



The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2022

Court Street United Methodist Church

Does The Christmas Story Still Matter?

What does Christmas mean to you? Times with family and friends? Perhaps carols, cards, television specials. Maybe hectic shopping, parties, and eating too much. All these and more are part of North American Christmas. But what about the first Christmas? Why is the original story, the baby in a manger, shepherds, wise men, angels, important, if at all? For two millennia, people have told of the child in a Bethlehem manger; of angels who announced his birth to shepherds; of learned men who traveled a great distance to view him. That a story persists for many years does not prove its truthfulness. Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the tooth fairy survive in the popular imagination. What deep human longings does the Christmas story portray? Why has it connected so profoundly with millions of people? Is the story factual? Curiosity prompts further investigation. Jesus' society knew great pain and oppression. Rome ruled. Corrupt tax collectors burdened the people. Joseph and his pregnant wife Mary traveled a long distance to Bethlehem to register for a census but could not obtain proper lodging. Mary bore her baby and laid him in a manger, a feeding trough for animals. Eventually, King Herod sought to kill the baby. Warned of impending risk, Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt, then returned home after Herod's death. Imagine how Mary felt. Traveling while pregnant would be challenging. Fleeing to another nation lest some king slay your son would not be pleasant. Yet she, Joseph, and Jesus survived the ordeal. Amid social and cultural challenges, the Christmas story offers hope and encouragement toward survival, hope of new life linked to something, someone, greater than oneself. So, the Christmas story is important because it has endured and because it speaks of hope and survival. Jesus came to help plug us into God. Mary's baby was born to die, paying the penalty for our self-centeredness, which the biblical documents call "*sin*." If I had a traffic fine, I could not pay, you could offer to pay it for me. When the adult Jesus died on the cross, He carried the penalty due all our sins then rose from the dead to give new life. Jesus explained, "*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*" Christmas is meant to celebrate peace and joy. Amidst the busyness of shopping, parties, presents, and fun, remember that the Prince of Peace came to spread peace and joy to all who believe in Him and to offer each one of us eternal life through Him. Merry Christmas.

~ *Pastor Bill Burleigh*

LOOKING FOR GOOD NEWS? COME TO THE MANGER

DECEMBER'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

December 4: "Reign Over Us"

December 11: "Doing the Right Thing"

December 18: "To Whom Do We Pay Homage?"

December 25: "The Holy Family Becomes Refugees"

Join us every Sunday after worship service in the Refectory.
Children's Sunday School meets on the main floor off the Bishop Early Hall.

PARKVIEW MISSION FOOD DRIVE was a great success. We collected 20 bags of groceries that were taken to Parkview's food pantry. A special thank you to Harriette Cash for delivering the bags.



ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKS are available in the Bishop Early Hall courtesy of The Society of St. Andrew. Please take one for yourself and another to share with a friend or neighbor.



IN LIEU OF POINSETTIAS Court Street will once again be accepting donations in Lieu of Poinsettias. This year we are collecting for the Pastor's Fund. Please make a donation in Honor and/or Memory of loved ones. The list of names "Given to ~ Given by" will be published on December 24th and will be added to the end of the Christmas Eve Service posted online. Please send in your order forms by December 18th. You are also welcome to call the church office 434-845-3427 or email your request 621courtstumc@gmail.com and place a check in the mail or in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to CSUMC with "Pastor's Fund" on the memo line.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Please plan to join us for our Christmas Eve Service at 4:00pm on Saturday December 24th. This is a traditional service with everyone lighting a candle at the end of the service and singing carols around the tree in the Bishop Early Hall. We hope you can come and make sure you invite your friends and family to join you!

Interfaith Outreach Association to Host:

6th Annual Walter M. Fore, Jr. Downtown Lynchburg Historic Church Open House



Looking for something fun to do this holiday season in downtown Lynchburg?

Join us on Saturday, December 10 for Interfaith Outreach Association's 6th Annual Walter M. Fore, Jr. Downtown Lynchburg Historic Church Open House. This year's event is **FREE** and open to the public. Donations by concertgoers to Interfaith Outreach Association will be appreciated.

The following is the concert schedule ~ churches that will be open for a 15-minute holiday concert performance:

Jackson Street United Methodist Church-10:00 am

Holy Cross Catholic Church-10:30 am

St. Paul's Episcopal Church-11 am

Court Street United Methodist Church-11:30 am (Gary will play a few selections on the Schantz Organ)

First Unitarian Church 12 pm

First Baptist Church/Church of the Good Shepherd -12:30 pm

Diamond Hill Baptist Church- 1pm. Special guest will be Temple Agudath Sholom.

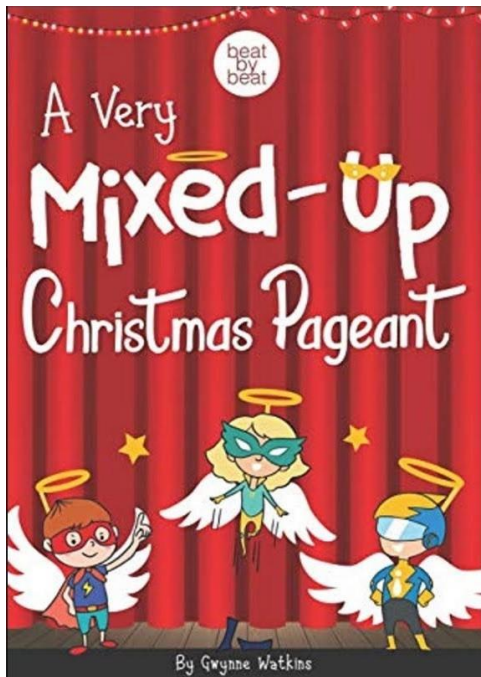
All 7 churches are within a 5-block area of downtown Lynchburg.

For more information, please visit our Facebook, Instagram page or our website at www.interfaithoutreach.org.

WE NEED GREETERS FROM 11:00AM TILL 12:00 NOON

Let pastor Bill or Jesse know if you can come help out

December Events at ESA (upstairs)



December 16th ~ 7:00pm
Auditorium on the 3rd floor
(Not Handicap Accessible)



Birthdays and Anniversaries

December Birthdays		January Birthdays	
Hunter Alan Tyree	December 02	Eddie Letchford	January 01
Milton West	December 03	David Hudnall	January 03
Brennalynn Diuguid	December 05	Jeremiah Jackson	January 04
Phil Ripley	December 05	Doris Lee Spriggs	January 06
Nancy Russell	December 06	Bobby Brown	January 08
Elizabeth Larkin	December 07	Patsy Wilkinson	January 13
Adam Bryant	December 09	William Eric Sweeney	January 17
Jeff Thaxton	December 11	Eric Johnson	January 19
Suzanne Baker	December 12	Patti Montgomery	January 19
Susan Cobbs	December 12	Shelley Burleigh	January 20
Lisa Thaxton	December 14	Misha Dovyalyuk	January 23
Randy Hurst	December 20	Rebekah Jackson	January 30
Ray Pulliam	December 30		
Anne Langley	December 31		

December Anniversaries

Shelley & Bill Burleigh Dec. 16

Bobbi & Randy Hurst Dec. 23

January Anniversaries

Brenda & Andy Whitehead Jan 04

Cheryl & Milton West Jan 25



*Anniversaries
and Birthdays*

PRAYER CONCERNS

All Men and Women serving in the Military

- Travis Dean Burleigh – 7425 Snowy Owl St. Unit 102, N. Las Vegas, NV 89084
son of Shelley and Rev. Bill Burleigh
- Matthew Diuguid – 3501 A Ave. 1st Platoon, Bravo Company 266 Qm Bn; Fort Lee, VA 23801
- Robert Allen Tyree – stationed at Fort Bragg, 1404 Brookville Ln., Lynchburg, VA 24502
Grandson of *Mary Tyree


In Need of Prayer

- Phillip Burleigh ~ brother of Rev. Bill Burleigh
- *Noel Draper - 501 VES Road Drinkard 619, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Christopher Lilly – 1705 Rivermont Ave. Apt 8, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Phil Ripley – C/O Julie Strong 1356 John Anderson Dr., Ormond Beach, FL 32176
- *Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *John Sweeney - 1487 Jennings Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Cornell Thompson ~ 2029 Grace Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504
- *Robert Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502
son of *Mary Tyree, brother of *Debbie Chaffin

* *Church members*

Advent Prayer for Light

Son of God,
You are the light of the world.
This Advent shine your light on
all our choices this day.
Create in us the ability to let
your light shine forth for others.
We ask this in the name of the
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.



Update on Capital Campaign:	
Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 11/31/21	\$278,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$21,019
Received to Date	\$249,416
Received since last update	\$00.00
Elevator fund	\$10,328

Court Street UMC
621 Court Street
Lynchburg Va. 24504



In worship, praise and ministry, we respond to God's call by reaching out to all people with light, hope, and a vision of God's love.

COURT STREET UMC WEBSITE: www.courtstreetmethodist.com

EMAIL: 621courtstumc@gmail.com

PHONE: 434-845-3427

Please contact the church office at:

621courtstumc@gmail.com or (434) 845-3427 on or before Wednesdays to have events and notices posted on the church website.

