

FEBRUARY  
2024



# Marshall United Methodist Church

## The Circuit Writer

# NEWSLETTER

### MONTHLY MESSAGE from the PASTOR



*You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast,  
because they trust in you.*

*Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD,  
the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.*

*Isaiah 26:3-4*



Hello Beloved, I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are moving into the month of February, after a very cold January. As I sat down to write this article, a question arose. When do you finally get sick of winter. Is it January? It is February? Maybe it is March. For me, I would say by the time February gets here, I am over it. February, generally, is the coldest month and doesn't really have a lot of snow. It is just cold.

However, there is a bright spot. In February, Lent begins. It starts with Ash Wednesday on February 14th and lasts 40 days. The early Christian Church understood the importance of Jesus' passion and resurrection. During this time, they decided that there should be a 40-day season of spiritual preparation before they celebrated the resurrection of Jesus. During this time, those who were converting to the Christian faith would prepare for Holy Baptism. However, for those who were already followers of Christ, they would use this time to reconcile through sacrifice and prepare for the resurrection. The season of Lent is a reminder to us all of the forgiveness and mercy that Christ gives us and how we must constantly renew our faith.

So Beloved, what should our focus be on? The cold weather? The snow? Or should we be focusing on being followers of Christ by examining ourselves constantly. We should be praying for each other, our church, or world and especially ourselves. We should be reading and meditating on God's Word daily. We should be constantly trying to be better than we were the day before.

I also want to remind you that during this season of Lent, we should be coming together in worship and study as often as we can. On February 14th, Ash Wednesday, we will start our journey to the cross together with a worship service at 7pm. From there, each Wednesday, we will hold our Lenten Bible study, The Awe of God. You are invited. All are welcome. Please join us for this awesome study. You will not regret it. In fact, you might just find what you are looking for.

Remember, God loves you and so do I.

*Blessings - PJ*

*"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can,  
at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." John Wesley*

## MUMPS - PRESCHOOL POST



Since school resumed after the holidays, our staff has been working hard for the students to continue to learn and grow. We anticipate enrollment to increase by several new students in the next couple weeks as well! What a blessing to have a preschool to serve the families in our community as a wonderful outreach and way to guide little ones from early ages in God's love.

We do need help and support though! Substitute teachers and volunteers are really needed right now. If you or anyone you know can be a godsend to fill in when teachers are out, please notify us of interest to substitute. Or if you can volunteer to simply read to the students or to do art projects sometimes, come have some fun! We will help you get equipped to get involved.

Please contact Ms. Ruth (Umbel) about opportunities to help out and participate; you can reach out to her at [mumps@marshallumc.org](mailto:mumps@marshallumc.org) with all MUMPS questions, needs, or concerns.

Ms. Ruth is giving her all as interim director, but we do need to find a new director for the preschool for next year; if you know anyone or can keep your eyes and ears open and spread the word, we need to hire a permanent person for that role. Pray on it for MUMPS to find a special person who can devote themselves to this vital position in the future to continue offering our facility, gifts, and opportunities to families in our area where there are few other preschools, especially after being voted "Best of Fauquier" winner last year. Thanks in advance for caring about our young students as we educate, enrich, and nurture the little ones.

## United WOMEN In Faith



**Just look at these lovely ladies loving & serving the Lord!**

Come join them in any to all of their activities!!

Payments are now being collected for the spring retreat in April.

Meetings are generally held on the first Saturdays of each month at 9am; that means women will gather at the church in just a few days on 2/3/2024. If you haven't been able to come in a while or have never attended, please come!

On the next Saturday 2/10, women are asked to come help cook up our delicious chili for the annual fundraising event.

Thanks in advance to all who purchase chili to help the group fund their many marvelous missions, projects, and outreach. It's also helpful if jars are returned after enjoying your batch.

## FEBRUARY birthdays & anniversaries

- 6 - Marie Lyon
- 11 - Danial Glascock
- 12 - Erica Eickhoff
- 13 - Suzanne Simpson
- 13 - Cathy Lambert
- 19 - Lil Jacobs
- 20 - Robert Glascock
- 27 - Chris Burnside

As updates to our celebration rosters are underway, please email any **MARCH** birthdays or anniversaries you'd like posted next month to [admin@marshallumc.org](mailto:admin@marshallumc.org).

# MISSION & OUTREACH



## GIVING

Please remember that our church's missions and expenses require your support! You can *mail* in your donations anytime to the church at *MUMC PO Box 144, Marshall, VA 20116*; or simply leave gifts in the *offering plate at services*. (The "give" button on the website is under repair.)

We routinely donate 10% of general funds received to local non-profit charitable organizations as we "share God's gifts." Thanks to everyone's generosity in the congregation, contributions have a high impact in our community. Check out the SGG bulletin board outside the sanctuary to see notes of appreciation continually received.

## PRAYER

If you have or are aware of prayers to be shared outside of Sunday services, please direct them to: Pastor John Rowe at [johnrowe@vaumc.org](mailto:johnrowe@vaumc.org) or 703-357-5446; and/or [prayers@marshallumc.org](mailto:prayers@marshallumc.org).

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

## MISSION



Here is a special opportunity to help a special cause! A member of our congregation has asked for support of the Linthicum Family in an effort to raise money for Virginia Special Olympics. If you feel you can contribute,

you can follow this link to help Jennifer Linthicum take a polar plunge at Virginia Beach:

<https://impact.specialolympicsva.org/fundraiser/5019001>

All funds go to the VA Special Olympics and are greatly appreciated.



## SERVING in FEBRUARY:

### **Worship Leaders:**

February 4 - Cathy Harris  
February 11 - Smokey Jacobs  
February 18 - Bob Lambert  
February 25 - Jeff Machamer

### **Communion Stewards:**

Bob & Cathy Lambert

### **Counters:**

February 4 - Cathy Lambert & Joe Bersack  
February 11 - Bob Lambert & Wendy Emery  
February 18 - Jeff Machamer & Terri Hill  
February 25 - Laurie Bersack & Cheryl Kowalczyk



# God's Hug

He wraps himself in light as with a garment;  
he stretches out the heavens like a tent.

Psalm 104:2 NIV

## God's Hug

Two friends sat outside relishing the cool evening air.

Trembling slightly, one drew a prayer shawl, knitted by a church group, snugly around her shoulders.

"Cold?" the other asked.

"No, just lonely," was the soft reply. "I miss him so."

For caregivers, the emptiness of being left alone can shake us in unexpected ways. We may experience the chill of loneliness, shuddering with the realization that our loved ones are no longer with us. All we want is to feel their touch and hear their voice one more time.

The prayer shawl, create by many church groups, symbolizes God's embrace and love. As we drape it around us, we gain strength through the companionship and prayers of friends.

A shawl wraps around our shoulders like Jesus' strong arms hugging us. Clinging to His promise of eternal life, we once again feel the warmth of hope filling our broken hearts.

God holds us close in our grief and understands our pain.

His presence warms us as He wraps Himself around us to protect us from the cold. His hugs comfort us like a blanket swaddling a baby. His arms enfold us with His love.

*Embracing Lord, I need a hug. I need to feel Your arms around me to protect me from the cold. I feel so alone and empty.*

*Only You can warm my heart. Amen.*

printed from The GuidePost Devotion

submitted by Doris Edmonds



Happy  
Valentine's.  
February.  
&  
always.  
Beloved!

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. **God is love.** Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

1 John 4:12-21 NIV

## 2024 Marshall Leadership

**Church Council Chair:** Cathy Lambert

**Church Council Committee:** Cliff Barr, Joe Bersack, Laurie Bersack, Amy Glascock, Candy Glascock, Terri Hill, Cheryl Kowalczyk, Debbie Machamer, Jeff Machamer, Amy Taylor, DeAnna Taylor

**Lay Leaders:** Joe Bersack, DeAnna Taylor

**Lay Servants:** Laurie Bersack, Terri Hill, Cheryl Kowalczyk, Amy Taylor

**Lay Member to Annual Conference:** Michelle Rowe

**District Steward:** Wendy Emery

**SPRC Chair:** Terri Hill

**SPRC Committee:** Cliff Barr, Lisa Burnside, Cheryl Kowalczyk, Amy Taylor

**Recording Secretary:** Candy Glascock

**Finance Chair:** Debbie Machamer

**Finance Committee:** Joe Bersack, Amy Glascock, Terri Hill, Cheryl Kowalczyk, Cathy Lambert, Jeff Machamer, DeAnna Taylor

**Financial Secretary:** Cheryl Kowalczyk

**Treasurer:** DeAnna Taylor

**Trustee Chair:** Jeff Machamer

**Trustee Committee:** Phil Harris, Rick Kowalczyk, Bob Lambert, Jeff Machamer, Rich Umbel

**Worship Chair:** Cathy Harris

**Worship Committee:** Candy Glascock, Terri Hill, Bob Lambert, Amy Taylor, DeAnna Taylor, Ruth Umbel

**Older Adult Ministries, Memorials:** Doris Edmonds

**Children's Ministry:** vacant

**Christian Education Committee:** Terri Hill, Bonnie Murphy, DeAnna Taylor, Pastor John

**Family Life Ministries Chair:** Kezia Glascock

**Family Life Ministry Committee:** Candy Glascock, Pastor John

**Mission Committee:** Amy Glascock, Bob Lambert, Cathy Lambert

**Outreach:** Laurie Bersack

**Communications:** Marti Church, Terri Hill

**Nominations Chair:** Pastor John

**Nominations Committee:** Joe Bersack, Christine Burnham, Smokey Jacobs, Bonnie Murphy, DeAnna Taylor, Marge VanDeman

**Safe Sanctuaries:** Pastor John

**Technology Chair:** Pastor John

**Technology Committee:** Bob Lambert, Debbie Machamer, Michelle Rowe, Amy Taylor

**UMWIF Chair:** Terri Hill

Serve.





MARSHALL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 Sunday School (Adults & Kids)  
 • 9 - 10am  
 • 10 - 10:30am  
 • 10:30 - 11:30am  
 Fellowship & Coffee Time  
 WORSHIP SERVICE  
 location:  
 8405 West Main Street  
 Marshall VA 20115  
 mailing:  
 PO Box 144  
 Marshall VA 20116  
 contacts: 540-364-2506  
 admin@marshallumc.org



# Marshall United Methodist . Circuit Writer Newsletter . February 2024 Calendar

SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED 31	THU Feb 1	FRI 2	SAT 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sunday School (Adult)</li> <li>10am Fellowship/Coffee Ti</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm WEEKLY Bible Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Monthly Luncheon</li> <li>6:30pm ESL INT</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Women's Meeting</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sunday School (Adult)</li> <li>10am Fellowship/Coffee Ti</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Worship Mtg</li> <li>7pm WEEKLY Bible Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm ESL INT</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11am PLANNING SESSION</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sunday School (Adult)</li> <li>10am Fellowship/Coffee Ti</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SHROVE/Pancake TUESday</li> <li>7:30pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm ASH WED Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm MUMPS Board Mtg</li> <li>6:30pm ESL INT</li> </ul>		
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