



Wesley Tidings

Wesley United Methodist Church

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Pastor's Ponderings

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

"In these last days, God has spoken to us by a SON." (Hebrews 1: 2) ADVENT, in my understanding, I would like to acronym as follows:

Amazing
Divine
Venture
Expressed in
Novel/New
Theophany



Hebrews 1: 1-3 "Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days God has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom God has created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word."

In the Bible, God revealed Godself in many varied ways. In the Hebrew Scripture God revealed himself to humanity as Creator God, who delivered the Hebrew people from slavery, then God was revealed through the words, lives, and the actions of the prophets and servants of God. The theophany happened from the beginning. Theophany, the combination of two Greek words means the appearance of God, a manifestation of God, God shows Godself to humankind. Hebrews 1:1-3 says that God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways.

That means in and through prophets God spoke kind words and judgment words, love of God and anger of God expressed by the prophets. Advent is preparing for the arrival of the expected Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. God finally spoke to each one of us through Jesus Christ, who is the full and final revelation of God. Jesus is the reflection of God and the exact imprint of God's very being. How amazing isn't it? As a mom, I speak with my son in various ways and tones, but my ultimate expression is love and love alone towards my son. In the same manner, God's ultimate expression and communication is God's love, grace, and mercy which is showered upon us in and through Jesus Christ.

This season of advent as we prepare our hearts, homes, and church sanctuary for Christ's arrival, let us not prepare only by how the world wants us to do by buying, and spending. But we will think, meditate, and study how **ADVENT is an Amazing Divine Venture Expressed in Novel/New Theophany.** Christ is the visible expression of the invisible God. Why is it novel? Christ is the One who brought the hope, peace, joy, and love of God to the fullest extent to each one of us through his birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection. May the hope, joy, love, and peace of the Advent season be your blessing, and let the Theophany (appearance of God) continue to fill your hearts, souls, and minds!

May the grace and love of Christ be seen in you and through you! *Pastor Archana Samuel*



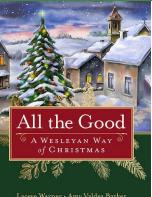
The world was lost in darkness over 2,000 years ago...until the coming of Christ turned that darkness into light. Mary and Joseph moved from dark times to a joyful celebration of the Incarnation. We can also move from darkness into light when we come to the Light of the world.

with *Darkness into Light* a Christmas Musical Journey by Mary McDonald. Contact person—Jerry Sowers

Twilight Harp/Guitar Concert December 10, 6:00 PM

The Williamsburg Youth Harp Society and the Advanced Guitar Studies from Kecoughtan High School will jointly present a Twilight Harp and Guitar concert Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 6:00PM in the sanctuary of Wesley UMC. We have had the privilege of Harps and Cellos before, but this year I am pleased to announce that Guitars will be playing with the harps. Contact persons: Jerry Sowers and Cynthia Campbell.





By Mary McDonald

Advent Bible Study

Join us Sundays, from 11:45-12:45 PM (following fellowship) in the Double Classroom room #8 (aka Library). All ages are welcome. Bring curiosity, desire to grow, something for notes, and a study Bible.

Dis or

Pastor Archana will lead an Advent BibleStudy, "All the Good, A Wesleyan Way of Christmas", by Laceye Warner, Amy Valdez Barker, Junc Choi, Sangwo Kim. If you would like to contribute to the study books, the cost is \$13.00 each. I have ordered the books and will let you know when they arrive. The Bible Study will take place on Sundays, 3, 10, and 17 December, following Fellowship, in the Double Classroom. Contact person, Pastor Archana





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H.E.L.P. Food Pantry

The shelves are empty! There is a great need for all nonperishable

canned meat (tuna, spam, canned ham, etc.) breakfast items: (cereal, pancake mix, granola) spaghetti noodles (all types of pasta)

Spaghetti noodies (all types of pasta)
Spaghetti sauce powdered milk
Rice peanut butter
canned vegetables canned fruit
canned chili canned spaghetti
canned soups crackers

boxed potatoes

The food is delivered to the H.E.L.P. food pantry monthly. Toilet paper is also needed.

Contact: Sherry Moore





NOTE: Salvation Army Angel Tree: The "angels" have all been "adopted" – thank you to all!

Just a reminder -

Unwrapped Angel Tree gifts should be returned to the church by Sunday, Dec. 10.

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. *



Plus (senior) group at First United Methodist Church Fox Hill (1 Salt Pond Road, Hampton, VA 23664) will be traveling to Charleston, SC, April 10 - 13, 2024, and has opened seats to other local congregations who may be interested. You may have been before, but we think you will find we are doing lots of "different" things on this trip. Attractions include a tour of Historic Charleston, Fort Sumter, Boone Hall Plantation and Gardens, the Naval & Maritime Museum, and a presentation of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* in the Historic Dock Street Theatre.

The flyer, which can be accessed on the web at https://storage2.snappages.site/NGHBQ9/assets/files/Itinerary-Reservation-Charleston.pdf. If you view the flyer on line there are many included links to the places we will be visiting. For more information, contact Bill Bryan at bill@firstumcfoxhill.org or by phone at 757-851 -0748. Deposits are needed by Dec 12, so don't delay.



A Nights Welcome

Wesley UMC will be serving dinner to the guests at A Night's Welcome on Wednes-

day December 27th (Calvary Reformed Presbyterian Church, 403 Whealton Rd); if you can help prepare some of the food and/or help to serve dinner please let Anne Companion know (757-630-5860). Dinner will be served to the guests at 6:30pm. We will also be preparing bagged breakfasts and an e-mail will go out soon re-

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 7th.

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 10th**, 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 10th.
- + 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 10th, 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, Nancy Gumbert





Longest Night Service of Christmas Monday, December 18, 7 PM

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.

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.



Women of the Church

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

Christmas Party will be Wednesday evening, December 6th, 6:00 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 hall-way 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 2nd, 9:30 AM, at First Fox Hill UMC, 1 Salt Pond Road,

Hampton. Deadline to signup is November 26th. Cost is \$13.



Offering envelopes

Offering envelopes for the 2024 calendar year will be on the Information Counter during the month of December

Please pick up your boxes by December 31st 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.

Let me know if you have any questions. Kathann Montague, Financial Secretary, 757-722-8744 or kdm8989@cox.net



UM Day at General Assembly February 1, 2024

Have you heard of UM Day at the General Assembly? It's a day when United Methodists come together to do amazing

things by advocating for neighbors by meeting with elected representatives.

During this event, participants learn about issues that are facing people all across the Commonwealth., connect with other United Methodists, and together celebrate our United Methodist faith that values justice, advocacy, and compassion.

Thursday, February 1, 2024 The Pace Center 700 West Franklin Street Richmond, Virginia

Early Bird Registrations thru January 7, 2024-\$25 Regular Registration as of January 8, 2024 - \$35 Student Registration - \$10

Already know you want to join the event? Register:

https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=767749&

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Heather Wray at heatherwray@yaumc.

Sages Luncheon

December 13th at 12:30 PM – Sages Christmas Luncheon – Frank's Monster Munchies Cantina, 2710 N Armistead, 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.

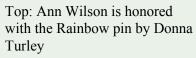
Contact: Sylvia Krisnow











Left: Cynthia Campbell-special Music

Right: Lynnette Scalzi with Mother's Day Out

















Harmony House-Nov 10 Songs of Gratefulness



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Prayer Concerns

Alan Keishley

Barbie Holland

Brenda Baynham

Brian Hill

David Brookman

Deborah Cawley

Diane Fishburn

Freta Lamb

Jim McKirdy

Judy Kirlin

Ken Johnson

Mary Rezabek

Nina Winfree

Savoy Morton

Zach Ames

Other Concerns:

Prayers for the Virginia Annual Conference and its congregations' ministries. Mission Rivers district and all the churches and its ministries. For Bishop Sue and the cabinet. Tragedies occurring in our country and around the world, war, violence and sufferings of common people. Human trafficking and families affected in that cruel system.. Our seniors, our church leadership, and ministries, all other groups using our building and their struggles to

overcome. Persons who recover from addiction, those who wait for test results, treatments



and surgeries, healing for those in pain. Prayers for all who are suffering because of the tragedies in our world. Be with those who are grieving and for whom this time of year is difficult. Our churches and their leaders. The leaders of our city, state, country and world. Travel mercies for Thanksgiving Holiday travelers. Let their journeys coming and going be safe. Prayers for Jack Rezabek and all the Salvation Army bell ringers. Prayers for all who have lost loved ones. People that are struggling in the world because of war, violence, homelessness, family difficulties and all other reasons. Congregation members celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. Travel mercies for Pastor Archana and Sam as they travel to Atlanta, for a Conference.

Glory Sightings:

Jeanne Lineberry- Twenty-one people had Thanksgiving dinner at my son's home. It was wonderful to see how my son leading his family in Christ's path. Nancy Gumbert- Wesley's Thanksgiving dinner was wonderful. There was plenty of food and lots of great fellowship. Lynnette Scalzi- Serving dinner for Night's Welcome was a pleasure. The guests appreciated the meal and all the "thank yous" we received were wonderful. Pastor Archana- We traveled to Maryland to spend Thanksgiving with my sister-in-law. My brother was in India, and we didn't want her

to be alone for the holiday. It was a wonderful time with family. We were glad to have Abishek home for the week. Jerry Sowers - I was able to find and purchase a Promethean Board (they are used in the schools) and with the help of some of the men in the church we were able to mount it on the wall in the Fellowship Hall. It can be used to watch movies and a multitude of other uses. Monica Sprague - I was able to be a witness to two couples getting married this weekend. Pastor Archana- The Conference I attended this past week was a great experience. I met other clergy from different cultures that have been called to serve God and the United Methodist Church. I was excited to meet female clergy from India. Marsha Ames - My mother celebrated her 99th birthday. All her children, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren were there to help her celebrate. Sylvia Krisnow-The Celebration of Life for Donna Kennedy. Jeanne Lineberry-Staying upbeat and cheerful for my fellow volunteers during a long and exhausting day at the polls. David Roane- Friday night at Harmony House was wonderful. Pastor Archana- Friday night singing the hymns of Thanksgiving and feeling the Holy Spirit in the Fellowship Hall. Jim McKirdy- My visit with the doctor on Wednesday went smoothly. Helen Cope- Being at Arlington National Cemetery on Veteran's Day.

Our Christian Sympathy goes to the following families:

Rev. Dr. Charles L Bates (Mission Rivers DS) on the death of his sister Maude Freeman.

Rosemary Williams-Bensted's on the death of her mother.

Anne Companion family on the death of her brother, Kip Deacon.

Family of Donna Kennedy on her death. Family of Betsy Simmons on her death.



What is UMCOR?

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief – UMCOR – assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of

help and hope for the vulnerable. UMCOR provides relief, response and long-term recovery grants when events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development. https://umcmission.org/umcor/

No one knows where or when the next disaster will strike. But a gift to UMCOR ensures the UMC can respond as quickly as conditions allow – and continue supporting for the long haul.

Learn how gifts to UMCOR – Where Most Needed supported responses from Texas to Turkey in 2023. https://umcmission.org/story/umcor-compassionate-response-in-the-wake-of-disaster/?

Current aid from UMCOR around the world:

Holy Land—To date, UMCOR has awarded three emergency grants to local partners in Israel and Gaza. They are using the funds to procure and distribute hygiene kits for internally displaced people, provide psychosocial treatment and counseling, and offer telemedicine services for mothers and children in need of follow-up care, but without safe access to a clinic.

Aid in Ukraine continues—As displaced people accept long-term evacuation from their hometowns, more shelters, jobs and removal of unexploded weapons become primary concerns for UMCOR support. https://umcmission.org/story/umcor-continues-to-support-partners-in-ukraine-2

Caring for God's Creation—The largest class since 2019, 57 new EarthKeepers have been commissioned to lead local projects that include forest gardening, xeriscaping and renewable energy. https://umcmission.org/story/a-new-class-of-earthkeepers-equipped-to-care-for-gods-creation/

Would you sponsor a Heart Havens home, resident for Christmas?

Would you or your church group sponsor a resident or Heart Havens home for Christmas? Heart Havens takes pride in providing a joyful holiday for all our residents. There are people in the homes who would not otherwise receive gifts. Your donation of \$125 will sponsor a resident and \$500 will sponsor a home. Donations allow the staff closest to the resident to shop for items they will love, giving joy to both the residents and staff. You can note "Resident Christmas Gifts" on your check or donate online.

https://heart-havens.networkforgood.com/



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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
- 15 Bethany Oliver Eddie/Donna Page (1973) Happy 50th Anniversary!
- 20 Marian Guldner
- 27 Cynthia Campbell
- 31 Lindsay Baynham





Those Assisting in Worship

Counter Schedule

3-Debbie Andersen/Clyde Gumbert 10-Clyde Gumbert/Renee Arnold

17-Renee Arnold/Amy Stanley

24-VOLUNTEERS

31–Amy Stanley/ Stephanie Eitzen



Our coffee houses will resume in January.

TFAM COFFEE HOUSES FOR 2024 JAN 26 – Brian Grilli

Feb 23 - Jackie and Resa

Mar 22 - Baddadz

April 26 – Kim & Lana Contact person, Jerry Sowers



DECEMBER 03 | 1st Sunday of Advent (Purple or Blue): Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 (UMH 801); 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

DECEMBER 10 | 2nd Sunday of Advent (Purple or Blue): Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13 (UMH 806); 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

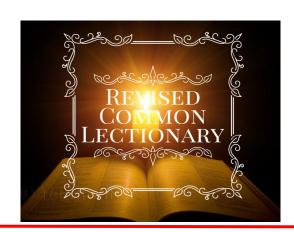
DECEMBER 17 | 3rd Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11; Psalms 126 (UMH 847); 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

DECEMBER 24 | 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve (White or Gold): 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 (UMH 199); Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalms 96 (UMH 815); Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

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

DECEMBER 31 | 1st Sunday after Christmas Day (White or Gold) Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalms 148 (UMH 861); Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	9:30am UWF Advent Breakfast - First Fox Hill UMC
3 First Sunday in Advent 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service In- person and Facebook live 7:00pm NA Recovery Group	4 7:00pm Metal Detector Club - Fellowship Hall	Yoga 6:00pm Men's Bible Study - John	Carol Hales Home	7 9:30am Chair Yoga 6:00pm Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Group 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Girl Scouts	8	9
Christmas Card & Angel Tree Deadline 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service In- person and Facebook live 6:00pm Harp Concert with Kecoughtan High School HARP & GUTTAR Advanced Guitar Students - Cynthia Campbell 7:00pm NA Recovery Group	11	Meeting - John Phillips Classroom	Monster Munchies Cantina, 2710 N	14 9:30am Chair Yoga 6:00pm Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Group 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Girl Scouts	15	16
9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Christmas Musical Sanctuary Choir 10:00am Worship Service Inperson and Facebook live 7:00pm NA Recovery Group	18 7:00pm Blue Christmas Service	19 9:30am Chair Yoga 6:00pm Men's Bible Study - John Phillips Classroom 6:30pm NA Meeting 7:00pm SAA Meeting - Double Classroom		21 9:30am Chair Yoga 6:00pm Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Group 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Girl Scouts	22	23
9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service In- person and Facebook live 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00pm NA Recovery Group	Merry Christmas Office Closed	26 9:30am Chair Yoga 6:30pm NA	6:00pm Big Book Topic Group (AA)	28 9:30am Chair Yoga 6:00pm Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Group 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Girl Scouts	29	30
31 9:00am Potluck Breakfast BREAKFAST POTLUCK 10:00am Worship Service In-	1 *Happy New Ylar* Office Closed	2 6:30pm NA Meeting 7:00pm SAA Meeting - Double Classroom		6:00pm Take Off Pounds Sensibly	5	6

Our Calendar is updated daily! Please go to our website for a current calendar at http://www.HAMPTONWESLEY.ORG

Wesley United Methodist Church

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E-mail: secretary@wesleyhpt.hrcoxmail.com

archanasamuel@vaumc.org

Website: http://www.HAMPTONWESLEY.ORG

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED





Prepared with love especially for:

Advent Schedule

December 2 Saturday

9:30 AM - Mission River District UWF Advent Breakfast at Fox Hill UMC

December 6 Wednesday

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

<u>December 6-27 (Wednesdays)</u>—Pastor Archana will post a devotional video on Facebook.

An email link will also be sent to the congregation.

December 7, Thursday—Poinsettia Deadline

December 10, Sunday—Christmas Card Deadline/Angel Tree Deadline

11:30 PM – Sort Christmas Cards—Come join the fun and help sort cards!

6:00 PM - Harp Concert with Kecoughtan High School Advanced Guitar Class - Sanctuary

December 13, Wednesday—

12:30 PM—Sages Christmas Luncheon at Frank's Monster Munchies Cantina, 2710 N Armistead, Hampton

December 17, Sunday

10:00 AM—Darkness into Light—Choir Musical, during worship

December 18, Monday

7:00 PM Blue Christmas Service

December 24, Saturday

7:00 PM Candlelight and music.

December 25, Sunday—Merry Christmas!

December 27, Wednesday

A Night's Welcome Meal

December 31, Sunday

9:00 AM - Worship Brunch in the Fellowship Hall - Please bring a brunch item to share.