



# January

## SMOKE SIGNAL 2023

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Our Mission Statement  
Sharing the love of Christ with ALL  
people.

*“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your  
good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”*

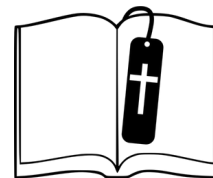
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## *Pastor's Message*

Pastor Steve Melester



Epiphany is an ancient celebration of the manifestation of Jesus to the gentiles. It's officially recognized on January 6<sup>th</sup> and Marks the last of the twelve days of Christmas. It is a celebration of the light that came into the word that is Jesus. It is a light that will never be extinguished. It is the light of truth. Henri Nouwen wrote in his devotional, *Bread for the Journey*, these wonderful words of assurance. The chapter was entitled: “Enough Light for the Next Step”

“Often, we want to be able to see into the future. We say, “How will next year be for me? Where will I be five or ten years from now? There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step. To see what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day. The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark. When we are able to take the next step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we can go. Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all shadows away.”

I pray that each one of you will walk with the light of Christ in 2023 and trust in each step you make, knowing Jesus is there with you. Happy New Year! May it be a great year!



# January BIRTHDAYS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Keith Roberts
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Iris Sibert
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mason Smith
- 4<sup>th</sup> Noah Swimley  
Ed Ward
- 5<sup>th</sup> Karen Lynch  
David Wales
- 8<sup>th</sup> Jacob Taylor  
Derek Bursey
- 11<sup>th</sup> Jean Wilson  
Magnolia Elizabeth Murphy
- 13<sup>th</sup> Bill Shope  
Kenny Rohrbach
- 15<sup>th</sup> Harrison Fair  
Jimmy Grayson
- 21<sup>st</sup> Stephanie Britton
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Jay Powell
- 24<sup>th</sup> Lilly Reed
- 25<sup>th</sup> Hayden Earhart
- 26<sup>th</sup> Scott Snyder
- 27<sup>th</sup> Ron Baker  
Anne Bromley
- 29<sup>th</sup> Gary Jenkins
- 30<sup>th</sup> Gail Winter  
Audrey Sutphin
- 31<sup>st</sup> Jackie Livengood  
Jason Wiseman

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 5<sup>th</sup> Tim and Danette Heinlein
- 29<sup>th</sup> Norby and Donna Bonjo



## BUDDY'S JOKES

1. How did the snowman get to work?
2. What do snowmen wear on their feet?
3. Where do snowmen put their money?
4. What do snowmen do in their spare time?
5. Who did the snowman marry?

“Dad, our snowmen melted.”  
“No. I think they are just dehydrated.”


That’s all for now. Have a good new year. Thank you for all the Christmas cards and prayers. We enjoyed every one of them. We miss everyone of you good people.



*Happy Trails to you, until we meet again. Happy Trails to you keep smiling until then.*

Love Ya,  
Margie and Buddy

Answers on next page. Look for

the snowflake,  .



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”

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

The church would like to recognize birthdays and anniversaries. We want to be given the opportunity to ask God to bless you with every kind of joy and happiness on your special day. With the new year, please submit birthdays and anniversaries that you would like to have printed in the church newsletter.

[Shyatt54@gmail.com](mailto:Shyatt54@gmail.com)



1. By-icycle.
2. Snowshoes
3. A snowbank
4. They just chill out
5. The snowlady, it only lasted until spring. They melted together.



## Meet Our Minister of Youth

The daughter of a military chaplain, Erin has grown-up across the globe and across the country with time in Germany, Japan, New Jersey, Utah California and now home in Virginia. While in school, she learned piano and organ and frequently plays during worship services, weddings, and special occasions.

Erin earned a degree in mathematics from James Madison University and was awarded a teacher's license. She has taught in Prince William County and Winchester public schools where she was commended for her teaching instruction.

Along life's journey, Erin has walked with the Lord. "I have a strong passion for God and for helping children and young adults understand and apply scriptures to their lives. I've spent the past 6 years doing this for my own children and am ready to put my energy into teaching those in my church community". Erin is supported by her husband, Brian, and their two children, Emily and Jacob.



“God is good, all the time God is good.” There is no better way to describe how blessed and happy I am to be the new Director of Youth Ministries! This is an opportunity not only for me but for the youth of Burnt Factory, to grow as a group and further their understanding of the love of Jesus. I look forward to building relationships and being part of the process of guiding our young people as they navigate the joys and challenges of the Christian faith as they move into adolescence and adulthood.

Youth meetings and mission work are essential to building these relationships. Meetings will consist of doing a devotional together, activities (games and/or crafts), and of course food! These times of getting together are essential for young people to feel they have a “safe space” and friends they can connect with about anything going on in their lives. The middle/high school years are when teenagers experience all emotions (joy, sadness, anger, etc.) on a more intense level. Youth group is a place for teens to feel safe, feel heard, form friendships, and most important grow in their relationship with God. Mission work is important as it is a way to reach others in need within a safe and structured environment. It teaches teamwork, the value of long-term planning, and the joy and satisfaction of helping others in very practical ways.

Another opportunity is the Sunday school hour where our youth can explore scripture to experience how it can enrich their lives and shape their relationships with others. Through guided Bible study, our youth will be encouraged to have open discussions about the Bible and how it impacts the pressures and concerns they face in their daily life.

In this new year I am asking all youth and their families to prioritize youth events. Sometimes it may mean missing sports practice or postponing art/music lessons. Give God a chance to work through these youth events, as they have the potential to set the groundwork for a life-long commitment to follow Jesus.

#### IMPORTANT DATES

January 21st, 12 PM Parent Meeting/Youth meeting - we will be planning future meetings/activities along with discussing summer mission projects. Lunch will be provided.

Erin Hartman  
Minister of Youth

faith

action

sisterhood

2023

## UNITED WOMEN in FAITH December Meeting 2022

Saturday morning worked well for our group. Some of our regulars had conflicts, but we picked up some who hadn't been for a while. Eighteen were present. Thanks to Christina Rorhbach and Anne Kackley for the refreshments which were served at the end of the meeting – so we had lunch!!

Susan Hyatt stepped in for Diana Smith as our secretary. Anne Perrault gave the treasurer's report and the pledges have come in very generously. We were able to give our usual end of year donations to CCAP, Evans Home, ARC, Abba, Laurel Center and Special Love.

Susan did double duty at the meeting and had a very interesting and fun program. We played a game identifying Christmas songs and then did a hands-on project making a little tree with significantly colored ribbons on it. Thanks so much, Susan, for your creativity!

The items for the Welcome Home Basket for Laurel Center have been delivered. Thanks for all who provided very generously for this project.

Our group has been asked to provide dinner for the Ruritan meeting on the third Thursday of the month. Polly will check with Wilson Gilbert on an acceptable date.

We want to offer four kinds of soup on Super Bowl Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>. Pre-orders will be taken. A free-will donation will be appreciated. Christina volunteered to be our soup leader. More details in February newsletter.

Jani Shope is working with the Salvation Army by our group making blankets to have blessed by Pastor Steve and donated. Salvation Army is striving to open a facility for families by Christmas. February will be our "hands-on meeting" as we make the blankets. Jani will be in charge of this!

Penny shared an update on Project Esperanza. As of November, they are lagging on sponsors. We discussed letting the congregation know that money we make through any donations will go to Project Esperanza. You will see signs in the Narthex to let people know how we support various groups. We will not be donating directly to Project Esperanza until after our fundraisers. They will get the regular amount from the church.

No action was taken at this time regarding an organization called OPERATION REMEMBER about spreading joy year-round at area nursing homes and assisted-living facilities.

Kathy Dixon shared the names of our prayer partners in 2022 and we drew names for 2023.

Thanks, Kathy, for making this a project many of us are happy to participate in. It's comforting to know someone is praying for you on a regular basis and remembering you on special occasions.

Gwen Callahan provided door prizes for us. Thanks, Gwen, for your fun, crafty items!

New officers were elected for 2023. The group thanked Polly for her six years as president. All the other officers agreed to serve another year. Thanks to Debbie Moss for stepping up to be our president! Other officers are Donna Gallagher, Diana Smith, Anne Perrault, Doris Duvall, Anne Kackley, Jani Shope, and Kathy Dixon. Many thanks for these people sharing in the PURPOSE of our group.

Banana bread was passed out with new missionary names who have birthdays in January and/or February. Sometimes they respond back to the sender.

Next meeting is **SATURDAY, February 25<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 am in the social hall. Polly and Susan will be co-hostesses. Jani will guide us in blanket-making! Hope this change helps our attendance! Love and blessings to all who have helped me as I served as the president. Debbie will be a wonderful president!!!

Blessings,  
Polly Duvall, out-going president

### **2022 United Women in Faith Prayer Partners**



It is that time of year to reveal our UWF Prayer Partners for 2022. Each December, UWF members have the opportunity to pick out the name of a special sister in Christ and agree to pray for her all year long. Each member of this group has the privilege of constantly praying for their special person, all the while keeping it a secret. At the same time, they know that another sister is praying for them. It is a way of drawing closer together and bringing joy and blessing into each other's lives. An extra bonus is being remembered on birthdays and other special days of the year.

#### **UWF Member**

Anne Kackley  
Debbie Moss  
Amy Shepley  
Jo Anne Baker  
Penny Elliott  
Donna Gallagher  
Becky Dennis  
Polly Duvall  
Karen Swisher  
Anne Perrault  
Rhonda Snyder  
Jani Shope  
Maureen Dick  
Danette Heinlein  
Diann Duvall  
Susan Hyatt  
Karen Lynch  
Debbie Burke  
Debbie Walker  
Theresa Gilbert  
Allie Goode  
Doris Duvall  
Penny Croll

#### **2022 Prayer Partner**

Jo Anne Baker  
Debbie Burke  
Penny Croll  
Becky Dennis  
Maureen Dick  
Diann Duvall  
Doris Duvall  
Donna Gallagher  
Theresa Gilbert  
Allie Goode  
Penny Elliott  
Danette Heinlein  
Susan Hyatt  
Anne Kackley  
Karen Lynch  
Darlene Morrison  
Anne Perrault  
Amy Shepley  
Jani Shope  
Rhonda Snyder  
Karen Swisher  
Debbie Walker  
Debbie Moss

**United Women in Faith  
December Celebration  
Photo Shots  
United Women in Faith**





## January 2023 Faith Community Nurse Article

### Healthy Living for Stronger Faith Connect to God with Your Whole Self

*As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. .... And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:12, 14*

Our faith doesn't just connect us to God with our spirits but as whole beings. How do all the areas of your life connect you to God?

#### FAITH LIFE

What feeds your faith life? Often, we ignore the very practices that contribute to a healthy life. Write down three ways that you connect to your faith and make it a goal to practice each at least one time in the next month.

#### MEDICAL

Taking preventive action now can ward off bigger problems later. In an annual wellness visit, bring up questions to better understand how to support your own medical health as a beloved child of God.

#### MOVEMENT

Moving is a fantastic way to connect to the grace of the human body. Move more with a solo-dance party in the kitchen, helping a child in your life practice a favorite sport, or taking your dog or a friend's for an extended walk while praising God for the marvelous way He created you.

#### WORK

Honor health in God's calling by taking a few minutes in your work day to practice a short gratitude meditation for your abilities or offer encouragement for a coworker's talents during a walking break.

#### EMOTIONAL

If you start to feel anxious or depressed, monitor your feelings. If your mood doesn't improve within a few weeks and it starts to impact your daily life, consider talking to a counselor,



reaching out to your support system, or even just checking out a self-help book to practice positive coping skills.

## NUTRITION

Consider starting a lunch group that brings together body and spirit! By having four or five people rotate bringing a home-cooked lunch one day a week, you will get to know people better and encourage each other in healthy eating choices.

## FRIEND & FAMILY

Get out of the digital world and intentionally connect with the people in your life. Ask questions face to face. Then practice listening for understanding, not judgment.

Continually **praying** *for your health and well-being.*

*Theresa*

You can reach me at any time by e-mail at [tgilbert@afpdocs.com](mailto:tgilbert@afpdocs.com) or [theresahgilbert@gmail.com](mailto:theresahgilbert@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.



Let's Connect!



## Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

Cervical cancer is a disease in which cancer cells arise in the cervix, which connects the uterus to the vagina. HPV is almost always the cause of cervical cancer, which is why vaccines against the virus are an important part of cervical cancer prevention strategies.

The U. S. FDA has approved three vaccines - Gardasil, Gardasil 9, and Cervarix - that prevent infection with certain subtypes of HPV including 16 and 18, two high-risk HPVs that cause some 70% of cervical cancers.

If vaccination programs with these new-generation vaccines are effectively implemented, approximately 90% of invasive cervical cancer cases worldwide could be prevented, in addition to the majority of precancerous lesions.

Usually, cervical cancer develops slowly over time, and another powerful preventive measure is Pap test screening, a procedure during which cells are collected from the surface of the cervix and examined. The Pap test can both detect cancer at an early stage, when treatment outcomes tend to be better, and detect precancerous abnormalities, which can then be treated to prevent them from developing into cancers.

Theresa Gilbert, RN  
Faith Community Nurse



# CONDOLENCES

*As many have experienced the loss of a loved one, please remember them in prayer:*

- Sue & Rich Wells at the loss of their nephew, Gary Weismiller
- Dan Hayton at the loss of his father, Mike Hayton
- Joe Shanholtz at the loss of his sister, Linda Corbin
- The Blackburn family at the passing of Mike Blackburn



*“And when great souls die, after a period peace blooms, slowly and always irregularly. Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration. Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us. They existed. We can be. Be and be better. For they existed.”*

**-Maya Angelou**



## **Pathfinder Luncheon**

**Wed. Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**BFUMC Fellowship Hall**

**12:00 Noon**

**Info or Questions Contact:  
Debbie Walker**

**(540)664-0908 / (540)667-6711**

**dswalker1@yahoo.com**

**Please Join Us**



# Library News – January 2023

After all the hustle and bustle of the holidays, it's time to sit by the fire, put your feet up and relax with a good book. Your church library has many, many titles from which to choose. Here are just a few of the titles that are rated 4\* and 5\* by [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com).

## Christian Living section:

- *Praying God's Word* by Beth Moore No matter how overwhelmed we feel, Beth Moore teaches that to be set free from every 'stronghold' which claims our lives, we must replace it with the mind of Christ and fervent daily prayer.
- *It's Okay Not to be Okay* by Sheila Walsh Moving forward one day at a time.
- *Living With Confidence in a Chaotic World* by Dr. David Jeremiah Millions of people are experiencing unanticipated challenges but can weather the storm if we rely on God's Word to advise, calm and fill us with hope and trust in the one who understands.
- *Anxious for Nothing* by Max Lucado Lucado offers insights into ways God will help you with life's inevitable calamities. Discover how to view bad news through the window of God's sovereignty, discern Satan's lies and recognize the truth.

## Marriage and Family:

- *Your Time Starved Marriage – How to Stay Connected at the Speed of Life* by Drs. Les and Leslie Parrot
- *The Dude's Guide to Marriage* by Darrin and Amy Patrick For men who are tired of dead-end relationships and passionless marriages and are ready to make a change *The Dude's Guide* offers down-to-earth advice that will change the way men approach their most important commitment.

## Religious Persecution:

- *Persecution – The Global Assault on Christians* by Paul Marshall, Lela Gilbert and Nina Shea

## Fiction:

- *Point of Danger* by Irene Hannon
- *The Oath* by Frank Peretti
- Many Amish titles by Wanda Brunstetter, Kelly Long, Kim Vogel and other Amish authors.
- Numerous shelves of other famous Christian fiction authors.

## Children:

- *The Cooper Kids Adventure Series* by Frank Peretti (ages 8-12)

Please come downstairs, browse through the many books, check out a few and enjoy reading!!

*Doris Duvall, Church Librarian*

*Thank you for bringing books back when finished and leaving them in the basket on the small white table.*



## PROJECT ESPERANZA

Project Esperanza primarily (but by no means exclusively) serves the Haitian refugee and immigrant population of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic in the areas of education, social aid, and community development.

### 2022 Year End Activities

(Excerpts from the December Sponsor Newsletter)

- The semester ended on December 20<sup>th</sup> with class parties and a potluck dinner with the teachers. They will remain on break until after Epiphany and resume classes on January 10<sup>th</sup>.



- For the 8<sup>th</sup> year, Morehouse College in Atlanta visited the week of December 10-16 to share in the year end activities. They brought donations so students could choose a prize for good attendance, led daily games at the educational farm and painted a new mural at the school. They also helped to fund and participate in a construction project at the high school, Colegio Costambar.



- Students have been working hard in math and many have completed their entire workbook!



• In Haiti, after President Jovenel Moise's assassination on July 7, 2021, the capital has become quite unlivable for most, due to gang activity. The majority of schools in the entire country have still not opened yet this year. Gangs are equipped by powerful men who use vulnerable youth to lead kidnappings and other horrific crimes for their own benefit. Gangs currently fight for territory and have displaced thousands through their actions. Stories circulate about heart wrenching murders of young men who refuse to join gangs or who support the police in uncovering gang activity. We wish we had the power to do more. We periodically send funds to two schools in Haiti and hope to do more in the future. There is a current urgent need to help support the students nutritionally at one of the schools (outside the capital in the north) that is currently able to hold classes. We also continue to work to provide the best services we can to those who have sought refuge here in Puerto Plata.

• As of December 28, 2022 – 112 out of 250 students have been sponsored for school year 2022-23 which started September 19th. Will you help Caitlin achieve her goal of having all students sponsored this year? As little as \$15/month (\$180 per year) can help a child attend school.

Thank you for your continued love, support and prayers for Caitlin and her teachers who are working in the DR to help families find a better life through education. If you would like to learn more about Project Esperanza, visit their website <https://esperanzameanshope.org/> or feel free to contact Penny or Tom Croll [ptcroll@hotmail.com](mailto:ptcroll@hotmail.com).

Peace and Blessings, Penny and Tom Croll, Outreach Committee

*Burnt Factory has made Project Esperanza a signature ministry of the church and generously donates \$2,700 each year to support 15 students at Level 1 so they can attend the school. If you feel led to individually sponsor a child, there are 3 levels of support:*

**Level 1** - an annual donation of \$180 which covers daily lunch, a uniform shirt, and some materials.

**Level 2** - a monthly donation of \$30 which covers daily lunch, a uniform shirt, some materials, and contribution to the teacher's salary. (May be paid annually - \$360)

**Level 3** - a monthly donation of \$50 which covers daily lunch, a uniform shirt, some materials, contribution to teachers' salaries, and contribution to the facilities and educational farm field trips. (May be paid annually - \$600)

<https://esperanzameanshope.org/become-a-sponsor/>

## CCAP Corner

January 2023



*CCAP is a cooperative effort of individuals, civic groups, businesses, and religious communities in Winchester and Frederick County. They have unified to provide financial, material, and supportive assistance in a loving way. Even with the help of existing social service programs, CCAP clients are unable to meet their needs and responsibilities. CCAP's desire is to do God's work in a world where many basic human needs are simply not met.*

Our first **CCAP Collection Day** for 2023 is on Sunday, January 22. The Outreach Committee is collecting new Men's thermal underwear and new men's and women's winter gloves. Thermal tops and bottoms are needed for men in size medium through 3X; medium and large are the most in demand. Thermals and gloves are essential items for those who spend their days and nights outside and for those working out in the cold. Donations may be left in the CCAP Bin in the Narthex through Sunday, January 22.

**Food Box Packing** - If you're looking for a fun, productive way to spend an hour and a half; come join us on the first Monday each month at 5:30 to pack food boxes. A little over an hour is all it takes to pack enough boxes for several days of food giveaways at CCAP. During this time of work and fellowship, we share stories, prayers, and lots of laughter. Please let me or anyone on Outreach know if you would like to help out.

**Opportunities to Serve** – There are many ways to volunteer your time at CCAP. Go to [www.ccapwinchester.org](http://www.ccapwinchester.org) and click on the donate/volunteer tab at the top of the page for a description of the many opportunities to share your talents and time. You can also reach out to me or anyone on the Outreach Team if you have any questions about what we do as volunteers at CCAP.

**Remember, The Neighborhood FREEDGE** is open 24 hours a day. If you have extra, fresh produce or items you do not want to go to waste, bring them down and share it with our community. Some examples of items are: fresh fruits and vegetables, granola, cheese, prepackaged, purchased sandwiches and yogurt. The FREEDGE is located at 419 N Cameron St, and you can drop off your items directly to the refrigerator at any time. You can also sign up to be part of a cleaning crew for a day or a week; whatever works with your schedule. To sign up, go to [www.ccapwinchester.org](http://www.ccapwinchester.org) and click on the link to Our Friendly Neighborhood FREEDGE at the top of the website.

**Donations needed:** Gently used winter clothing, especially gloves and outerwear. Men's jeans, belts, T-shirts, hooded sweat jackets, sweatpants and sweatshirts, Women's purses. Tennis Shoes (all sizes men, women and children); Gently used Linens including bedsheets, pillowcases, blankets and towels; tents and sleeping bags. All donations may be dropped off Monday – Friday from 10am-1pm at 212 S Kent St. Winchester.

Any questions, please contact me at 540-664-6973 or [ricpat5@gmail.com](mailto:ricpat5@gmail.com)

*Thanks so much for all you do for CCAP and our community.*

*Patty Leonard, Outreach CCAP Rep*

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## SAVE THE DATE

January 15th



There will be a Town Hall gathering starting at 3:00 on Sunday afternoon in the sanctuary. The purpose is to share with BFUMC information on what is happening within our beloved United Methodist Church. The focus will be in regard to the division and strife the denomination has been dealing with for many years over sexuality issues.

There will be a presentation followed by a Q & A session. I hope you will place this on your calendar and make plans to attend. We will be streaming this presentation.



## *From a branch on the Vine,*



Thank God we don't live in Buffalo, and thank God we aren't suffering in the midst of a war like Ukraine. Yes, thank God for these and so many other things. He is a good God, right? But, let me ask, "Is God good?"

A simple answer. Sure, He is, just like my Mom who made so many meals and helped me with homework; or like the random stranger who helped load lumber at Lowes. Are people on the same level of good as God is? We throw the word "good" around in so many situations. Good day, goodnight, goodbye, good job, good riddance, a good life, good to go. There are many different meanings of "good" and somehow none can adequately describe God. Yes, many people are good, but only God is the definition of good.

*As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone.* Mark 10:17-18

If God is good, why is there pain in the world? Maybe God doesn't cause suffering, but he allows it. Is that how a Father loves his children? Have you struggled reconciling a God of love who allows suffering? Maybe it would help to understand God wants relationships not slaves or robots. God offers us Himself as a companion who upholds us through our suffering and never leaves us. We have a choice of whether to include Him – to choose Him - or go it alone. We have been given a mind and a heart free to decide what is good.

Would you outfit your kids with bubble wrap and hide them away from all the germs in the world? Not likely. You would protect them as much as you can, but your children will have to make decisions based on what you teach them and model to them. Still, they may suffer because there are consequences, intended or unintended, that affect us.

God has provided a way for us to overcome our mistakes, prevail over our circumstances and come to rest in paradise with Him for eternity. Is that good? In His goodness, do you trust God?

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6*

The hard part is trusting God when we don't understand why life happens the way it does.

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28*

If we believe God is good and is working for our best life and He knows and sees more to our lives than we do, will you submit to His plan for your life? Not as a robot, but as part of bond of love. God wants you to experience the full measure of His love. Through the darkness of this world, He is bringing you into the light. Day by day, tragedy and joy, it is God who us saving you from a bitter end. He is walking the path with you that leads to His home.

In Christ, *Reb*

*The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.  
The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.*

*Psalm 145:8-9*



**“O thou God of love, thou  
who art loving to every  
man, and whose mercy is  
over all thy works;  
though who art the  
Father of the spirits of all  
flesh, and who art rich in  
mercy unto all”.**  
**Amen**

**-John Wesley**

*Martin Luther King Jr. Day* is a federal holiday. Also called MLK Day, it honors the greatest civil rights activist in American history. His birthday became a National Holiday by an act of Congress in 1983. Many consider it a day to serve your community.

Born on January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. grew to become one of the greatest social activists the world has ever known. He promoted a non-violent civil rights movement. At 35, he became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace prize. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968, while making a speech from the balcony of his hotel room in Memphis, Tennessee.

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

***On this day, we remember those prophets like Martin Luther King Jr. who called God’s people to be holy as he is holy, and today we press on in full faith that God will do it (1 Thess 5:24).***

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Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> is the **Feast of the Epiphany**, also called *Three Kings Day*. Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar were the three kings from the Orient. They are also known as the Three Wise Men or the Three Magi. The three wise men were merchants who saw the star over Bethlehem when Christ was born. They followed the star, to find the Christ child lying in the manger on January 6th. They brought the Christ child gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The word **“Epiphany”** comes from the Greek word **“to reveal”**. This day is known as “Theophany” – the revelation of God to Man.

The Feast of the Epiphany is also known to some as Three Kings Day, and Little Christmas. It marks the end of Christmastide. In eastern Europe, it is as important as Christmas Day. Some people also refer to this day as “Saint Nicholas Day. However, the Feast of Saint Nicholas is celebrated on December 6th.

For many, the nativity scene, with the manger and figurines of those at the stable on this day, is kept up through January 6th, and are the last decorations to be put away until next Christmas.

**Did You Know?** The song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” refers to the period between Christmas and The Feast of the Epiphany. Many, if not most people, erroneously associate this period with the twelve days leading up to Christmas.



The next rotation of **Sunday School** begins January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The Unity class will study Ruth and Ester in the Fellowship Hall. The Faithseekers will view and discuss the movie, *War Room*, downstairs past the library, and the Grace class will meet in the lower cottage to discuss the movie/ book, *The Shack*.

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## Outreach Summary for 2022

It has once again been an amazing year of extravagant giving as we reach out to serve our community, both near and far. Your Outreach Team has once again been able to share your gifts to help those struggling during difficult times. This year, we added a mission statement/scripture for our Outreach Team:

*1 Peter 4:10-11 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."*

As a church, we have been called to practice radical hospitality. "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans 12:13 (NIV) Below are some of the areas that you have blessed our neighbors:

- In partnership with the Faithseekers Sunday School class, we continue to provide **Fremont Street** with 15 weekly "weekend bags" of food to sustain children most at risk of food insecurity. Outreach provided \$1000 toward the collection. We also provided the staff with gift cards (from an anonymous donation) for Christmas.
- **WATTS** was provided supplies and +60 volunteers to prepare dinner and to serve those meals to the homeless men and women sheltering at the Stonewall Ruritan during our week following Thanksgiving. It was a blessing to welcome our volunteers and WATTS friends back to the Ruritan. We are grateful for their willingness to let us use their facility. We provided \$1100 in purchased food and supplies for our week, and received many donations of additional food, desserts, and clothing.
- \$1785 annual donation to **WATTS** to support the ongoing mission to shelter
- **Bright Futures** received a collection of school supplies with an estimated value over \$500. We are also providing 8 mentors at Greenwood Mill E.S.
- **Salvation Army** was provided third Sunday lunches January- August (they were closed for renovations September-December), provided 50 treat bags for Easter (valued at \$100), over 20 gift bags for

Christmas (valued at \$200) and had 44 volunteers for Red Kettle bell ringing on three December Saturdays. 25 Christmas dinner/breakfast baskets for Social Services – value +\$2500

- **Rescue Mission** received \$500 towards a privacy fence for the women’s shelter
- \$2285 donation to **Laurel Center** and collections of snacks, bottled water, jackets, comforters and backpacks in February, May, and October– value +\$1500
- **CCAP-**
- *Provided 6-8 volunteers first Monday or Tuesday night each month to pack food boxes*
- *Various underclothing items collected in January - value +\$690*
- *Collected food for Easter baskets – value +\$590*
- *Diapers collected in March and November - value +\$1460*
- *Collected socks and undergarments in July – value +\$950*
- *Collected food for Thanksgiving - value +\$1150*
- *Collected blankets for “thanks giving” – value +\$140*
- *\$3285 annual donation plus additional donations from special offerings*
- **Project Esperanza**, \$2535 donation to Project Esperanza in the Dominican Republic, plus \$300 towards their recess area fundraiser and an additional \$1000 to sponsor students who weren’t supported in 2021-22
- Supported an **Afghanistan refugee family** of 8 with financial and volunteer support
- The Believers supported **Relay for Life** and raised +\$12,500
  
- Financial help for several **local families**
- UMMen, UMWomen, Adult Sunday School Classes, Children and Youth, and many others in our church family continue to reach out into the community and support various mission projects and collections

**Outreach meets the first Thursday in January, March, May, July, September, and November at 7 pm. All are welcome to join our meetings. We welcome Sharon Woodard as the new Outreach Chair in 2023.**

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## Greetings!

As the incoming Chair of the Outreach Committee, I just wanted to say hello and thank you for this opportunity to serve Christ as we serve our community through **Outreach**. 2022 was a terrific year as you can see from the Summary Report prepared by Penny & Tom Croll. There are a variety of ways to serve, and I invite you to come to an Outreach Committee meeting to learn more about it.

Hope to See You There,

*Sharon Woodard*



# WATTS IN ACTION



I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"  
Psalm 122:1



January 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:30am-In Person Worship 11am-In Person Worship	<b>2</b> <b>BFUMC Office Closed</b>	<b>3</b> 5:30 Praise Team Practice 6:30 Choir Practice	<b>4</b> <u>9:30am-1pm</u> Pastor's Office Hours Lower Cottage	<b>5</b> 7pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts Shelter 7pm-8pm Outreach Team	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9-10am Grief Study Lower Cottage
<b>8</b> 8:30am-In Person Worship 11am-In Person Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>12pm 2/4 BLT</b> 5:30 Praise Team Practice 6:30 Choir Practice	<b>11</b> <u>9:30am-1pm</u> Pastor's Office Hours Lower Cottage	<b>12</b> 7pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts Shelter 7pm-8pm Long Range Planning Lower Cottage	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9-10am Grief Study Lower Cottage
<b>15</b> 8:30am-In Person Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11am-In Person Worship 12pm Salvation Army 3pm BFUMC Town Hall (Sanctuary)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5:30 Praise Team Practice 6:30 Choir Practice	<b>18</b> <u>9:30am-1pm</u> Pastor's Office Hours Lower Cottage	<b>19</b> 7pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts Shelter	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9-10am Grief Study Lower Cottage 12-1:30pm Youth Parents Meeting
<b>22</b> 8:30am-In Person Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11am-In Person Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>12pm 2/4 BLT</b> 5:30 Praise Team Practice 6:30 Choir Practice	<b>25</b> 9:30am-1pm Pastor's Office Hours Lower Cottage	<b>26</b> <b>12-5pm</b> <b>Blood Drive</b> <b>Fellowship Hall</b> 7pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts Shelter	<b>27</b> Print newsletter.	<b>28</b> 9am Grief Study
<b>29</b> 8:30am-In Person Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11am-In Person Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 5:30 Praise Team Practice 6:30 Choir Practice	<b>Feb. 1</b> 9:30am-1pm Pastor's Office Hours Lower Cottage	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9am Grief Study



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BURNT FACTORY  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



January 2023

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Resident Bishop  
Virginia Conference  
Richmond, Virginia

The Rev. Dr. Victor Gomez, District  
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