

Wesley Tidings

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Pastor's Ponderings

Welcome to Advent - an Expectant Season



Whether this is your first time hearing about Advent, your 75th time entering this season, or have never heard of it before - welcome. Varying in length between four and six weeks, it is a time to prepare and celebrate a journey to the manger of Jesus.

In worship, this season is marked with purple or blue paraments, a tree with lights (and possibly Crismons), an Advent wreath, a nativity, and more elements entering this space each week leading up to Christmas. Created as a parallel season to Lent, Advent provides focus for faith development and discipleship to prepare our hearts and homes for a full expression of joy in celebrating Jesus' birth.

Ways to observe this season include: daily devotions, special times of prayer, lighting an Advent wreath, special music, Advent Bible Study, and engaging in acts of service. Wesley UMC offers many opportunities for spiritual formation and discipleship throughout



Advent-Christmas-Epiphany, this year November 27-January 6. Allow themes of Faith, Hope, Love, and Joy lead decisions and actions during these weeks to prepare the way of the Lord. May God's Holy Spirit be your guide toward this year's worship at Jesus' manger.

Happy Advent & Merry Christmas, Pastor Gretchen

Waiting in Wonder and Hope

Discipleship Moment

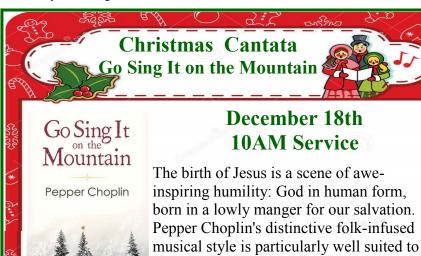
During Advent worship this year, there will be a responsive element to offer experiences of discipleship from your week.

Focused on Waiting with Wonder. What are you and your household doing to actively wait for Christmas? What traditions of your family encourage and focus on intentional waiting? Please consider offering these faith practices as a Discipleship Moment in worship this Advent. How are you waiting in wonder for Christ to arrive this year?

Pastor Gretchen is available for ideas, suggestions, conversation, and reflection.



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inventive mixture of mountain melodies, folk hymns, spirituals, familiar carols, and original music that is sure to surprise and delight, "Go Sing It on the Mountain" proclaims the good news from the prophet Isaiah's proclamation, "Comfort, O comfort my people!" to the final exuberant celebration: "Joy to the world! Christ is born!" Contact person—Jerry Sowers



Decorate the Church Sunday November 27

Following the 10 AM Service

Saturday, 26 November at 9:00 AM – Prepare sanctuary for Advent. Please come and prepare for Sunday's Hanging of the Greens.



capturing this story. Employing a highly

MATT RAWLE THE THE ART THAT GREW THREE SIZES

Advent Bible Study

Join us Sundays, from 4-5:30 PM in the Double Classroom room #8 (aka Library). All ages are welcome. For any who need or wish to participate by an online connection, Zoom will be available. Bring curiosity, desire to grow, something for notes, and a study Bible.

This year's study book to guide the conversation is *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes* by Matt Rawle. Copies are available in the church office. The Seeker's Sunday School class is studying this together on Sunday mornings. Afternoon study will expand and extend the exploration - so come on out for more or begin a new conversation together at 4PM.—Contact person, Pastor Gretchen



United Methodist Family Services

United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) is the Virginia Conference designated offering for December. Because UMFS does not receive any apportionment funds, the gener-

osity of our local church partners is invaluable. You can donate on the website: www.umfs.org/donate/or make an offering throughout the month. (please annotate "For UMFS").





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Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis will be ending her episcopal tenure in the Virginia Conference and beginning as the episcopal leader for the Mississippi Conference effective January 1, 2023.

Virginia Conference members will have the opportunity to show appreciation and bid Bishop Lewis farewell at a conference-wide reception at Good Shepherd UMC (9155 Hungary Rd, Henrico, VA 23294) on **Saturday, December 10, 2022** from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

All are invited to attend at any time during the event. Light refreshments will be provided. For those who wish to share a gift with Bishop Lewis, you are asked to donate in her name either to the Bishop's Foundation or to the Virginia Annual Conference Mission (Serving Response) Fund. Mail donations to Virginia United Methodist Conference, Treasurer's Office, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058.

To share notes of appreciation, mail a letter to Bishop Sharma Lewis at P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058-5606.

Advent Devotionals



This season often fills our days and calendars with endless engagements and festivities. I find I need to create intentional space each day for more time to reflect, pray, and explore scripture in relationship to all these expressions of Christmastime. Special Advent devotionals help me to do this. If you would like a print devotional there are several available at church. To explore others which may speak to your journey visit these online shops which have wonderful prayer filled options:

Kate Bowler has a downloadable devotion **Season of Waiting**

https://katebowler.com/advent2022/? mc_cid=8bfdf78034&mc_eid=c4b227292a

Upper Room Books

https://upperroombooks.com/?s=advent

Paraclete Press https://paracletepress.com



NOTE: Salvation Army Angel Tree: The "angels" have all been "adopted" – thank you to all! There are still 4 angels that were picked up, but not signed for.

Just a reminder -

Unwrapped Angel Tree gifts should be returned to the church by Sunday, Dec. 4.

Please attach the top portion of the tag to your gift and label each gift with the Angel Code. Items can be placed in a gift bag if you'd like. If you bring more than one bag, please make sure you tie the bags together with the child's assigned number so they do not get misplaced.

Gifts can be placed on/or around the table in the fellowship hall foyer.

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity this Christmas Season! Contact person: Susan Brookman

Thank you for being a blessing to a child. 📩



A Nights Welcome

Wesley will be assisting with A Night's Welcome on December 28th.

Please sign up for a food item to donate for bagged breakfasts; the size of the packages is just a suggestion the total number of each individual item is what matters. Whatever we don't use in December will carry over to another month. www.signupgenius.com

Ouestions? Please call Anne at 757-630-5860!

Christmas Poinsettias

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to purchase Christmas Poinsettias. Please indicate how many white and/or red that you would like. The cost is \$15.00 each.



Please sign-up, email the church office or call: 757-838 -3044 The Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on 11 December and will remain until Christmas Eve.

Please sign up by Sunday, December 4th.

Contact person: Sylvia Krisnow



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Do you need help delivering your Christmas cards to your Wesley friends?

Our congregation has enjoyed writing Christmas Cards to our church family for many years with the "postage" only being 10 cents a card. This has been a wonderful tradition to spread Christmas cheer!

If you bring your Christmas cards already signed and in envelopes with **just the name** on the envelope *(we don't need addresses)* and put them in the specially marked boxes at the church by noon on **December 11th**, we will do the delivering for you. The cost to mail each card is 10 cents. You can pick up your cards on anytime after **December 15th**. The mail boxes will be located in the foyer outside the sanctuary. *(Checks should be made out to the WUMC designate "Card fundraiser")*

- → Turn your cards in by December 11th.
- → Write cards to local, active members and friends of Wesley. We will NOT mail any cards not picked up.
- → If you are unable to get to the church to drop off the cards, or pickup cards on the 18th, let the church office know and we will arrange for someone to pickup or deliver the cards. (If you can help deliver cards, please let the church office know)

To drop-off or pickup cards, come to the church Monday through Thursday from 9-noon. Check the big white cabinet on the counter near the sanctuary after the 15th even if you are new to the church. You may be surprised to find a card(s) with your name! The proceeds will go toward one of our mission outreach projects.

If you have questions or if you can help sort cards contact, Sylvia Krisnow.





Longest Night Service of Christmas —Wednesday December 21, Soup at 6 PM, Worship following

Not all Christmases are white—some are blue.

Chances are that either you or someone close to you has felt depressed during the holiday season. When it seems like the whole world is filled with lights, celebration, friends, and family, many among us feel an amplified sense of loss, grief, and disconnection.

This Advent while we celebrate Christ's birth we are also living in a physically distanced world with different parameters of interaction. Many will be blue this Christmas because they are far from — or grieving the loss of — loved ones and cherished traditions. As we face the stressors this year, we long for the Holy One. Experience light and hope together through worship and prayer.

Gather for a light soup dinner at 6PM and stay for a time of prayer filled worship.

Begun as a service bringing together themes of loneliness, loss, and grief during a season of bright activity, this worship focuses on God's presence and time to seek hopeful peace. Holding space on the physically longest night in our hemisphere to remember God is Lord of the dark and the light, with us in grace in the dark as well as the light. Come and worship the Lord in whom "darkness is as light". Rest into God's loving embrace.

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Women of the Church

The joint Mary Levin Bible Study **Group/United Women of Faith**

Christmas Party will be Wednesday evening, December 14th, 6:30 pm, at the home of Carol Hale.

Please bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped Christmas ornament or small gift (\$10 limit).

All Women of the Church are Invited!

Do come and bring a friend to this annual festive, laughter-filled gathering.

For many years Wesley's United Methodist Women have collected new underwear, hats, and gloves as Christmas gifts for persons served by the Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center

The VA volunteer office also collects Jigsaw puzzles, puzzle books. There will be a collection bin in the hallway outside the fellowship hall for any of the above items you wish to donate to make the holidays a little brighter for our veterans.

Reminder: The District UWF Advent Prayer Breakfast is Saturday, December 3rd, 9:30 AM, at First Fox Hill UMC, 1 Salt Pond Road, Hamp-

ton. Deadline to signup is November 25th. Cost is \$12. If you would like to carpool, contact Pat Fitzgerald.



Offering envelopes

BREAKFAST

Offering envelopes for the 2023 calendar year will be on the Information Counter during the month of December. Please pick up your box by De-

cember 25th so you will have them to use starting in January, or let me know if you need me to bring them to you. If you do not have a box and want one, just let me know. *Please note:* I was able to reduce the number of boxes ordered for next year since many people are using bill pay and no longer need them, so your envelope number will be different in 2023. Let me know if you have any questions. Kathann Montague, Financial Secretary, 722-8744 or kdm8989@cox.net



UM Day at General Assembly Jan 26, 2023

Always wanted to go to UM Day at the General Assembly but you aren't sure if it's really for you?

Are you wondering what issues we'll be advocating for in 2023 before you sign up?

Do you have no clue what UM Day at the General Assembly is but you have Fear of Missing Out?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions then our December 1 Day at the General Assembly Preview is a right for you. Join us on Zoom at 7 pm to learn more about UM Day and ask any questions. Register here. UM Day at General Assembly Preview (google.com)

Reverend Heather Wray

Members of the Virginia Conference have been change-makers in the Commonwealth for 30 years through United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. The next advocacy event will take place on January 26, 2023.

Participants will meet with their delegates and senators to discuss issues that are relevant to the United Methodist faith with direction from our partners at Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP). Come and join in to continue the legacy as change-makers here in our Commonwealth.

Sages Luncheon



Dec 7th at 12:30 PM -

Sages Christmas Luncheon – Longhorn Steak House, 108 Marketplace Dr, Hampton

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please sign-up, email or call the church office if you would like to attend.

Contact: Sylvia Krisnow



Address:

Norm and Patrice Knight (son, Matthew) 7590 Springfield Court Gloucester VA 23061-4206

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Save the date

December 24th—Christmas Eve Worship 7 PM Come together for a special time of worship focused on Jesus' nativity as part of God's unfolding gift of salvation. There will be singing, candle-lighting, prayer and praise. Bring your family and friends as part of your seasonal festivities.

December 25th—Christmas Day worship 10 AM Celebrate Jesus' birth in style: Christmas Pajamas, Crazy Christmas sweaters, Fancy Finest Formalwear. You choose. Together we will praise God for this wonderful gift of love borne into the world in the babe of Jesus. Carol Singing will feature.

January 1st, 10 AM — Worship Brunch! Come as you are for New Year's brunch and worship. Gather in the Fellowship Hall as we mark the new year, praising God together around the table. Watch for details.



Bishop Sue Haupert-Johnson

Bishop Sue Haupert-Johnson was assigned to the Virginia Conference (Richmond Episcopal Area) during the morning

business session on November 4, 2022, during the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

She has shared a video message with the Virginia Conference.

View on YouTube here: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=FjV7 hRrHA8

View on the conference website here: https://

vaumc.org/sej2022/

Voices From the Field—Monday, December 5, 2022, 10 AM ET (9:00 AM Central) Virtual via Zoom—Register at https://uwfaith-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsfuyqqz4tGdx7SEjdqNgdSRngM7qQYfXx

Join Emma Cantor, United Women in Faith Regional Missionary to Asia & Pacific, to hear how God is moving in mission through our work with women in the Philippines.

United Women in Faith has a long-standing relationship with the women of the Philippines. Historically, missionaries sent to the Philippines started ministries in education and health and built local centers for social services. Today, that relationship continues with the work focusing on leadership development, skills building, and livelihoods enhancement programs.

This is an opportunity to join a discussion to engage, connect, and grow in mission as our Regional Missionary Emma Cantor shares how United Women in Faith's work equips and transforms the lives of women and their communities.

Don't miss the opportunity to join the *Voices From the Field* virtual event on December 5, 2022, to learn more about the international work of United Women in Faith and the tremendous impact it has had on lives and livelihoods of thousands of women and their families in the Philippines and around the world. An optional breakout session will follow the one-hour program.

*If the registration link does not work for you, please copy, and paste this text into your browser window: https://uwfaith-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsfuyqqz4tGdx75EjdqNgdSRngM7qQYfXx

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Please save the confirmation; it contains your personal link to the event.

We look forward to seeing you on December 5, 2022!

Tatiana Dwyer and Betty Gittens, and the Voices Planning Team

The quarterly *Voices From the Field* events feature leaders sharing their work and life stories, daily challenges, hopes, and dreams. This conversation series highlights United Women in Faith initiatives supported by Mission Giving — initiatives that significantly improve the lives of women, children, and youth — down the block and around the world.

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Prayer Concerns

Abby Ashley Baby Grayson Barbie Holland Ben Stanley Betsy Pinder Bill Lauder Bill Mee Buddy Carlisle Caleb Coates

Charlie Craig Savage Cynthia Campbell Dave Bisacre

Deb Debbie

Donna Kennedy

Dorothy Dylan Freta Lamb

Helen and Zeb Cope

Helga Lutes Jay Smith Jeannie Capriotti

Jeff Birdsall

Jeff Dunevant

JoAnn Joella

Jonnie Sowers Judi Hines

Justin Johnson Karen Bowers

Kath

Kelly Phillips Kenny Crocker

Lana Koblinsky Lucy Stowe

Mary Bayless Nancy Companion Nina Winfree

Pat Fitzgerald Patty Bumgarner

Ritchie Whitehair

Robin Welch Ron and Sylvia Rumsey Sam Stacy Stew Bowden Susan Nichols Vicky Moyer Wanda Wayne and Judy



Glory Sightings

Zach Perkins

Sylvia Krisnow-Ray's a wedding we walked into a house that everyone was staying at and saw a copy of the Upper Room on the side table. The owner said "That just goes to show us that God is everywhere." Jeanne Lineberry- My son, Joseph, also saw a copy of the Upper Thank you for the many kind words and Room and took the time to read that day's reading. He said "That is Me' after reading it. Hopefully he will continue to let God work in his life. Mike Nelson- While at the grocery store, I overheard a couple talking about how expensive pumpkins were. I told them about the Pumpkin

Patch at Wesley. Blessings and Praise for all the Saints in our lives past and present.

Lynnette Scalzi- The chorus concert at Phillips Elementary School to honor veterans. Family members of the students recognized for their service to our country. Jerry Sowers - I had an appointment at a local Doc in a Box but they couldn't find it. I ended up in Williamsburg and they couldn't find my appointment either right away. I was blessed to sister, be seen without an hours long wait. Glory to Janice's celebration of life. The shar- God for a short wait. Carol Hale- Everyone ing of memories and being with fam- that is in church today. Jeanne Lineberryily. Susan Brookman- Seeing God Last week's service with Bishop Weaver's working in our lives every day. story about "The body has a soul but really Watching David care for his dad dur- the soul has a body." I looked inside myself ing his final days, seeing their love to let things go and enjoy Thanksgiving no for each other. At his dad's celebra- matter where I am at Mike Nelson- While tion of life, I was outside and saw on vacation Gretchen and I attended a pot-Charlie, Becky and Caroline walking tery painting class. There was not any seatdown the sidewalk to come and ing available inside so we sat out on the paspend time with our family. Jerry tio. It was quiet and peaceful compared Sowers- My son Phillip and his wife to the noise and chaos inside. Sylvia Dana are expecting their first child. Krisnow- The Blood Drive collected 33 units Pat Fitzgerald- The blessing of all of blood that will help save 99 lives when who rallied together to make the needed. Jack Rezabek- Salvation Army bell Pumpkin patch a success. Thanks to ringing has started. While ringing the bell I all who helped especially during the played Jingle Bells and a little girl started last week when I was unable to be singing the song. Nancy Gumbert- Reading there. David Roane- While attending to Kindergarten and first graders for the Mayor's book club. Seeing the faces of all

-

the children and how much they enjoyed the

To Our Church Family,

cards you shared with us at the recent passing of David's dad. It has indeed been a difficult year for our family, but with God's grace and your caring we find comfort. We are blessed to call you family.

Love, David & Susan Brookman



books. Pat Fitzgerald- Donna Turley and I attended the Prayer Walk at Machen Elementary School. Prayers were said for all the students, teachers and staff for a safe place for learning and teaching.

Concerns:

Prayers for the Salvation Army bell ringing campaign. Keep all the bell ringers safe. Prayers for Pastor Gretchen and Mike as they go on vacation this week. Bring them back rested and refreshed. Prayers for those that are struggling with mental health issues. Prayers for Machen Elementary School's students and staff for a safe place to learn and grow. Travel mercies for all who will travel this Thanksgiving holiday. Prayers for people that Thanksgiving will be a struggle. Whether they are with family or are going to be away from home.

Christian Sympathy goes to the following families:

Norm, Patrice and Matthew Knight on Jeremy's passing.

Lisa, on the loss of her mom and uncle.

Prayers for the family of Alexander Hill on his passing.

Maureen, Justin, Lucy and Sadie Miller on the death of their husband/father-John Miller

Dan and Mary Connell and family on the death of their daughter Danette.



Left-thanks to all that donated to the Henderson Settlement.

Right-Jack Rezabek is honored for his dedication as a Prayer Warrior by Donna Turley



DECEMBER 04 | 2nd Sunday of Advent (Purple or Blue)

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19 (*UMH* 795); Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

DECEMBER 11 | 3rd Sunday of Advent (Purple or Blue)

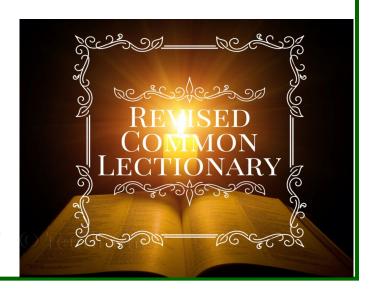
Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:47-55 (*UMH* 199); James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

DECEMBER 18 | 4th Sunday of Advent (Purple or Blue)

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 (*UMH* 801); Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

DECEMBER 24 | Christmas Eve (White or Gold) Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalms 96 (*UMH* 815); Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

DECEMBER 25 | Christmas Day (White or Gold) Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalms 98 (*UMH* 818); Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14



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Birthdays and Anniversaries

- Ray Krisnow
- 6 Jack Rezabek Mary Saylor

5

- 12 Lauren Gumbert Chris Companion Heather Warf
- 14 Kathann Montague
- Bethany Oliver
 - Eddie/Donna Page (1973)
- Marian Guldner
- Poto Valentine Shutsha,Missionary (Congo)
- 27 Cynthia Campbell
- 31 Lindsay Baynham



We are excited to invite you to join us for #StillInMission Episode 49 on December 1, at 12:00 PM ET. You will find the details for the episode here. We cannot wait to see you there!

Registration is required. Register here: https://gbgm.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMkdeCqrjsqH918yTpD89y3orc5lDIJxf0y

United Methodist Missionaries are #stillinmission and we hope that you will join us to learn more!

As always, if you have any questions at all or if you want promotional materials for your church or small group, please let us know!

We cannot wait to see you in a few weeks.

Sincerely,

Erica Oliveira (she, her, hers) on behalf of the Itineration Team



Those Assisting in Worship

Counter Schedule

December 4—Amy Stanley/Stephanie Eitzen
December 11—Stephanie Eitzen/Debbie Anderson
December 18—Debbie Anderson/Clyde Gumbert
December 25—Christmas (asking for Volunteers)





In this monthly virtual event, hear firsthand experience from missionaries about their call to mission and the communities they serve.

Join us on December 1, 12 P.M. (ET) for conversations with missionaries:



Ann Hidalgo
Professor of Theological Studies
Universidad Biblica Latinoamericana
in Costa Rica
Advance ##3022606



Genilma Boehler
Lecturer of Theology
United Methodist University
of Mozambique
Advance #3021277



Imourana Bockarie
Assistant Farm Project Manager
International Leadership Institute
of Southern Africa in Zambia
Advance #3022636

REGISTER





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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 1st Sunday in Advent 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service In-person, Zoom and Facebook Hanging of the Greens 7:00pm NA Recovery Group	28	29 9:30am Chair Yoga	6:00pm Big Book Topic Group (AA) 8:00pm Charge Conference via Zoom	1 9:30am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Choir Practice	2	3 9:30am UWF Advent Prayer Breakfast - 1st UMC Fox Hill
4	5 7:00pm Metal Detector Club - Fellowship Hall	6 9:30am Chair Yoga	7 12:30pm Sages Longhorn Steakhouse 6:00pm Big Book Topic Group (AA) 6:30pm Mary Levin Bible Study	8 9:30am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Choir Practice	9	10
9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service In-person, also on Zoom and Facebook live 11:15am Card Sorting 7:00pm NA Recovery Group	12	9:30am Chair Yoga	6:00pm Big Book Topic Group (AA) 6:30pm MBLS/UWF Christmas Party	9:30am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Choir Practice	9:00am MDO Christmas Party	17
9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service In-person, also on Zoom and Facebook live Christmas Cantata 7:00pm NA Recovery Group	19	20 9:30am Chair Yoga	21 6:00pm Big Book Topic Group (AA) 6:00pm Soup and Blue Christmas Worship following at 7PM	9:30am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Choir Practice	23	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Wesley United Methodist Church

2510 N. Armistead Avenue Hampton, VA 23666

Phone: 757-838-3044 Fax: 757-838-1663

E-mail: secretary@wesleyhpt.hrcoxmail.com

gretchennelson@vaumc.org

Website: http://www.HAMPTONWESLEY.ORG

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED





Prepared with love especially for:

Advent Schedule

November 27-December 18 Sundays

6:00-7:30 PM Advent Bible Study on Zoom

November 26

9 AM Prepare for Hanging of the Greens

November 27

10 AM Hanging of the Greens during the Service

November 30

8:00 PM – Charge Conference via Zoom. A link will be sent at a later date.

December 3, Saturday

9:30 AM – York River District UWF Advent Breakfast at Fox Hill

December 4, Sunday—Poinsettia Deadline/Angel Tree Deadline

December 7, Wednesday

12:30 PM—Sages lunch at Longhorn in Hampton

December 11, Sunday—Christmas Card Deadline

12:30 PM – Sort Christmas Cards—Come join the fun and help sort cards!

December 14, Wednesday

6:30 PM - Mary Levin Bible Study/United Methodist Women Christmas Party at Carol Hale's

December 21, Wednesday

6:00 PM Soup and Blue Christmas Service following at 7 PM

December 24, Saturday

7:00 PM Candlelight and music. Hear the story of Jesus with hearts open to receive. Bring the light of Love into the world in worship and wonder.

December 25, Sunday—Merry Christmas!

9 AM—Breakfast Potluck before 10 AM service

December 28, Wednesday

A Night's Welcome Meal

January 1, Sunday

10:00AM – Worship Brunch in the Fellowship Hall – Please bring a brunch item to share.

