



December

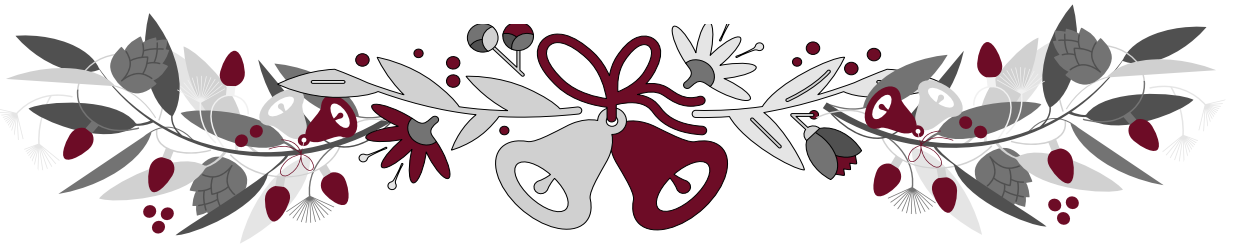
2024 SMOKE SIGNAL

Our Mission Statement

Sharing the love of Christ with ALL people.

Burnt Factory Church
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"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



On November 7th, 2023 Burnt Factory Church came into existence. It has been over a year now that we became an Independent Methodist Church and what a year it has been! BFC is growing, both spiritually and physically, and continues to be a vital mission presence in our community.

As I am writing this article two days before Thanksgiving, I am struck by how very blessed we are as a congregation. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able and equipped to do God's will. I have such a profound sense of gratitude to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for continuing to lead us down the narrow path. The Lord never said that our path would not be difficult.

Becoming Independent Methodists was not easy and there has been a lot of pain, judgment and mis-information about churches and pastors who have disaffiliated from the UMC. We have said goodbye to many friends and that is never easy, but we have also welcomed forty-four new members into BFC this year with more on the way. It wasn't easy getting where we are now, but it was worth it!

As I reflect on the year to this point, I am drawn to Isaiah 43:18-19 which says, *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now, its springs up; do you perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”* There is a reason why the windshields in our cars are so big and the rearview mirror is so small. Church, we are not perfect by any means. We have a lot of work to do. God is still forming us, moving in our hearts and minds, and leading us into new opportunities. One thing is for sure. It’s time to stop looking back and steady our gaze on what’s ahead! Its time to look forward and to be open to where God is leading BFC.

BFC remains the loving, friendly, welcoming church it has always been. We are still practicing radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and extravagant giving. We survived the pandemic & we have survived disaffiliation, although it was not without cost and some deep wounds. In moving forward, I believe the Apostle Paul may have said it best when he wrote to his beloved church in Philippi.

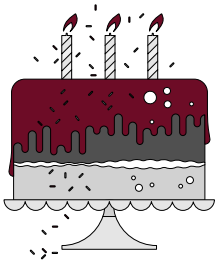
“ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his suffering, becoming like him in his death and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3: 10-14

Press on Burnt Factory Church!

Pastor Steve





December Birthdays

- 2nd Kathy Feight
- 3rd Maureen Dick
- 4th Nikki Prami
- 6th Sam Lentz
- 11th Austin Luttrell
- 12th Rylee Jenkins
Emily Rees Hartman
- 14th Clayton Sutphin
- 18th Elie Ratliff
- 19th Angela Hart
- 21st Naomi Grace Hahn
Brantley Neff
- 22nd Ashley Sutphin
- 24th Christian Fairbanks
- 25th JESUS!
- 26th Polly Duvall
- 27th Tom Duvall
- 28th Don Duvall
- 29th Bonnie Henry
- 30th Melissa Clemons



Happy Anniversary

- 21st Jay & Anne Kackley
- 28th Tim & Anne Perrault

Remembering Buddy's Jokes



**Why do Dasher and Dancer
love Coffee?**

***Because they are Santa's
Star Bucks!***

**Pulled from the December 2021 Edition of Smoke Signal.
This is the final joke in this series. We hope that you have
enjoyed the laughs and will continue to think of the smiles
they brought.*

Children's Ministries!!

We are working on our Christmas program, and we are loving it!

The children will be doing some fun crafts during Children's Church and Nursery.

We will be following Pastor Steve's messages during the month of December!

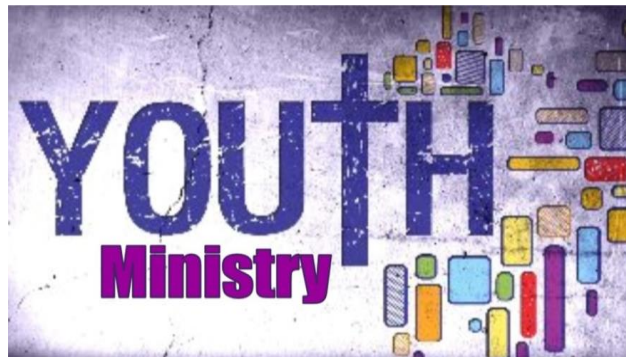
We welcome our new staff additions! Lisa Holmes and Kiley Eaton! We are so blessed to add them to our staff.

We wish you all a warm and fuzzy Christmas Holiday Season.

Blessings,

Carrie Fair

Minister of Children and Administration.



DECEMBER EVENTS:

December 13th (Friday):

Time: 5-7 pm

Youth will be joining up with the little ones to do some Christmas Caroling! We have plans to visit a few homes of church members with hot cocoa and cookies to follow!

December 27th-28th (Fri-Sat):

Time: 6 pm - 10 am

Youth Holiday Lock in!! We will have food/games/activities/devotion!!

Worship Road – December Activities

December 1st	1st Sunday of Advent
December 4th	Senior Adult Ministry: “Christmas Memories” <i>Noon</i>
December 13th	Youth and Children: Christmas Caroling <i>5 PM</i>
December 14th	Sisters In Faith Christmas Program <i>10 AM</i>
December 15th	“Three Gifts” Cantata <i>All services</i> Children’s Program: “The Little Drummer Dude” <i>6 PM</i>
Christmas Eve	Candlelight Services <i>5 PM</i> nursery provided <i>8 PM</i> no nursery-family service

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 with the message:

“ADD ME TO THE CHURCH EMAIL LIST”

Would you like to receive the Smoke Signal Newsletter by email?

Kindly send an email to Becca Ratliff at beccalea.ratliff@gmail.com with a subject:

“Add me to the Smoke Signal Newsletter email distribution”



Christmas Letter to BFC

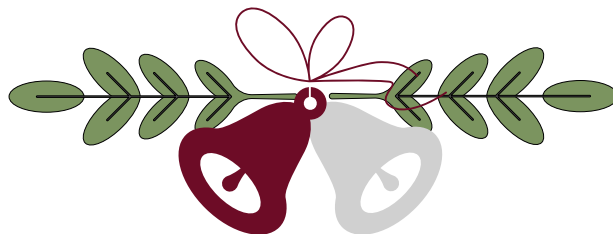
“The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today, the city of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

Where has the time gone? It seems to be moving faster and faster each year. Melanie and I will reach a milestone in our lives this January as we will be beginning our twentieth year in full time pastoral ministry. It’s hard to believe that we are starting our nineteenth year here at BFC.

We are so thankful and have been so blessed to be in ministry together with all of you! Melanie and I continue to be humbled at your support, encouragement and especially your love! We continue to covet your prayers! It is truly a joy to serve you, and we look forward to partnering with you in service to our Lord in 2025! Once again, from the bottom of our hearts, we want to say thank you and our hope and prayer for all of you is that you have a joyous and wonderful Christmas and a happy and meaningful New Year! God bless you all! We love you!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Melanie & Steve



Greetings from Outreach

The Outreach Mission Statement

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.”

Merry Christmas!

December provides many opportunities to serve in Outreach. There are sign-up sheets for Salvation Army bell ringing, WATTS, and Social Services food baskets. If you have never served in Outreach and have wanted to try it out, any one of these options are a great way to dip your toe into the water! You can donate funds or materials to any of our ministries or give of your time. We welcome everyone.

We are so thankful for your generous giving to our Outreach programs this year. Everyone at Outreach would like to wish our entire Burnt Factory Church family a joy filled Christmas and blessed New Year.

Sharon Woodard

Outreach Committee Chair

sfwoodard111@gmail.com



CCAP Corner

December 2024

CCAP Mission: *Guided by our faith in God and love of neighbor, CCAP is a community lifeline for all people in our area who find themselves struggling to meet basic needs, providing stability and security while enabling them to find paths to self-sufficiency.*

CCAP is so thankful for our church's November Collections:

- We collected food and monetary donations for more than 25 complete Thanksgiving meals including hams. We collected over 445 food items for the Community Giveaway held on 11/23. The monetary donations were used to purchase items missing to complete additional meals above the 25 we provided. We also collected 1856 diapers and 27 warm, soft blankets plus additional toiletry items, towels, and clothes. This combination of donations will serve over 50 clients.
- Thanks so much to Sharon Woodard, Dave Darcie, Jody Stephenson, Pastor Steve, Miss Carrie and my two granddaughters, Blake and Avery, who helped with the collection and delivery to CCAP. All the items collected go directly to those in great need.

Volunteers are always needed at CCAP in many areas. Visit the ccapwinchester.org website and click on the Become a Volunteer tab to see the different positions available.

THREE FREEDGE LOCATIONS are open **24 hours a day; 419 N Cameron St, 700 Aylor Rd (Abundant Church) and 102 Montague Ave.** These are for low-income residents. Everyone can donate. This is another way CCAP helps reduce waste. Please label and date your items before putting them in a Freedge. Examples of Items needed: Fresh fruits and vegetables, granola, cheese, prepackaged sandwiches, and yogurt. This time of year, soups and stews are greatly appreciated. You can drop off your food at **any time**.

CCAP Corner Cont'd

Current Donation Needs:

- Gently used winter children's and teen clothes – sizes 2T thru teen.
- Gently used Gloves, Hats, and coats for Men, Women, and Children.
- Men's jeans and belts; men's and women's sweatshirts and sweatpants, women's purses, and tennis shoes (all sizes men, women, and children)
- New underwear – all sizes
- Adult Backpacks and gently used/clean linens (sheets, pillowcases, blankets, & towels);

Donations may be dropped off Monday-Friday between 9am and 2pm at 112 S. Kent St. Call CCAP at 540-662-4318 from 9 to 4 daily for a scheduled donation drop off if these hours don't work with your schedule.

As 2024 comes to a close, please know how thankful CCAP and our clients are for the tremendous support our church has provided with our gifts of time, donations, and service to this Community Lifeline. Please contact me or anyone on the Outreach Committee if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

Patty Leonard

Outreach CCAP Rep



Vision Statement: *Our neighbors can always count on the compassion and generosity of the community in times of need, and will have meaningful opportunities to lift themselves out of difficult life situations.*



Christmas To-Do List

Be

-~~Buy~~ Presents

-Wrap ~~Gifts~~ Someone
in a hug

-Send ~~Gifts~~ Peace

Donate

-~~Shop~~ for Food

Be

-~~See~~ the Lights



December 2024 Faith and Health Corner Cont'd

I wish each and every one of you a most blessed and joyous Christmas.

“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Acts 20:35

As always praying for your health and well-being. Praying that today you will both be a blessing and blessed.

Theresa

You can reach me at any time by e-mail at tgilbert@afpdocs.com or 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.



‘For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.’

2 Corinthians 4:6 NIV



This week, I was able to donate a check to the Helping Hands Cancer Outreach on behalf of The Believers for \$4,500.00. This was a combination of the proceeds from the bake sale during the week of the Frederick County Youth Fair and our 1st Annual Benefit Motorcycle Ride.

Thank you so much for your continued support!!

6 ways to cope with cancer this holiday season

1. **Speak honestly with your family and loved ones**
2. **Do things that nourish you**
3. **Talk with your healthcare team**
4. **Reframe your expectations**
5. **Ask for help**
6. **Have a plan for uncomfortable conversations**

“Cancer can touch you, but not your soul; neither your thoughts, nor your heart.”

Theresa Gilbert
(540) 247-5612
theresahgilbert@gmail.com

Opportunities to Serve

Christmas Dinner Baskets

Burnt Factory Church is again cooperating with Frederick County Social Services to deliver Christmas Dinner Baskets to families in our area. You can sign up to reach out to a special family and then shop for specific items to place in a basket for them. **Sign ups will begin on Sunday, December 1 after both services.**

Once you have shopped for your basket items, you can bring the completed basket to the **Stonewall Ruritan Building on Friday, December 20 between the hours of 2:00 and 7:00 pm.** Social workers from Frederick County will then deliver the baskets to families in our area on December 21.

This year we are severely limiting the basket items that need refrigeration. We are asking that participants not bring eggs or milk because of the difficulty of keeping them refrigerated overnight until Frederick County can pick them up. We are also asking for no frozen turkeys.

This is an opportunity to reach out to a family here in Frederick County and share the love of Christ by providing a special Christmas meal.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Dixon at 703-407-2441 or by email at kjdixon7@msn.com.



Sign-up Sheets are in the fellowship Hall for the Salvation Army Bell Ringing. This is a great opportunity to spread God's light and be the face of Christ to others.

Burnt Factory Sisters In Faith

December 14th

Christmas Program

10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall

The Sisters in Faith will be holding a baby shower.

Please bring a small baby gift (\$5-\$10 at the most) wrapped in gold, silver or brown paper.

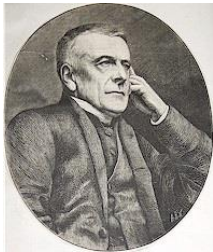
Come to find out the recipient of the gifts.

All women of the church are welcome to attend!



O Come, All Ye Faithful

Frederick Oakeley
(1841)

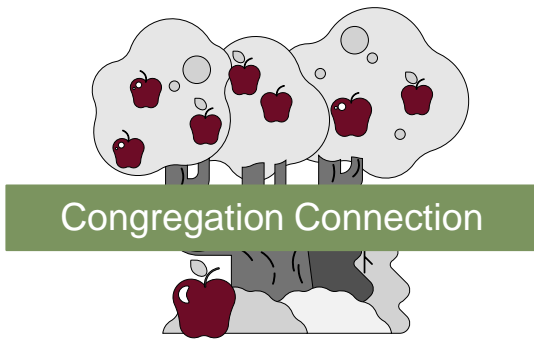


Chorus Spotlight

*O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him,
born the King of angels!*

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!*



Name: Rachel Hayton

Hometown: Born in Cumberland, MD. Grew up in Winchester, VA. Now live in Berryville, VA.

Time attending Burnt Factory Church: Started attending in 2006

What service do you regularly attend? Both

What would you encourage others to get involved with? I would encourage others to come to Sunday School. We have so many for you to come to. When I had a younger child at home, I went to another one than I go to now but is a wonderful thing to go to with your spouse or to come alone! It is also very rewarding to volunteer with our Children's Sunday School and our Youth Group.

Favorite part of Burnt Factory Church: My very favorite part of our church is that everyone's welcome and feel that way when you come. We are FAMILY and when you come to our church you feel like you are part of the family by the time you sit down.

Favorite hymn: Music is a great way to pray and these two are my prayer songs

I Love You Lord

I love you, Lord And I lift my voice
To worship you Oh my soul rejoice
Take joy, my king In what you hear
May it be a sweet sweet sound In your ear

Down to the River to Pray

*As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the robe and crown
Good Lord, show me the way!*

*O brothers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on brothers let's go down
Down in the river to pray*

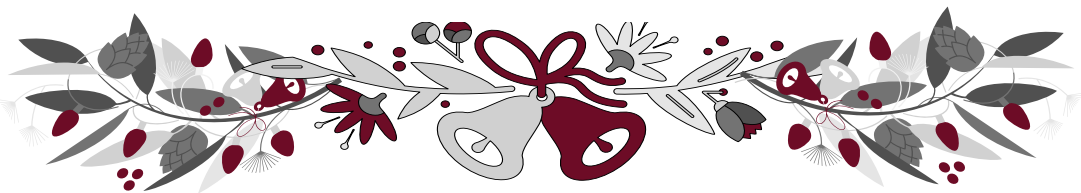
Favorite Scripture:

Philippians 4:13

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Psalm 51:10-19 NIV

- 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.
- 14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
- 15 Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
- 17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.
- 18 May it please you to prosper Zion,
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
- 19 Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,
in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.



December 2024 Calendar

Date/Time		Event
Sun 1 st	WATTS Week (Day 2/8)	
	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
	4:00 PM	Children's Play Practice
Mon 2 nd	WATTS Week (Day 3/8)	
Tues 3 rd	WATTS Week (Day 4/8)	
	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
	7:00 PM	Outreach
Wed 4 th	WATTS Week (Day 5/8)	
	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	12:00 PM	Senior Adult Ministry
Thurs 5 th	WATTS Week (Day 6/8)	
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Fri 6 th	WATTS Week (Day 7/8)	
Sat 7 th	WATTS Week (Day 8/8)	
Sun 8 th	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
	4:00 PM	Children's Dress Rehearsal
Tues 10 th	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 11 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 12 th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63

Date/Time		Event
Fri 13 th	5:00 PM	Youth & Kids Caroling
Sat 14 th	12:00 PM	Sisters in Faith
Sun 15 th	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:30 AM	Blood Pressure Checks
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 17 th	6:00 PM	Children's Play
	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
Wed 18 th	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 19 th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 22 nd	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 24 th	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
	8:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
Wed 25 th	Christmas Day The birth of our Lord and Savior!	
Thurs 26 th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 29 th	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 31 st	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice

For more info, view the calendar on our website:
[CalenderNew | Burnt Factory Church](#)