

December 2024

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

Happy Advent to you all, and Merry Christmas. We have made it to an entire new year of the liturgical calendar. For worship purposes, Advent is the start of the new year, with a new beginning as we welcome the birth of Jesus into our worlds. As we approach Christmas and all the events and preparation in our church and our families, I want to encourage you to think a little about the role gift-giving plays this year and in our faith.

I expect some stress as we all try to find the right gifts for our special people. I am sure we will also take great joy in our gifts to the church and the people our church serves through Giving Tuesday, Mount Airy Net, and the families we sponsor for the holidays. But I want us to think about how the concept of gift-giving is at the heart of Christmas and our faith.

I am going out on a limb and suggesting that gift-giving and Grace have a spiritual connection. Theologically, Grace is the unmerited favor given by God. We can use the word for the favor; we might also show other people Grace, but from the church perspective, we usually talk about God. Gift-giving is also an unmerited demonstration of favor.

As we practice our gift-giving and gift-receiving this year, remember that we have also received a gift from God in the form of Jesus. It might help us to take the stress out of gift-giving and receiving this year if we learn to see all good gifts as acts of love and Grace receiving. So, if you don't give or receive the perfect gift this year, think about how a gift is not an obligation but an act of favor and love.

I hope to see you all soon as we celebrate God's gift, Emanuel, this season.

We have several opportunities to gather this year. The cantata will be happening the Sunday before Christmas, and we will have a family service on Christmas Eve, followed by our candlelight service.

We also have an Open House and Children's Cooking Class soon. Not to mention, I will be hosting an advent bible study on Zoom. I look forward to seeing you at one or more of these events and wish you all a grace-filled Advent and a joyful Christmas.

James 1:17-18 NIV

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

Pastor Josh



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

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

**JANUARY
2025**

**Deadline is:
DECEMBER 23**



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

USHERS/GREETERS

December - Scott & Ritta Jones

READER

December - Anna Grimes

- ♦ Need Advent Candle help on:
December 15 & 22
- ♦ Need Reader & Ushers for
January 2025

Let Office know if you can help

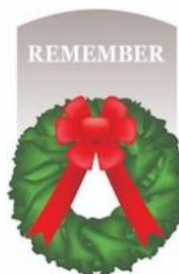
NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Beginning December 1st,
Read one chapter of
The Book of Luke in the Bible
each evening.
There are 24 chapters.
On Christmas Eve you will have read
an entire account of Jesus's Life
and wake up Christmas Morning
Knowing WHO and WHY
We Celebrate!!

Wreaths Across America Service

Taylorsville United Methodist Church

December 14th at Noon



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

- Family of Linda Lochstampfor who passed away
- John Eaton having hip replacement December 5
- Glenda Harris is having knee surgery soon
- Mary's son had accident, he is ok
- Persons that suffer with seasonal depression
- Sarah requests prayers for health
- Joe Martin-home, continued prayers for healing
- Rhonda Berg-home from hospital, needs prayer
- Sheri's friend, Lisa Twilley, healing prayers
- Children and the challenges they face
- Bonnie's son's friend has brain cancer
- Debbie Gillen, doing better, pray she doesn't overdo it
- COVID, pray for people who have it & are suffering
- Josh is having weekly blood draws
- Chris - pray for relief of his pain
- Uncle Jerry needs prayers for cancer
- Clearfield Bible Church, Westminster burned down, pray for this congregation
- Debra's brother, Jeff, with pulmonary fibrosis,
- Chris's cousin serving overseas in Navy
- Pray for the homeless near and far
- Bonnie's great niece, Micah-leukemia
- Those grieving the loss of loved ones
- Taylorsville UMC
- The United Methodist Church
- Pray for our Country and Leaders
- Pray for our World, Peace, Enemies
- Prayers for Ukraine, Israel
- For those in assisted living facilities, and employees.
- Our member in assisted living is Betty Carey-Lorien, Taneytown

**Joys**

- Advent Season
- Fill the Truck for Mt. Airy Net on Giving Tues, Dec. 3
- TUMC Choir
- 17 children coming to Kids Baking Class
- Children in church
- Holiday gatherings

Prayers for Service Person

Sean Grimes

(U S Navy-Tampa)

Thank you for your service Sean!!

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.

Scripture Readings and Sermon Titles**DECEMBER****December 1, 2024****1st Sunday of Advent, Communion Sunday**

Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

Sermon Title: "Strength Your Hearts"

December 8, 2024**2nd Sunday of Advent**

Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

Sermon Title: "Refine Your Hearts"

December 15, 2024**3rd Sunday of Advent**

Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

Sermon Title: "Questions and Joy"

December 22, 2024**4th Sunday of Advent**

Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55

Sermon Title: "Fulfillment and Desire"

December 24, 2024**Christmas Eve Family Service - 4:30PM****December 24, 2024****Christmas Eve Candle Light Service- 7:00PM**

Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20

Sermon Title: "Grace Appeared"

December 29, 2024**1st Sunday after Christmas, Happy Birthday Jesus**

Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:15-21

Sermon Title: "Grow in Wisdom and Grace"

Join Us for Christmas Eve Services**Family Service at 4:30PM****Candle Light Service at 7:00PM****December 29 - Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration after church service****All Are Welcome to Join Us!**

ONLY LOVE COULD WRITE THIS STORY... FROM A MANGER THRONE

Christmas is a time of invitations. These come in many formats and from many directions. There are all the usual forms, e.g., mail, phone, text, social media, and of course, face-to-face. But with all the “glitz and glow” all around us at this time of year, isn’t it probable we are altogether missing the real invitation in Christmas. That invitation is to focus on the birth of Jesus, and what that should mean to each of us personally.

While we gladly sing “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” do we really understand the significance of such a small, humble village? The prophet Micah wrote over 2,700 years ago that Bethlehem Ephrathah would bring forth our Savior Jesus Christ. And historians worldwide universally agree that the birth of Jesus is the most important event in human history over the last 2,000 years. Another thought often overlooked concerns the manger itself where Jesus laid. That manger should rightly be termed the royal throne of God. What a powerful thought that is. Our Lord rested in a manger throne.

But with all the trappings of Christmas, there is really only one question we need to ask ourselves. Why did Jesus come, and how did it affect me? If we have invited Jesus into our heart and life, we are told in the Book of John (10:10) that Christ came so that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Isn’t that what we all want?

At 10:00 AM on Sunday, December 22, 2024, our Choir will offer some special Christmas music as part of our regular worship service. We will invite the participation of our congregation. Our Choir is small, and we struggle in some respects. But we are united in one single purpose, and that is to praise God. We wish each of you a joyous Christ-filled holiday season. We hope all then can sing so that all can see Christ in all of us.

We will sing of Christ love, because only Love could write this story from a manger throne.

Wishing all a merry, and holy, Christmas.

Your Taylorsville Choir



Adult Sunday School Class in Basement Fellowship Hall ~ 9:00 a.m.

Contact: Dee



December begins our winter quarter. The lessons explore the broad sweep of Scripture's teaching regarding God's reign as our eternal king. Jesus is the earthly exhibition of that kingdom. We begin by looking at the history of Jesus' ancestors, highlighting Jesus' birth as the son of David, and preparing us for the Christmas season by introducing us to members of Jesus' lineage. Each individual in that lineage is a testament to God's faithfulness and his glorious plan for his kingdom. This royal lineage would culminate with the rule and reign of Jesus Christ.

We meet in the social hall at 9 each Sunday. We invite you to join us.

Adult Sunday School Class 8:50 a.m.-Pastor Josh's Office

Contacts: Steve Novick/Jeff Taylor - This class has started back and is meeting in Pastor Josh's office. Check with Jeff or Steve on the topic.

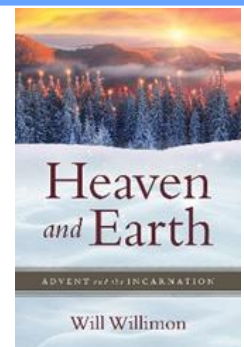
CHILDREN'S Sunday School



This advent season the Children's Sunday School class will be spending time talking about Christmas traditions in other countries and why traditions are important. We will spend some time learning about Mary. Next, we will have a lesson on why Jesus is called the Light of the World and what that means to us. Finally, we will be getting ready for the birth of Jesus. Are you ready?

Advent Study - Heaven and Earth

Still time to join the study. Starts Thursday, Dec. 5 at 7PM on Zoom. Let Pastor Josh or Anna know to sign up.



GIVING TUESDAY

MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

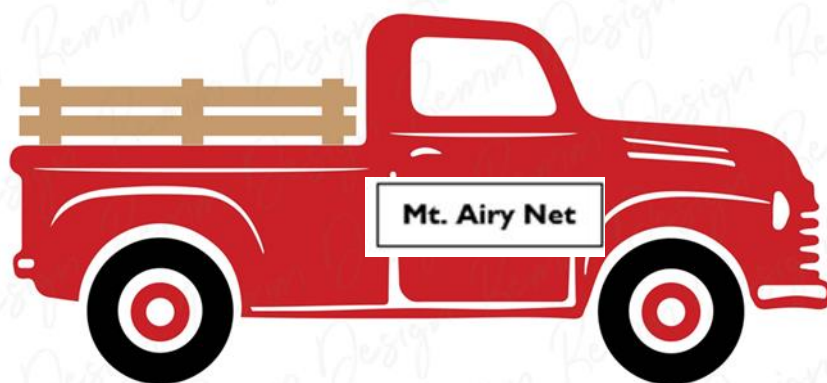
It's almost here – **Giving Tuesday!** The day was created to shift the focus from consumerism – think Black Friday and Cyber Monday – to promoting generosity and giving back. It is celebrated in the United States on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Check out our website where you will find access to our online giving platform.

You will also have an opportunity to donate nonperishable food and personal care items which will be given to Mount Airy Net. Help us fill the truck which will be parked at the church on Tuesday, December 3.

This Thanksgiving we are grateful for **YOU** - our donors.

FILL THE TRUCK FOR MT. AIRY NET

December 3, 7:00AM TO 5:30PM
Taylorsville UM Church-Parking Lot
4356 Ridge Road, Mt. Airy



Collecting non-perishable items such as:

Cereals, Pancake Mix, Soups, Rice, Noodles, Canned Meats & Vegetables, Paper Towels, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash

Christmas Open House

Friday, December 6th

4:30 - 7:00 pm

*Come celebrate the Christmas season with
us at*

Taylorsville United Methodist Church

4356 Ridge Road, Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Food, Crafts for Kids, Christmas carols,

Visit with Santa

Drop in anytime during the Open House hours

YOU ARE INVITED



**to a Kids Christmas
Cookie Baking Class!**

What: Kids Christmas Cookie Baking Class

Learn basic baking skills & cookie decorating
Take cookies home to your family!

Who: Any kids ages 5-12

**When: December 13, 2024
6:00-7:30pm**

Where: Taylorsville United Methodist Church

Cost: FREE!

RSVP: Email taylorsvilleumcmd@gmail.com



A few spots left in the class. Email the church to sign up.

UWIF

Christmas PARTY

**Thursday, December 12,
6:30PM**

**All Women are Invited to Attend
RSVP to Dee or Maria**

Bazaar Update:

I would like to thank all members and friends of Taylorsville UMC who spent time and energy to make our 2024 BAZAAR a complete success. We are a small local church that works very hard to complete such a big event to let our neighbors and friends know who we are and what we represent. We now have a profit of \$14,553.69. Of course, our highest item of cost and revenue was our luncheon. Thanks to those people who made generous donations of \$1320 for the cost of oysters (\$1126) and additional foods and kitchen supplies. Also, from our profit, we will take \$1,000 to donate to local charities. Thank you all for taking the time to help support **OUR** church.

Sue Leppert



December 10th is our next restaurant fundraiser at New York J&P, Mt. Airy. from 11am to 10pm. Gather your family and friends and enjoy some good food and fellowship while supporting TUMC!



Taylorsville United Methodist Church

JOIN US FOR

FUNDS FOR FRIENDS NIGHT!

TUESDAY DECEMBER 10TH

J&P Mt. Airy will be donating 10% of their daily sales back to us!

Show this flyer or just mention to the staff you're with the fundraiser!

Can't dine in? Scan the code to Order Online for Takeout or Delivery.

Just add in the notes that you're with the fundraiser! 😎



Thank you for supporting!!



2024

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



TAYLORSVILLE UMC



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Sunday of Advent Communion 9:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM Worship- Facebook live/website	2	3 7AM to 5:30PM- Fill the Truck for Mt. Airy Net	4 6:30PM Choir	5 7PM Advent Study – Zoom	6 4:30-7PM Christmas Open House	7
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM Worship- Facebook live/website	9	10 11AM to 10PM J & P Fundraiser	11 6:30PM Choir	12 6:30PM UWIF Christmas Party	13 6-7:30PM Kids Baking Class	14
15 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM Worship- Facebook live/website	16	17	18 6:30PM Choir	19 7PM Advent Study – Zoom	20	21
22 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM Worship- Facebook live/website	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 4:30PM Family Service 7PM Candle Light Service	25 	26	27	28
29 Happy Birthday Jesus 9AM Sunday School 10:00AM Worship- Facebook live/website	30	31				Coming Events: Open Mic Nights- more infor. soon



Our Mission of Purpose

We of Taylorsville 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.

We're on the Web!
www.taylorsvilleumc.org



**HOPE TO SEE YOU IN
CHURCH THIS MONTH**

To unsubscribe or to receive this through e-mail please call the church office at 410-875-4101 or e-mail taylorsvilleumcmd@gmail.com

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED