

December '25/January '26



The Perry Scope

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



A Message from The Pastor



Please review the events for the Christmas season that are listed in this newsletter, on our website and on our social media (Facebook and Instagram). We have a ton of stuff happening!

One of those Christmas events is a Blue Christmas service at 7:00pm on Tuesday, Dec. 16th. For those who can't make this service for any reason, the Hub churches are working on a daytime Blue Christmas service. Please be alert for updates on time and location.

A Blue Christmas is a Christmas service which does not include all the "holly, jolly" which other services may contain. It is specifically for those of us who have suffered a loss, of any kind, and want a quieter way to celebrate the season. Sorrow and frustration can be hard to endure when everyone around us is joyous, and may expect us to be joyous, too. You are welcome at the Blue Christmas service, just as you are and just how you feel! If you have any questions, please contact me.

A tradition in the UMC is to pray the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer at the beginning of each year. The words of that prayer are a reminder and a promise. We are reminded that all that we have, all that we ever hope to have, all that we are, the entirety of our personhood, the whole universe belongs to God. As Christians, we submit ourselves to God's will, confident that the loving God who died for us will care for us and guide us throughout our lives. That may mean that our lives will be different from our own plans, our own dreams, and our own wishes. This Covenant Prayer is also a promise that no matter how difficult things may become or how easy things may be at the moment, we have offered our total selves to God's will. Let us all rest in the peace of knowing that God holds us in an unfathomable love and will help us to live as God calls us to live. May we submit to God as individuals and as a church.

Blessings,
Pastor Margery





Church Planning Meeting Saturday, January 17, 2026 9:00 AM

As we covenant together to follow God's will, we seek to share our wisdom about plans for the church. You are invited to a meeting during which we will set plans for the upcoming year and set our vision for the next 3-5 years. We will prayerfully reflect upon our ministry as it meets the vision of our Mission Statement. Please be alert for announcements about the location and timing of this meeting, and please be in prayer for discernment as we seek to follow where God's leads.

As your pastor, I am so excited by the once-a-month Family Worship being introduced by our Education and Worship teams. The children and youth will have the opportunity to become more involved in our worship. The Sunday School teachers will have the opportunity to participate more fully in worship. Each month, the second Sunday will be a time for our children and youth to remain in worship. Our services will be enriched by having our younger members offering their gifts in worship leadership, as well as celebrating their presence in the congregation.



by
Laura Hanna

WOW – what a month! Over the past month the pantry has

been extremely busy – due to so many reasons, the need of assistance has greatly increased! Literally, the phone has been ringing 'off the hook' from families who are in need of help. (we added 13 new families in one 24-hour period alone!) We are now at appointment numbers that are at equal, if not greater, than we saw during the height of Covid in April 2020! In October we served about 160 families, in November it jumped up to serving almost **200 families**! That is a 25% increase in one month!

On the brighter side, the community has rallied and come together in helping the pantry. First – your donations, both monetary and physical have been a true blessing and lifeline for keeping the pantry stocked (and thus the bags full that are given out)! Have you ever wondered how many bags it takes to help **200 families** – the answer is about 2000! (the volunteers can tell you what it has been like – but



just know your help has been a true blessing!).

Absolutely, please know that your amazing support allows the pantry to constantly be restocked! Every dollar you give goes to the food and personal items that are given to these families! Your donations (both physical items and monetary donations) are the backbone to the pantry – so know that you are making a true difference in so many of your neighbor's lives!!!

The community, at large, has also been wonderful. During the past few weeks, many different organizations have held (and still holding) major food drives for the pantry! In the next month's Perry Scope I will identify all of these wonderful organizations – just know, your little pantry is known and the community has been rallying for it - I think at last count there were/are at least 11 food drives that have earmarked PHUMC Food Pantry as their destination – each of these food drives has produced hundreds and hundreds of food items – everything from cookies to spaghetti to pet food! All wonderful, all truly appreciated and all requiring a magical team of volunteers to check dates and quality – so that our families know they are loved!

But I would be very wrong to forget **our volunteers** - Thank you to all of our volunteers for handling the

craziness with love, compassion, and laughter. You have stepped up to the challenges and are true superheroes. It has taken a lot of work to process the hundreds and hundreds of physical donations – checking dates on each item, organizing items and putting away, preparing bags, delivering to the donor's cars in the cold, wind, and wet weather – you are more than just a 'volunteer' you are an angel on Earth!



God Bless you all!!!

May your Christmas be filled with joy!



ANNUAL HOLIDAY BASKETS

2nd DISTRIBUTION DATE:

DECEMBER 13, 1-3 pm

YOU DID IT – the first holiday distribution was a great success – 50

families received your love and generosity by way of the holiday baskets! Now we are working hard in preparing for the Christmas distribution. Nothing has changed in what is provided – so in case you need a shopping list:

Every holiday basket/bag will contain one of each of these items:

- Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- Boxed muffin mix
- Boxed stuffing mix
- Boxed Brownie mix or Boxed Cake mix w/ icing
- Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Canned Jellied Cranberry Sauce
- Canned gravy
- Canned Corn
- Canned Green Beans
- Canned Mixed Vegetables
- Canned Peas or Carrots

PLUS a \$15 gift card from Walmart for the turkey/ham.

The distribution date for the Christmas Baskets is **Saturday, Dec. 13th, from 1-3 PM.**

Monetary donations: If you prefer to donate monetarily, the shopping will be done for you! Just drop off your monetary donations or gift cards in the Sunday basket OR stop by the pantry/office to drop it off.

Lastly: if you would like to help with the distribution on Saturday, Nov 22 - **we would love your help!** The work is easy - wishing the families a happy holiday and placing the holiday basket in their car! The more church members that help deliver the joyful holiday wishes - the better!! **Hope you can join us** for 2 hours of laughter, love, and holiday joy. :-)



by Pat Walter

Year-end giving statements for tax purposes are due out by January 31. My goal is to have ours out by the week of

January 19, 2026. So that you receive yours on a timely basis if you have moved this past year, please be sure the office has your current address. The envelope containing your giving statement will have the words "tax form" in the upper left-hand corner along with the church's address. Please do not throw it away thinking it is something not important.

Also, if you currently do not have offering envelopes and would like some, please contact the church office or Pat Walter at 410-592-5479.

Lastly!! Tired of writing a check every week, every month, etc. WELL, the answer is to have your offering to the church automatically deducted from your account by signing up for VANCO. That way if you forget your checkbook or are on vacation, etc, the church will still receive your offering. Plus it saves some of those expensive checks. To sign up for VANCO or to find out more about it, please contact Kim Cole-Evans or the church office and Denise will get you to Kim. Thanks. Merry Christmas and a happy and blessed new year.



*by Carole Webner
for the Sunday School Team*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us in the Sunday School Program! Our

Sunday school students have been busy learning and celebrating. We began November with a celebration of our veterans with handwritten notes of thanks, Christmas ornaments and a sweet treat. Thank you for your service, Mr. Buzzy, Mr. Ed, Mr. Ron, Mr. Gary, Mr. Frank, and Mr. Charles. In November we shared our blessings and packed boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you all for your donations and support of this amazing project.

The advent season began on November 30th and the students helped to decorate the Christmas trees in the sanctuary with Chrismons. Our sanctuary is always so beautiful at Christmas. Take a moment one Sunday during advent and check out the trees!

In January we will begin our family worship on the 2nd Sunday of every month. Students will join their families and participate in worship. Sunday School families look for a reminder email to let you know when to have your children join you in worship. Thank you all for your continued support.

Have a blessed New Year!



*by Brenda Reinhart,
Chairperson*

Our committee is hosting a time of cookie decorating during the Christmas Tea on Sunday, December 7th, after worship service. There will be sugar cookies, frosting and sprinkles available for

anyone who wishes to decorate your cookie! Then just eat and enjoy!!

Also, coming up on Sunday, January 25th, we invite you to join us for a fun winter craft session after worship. We will be supplying the snacks for that morning, as well.

Everyone is invited to attend both of our events. No signups are necessary!



by Shannon Van Hook

Stitching Love and Prayers in Every Thread

Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting—or want to learn? **Fibers of Love** is a warm and welcoming group where fellowship and creativity come together. We create prayer shawls and blankets to share comfort and God's love with those in need. We meet on the **last Thursday of each month from 6–8 PM**, and everyone is welcome!

Can't make it to our meetings? You can still be part of this mission by creating at home. If you need supplies, just let us know—we'll gladly prepare a kit for you. Come share your gifts, learn new skills, and help wrap others in warmth and care! Through shared time and heartfelt work, and a lot of laughter, we strive to wrap others in warmth and God's love.

(More Missions...)

Why Menstrual Supplies Are Critical in



Hygiene Emergencies

When disaster whether it's a flood, or other emergency—basic necessities like food and water often take priority. But one essential need is frequently overlooked: **menstrual hygiene supplies**.

For women and girls in crisis situations, access to pads, tampons, or other menstrual products is not a luxury—it's a matter of dignity, health, and safety. Without these supplies, individuals are forced to improvise with unsafe materials, increasing the risk of infection and discomfort. This can lead to serious health issues and emotional distress during an already traumatic time.

This topic is often considered **taboo**, but it is a reality that affects millions and deserves our support. Providing menstrual hygiene products ensures that women and girls can maintain their dignity and focus on survival without added stress.

Your support matters. We are asking for donations of **unscented sanitary napkins (regular, thin & long), unscented tampons (regular and super), panty liners,**

bath size soap (in their packaging, no Ivory or Jergens) travel size wet wipes, 4 gallon bathroom trash bags, flushable wipes, 2 oz bottles of hand sanitizer, laundry detergent sheets, and gallon zip lock bags for disposal. These items will be distributed to women and girls in areas impacted by emergencies and natural disasters. Every contribution makes a difference! Also, UMCOR asks for a \$2 (per kit) donation to cover shipping. Won't you consider a monetary donation?

Please bring your donations to **Perry Hall UMC**. **Collection boxes will be in the narthex and Social Hall.** Together, we can meet this critical need and show Christ's love in action.



By Jeanne Ross

During our November meeting, Debbie Siegert shared a devotional reading with the group. We also

enjoyed a delicious Friendsgiving dinner, that included turkey sandwiches, cranberry sauce, grapes, corn pudding and pumpkin pie.



After our meal, we signed cards that will be sent to our shut-ins and Debbie provided us with a Thanksgiving Word

Search and Crossword Puzzle to do.

Our next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 11th. During that meeting, a representative from Perry Hall High School will speak to us about the need for monetary (or grocery store gift card) donations for the food insecure students enrolled in the school. We will



also enjoy some Christmas cookies and have a small Christmas gift exchange (\$10.00 limit). All women are invited to join us.



“What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.”

- Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas



by Joyce Ziegler

Wonderful news! We are happy to share that we matched last year's shoebox count - and **then exceeded it by 10 boxes!** Our final count is **217 boxes!** Isn't

that awesome?

Thank you all for continuing to share in this special ministry for children. Year after year, you have lovingly packed thousands of shoeboxes and helped in so many other ways to keep this ministry going. Whether it's 1 box or 52 boxes (Edward's new total!), each one is special because of the love and time and thought that you put into packing a box especially for that child who will receive it.



THANK YOU ...

****For packing boxes full (and I mean FULL) of toys, toiletries, school supplies and even clothing for each shoebox child.**

****For helping to fund the delivery of the boxes, whether for your shoebox or to help defray the cost of other shoebox travel to over 100 countries that will receive them.**

****For your prayers for the thousands of volunteers who will not only get those boxes to wherever they need to be but will also witness to the children about God's love for them and teach them about His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

****For every single box that you packed. Please know that each shoebox is SPECIAL and APPRECIATED but a few shout-outs to some extra efforts at PHUMC include:**

- With the help of friends and family, Edward Reinhart collected



52 boxes, which included shopping, packing, retrieving and delivering all of them to PHUMC.



- Leona Mager led Girl Scout Troop in a PHUMC service project. They not only packed 10 OCC shoeboxes but also donated enough items to fill 20 holiday food baskets – 10 for Thanksgiving and 10 for Christmas. Thank you, ladies! And a special thanks to Mary Raab from the Food Pantry who helped the girls pack.



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- Ann Smith again outdid herself this year, making beautiful cloth books that the Sunday School children happily packed into the top of their shoeboxes.
- Judy Brown and many members made beautiful crosses for their OCC boxes.
- What a nice and helpful surprise on Sunday to



have Harold Loggins, Rob Zell and Dave Hanna lend their strong arms to pack up our shoeboxes for delivery. With Harold's help in

his big red truck, we only had to make one trip to White Marsh Baptist Church for shoebox drop-off. Thank you, gentlemen!



- And however else you helped support our shoebox ministry; we thank you SO MUCH!

We are very blessed to have such a loving, giving congregation! Our thanks to all of you for whatever role you played in this wonderful ministry. Your generosity will make 217 children very happy on Shoebox Delivery Day - and especially thereafter as they learn about our God who loves them and is always with them.

Thanks again and God bless you all,
Your friends in our PHUMC Sunday School

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"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

- Calvin Coolidge



Memorials

The W I S H group was pleased to make a donation to the Perry Hall United Methodist Church

Memorial Fund in memory of former members, Marge Bell, Betty Burton, Lorraine Fisher, Marilee Gill, Betty Ireland, Lumina Mick, and Miriam Outten. Each member is truly missed.



by *Kathy Loggins*

The thrift store has been busy in November. We have made many new friends and continue

to receive new donations all the time. We are pairing up with Camp Chapel United Methodist Church to donate some of our household goods for their families in need program.

We will continue to open on the 3rd Sunday after church/ during coffee hour. Please feel free to stop by and check us out.

Have a Merry Christmas and safe New Year from all the volunteers at the thrift store.



by *Anne Harris*

The Missions group invites you to join us as we spread holiday joy with traditional Christmas carols.

We will provide song sheets, bells, and cards for the residents of Brightview. All we need is you and your holiday cheer!

Sunday, December 21st. we will meet at the Perry Hall Brightview at 11:20 am, and at the Rossville Brightview at 1:20 pm.



Folk Music Night: December 21, 7-10 p.m., featuring **Damion Wolfe** (<https://www.damionwolfe.com/>)

Damion Wolfe is a singer/songwriter who has released several albums, toured nationally, and composed music for films. Although known for his acoustic work, Damion's latest album, "Shiny Mad", is a synth/electronica hybrid of songs. He'll be performing some acoustic renditions from the release as well as some new material. His set starts around 8:15. The evening begins with an "open mic" at 7:00. The open mic resumes after David's set. **Admission is free**, but donations are welcome.

Folk Music Night: January 18, 7-10 p.m., featuring **Jeff Smith** (<http://www.humanwilderness.com/>)

Jeff Smith is a singer/songwriter who composes in a variety of genres. His songs sometimes shuffle along Cajun style, jangle with folk rock, pop, and enrich us with storied accounts that are bound in the new world of Americana-folk, and instrumental musings that are hypnotically captivating, and hip. His set starts around 8:15. The evening begins with an "open mic" at 7:00. The open mic resumes after Jeff'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 . - *Neil Zimmerman*



I Have a Story To Tell



Join us on December 20, 2025, with country music artist, Scotty Williams for an evening that moves from the neon of Nashville honky tonks to a place of honest reflection and hope.

After 12 years of performing in every honky tonk on Broadway, Scotty brings a raw, faith-filled set of songs and spoken stories that trace a journey of loss, love, and redemption.

This unforgettable performance will take you on a journey of transformation, called by the Lord to share a message of hope.

Expect familiar country grit, intimate storytelling, and moments of worship as he shares how the Lord called him to turn hard-won life lessons into music that heals.

This is more than a concert...it's a testimony set to song.

Concert starts at 7 PM and we encourage you to bring a friend.



The Perry Hall Chorale will present their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 21st at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary.

The concert will include traditional and contemporary Christmas favorites along with a visit from Santa! Music includes carol singing, audience participation, solos, instruments and lots of fun!

Admission is free. A free-will offering will be taken and donated directly to the church.

The concert is suitable for all ages. Come and celebrate the wonder of the season with us!

Don Appel-Director of Music



Sunday
December 7th
10:45 – 11:45 am



Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a delicious treat!

If you haven't signed up to donate, feel free to bring along a special treat to share!



KC Dance & Fitness

Our Fall season has been a blast! Our dancers have learned many ballet and hip hop moves. We even threw a Halloween dance party! We are currently gearing up for our Winter season and will begin working on our routines for the spring showcase.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from all of us at KC Dance & Fitness!



by Joyce Ziegler



In response to some requests to place a RADA order in time for Christmas this year, the **PHUMC Ad Council** again held a RADA fundraiser this fall. With only nine orders placed, we made a profit of \$160.70.

This is a very simple fundraiser for those interested, as it gives the church 40% of the order amount, with very little effort! Thanks to all who participated. Enjoy your cutlery, dips, cookbooks, etc. – even pop-corn ON THE COB!

Anyone wishing to place an order ANYTIME can do so via our church fundraiser link (and we still get the 40% profit). Once placed on-line, your order is sent directly to your door.

<https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=7845749.4ee7a3>

Please contact Joyce Ziegler (443) 540-6825 with any questions.

- ★ **Christmas Tea and Cookie Decorating** – Sunday, December 7th from 10:45 – 12:00
- ★ **Blue Christmas Service** – Tuesday, December 16th at 7 pm in the Chapel
- ★ **Breakfast with Santa** – Saturday, December 13th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- ★ **Scotty Williams Christmas Concert** – Saturday, December 20th, 7 pm
- ★ **Christmas Caroling** – Sunday, December 21st at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm
- ★ **Perry Hall Chorale Christmas Concert** – Sunday, December 21st at 3 pm
- ★ **Winter Craft Making** – Sunday, January 25th, after Church service

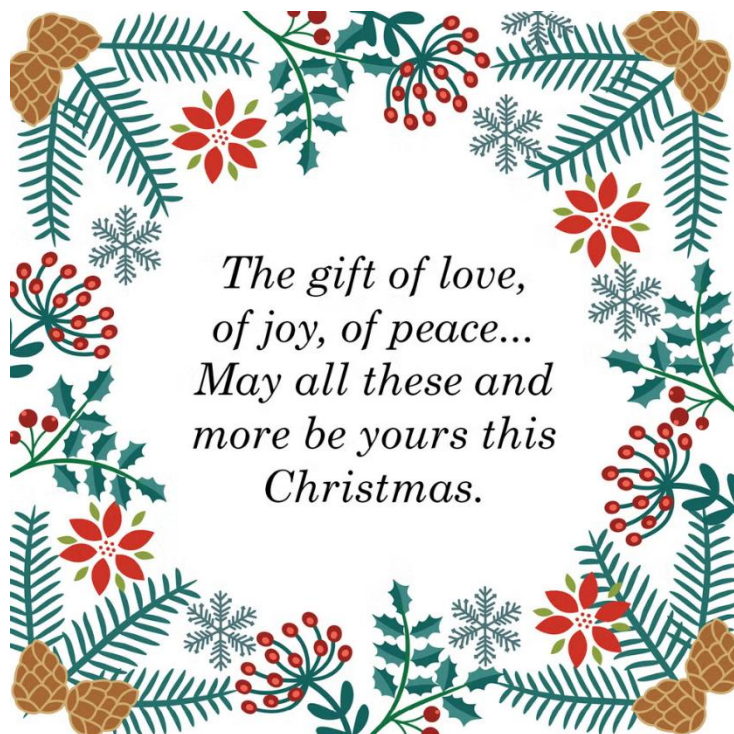


(Outside Group Events Not Included)

- December**
- 1 – Coffee Hour after church
 - 2 – Bible Study 11 am
 - 3 – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm
 - 4 – WISH 10:30 am
 - 6 – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
 - **Drive-thru Spaghetti 4-6 pm**
 - 7 – Christmas Tea after church
 - Cookie Decorating after church
 - 9 – Bible Study 11 am
 - 10 – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm
 - 11 – United Women of Faith 7 pm
 - 13 – **Breakfast with Santa 9:30 am – 12 pm**
 - Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
 - Holiday Baskets Distributed 1 – 3 pm
 - Folk Music Night 7 pm
 - 14 – Coffee Hour after church
 - 16 – Bible Study 11 am
 - **Blue Christmas Service 7 pm (Chapel)**
 - 17 – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm
 - 18 – United Methodist Men 7 pm
 - 20 – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
 - **Scotty Williams Concert 7 pm**
 - 21 – Coffee Hour after church
 - **Christmas Caroling 11:30 am & 1:30 pm**
 - **Perry Hall Chorale Concert 3 pm**

- 24 – Christmas Eve Service 7 pm
- Pre-service Concert 9:30 pm
- Christmas Eve Service 10 pm
- 25 – **Merry Christmas!**
- 25 – Jan. 5 – Church Office Closed
- 28 – **Breakfast Worship 9:30 am**
- (Pajamas allowed!!)

- January**
- 1 – **Happy New Year!**
 - 3 – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
 - **Drive-thru Spaghetti 4-6 pm**
 - 4 – Coffee Hour after church
 - 5 – Trustees Meeting 7 pm
 - 7 – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm
 - 8 – United Women of Faith 7 pm
 - 10 – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
 - Take down Christmas Decorations 9 am
 - Folk Music Night 7 pm
 - 11 – **Family Worship Sunday**
 - Coffee Hour after church
 - 12 – Finance Meeting 7 pm
 - 14 – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm
 - 15 – United Methodist Men 7 pm
 - 17 – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
 - Leadership Planning Meeting 9-12
 - 18 – Coffee Hour after church
 - 19 – Ad Council Meeting 7 pm
 - 21 – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm
 - 22 – Fibers of Love (Missions Group) 6 pm
 - 24 – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
 - 25 – Coffee Hour after church
 - Winter Craft Making after church
 - 28 – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm
 - 31 – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm



Christmas Services

A Blue Christmas Service
Thursday, Dec. 12th – 7 pm

Christmas Eve
Family Service - 7 pm

Christmas Eve Concert
9:30 pm

Christmas Eve
Service – 10 pm

**Join us as we celebrate the
birth of our Savior**



*To our Church Family...
From the Staff of PHUMC.
Wishing you all a blessed and
wondrous Christmas season!*

*Pastor Margery,
Don, and Denise*