

DECEMBER  
2024

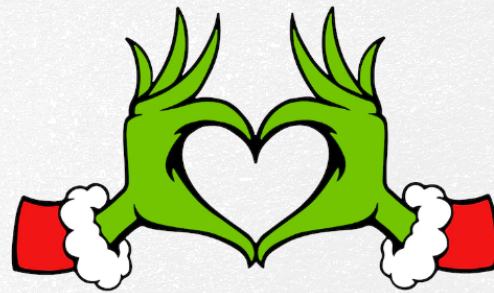


# Marshall United Methodist Church

## The Circuit Writer

# NEWSLETTER

### MONTHLY MESSAGE from the PASTOR



*He says,  
"Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."  
Psalm 46:10*

Hello, Beloved.

Can you believe that it is December? I am so excited about this time of year. December has become one of my favorite months because it is a time of preparation. It is a time of cuddling up under a blanket and drinking hot chocolate. That is, if you are not too busy - which we all tend to be at this time of year.

As we prepare this year for the birth of Jesus, we will be doing so through the words of Dr. Seuss. This year's series is called Dr. Seuss & Advent. We will be looking at the HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE that we find in Jesus. For this series, we will reference various books by the late, great Dr. Seuss. It should be fun and interesting, so bring a friend.

As we work through December, there are many events that we will be partaking in. On Wednesdays in December starting at 6:30, we will be having our Advent dinner and study. Please come be a part of this wonderful time of fellowship and learning. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, we have our Community Luncheon. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be participating in the Marshall Parade. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, the seniors will be on the go again for an outing to Patty O's Café. On December 13<sup>th</sup>, the preschool will be hosting a Gingerbread Building event, and the UMWIF (Methodist Women) will be having their Christmas party. December 15<sup>th</sup> is our church Potluck Luncheon and cookie exchange. December 20<sup>th</sup> is the MUMPS Christmas program. On December 21<sup>st</sup>, the longest night of the year, I will be opening the sanctuary for a time of prayer. This Blue Christmas Prayer Service is for anyone, but especially for those who are struggling with missing their loved ones around the holidays. On December 22<sup>nd</sup> during Sunday School hour, we will be having a birthday party for Jesus. That Sunday's service will also be a children's service. Please come and be a part of this special event. On December 24<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Christmas Eve/Candlelight service. December 29<sup>th</sup> will be a "Lessons and Carols Hymn Sing."

As you can see, we will be very busy in the month of December, and you are all welcome and encouraged to be a part of any event. This is YOUR invitation. Please join us for one or ALL of them. However, as you are preparing for the coming Messiah, please don't become too busy with doing things that you miss the reason for the season. Take time to be in prayer and meditation. Remember to be still and know God. Have a merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Grace, Peace & Love - 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*

# 2024 MUMC Holiday Highlights

Wednesday ADVENT  
Dinners & Studies  
start 6:30 pm  
Dec 4, 11, & 18

SR/Community  
LUNCHEON  
December 5  
@12 noon

Join MUMPS in the  
MARSHALL town  
PARADE!  
December 7

MUMPS  
Toys-for-tots  
TOY DRIVE  
Dec 8-12

SENIOR TRIP  
to Patty O's  
December 12  
10am departure

BOOK GROUP  
meets @630pm  
December 12

YOUTH GROUP  
meets most Sundays  
@12noon  
after services

MUMPS  
GINGERBREAD  
building event  
Dec 13 @6pm

UMWIF  
WOMEN'S  
CHRISTMAS PARTY  
Dec 13 @430pm

COOKIE EXCHANGE  
December 15  
Bring & buy a bag!!

POTLUCK LUNCH  
December 15  
@12noon  
after service

MUMPS  
Christmas Program  
December 20  
@930am

BLUE CHRISTMAS  
Prayer Service  
December 21  
@7pm

Jesus' Birthday Party  
& Children's Service  
December 22  
@9am & 1030am

\* Christmas EVE \*  
Candlelight Service  
December 24  
@7pm

Lessons & Carols  
HYMN SING  
December 29  
1030am service

## GIVING

# Mission & Outreach

Please remember that our church's missions & operational 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.

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, we have a great impact in our community. There are sure to be many more ways and opportunities to help those in need with holidays fast approaching too; look for them! Thanks for always being a generous church!!

## THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE WRAP-UP

MUMC collected more than 200 jars of spaghetti sauce and over 100 boxes of pasta and Jell-O for our annual Thanksgiving Food Distribution! On Friday (11/22), we packed everything and Saturday (11/23) our neighbors came and picked up their bags. It was a wonderful ecumenical event & such a blessing to be able to provide a little extra for those families at this time of year. Thank you everyone for your support and generosity always.



## PRAYER

If you have 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).



## Serving in December

### Worship Leaders:

December 1 - Cathy Harris  
December 8 - Candy Glascock  
December 15 - Joe Bersack  
December 22 - Jeff Machamer  
December 29 - Cheryl Kowalczyk

### Advent Readers:

December 1 - Christine Burnham & Marge VanDeman  
December 8 - Candy & Robert Glascock  
December 15 - Amy & Skip Glascock  
December 22 - The Children  
December 24 - Pastor John & Michelle Rowe

Communion Stewards: Cheryl & Rick Kowalczyk

### Counters:

December 1 - Cheryl Kowalczyk & Laurie Bersack  
December 8 - Debbie Machamer & Betty West  
December 15 - Terri Hill & Jeff Machamer  
December 22 - Bob Lambert & Wendy Emery  
December 29 - Cathy Lambert & Joe Bersack



# M.U.M.P.S. - Preschool Post



## What busy and festive times at the preschool!

- We had a wonderful Halloween costume parade, Halloween Party, and Thanksgiving program.
- Thank you all for your support during our book fair. We are happy to share that we exceeded our goal!
- We are excited about participating in the Marshall Christmas Parade on December 7th!
- We will be collecting new unopened toys for Toys-for-Tots from December 8th - 12th.
- MUMPS student artwork will be displayed in the businesses along Main Street as part of the Marshall Art Walk. See a sneak preview of some pieces on the next page....



## important dates:

- Marshall Christmas Parade 12/7
- Gingerbread House event  
12/13 @6pm
- Christmas Program  
12/20 @9:30am
- Birthday Party for Jesus  
12/22 @9am
- Christmas Break  
12/24/24 - 1/3/25

## fundraisers:

- Get your MUMPS car magnets for \$10 each! Checks should be made payable to MUMPS.
  - MUMPS shirts are \$15 each! Checks should be made payable to MUMPS.
- We are accepting sneakers for our *Got Sneakers* fundraiser.
  - The cost for gingerbread building on December 13th is \$12 a house.

If you're interested in supporting our preschool, you can help by donating paper towels, toilet tissue, and antibacterial hand soap throughout the year. We are grateful for all prayers & support.



### Amazon Wish List

You can view our preschool needs any time by using the QR code at left. We appreciate your help, donations, and support all the time!

Warm Regards,

*Kezia Glascock*

Preschool Director



# Sweet Stuff :)



Three photos proudly represent our MUMPS/preschool students' artwork that will be on display on Main Street as part of Marshall's Art Walk this holiday season!



## December Celebrations

birthdays & anniversaries

- 3 - Jason Swart
- 6 - Betty West
- 11 - Frances Snider
- 14 - David Hill
- 14 - Mallory Wyne
- 15 - Brian Kozlencer
- 15 - Bryce Glascock
- 17-Adam Kowalczyk
- 20 - John Egeland
- 22 - Ruth Umbel
- 25 - Jimmy Edmonds
- 26 - Cathy Harris
- 28 - George Murphy Sr
- 30 - Heather Wheeler

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

# MLMC Group Activities




## UMWiF

Happy December

to & from the **Marshall women's group!** Next month, we will roll in the new year with a new UMW President, Lisa Strahley, and a new VP, Christine Burnham! Please welcome them with your presence in the year to come!

The UMW will be sharing hot chocolate & candy canes at the **Marshall Parade** on December 7th! Meet at 9am to get ready. Alternately, come by to help or just chat and enjoy some hot chocolate with us!

 Our **Angel Tree** goes up on 11/30, so be sure to grab an angel for gifts for our kids! Please do not wrap and keep the tag with the present. Items need to be dropped off at the church by 12/8. See Amy Taylor with questions.

Our **women's Christmas party** will be on Friday, December 13th, at 4:30pm with a light dinner and snacks for all. Bring a coffee or tea cup stuffed with something festive (\$15-20 value) and a friend! There will also be an "ugly sweater" contest with prizes! *(Please let Amy or Terri know if you can attend so we have enough food!)*

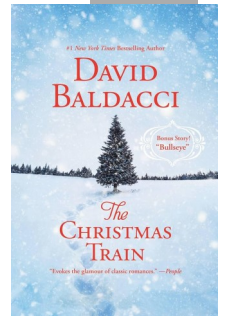
December 15th is our **annual cookie exchange!** Make your favorite cookies, put 2-4 in a bag, and bring in the recipe to share with our church family! Donations of \$1 a bag will help fund our ongoing ministries throughout 2025.

Our next meeting in January will be a breakfast on the 4th. Make a resolution to join us in 2025!



## Book Club

The book group will enjoy a holiday gathering to discuss The Christmas Train by David Baldacci at the Machamer's on Thursday, December 12, at 6:30pm. Contact Debbie for more information or to join in the meetings and readings!



## Super Seniors

The last trip on November 20 (pictured below) was to Yoder's Country Market in Madison, VA. The group will leave at 10am on December 12th for their next outing to Patty O's Café in Little Washington. See Doris Edmonds for info.



# Special Christmastime Opportunities



FOR THOSE WHO  
ARE BROKEN  
AND ALREADY  
WEARY OF  
CHRISTMAS,  
YOU NEED  
CHRISTMAS

## **Making it “the most wonderful time of the year” may take some effort! And that’s ok.**

Now may be the opportune time to lean into Jesus while we joyfully celebrate His birth, as it can also be a stressful, up-and-down, memory-invoking, lonely, expensive, pressure-filled, or rushed period. Realistically, now is not necessarily an all sparkly and smiling time of year for everyone annually. Here are a few tools to turn around the tough parts and tune into the good stuff found in silver linings of the Christmas story itself (such as the glory in the suffering & peace that passes all understanding).

### ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Remember the “reason for the season,” as the popular saying goes by going right to the basic source and attending Bible studies. If you haven't gotten your book yet, *The Christmas Letters*, it is not too late! Grab a copy and come to just three weeks of Advent studies (Dec 4, 11, & 18) while enjoying a nice meal together with church friends first, starting at 6:30pm. It also may save you some precious time not cooking!

### BLUE CHRISTMAS PRAYER SERVICE

At 7pm on Saturday Dec 21, the church will be opened for a special prayer service. If you or anyone you know with a heavy heart could use support to get through this holiday season, this is a time for quieting comfort. As our church family faced many great losses this year, so the holidays can be extremely hard vs. all and always happy, especially when we face them without loved ones for the first time. You don't have to struggle or suffer alone. Love and solace still surrounds you/all, always from God especially.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

What a balm to the soul to hold the candlelight in your hand while singing “Silent Night” as a universally peaceful and hopeful tradition. Don't miss our service at 7pm on the 24th; invite others to join us too on the miraculous night of His birth.



# See the Light of the World!

God placed his present on the tree for us. Happy birthday, Jesus!



## 12 Christmas PRAYERS

### Joy

May the joy of Christ be felt through us. **Luke 1:44**

### Love

Help us see ways to turn love into action this Christmas. **Matthew 25:40**

### FAITH

Increase our faith so we fully trust in Your promises. **Matthew 1:24**

### PEACE

May the peace of Christ cover the busyness of this season. **Isaiah 9:6**

### LIGHT

May the light of Christ shine from within us. **Isaiah 9:2**

### GRATITUDE

Thank you for all of our blessings, not just the gifts under the tree. **Luke 1:49**

### PROMISE

Thank you for the promise of eternal life through Jesus. **John 3:16**

### OBEDIENCE

Help us to be obedient to You even when we don't fully understand. **Luke 1:38**

### SIMPLICITY

You came as a baby in a manger, help us find value in the simple things. **Luke 2:7**

### HOPEFULNESS

Fill us with hope for the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ. **Daniel 2:44**

### GENEROSITY

Show us what gifts we have to offer and help us give them generously. **Matthew 2:11**

### TOGETHERNESS

Thank you that the gift of Jesus makes us one family together in Christ. **John 1:12**

AMEN!



## 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:** Rich Umbel

**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**  
 • 9 - 10am Sunday School (Adults & Kids)  
 • 10 - 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Time  
 • 10:30 - 11:30am WORSHIP SERVICE

location: 8405 West Main Street  
 Marshall VA 20115  
 mailing: PO Box 144  
 Marshall VA 20116  
 contacts: 540-364-2506  
 admin@marshallumc.org

OPEN HEARTS.  
 OPEN MINDS.  
 OPEN DOORS.



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

SUN Dec 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sunday School (Adult&amp;Kids)</li> <li>10am Fellowship/Coffee Time</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> <li>12pm Youth Group Ground Breake</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm ESL BEGInners Class</li> <li>7:30pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Advent Dinner</li> <li>7pm ADVENT Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Monthly Luncheon</li> <li>6:30pm ESL INTERmediate Class</li> </ul>		<b>Marshall Parade/Book Fair/Market</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3pm Rowe &amp; York WEDDING</li> </ul>
<b>MUMPS Toy Drive</b>	<b>MUMPS Toy Drive</b>	<b>MUMPS Toy Drive</b>	<b>MUMPS Toy Drive</b>	<b>MUMPS Toy Drive</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sunday School (Adult&amp;Kids)</li> <li>10am Fellowship/Coffee Time</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> <li>12pm Youth Group Ground Breake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:45pm HOA mtg</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm ESL BEGInners Class</li> <li>7:30pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Advent Dinner</li> <li>7pm ADVENT Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am SENIOR Trip to Patty O's</li> <li>6:30pm ESL INTERmediate Class</li> <li>6:30pm BOOK CLUB Mtg</li> <li>6:30pm MUMPS Board Mtg</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:30pm Women's Christmas Party</li> <li>6pm MUMPS Gingerbread Event</li> </ul>	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am BDAY Party for Jesus</li> <li>9am Sunday School (Adult&amp;Kids)</li> <li>10am Fellowship/Coffee Time</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> <li>12pm Youth Group Ground Breake</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm ESL BEGInners Class</li> <li>7pm Christmas EVE Service</li> <li>7:30pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm ESL INTERmediate Class</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sunday School (Adult&amp;Kids)</li> <li>10am Fellowship/Coffee Time</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm ESL BEGInners Class</li> <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 INTERmediate Class</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Women's Meeting</li> </ul>