

SMOKE



SIGNAL

Our Mission Statement:

*"Sharing the love of Christ with ALL people."*

December 2020 Newsletter  
Burnt Factory United Methodist Church  
1943 Jordan Springs Road  
Stephenson, Virginia 22656  
C. Steven Melester, Pastor

*"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." -Matthew 5:16*

*Christmas Message*

*"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. Everyone went to his own home town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn."*

2020 has brought to the world many challenges and many difficulties. It has also been the year of the census here in the U.S.A. Let us all take time to remember that the greatest gift that has ever been given, the gift that is Jesus Christ, our Lord, was born to us, during a census.

Let us also remember, that 2020 means perfect vision! Perhaps, the year of 2020, will help provide us with clarity of sight, so we can see and remember what is truly important! 2020 vision helps us to see clear and true the needs of others and the importance of love! It helps us to see the face of Jesus in others. It helps us to see the truth of the Gospel. It helps us to see love as the pathway and vehicle for evangelism, mission, worship, witness and testimony. 2020 vision also gives us perspective!

If we can take anything good out of this year, maybe it is; to cast our 2020 eyes upon the Christ-child with a renewed sense of hope, love, joy, and peace. Perhaps, with our 2020 perfect sight, we can see the perfection of the one who came to set us free, see the perfection of the one who came to die for us on a cross of our making, see the perfection of the one who rose again for our sake to give us eternal and everlasting life!

Perhaps with 2020 vision we will never take for granted again the joy of worshipping together in God's house, the joy of a firm hand shake, the joy of giving and receiving hugs, the joy of holding the hand of someone as we pray, the joy of receiving a visit, the joy of singing, the joy of receiving Holy Communion, the joy of being united through community, the joy of watching our children come forward, the joy of being in Sunday school, the joy of being nurtured in fellowship, the joy of seeing each other weekly and the joy of just plain gathering together to worship our Lord!

2020 vision may be one of the great blessings of this 2020 pandemic year!

I hope we all can see clearly what we need to do in 2021.

I pray that 2020 vision will help us grow in our discipleship and faith.

I pray that 2020 vision will always be focused upon our Lord and what it is he would have us to do.

I pray that 2020 vision will look to God and no one else for our direction, meaning and purpose.

I pray that 2021 will bring revival, renewal and devotion.

I pray that those who have slipped will regain their footing and that those who have given up, will be encouraged to find their way back into the game.

*Pastor's Message continues on the following page.....*

*Pastor's Message continues.....*

I pray that God's love will reign supreme and that forgiveness will abound and grace be abundant.  
Pandemics, politics and protests will never stop Christmas!

Let us all, with clarity of 2020 vision, see Christmas for what it is truly is:  
The greatest gift in the history of the world!

*"For unto us, a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called,  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

*Pastor Steve*

### *Christmas Greetings from our Pastor and Family*

*Melanie and I are so blessed to be in ministry with all of you at Burnt Factory UMC! It is hard to believe that I am mid-way through my 15<sup>th</sup> year serving as your pastor. In that time, we have experienced the providence and promise of God as our Lord continues to be faithful. We have seen the Holy Spirit move in glorious, exciting, and vibrant ways! Melanie and I still remember the first time we came to the church for our official introduction and the warmth and genuine affection you showered upon us then is still being showered upon us now!*

*We are so very grateful and so honored to be a part of Burnt Factory UMC and we are constantly amazed and perpetually humbled at your obedience to the Holy Spirit and your willingness to be the people God wants you to be!*

*Melanie and I cannot adequately express to you how very grateful we are to each and every one of you for your love, compassion, forgiveness, and grace!*

*As we continue to journey and minister together; it is our prayer that each of you have a very blessed Christmas; it is our hope that you will experience Christ anew and that all of you will know the peace that surpasses all understanding; the peace that came to us from heaven in a little baby born in a stable. It is our hope that all of you would have a prosperous and transformative new year where the love of Jesus Christ continues to grow and foster abundant and overflowing fruit for the Kingdom of God!*

*We love you and want to wish each and every one of you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!*

*Melanie, Ben, Abby and Pastor Steve  
(And Barney!)*





# December

BIRTHDAYS



# December

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathy Feight      19<sup>th</sup> Angela Renner
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Maureen Dick    21<sup>st</sup> Naomi Hahn
- Wyatt Nail            Brantley Neff
- 4<sup>th</sup> Avery Goode        24<sup>th</sup> Christian Fairbanks
- 6<sup>th</sup> Sam Lentz            25<sup>th</sup> *JESUS!*
- 11<sup>th</sup> Jean Blankenship   26<sup>th</sup> Polly Duvall
- Austin Luttrell       27<sup>th</sup> Tom Duvall
- 12<sup>th</sup> Emily Hartman     28<sup>th</sup> Don Duvall
- Rylee Jenkins        Dave Pool
- 13<sup>th</sup> Rob Moss            29<sup>th</sup> Bonnie Henry
- Colton Anderson    30<sup>th</sup> Melissa Clemons
- 14<sup>th</sup> Clayton Sutphin

- 6<sup>th</sup> Stuart & Judy Wolk
- 21<sup>st</sup> Jay & Anne Kackley
- 28<sup>th</sup> Tim & Anne Perrault

*Happy Birthday  
And  
Happy  
Anniversary,  
Everyone!*

*Have you given your email address to Keith Roberts, yet?*



Pastor Steve has special notices he needs to send to those who attend Burnt Factory.

The notices will include not only prayer concerns, but also schedule changes during bad weather.

Keith keeps an email list in his computer for just such purposes. Your email address is protected and emails are sent, recipients not disclosed, to protect your privacy.

Kindly send your email address to Keith Roberts at [john.k.roberts@comcast.net](mailto:john.k.roberts@comcast.net) with the message:  
*"ADD ME TO THE CHURCH EMAIL LIST"* *Thank You*



Here is your "Friendly Reminder" for the January 2021 Church Newsletter Articles.

Articles needed by 3:00pm on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Newsletter will be sent on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Don't forget you can also view the newsletter on the church website*

*Thanks, Charly*

This has been a difficult year for all of us and that is why praying for one another is even more important than ever before. We will be revealing our 2020 prayer partners this month at the UMW meeting December 10. At that time we will also be choosing new partners for 2021.

Please let Kathy Dixon know if you do not want to continue as a prayer partner or if you would like to be a part of this important ministry.

You can email her at [kjdixon7@msn.com](mailto:kjdixon7@msn.com) or call her at 703-407-2441.

Please let her know by December 10.

## Prayer Partners for 2021





## Buddy's Funnies for December

Why did Mr. and Mrs. Tonsil get dressed up? Because the doctor was taken them our!

How does a Penguin build his house? He "igloos" it together!

Why did the Bowling Pins stop working? They went on strike!

The invisible man married the invisible woman. Their kids were nothing to look at either!



Santa Claus has a big garden that he keeps during the summertime. The reason he does that is he wants to keep up with his "Hoe, Hoe, Hoe!"

I had an ear ache. I called my doctor and told him I think I have a problem with my ear. The doctor asked me which ear is it? I said, it's 2020, but it's getting close to 2021!

Margie and I wish everyone at Burnt Factory a *Merry Christmas* and a *HAPPY NEW YEAR*

and



for all your prayers!



### December 2020 Relay for Life Newsletter Article

#### *IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!!*

If you are interested in learning how to make a beautiful warm chunky blanket while supporting our Believers Relay for Life team, please call Lisa or email at (540) 664-4169 or [lispatterson423@gmail.com](mailto:lispatterson423@gmail.com) or me at (540) 247-5612 or [theresahgilbert@gmail.com](mailto:theresahgilbert@gmail.com).

**We will be socially distanced and masks will be required** at the Stonewall Ruritan Building on **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

The cost of the workshop (you supply the yarn) is \$25.00. Lisa will teach us all the steps we need to make a warm and cozy blanket and all of the proceeds will go to our team. Make sure that you get 8 oz. chunky yarn (make sure it's 8 oz. chunky yarn and at least 28 yards). You will need 6 skeins to make a 40 x 50" blanket.

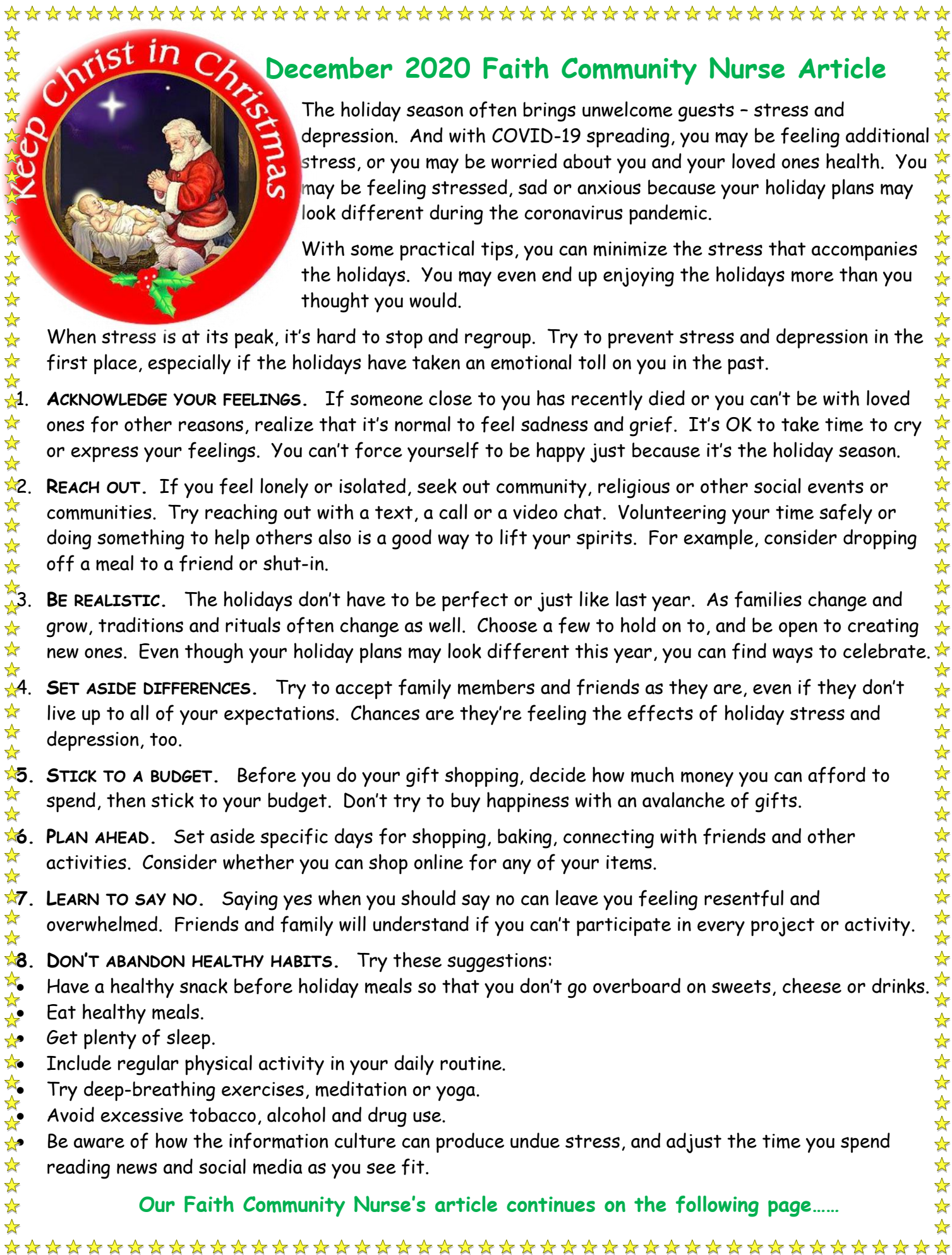
If you haven't joined our team yet, you can go online to [secure.acsevents.org](https://secure.acsevents.org) and register to become a Believer team member. Choose the Winchester/Frederick County event and the Believers team. It's so easy and it doesn't cost anything to join. Check out [The Believers](#) Facebook page for updates.

Stock up on bags of **Dum-Dum Lollipops** if you can so that once we start having Relay for Life team captain meetings so Lisa and I have them to take with us. The DumDums are for Cancer patients while they are being treated.

*Our mission is to save lives, celebrate lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer.*

*We thank you for your support!*

**Theresa Gilbert and Lisa Patterson, Co-Captains**



## December 2020 Faith Community Nurse Article

The holiday season often brings unwelcome guests - stress and depression. And with COVID-19 spreading, you may be feeling additional stress, or you may be worried about you and your loved ones health. You may be feeling stressed, sad or anxious because your holiday plans may look different during the coronavirus pandemic.

With some practical tips, you can minimize the stress that accompanies the holidays. You may even end up enjoying the holidays more than you thought you would.

When stress is at its peak, it's hard to stop and regroup. Try to prevent stress and depression in the first place, especially if the holidays have taken an emotional toll on you in the past.

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR FEELINGS.** If someone close to you has recently died or you can't be with loved ones for other reasons, realize that it's normal to feel sadness and grief. It's OK to take time to cry or express your feelings. You can't force yourself to be happy just because it's the holiday season.
2. **REACH OUT.** If you feel lonely or isolated, seek out community, religious or other social events or communities. Try reaching out with a text, a call or a video chat. Volunteering your time safely or doing something to help others also is a good way to lift your spirits. For example, consider dropping off a meal to a friend or shut-in.
3. **BE REALISTIC.** The holidays don't have to be perfect or just like last year. As families change and grow, traditions and rituals often change as well. Choose a few to hold on to, and be open to creating new ones. Even though your holiday plans may look different this year, you can find ways to celebrate.
4. **SET ASIDE DIFFERENCES.** Try to accept family members and friends as they are, even if they don't live up to all of your expectations. Chances are they're feeling the effects of holiday stress and depression, too.
5. **STICK TO A BUDGET.** Before you do your gift shopping, decide how much money you can afford to spend, then stick to your budget. Don't try to buy happiness with an avalanche of gifts.
6. **PLAN AHEAD.** Set aside specific days for shopping, baking, connecting with friends and other activities. Consider whether you can shop online for any of your items.
7. **LEARN TO SAY NO.** Saying yes when you should say no can leave you feeling resentful and overwhelmed. Friends and family will understand if you can't participate in every project or activity.
8. **DON'T ABANDON HEALTHY HABITS.** Try these suggestions:
  - Have a healthy snack before holiday meals so that you don't go overboard on sweets, cheese or drinks.
  - Eat healthy meals.
  - Get plenty of sleep.
  - Include regular physical activity in your daily routine.
  - Try deep-breathing exercises, meditation or yoga.
  - Avoid excessive tobacco, alcohol and drug use.
  - Be aware of how the information culture can produce undue stress, and adjust the time you spend reading news and social media as you see fit.

Our Faith Community Nurse's article continues on the following page.....

Our Faith Community Nurse's article continues.....

9. TAKE A BREATHER. Make some time for yourself. Find an activity you enjoy. Take a break by yourself. Spending just 15 minutes alone, without distractions, may refresh you enough to handle everything you need to do. Find something that reduces stress by clearing your mind, slowing your breathing and restoring inner calm.

Don't let the holidays become something you dread. Instead, take steps to prevent the stress and depression that can descend during the holidays. Learn to recognize your holiday triggers, such as financial pressures or personal demands, so you can combat them before they lead to a meltdown. With a little planning and some positive thinking, you can find peace and joy while remaining socially distanced and safe during the holidays.

"From the fullness of grace we have all received one blessing after another." John 1:16

Wishing you an abundantly, healthy, blessed holiday season!!!

Theresa

You can reach me at any time by e-mail at [tgilbert@afpdocs.com](mailto:tgilbert@afpdocs.com) or [theresa.h.seddon@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.h.seddon@gmail.com) or by phone at (540) 247-5612.

As your Faith Community Nurse, I am here to serve as a bridge to better health, meeting the wholistic healing mission of the church by partnering with the Pastor as a healer of the spirit, mind and body.



Fall News from the Outreach Commitee

This year has had its challenges as we continue to reach out into the community and help those in need due to loss of employment or homelessness. In January, we will provide a full listing of all that was donated in 2020, but we did want to bring a few recent donations to your attention. Thanks to your generous giving, the Outreach Committee has been able to support many organizations who continue to serve Winchester, Frederick Co and even the Dominican Republic!

CCAP has been able to provide food and clothing to the community by having volunteers pre-pack food bags/boxes and "shop" for clothing. There have been numerous food giveaways and a daily "blessings" table of perishable food. While overnight mission trips are on hold for now, several volunteers from BFUMC help each week to pack and pick up food as well as sort clothing. Over 600 Thanksgiving boxes were given out to the community! Thank you for your food, diaper and blanket donations.

We didn't have the leadership this year to participate in the Salvation Army bell ringing, however, we were able to send a \$500 donation to help with the Christmas kettle collection.

Social Services has provided us with 11 families who would like a Christmas meal and Fremont Street Nursery has also received non-perishable food to complete 30 Thanksgiving food baskets and 30 Christmas food baskets.

WATTS looks very different this year, with guests being served at one location, First UMC in downtown Winchester. You have continued to support WATTS through your food and monetary donations. While we can only provide a limited number of volunteers due to strict COVID-19 restrictions, we are able to staff each night with enough volunteers to check-in guests and provide dinner and breakfast.

Outreach article continues on the following page.....





United Methodist Women's article continues.....

If you feel comfortable in attending our UMW December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, we look forward to seeing you. It's always good to see friends we were used to seeing at various events in the church. Continue to pray for better days ahead. God is in control. Stay close to Him. This time of Advent can bring us peaceful moments, warm memories, cherished traditions and unexpected joys. Yes, it may be a different celebration this year, but we have been given a gift! Thank you, God, for giving us Jesus, your Son!

*Christmas Blessings, Polly Duvall, president*

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." -Romans 15:13.*



*CCAP, the Congregational-Community Action Project, is a cooperative ministry of area churches and one synagogue serving Winchester and Frederick County that have joined together to provide financial, material and supportive assistance to people in need. CCAP is located at 112 and 106 S. Kent Street.*

**NOVEMBER WAS A BUSY MONTH FOR CCAP COLLECTIONS!**

- We collected enough food for 32 complete Thanksgiving meals PLUS many more items to add to the boxes that were given out at CCAP. Your donations made it possible for families to prepare and share meals with their loved ones. A total of 600 meals were given out. *Thanks to Glen Fair for setting up the Sign-Up Genius and to all of you for filling this need. We also received several monetary donations this year which allowed us to purchase items needed.*
- *Even though our Thanksgiving Eve Service was held virtually, we collected 37 blankets and 2,084 diapers!! The blankets were beautiful and the diapers will serve 68 babies!!!*

**ON DECEMBER 12TH, CCAP WILL HAVE A CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY.** Food boxes and produce boxes will be given away along with New Winter Coats and Outerwear. The Rotary is providing the coats and CCAP is collecting the new outerwear. CCAP is working with Highland Pantry and in addition to our clients will provide 75 boxes of food to Bright Futures (not CCAP Clients) and 75 boxes of food to the Salvation Army (not CCAP Clients). Bright Futures and the Salvation Army will be providing the gifts and toys this year.

**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY LUNCH AT CCAP:** We served fewer CCAP clients at our November meal. We think this may be because WATTS is up and running for the season. Thanks to Donna Gallagher and her team for providing this delicious meal. Would you like to help with this Outreach? Our next Sunday lunch will be December 20<sup>th</sup>. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, we are serving outside at CCAP and preparing the meals off-site. We will start packing the meals at 11am and should be finished serving by 1. Cheryl and Mark Jones will be the team lead for this meal. If you would like to be part of this Outreach; please contact Cheryl at [Cheryl\\_B\\_Jones@yahoo.com](mailto:Cheryl_B_Jones@yahoo.com) or 540-931-9960.

There is a big need for Volunteers at CCAP:

- Volunteers are needed to work the Christmas Giveaway on 12/12.
- Our church continues to pack food bags every Tuesday from 9-11am. We would love for you to join our team.
- Financial Interviewers are needed Monday-Friday from 11am-1pm.
- Drivers are needed to pick up store donations.
- Pantry Workers are needed to assist in food distributions, packing food bags, and stocking shelves. There are openings Monday-Friday. Hours are 10am-1pm.
- Clothing Sorters – There are openings Monday-Friday. Hours are 10am-1pm. See Karen Willis or me for information.

**CCAP article continues on the following page.....**





