

*December 2023*

***THE GOOD WORD***

Taylorsville United Methodist Church  
4356 Ridge Road, Mount Airy, Maryland 21771  
www.taylorsvilleumc.org  
Joshua Gillen, Pastor  
Phone: (410) 875-4101 E-mail: taylorsvilleumcmd@gmail.com

Where has the time flown? It's already December, and Advent is here. Soon, it will be Christmas, but not yet. It can be unclear to tell the difference between Advent and Christmas. The seasons share some of the same music and traditions. But it might help to know what Advent means. It's derived from an older Latin word, 'Adventus', which means 'Coming'. In other words, it is about preparing for the Coming of Christ. But not only about the arrival of Christ as a baby in Bethlehem. It's also about Christ's future coming and the way Christ arrives in our lives and hearts today.

Advent is the season of preparing ourselves and our community to receive Christ yesterday, today, and tomorrow. So, if you don't find it easy to get into the holiday mood, feel that Christmas is over commercialized, or want to put Christ back in Christmas, then Advent is the time to prepare the way of the Lord. Get ready for Christ to arrive in your life. Whatever traditions you have or prayers and studies, you need to take this time to get ready. Make straight the road for Christ to enter our lives, and others will find him born in them as well.

Isaiah 40:3-5 NRSVUE

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Here are a few ways we can prepare to welcome the Lord.

I want to remind you that it is never too late to join the Advent Bible study. Walk-ins are welcome.

December 1<sup>st</sup> we are hosting an Open House. Please invite friends, neighbors, and family to join us for fellowship, faith, and a visit from Santa.

Reach out to Mount Airy Net to see if you can help or donate to a needy family this season.

Put together an advent wreath for home devotions.

This year, I will share the Jesse tree with children at Church. Learn more at [The Jesse Tree: A Guide to the Advent Tradition | Faithward.org](#).

**Pastor Josh**



**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**USHERS/GREETERS**

December Sam & Anna Grimes

**READER**

December Cindy Harris

\*Let Office know if you can help\*

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

3	Jeff Taylor	16	Sandi Mennerick
4	Sandy Mancha-Wright	19	Maria Novick
11	Christina Leyh	30	Teresa Leyh
12	Debra Taylor	31	Sharon Iden

If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed in the Newsletter, please let the office know.



**All Men are Welcome!**  
**Saturday, Dec. 2-9:00 AM**  
 Going to Buttersburg Inn in  
 Union Bridge, MD  
 Contact John with questions



**December**  
**Mt. Airy Net is Collecting:**

**jelly, soups, cereal,  
 shampoo, conditioners**

\* Any donation is appreciated



**January**  
**Newsletter**  
**Deadline is:**  
**December 20**



**WISHING YOU  
 AN ABUNDANTLY  
 BLESSED HOLIDAY  
 SEASON!**

FROM THE FULLNESS OF  
 GRACE WE HAVE ALL  
 RECEIVED ONE BLESSING  
 AFTER ANOTHER.  
 JOHN 1:16

**Please keep the following in your prayers:**

**Prayer**

- Vivian’s great-grandson, Landen needs prayers
- Bob’s dog got loose
- Family of Roz Bowman who passed away
- Vivian’s great grandson, Landen in hospital
- Uncle with bladder cancer
- Anne’s niece has high blood pressure
- Pat Bean - coming home, pray for healing
- Chris’s cousin serving overseas in Navy
- Anne’s cousin, Melvin needs prayer
- Richard Wright in Lorien, Mt. Airy
- Storms, disasters in our world
- Carol’s sister, Laura is starting chemo
- Pray for the homeless
- Linda Cole, continued prayers for healing
- Pastor Josh’s family friend, Gail Sickle has bone cancer
- Eileen’s brother-in-law, Ray-healing from broken arm, now can’t do PT, healing prayers
- Sue’s cousin, Steve-started new chemotherapy for pancreas cancer
- Sharon’s niece, Jackie Eyler-surgery
- Amy’s cousin, Alex-swelling is down in skull, pray for healing
- Carol’s step-daughter, doing well, pray for healing
- Michelle Manco’s sister, Diana finished round of cancer treatments
- Bonnie’s great niece, Micah-leukemia
- Eileen’s sister, Judy-has scoliosis-prayers for healing from back surgery
- Prayers for homeless near and far
- Eileen’s brother-in-law, Jim, cancer
- Those that are sick with COVID and other illnesses
- Those grieving the loss of loved ones
- Taylorville UMC
- The United Methodist Church
- Pray for our Country and World Peace
- Prayers for Ukraine
- Prayers for Israel
- For those in assisted living facilities, and employees. Our members in assisted living is Bud Kibbe, Hagerstown, Betty Carey-Lorien, Taneytown



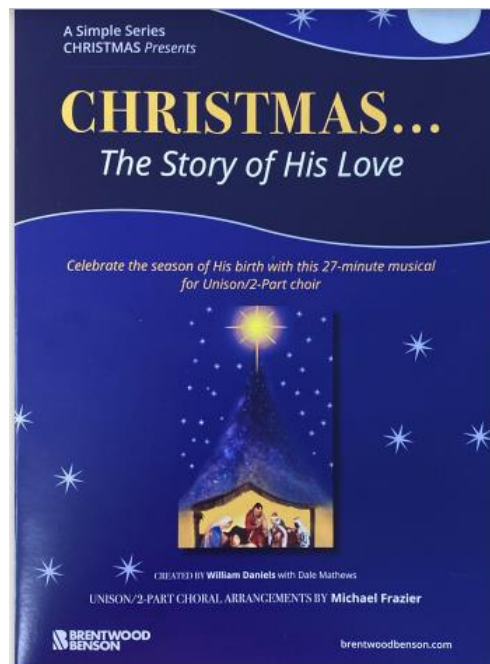
**Prayers for Service Persons**

Sean Grimes  
 (U S Navy-Tampa)  
 Thank you for your service Sean!!

**Join Us for:**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Sunday, December 24, 2023  
 10:00a.m. – Cantata



Sunday, December 24, 2023  
 7:00p.m.



**Candlelight Service**

**Joys**

- Nice Thanksgiving with family and friends
- Advent
- Christmas preparations and activities

**We want to keep our prayer list as up to date as possible. Please let the office know if there is a prayer request that we have missed or one we need to take off the list. Thank you for your help with this.**

**New on-line giving through our website.**

Go to: <https://taylorvilleumc.org/>

## **IT'S STILL THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD**

### **Christmas: The Story of His Love**

Dear Fellowship of Taylorsville United Methodist Church:

It is my honor on behalf of the Choir to provide this article addressing this holiday season. On Christmas Eve morning, December 24, 2023, at 10:00 AM, our Choir will share with you in music the greatest story ever told. From an historical perspective, Israel had heard rumors of a great event involving a promised Messiah. The event had been foretold for hundreds of years by prophets inspired by Jehovah God.

For as much as 400 years before His coming, God's people had only known silence with no reassuring words from their religious leaders to calm their anxieties and fears. The people were struggling under heavy suppression and personal fear for their very lives. Their continued expectations of a Messiah would hopefully give them relief and a renewed hope. No prophet or king had shown them a more immediate realization of their hopes and dreams – a promised Messiah to relieve them of their suppression and fears. The people prayed, offered sacrifices, and continued with their religious festivals and holy days. But even with all these, there remained only silence and waiting.

The time finally arrived! But this time and event when manifested was far from what the people had expected. They anticipated a revolution led by God's Messiah against the ruthless rulers. This did not occur, or at least if it could be called a revolution, it did not occur in the manner the people had hoped. After their liberation from captivity in Egypt and all the miraculous events in their 40-year wanderings, they yearned for something more spectacular. But what they got was a barely noticeable birth of a small baby in a lowly stable of all places.

But God's promises are not to be ignored. Even with the people's unfaithfulness to a God who had given them everything, they still did not turn universally to Jesus. After more than 2,000 years, many people still are not turning to Jesus. They remain divided over the full meaning of His coming and are questioning His message of salvation. Even though the message is clearly one of love and hope.

Our Choir will address this miraculous message of love and hope in the cantata this year – "Christmas: The Story of His love." We encourage all our membership to bring their family and their friends on December 24 at 10:00 AM to hear this message. And keep in mind that throughout all time, this message of hope and love still awakens each year in Bethlehem and throughout the entire world.

Monty Skelton

## Scripture Readings and Sermon Titles this December



**December 3, 2023**

**1st Sunday of Advent, Communion Sunday**

Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37

Sermon Title: "Hope and Longing"

**December 10, 2023**

**2nd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8

Sermon Title: "Comfort"

**December 17, 2023**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

I Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon Title: "Herald the News"

**December 24, 2023**

**4th Sunday of Advent**

Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

Sermon Title: "A Good Home of God's Choosing"

**December 24, 2023**

**4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve 7:00PM**

Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14

Sermon Title: "Now the Praise"

**December 31, 2023**

**1st Sunday after Christmas, New Year's Eve**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40

Sermon Title: "Don't Keep Silent"



**Adult Sunday School Class in Basement - Fellowship Hall ~ 9:00 a.m. Contact: Dee Haines**

Our winter quarter lessons examine how individuals from Scripture lived faithful lives that pleased God. Their stories reveal how we can honor God through our lives of faith, without which our attempts to please God fall short. We begin by exploring the faith of various people from Scripture including Ruth the Moabite, David the young shepherd, Mary the young pregnant woman, and the Magi who followed God's directives.

We meet in the church social room at 9 on Sunday mornings. We invite you to join us.

**Adult Sunday School Class 8:50 a.m.-Ed. Bldg. Contacts: Steve Novick/Jeff Taylor**

Group meets in the house at 8:55AM. Zoom is available if you cannot meet in person.

**Podcast News from Jeff Taylor**

The TaylorsvilleUMC webpage now has a section dedicated to podcasts produced by our church.

This page can be reached through the following link: <https://taylorsvilleumc.org/podcasts>  
It also has a menu item at the top of the home page. <https://taylorsvilleumc.org>

On it you will find three different playlists. A playlist is a group of podcasts related by subject matter.

You simply click on the displayed video to access all videos in the playlist.

The first playlist is a collection of Pastor Josh's weekly sermons called "Just Preach Jesus".

The second is a collection of our 9:00 am *Sunday school* class discussions currently centered on Jewish/Christian Reflections on the Lord's Prayer.

The third is a collection of podcasts by me on various topics regarding religion, theology, and history.

A fourth playlist was added early in March that contains the six Lenten study Zoom sessions for the Easter season.

These podcasts are not just for members of our church but are designed to appeal to the wider community.

So please feel free to talk about them and share the links with anyone you feel may be interested.

This is all part of TaylorsvilleUMC's plan to grow our on-line congregation.



Thank you to all who donated shoeboxes! Our church sent **34** boxes to children that may only get that gift this holiday. Here at **TUMC** we certainly are spreading God's love thru this ministry.



Dear Members and Friends,

We did it again!

We survived another bazaar. But it was not without all the hard work from many, many people. Yes, it is hard work and some of our backs and feet are still aching. But, the fellowship of talking to our visitors, sharing new stories, seeing new faces and conversations galore, were happening in every area around us. There is one couple that I have seen every year for the past 10 years. The husband bought a coffee mug long ago from our bazaar and he uses it every day. However, about 4 years ago he dropped it, and the handle broke off. I said we have plenty of coffee mugs. "Oh no," he said. "I want this one even though the handle is no longer there. It has a history." We have a history also. Our bazaar has been going on for many, many years. Perhaps it has been 30 plus years. Let's work together and keep it going!

THANK YOU!

Sue Leppert



- \* Did you know our Mission Team supports: **UnAlaska -\$100** and **Westminster Rescue Mission-\$50** with a monthly donation? Also, Community Table expenses.
- \* We will have our small tree in the back of the church with envelopes to help give support to our mission projects.
- \* If you are interested in joining the Mission Team contact Vivian or the church office.





## Christmas Open House Party

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

4:30 to 7:00pm

Crafts, Food,

Santa,

Christmas Carols

All Are Invited

Taylorsville United Methodist Church

4356 Ridge Road

Mt. Airy, MD 21771

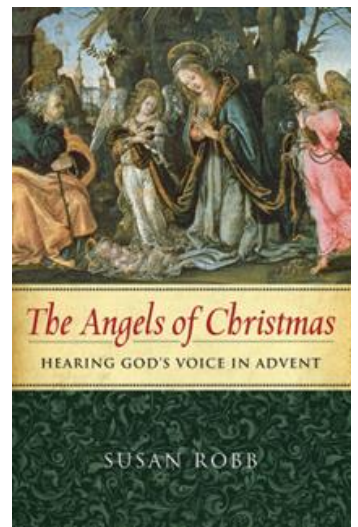


### **ADVENT STUDY - The Angels of Christmas**

The study presented by Susan Robb is 4 weeks and started on November 28th. We will explore the four Angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus.

Still time to join in at the church fellowship hall.

Cost of book is \$12.50





*Join Us in Our Mission*  
 Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach

★ **December 16, 2023** ★

**National Wreaths Across America Day**



**Taylorsville Cemetery**  
 4356 Ridge Road, Mt. Airy MD  
 CEMETERY ID: MDTYVL  
**Ceremony starts promptly at NOON**  
 Please contact Cindy 443-605-7149 or  
 Burrier-Queen Funeral Home (410) 795-0300  
 If you are interested in sponsoring a wreath  
 and/or volunteering to place a wreath on our  
 hometown fallen veteran's graves. Thank you!



**BABYLON VAULT  
 COMPANY**  
 New Windsor, MD  
 GROUP ID MD0316  
[www.babylonvaultcompany.com](http://www.babylonvaultcompany.com)

**Church Contact is Cindy Harris - Still time to sponsor a wreath**



*Sponsor A Wreath Today!*

**NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY**

*Saturday December 16, 2023*

**12 Noon**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Levels	Price	Total
Individual - 1 wreath	\$17.00	
Family - 4 wreaths	\$68.00	
Business - 10 wreaths	\$170.00	
Business - 25 wreaths	\$425.00	
Business - 50 wreaths	\$850.00	
Corporate - 100 wreaths	\$1700.00	

Apply my sponsorship to the following approved cemetery:

\_\_\_\_\_

or

apply wherever needed

Make Checks Payable to: Wreaths Across America

Credit Card QR code: visit [BabylonVaultCompany.com](http://BabylonVaultCompany.com) under the community tab

Group ID: MD0316 (please use this group ID to keep donations in Carroll County, MD)

**Family Wreath Placement Request**

A portion of the ceremony allows family members to place a wreath on a family members' grave at our approved cemeteries. Please indicate:

Cemetery: \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer Opportunities** (check your interests below):

\_\_\_ Deliver wreaths \_\_\_ Ceremonial Wreath Assembly \_\_\_ Lead Ceremony  
 \_\_\_ Vocalist \_\_\_ Bugler \_\_\_ Wreath Cleanup



Wreaths Across America Approved Group #MD3016



# 2023

Office Hours  
M, W, TH  
9:00AM-2:30PM

TAYLORSVILLE UMC



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3<sup>1st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Mission Giving Sunday</b> 9:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM Worship- Facebook live/website	<b>4</b>	<b>5 7:00PM</b> <b>Advent</b> <b>Study</b>	<b>6 6:30PM</b> <b>Choir</b>	<b>7 6:00 PM</b> <b>UWIF Christmas</b> <b>Party</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10<sup>2nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM Worship- Facebook live/website	<b>11</b>	<b>12 7:00PM</b> <b>Advent</b> <b>Study</b>	<b>13 6:30PM</b> <b>Choir</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17<sup>3rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM Worship- Facebook live/website	<b>18</b>	<b>19 7:00PM</b> <b>Advent</b> <b>Study</b>	<b>20 6:30PM</b> <b>Choir</b> <b>Newsletter</b> <b>Deadline</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24<sup>4th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Christmas Eve Services:</b> 10:00AM Worship-Cantata 7:00PM Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27 6:30PM</b> <b>Choir</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31 New Year's Eve</b> 9:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM Worship- Facebook live/website						<b>Mt. Airy Net</b> <b>Collecting: jelly, soup,</b> <b>shampoo,</b> <b>conditioners</b>

 **Taylorville  
United Methodist Church**  
Church Phone: 410-875-4101  
Email: [taylorvilleumcmd@gmail.com](mailto:taylorvilleumcmd@gmail.com)

**Our Mission of Purpose**

We of Taylorville UMC are a community of faith who believe in Jesus Christ and who value Bible study, prayer, mission and growing in discipleship. We will connect with our unchurched neighbors through small groups that present opportunities to share our faith and worship God together.



*Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year*

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.taylorvilleumc.org](http://www.taylorvilleumc.org)

To unsubscribe or to receive this through e-mail please call the church office at 410-875-4101 or e-mail [taylorvilleumcmd@gmail.com](mailto:taylorvilleumcmd@gmail.com)

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED