we had packing OCC boxes as a class last week! Knowing that this shoebox may be the FIRST gift most of the children have ever received, all of the children worked very hard to fit as much as they could into their boxes, leaving enough room at the top for their cloth books and wooden cross necklaces. By the end of class, they had packed fifteen more shoeboxes, complete with personal letters, tons of goodies and much needed supplies. GREAT JOB by all!



*"What is Christmas? It is the tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace."*

— Agnes M. Pharo





We are planning another Game Night at Janeen Beebe's lovely home on Sat., January 20 at 7:00 p.m. This was extremely popular last year, so you may want to check it out!

Everyone can bring a favorite game plus a snack to share. Drinks will be provided, as well as additional games. Janeen has Air Hockey, Ping Pong, and a Pool Table available.

Add your name to the sign up list in the Narthex or call Peggy Whiting (443-257-2874.) so we have an idea of how many are coming. Last minute add ons are fine.

Janeen's address is: 4206 Piney Park Rd., 21128.

A flier will be coming out later with directions.

*- Peggy Whiting and Margaret Hubbard*

### **Special note from Peggy Whiting....**

I'm guessing that a lot of you receive calendars from non-profit organizations like I do. Most of them are quite nice and many are beautiful!

**Please do not throw them away!** I collect them and we give them out to our families who come to the Food Pantry. Most of them are delighted to receive them and it's such an easy thing for us to do.

You can give them to me or you can turn them in to the church office or leave them at the Pantry door.

Thank you!! Peggy, 443-257-2874



*by Debbie Siegert*

Calling all women in our church, if you have not joined us for a meeting you

are missing out. We have become closer as we get to know one another and we have had some great devotions. We have painted rocks for our rock garden outside, we signed Thanksgiving cards for our shut-ins and the food baskets. We even got to enjoy ice-cream sundaes.

We are planning a Birthday Party for Jesus on December 17<sup>th</sup>. I will be sending out a flyer for our paint night in January. We will be having a room for kids to do crafts/play games so both parents can come and join in the fun and fellowship. If you would like to join, please let me know. We meet the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm. If you have any ideas for a great activity or mission project, let me know.



*by Dan Walker*

The nacent United Methodist Men's group is working through a Bible study on Character. If you'd like to join us, just contact the church office and I'll get you a copy of the study guide.

Do you know what a Flood Bucket is? The group is going to be putting together Flood Buckets for UMCOR, these are buckets that contain cleaning supplies and the like for areas hit by floods due to storms, hurricanes, etc. We'll be starting this after the first of the year after the holidays, look for more information to come in bulletins and signs around the church on how and what to contribute to the project. We hope to put together at least 25-50 for our first go-round.



★ **Breakfast with Santa** will be held on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30 am. (Inclement weather date is December 16<sup>th</sup>) There will be crafts, games, and gifts for all the children, picture opportunities with Santa, and, of course, a super delicious breakfast! Visit [Perry Hall United Methodist Church: Breakfast with Santa! \(signupgenius.com\)](http://Perry Hall United Methodist Church: Breakfast with Santa! (signupgenius.com)) to sign up to attend OR help!

★ **Christmas Tea** is on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> immediately after church in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy a time of fellowship in our beautifully decorated hall. Lots of goodies will be there for you! While you enjoy your treats, you can also try your hand at **Gingerbread House Decorating**, sponsored by Family Ministries.

★ **A Birthday Party for Jesus** is happening on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> immediately after church in the Fellowship Hall. The United Women in Faith, who are sponsoring this event, will have 12 tables decorated, one for each month of the year. Everyone attending will sit at the table of their own birth month. There will be a variety of snacks and treats for everyone.

★ **A Spaghetti Dinner** will be held on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be a bake sale in conjunction with the dinner. Keep an eye out for more information after the holidays. We will be looking for help in the kitchen and in the dining room area, as well. Carry out will be available.



**Folk Music Night:**  
**December 23, 7-10 p.m.,**  
featuring **Linda Baer**

(<https://www.linkedin.com/in/linda-baer-8700b719/>).

Linda says, "As a performing singer-songwriter I create songs with narratives and musical leanings that are steeped in the rich traditions of Appalachian folk song, Hebrew chant, Delta Blues, British balladry, Yiddish laments, and more. I have a wide variety of music to offer the listener, with the common thread of catchy melodies and poetic lyrics that tell of the journey of the human spirit." Her set starts around 8:15. The evening begins with an "open mic" at 7:00. The open mic resumes after Linda's set. **Admission is free**, but donations are welcome. The Folk Music Night schedule, along with additional information, may be found at <http://www.folkmusicnight.com/>. Questions may be directed to Neil Zimmerman: 410-529-7176 or [ndzimmer@comcast.net](mailto:ndzimmer@comcast.net).

#### **Folk Music Night:**

**January 20, 7-10 p.m.,** featuring **Lynn Hollyfield**  
(<http://www.lynnhollyfield.com/>). Blend a powerful, passionate singer, a crisp, acoustic guitar player, and a heartfelt observer of the world, and you will have WAMMIE-nominated singer/songwriter Lynn Hollyfield. Her songwriting often stems from personal experience and connections to the natural world. Her set starts around 8:15. The evening begins with an "open mic" at 7:00. The open mic resumes after Lynn's set. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. The Folk Music Night schedule, along with additional information, may be found at <http://www.folkmusicnight.com/>. Questions may be directed to Neil Zimmerman: 410-529-7176 or [ndzimmer@comcast.net](mailto:ndzimmer@comcast.net).

- *Neil Zimmerman*



#### **Perry Hall Chorale**

**Directors: Don Appel &  
Linda Preisendorfer**

Join us at 3:00 pm. on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, as we present our Christmas program. We will have traditional carols, popular Christmas songs, audience participation, soloists, dance, instrumentalists, choral singing and some very cute kids!

There is no admission charge. A free will offering will be taken and donated to Perry Hall UMC.



#### **KC Dance & Fitness**

*The faculty and dancers at KC Dance & Fitness would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*



*May 2024  
bring happiness  
and health to all.  
Remember to  
always  
keep dancing!*



- December 2** – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm  
– Private Party FH 9 am-3 pm  
– Rehearsal (Chorale) in Sanc. 1-3 pm  
– Private Recital in Sanctuary 4:30-7 pm  
**3** – Coffee Hour after church  
– Private Recital in Sanctuary 2 pm  
**4** – Bible Study 7 pm  
**5** – Bible Study 12 noon  
**6** – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm  
**7** – WISH Group 10:30 am  
– United Women of Faith 7 pm  
**8** – Set up Breakfast w/Santa 2-4 pm  
**9** – Breakfast with Santa 9:30 -11:30 am  
– Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm  
– Rehearsal (Chorale) in Sanc. 1-3 pm  
**10** – Christmas Tea after church **and**  
Gingerbread House decorating  
**11** – Bible Study 7 pm  
**12** – Bible Study 12 noon  
**13** – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm  
**14** – Blue Christmas Service- Chapel 7 pm  
**16** – Breakfast with Santa- Bad weather date  
– Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm  
– Rehearsal (Chorale) in Sanc. 1-3 pm  
– Holiday Basket Distribution 1-3 pm  
**17** – Birthday Party for Jesus – after church  
– Perry Hall Chorale Concert 3 pm



- 18 – Bible Study 7 pm
- 19 – Bible Study 12 noon
- 20 – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm
- 21 – United Methodist Men 7 pm
- 23 – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
  - Folk Music Night 7 pm
- 24 – **Christmas Eve**
  - Morning Church Service 9:30 am
  - Evening Family Service 7 pm
  - Christmas Concert 10:30 pm
  - Evening Service 11 pm
- 25 – 30 – **Church Office Closed**
- 31 – Church – Lessons & Carols

## January

- 1 – **Church Office Closed**
- 3 – Choir and Band Rehearsal 7 pm
- 4 – WISH Group 10:30 am
  - United Women of Faith 7 pm
- 6 – Thrift Shop open 9am – 12 pm
- 7 – Coffee Hour after church
- 9 – Trustees Meeting 7 pm
- 10 – Choir and Band Rehearsal 7 pm
- 11 – Finance Committee Meeting 7 pm
- 13 – Thrift Shop open 9 am – 12 pm
  - UMW Paint Night - time TBD
- 14 – Coffee Hour after church
- 15 – **PERRY SCOPE DEADLINE!**
- 17 – Choir and Band Rehearsal 7 pm
- 18 – United Methodist Men 7 pm
- 20 – Thrift Shop open 9 am – 12 pm
  - Folk Music Night 7 pm
- 21 – Coffee Hour after church
- 23 – Ad Council 7 pm
- 24 – Choir and Band Rehearsal 7 pm
- 25 – Perry Scope Mailing 10 am
- 27 – Thrift Shop open 9 am – 12 pm
  - Spaghetti Dinner 4 – 6:30 pm
- 28 – Coffee Hour after church
- 31 – Choir and Band Rehearsal 7 pm



**December 25 –  
January 1**



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## The Meaning Of Christmas

Far away in Bethlehem, a Baby Boy was born;  
Born with neither riches nor with fame,  
Yet Wise Men came from all around to  
bring to Him their gifts,  
And peace was felt by all who heard His name.

Angels watched Him as He slept,  
and gently rocked His bed;  
Their voices singing softly in His ear;  
His Mother and His Father both gave thanks to God above  
For the greatest gift of all, their Son, so dear

They knew His life upon this earth  
would not be filled with wealth,  
They also knew He would encounter strife;  
But most of all, they knew that He would be a loving Child,  
And teach the love of God throughout His life.

At Christmas, as we celebrate  
this Birth of Jesus Christ,  
Let's keep in mind the truth of Christmas Day;  
For it's not the Christmas wrappings,  
nor the gifts that lie within,  
But our gift of love to others in every way...



