



# The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia December 2021

[www.clarksburymc.com](http://www.clarksburymc.com)

**Our Mission:**

**To receive and share God's love through worship, education, service and outreach.**

## Pastor Ken's Corner

*Isaiah 12:2-6 (NRSV)*

<sup>2</sup> *Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.*

<sup>3</sup> *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

<sup>4</sup> *And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.*

<sup>5</sup> *Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.*

<sup>6</sup> *Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!!!

Who else is focusing on the REAL REASON for The SEASON?

I pray we all are.

December this year, like most Decembers, will be stuffed with events, schedule work arounds and just the general rush of days flowing by and events we want to attend or participate in. None of us can attend ALL the events we would like to so it comes down to prioritizing what you can do.

I think that often, in this season I find myself viewing the weeks leading up to Christmas and New Years like a Christmas buffet that has more great dishes to taste and sample than I could ever consume without bursting.

Here is that word of caution, reason and moderation can reduce the stress of this season and add to the Joy and celebration. Savor the family times, enjoy the worship times, be in the moment for each event. Take time to be joyful and not be overwhelmed by the busyness that this season usually brings. Tomorrow brings more opportunities let each one come in its time.

<sup>2</sup> *Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.*

<sup>3</sup> *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

<sup>4</sup> *And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.*

The Prophet Isaiah focuses us on the Attitude of Gratitude we should strive to attain in this season. Rather than the material things, this Christmas and Advent, I urge us all to celebrate and focus on what the Lord is doing in our lives. Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name! Focus on the Joy and share the Good News of Salvation given through the **BABY JESUS** born long ago and far away in a little town of Bethlehem to fulfill the promise of our Redemption made long ago.

It has been a very interesting year and Clarksbury has maintained many of our ministries, though somewhat modified because of Covid. I pray we can continue these ministries even in light of the new variant of **OMICRON COVID**. Our **PRG/HCT** will review and adjust based upon our **LOCAL** environment and guidance from the Conference and Health Officials.

I want to **restate the goals** for the coming year that I shared last month with you.

We managed to stay connected and involved in our community, it was challenging at times, but you persevered. **Goal number One** is to maintain our connection with our community regardless of how difficult it might become with **COVID** restrictions.

We have found a number of ways to innovate and use new technologies to worship and you keep finding new ways to stay involved, from music at the Maritime Museum outdoors to Music at the rescue Squad when it got colder. We have had small groups meet at back patios and around fire pits at other homes.

**Goal Number Two** is to continue be flexible and innovative when it comes to finding ways, locations, methods, and opportunities to be worshipful and to remain connected as we progress with all the **COVID** restrictions, and yet maintain safety.

You guys have been so resilient throughout the pandemic, and we have still worshipped together, we have continued to lift our voices in Praise together and served our community together. Terry and I are happy to be part of **YOUR** ministries at Clarksbury.

We have our Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry on Saturday the December 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM – 11 AM. We always have room for more help.

COVID restrictions and protocols are relaxed but many still remain, and we must keep in mind that the threat is not eliminated, **and in some cases is elevated again with the recent variant.... OMICRON.** For some, the risks of COVID are very real and very present. We continue to lift up in our prayers those who are at risk and still under many restrictions.

Our Post-COVID Re-Entry Group (PRG) came up with a plan and we submitted that Mitigation Assistance Plan to our District Superintendent who saw no needs to revise the plan. We will continue to monitor the local situation and as necessary make adjustments.

*<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.*

*<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

Sing Praises to the Lord! Let His Glory be known in all the Earth. Our Christmas Cantata on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> during the morning worship Service. Following the worship service will be a potluck luncheon. Hope to see you all there. Great Music and great food...Sounds good to me.

This last year has been rough on many families, with illness and Losses, there have been victories over cancer and continuing treatments and procedures for other ailments, new knees, and new hips. Many changes that we could never have imagined, and yet God is still with us, Jesus is with us, and the Holy Spirit is with us. We are not alone, and Jesus promises to never leave us, even when our world seems to be off kilter and spinning in some unforeseen direction. We can have Faith in the Trinity Of The Father, Son and Holy Spirit no matter what goes on in our world. We lay ourselves before the mercy of God and with Faith count on the sacrifice of His Son for all our SIN.

We continue our Advent Bible Study *“Light of the World”* by Amy-Jill Levine. We will dive deep into the history of the birth of Christ.

*In Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join her as she traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt.

With our **third session Tuesday Dec 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM** and the **fourth (final) session on Tuesday December 14 at 2 PM** in the Social Hall. Warren and I will be rotating teaching sessions and I'm looking forward to it.

We continue to acknowledge the generosity and efforts of our **Soup Ministry/Prayer Warriors/Prayer Partners** each month. They provide meals, soup, gifts, cards, letters, and phone calls to many of our members as well as those at Fishing Bay Estates and other locations.

Keep the small groups and gatherings in your prayers as we look to new ways to restart these meaningful and joyful worship and sharing opportunities.

Let us continue to pray for the people who may encounter COVID-19 and be exposed to or suffer from the illness.

Peace & Grace,  
Pastor Ken



*A Note from your Lay Leader*  
*JESUS HEALED ALL THOSE WHO CAME TO HIM*  
*Warren Wright*



And He (Jesus) cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.” - Matthew 8:16b-17

Jesus Christ redeemed us so that we would become love, as He is love. He wants us to live victorious, abundant lives here on earth and be with Him in heaven forever. In our Lord we can receive healing, as it is God's will for us to be healed. Jesus healed all who came to Him, and He said many times that He came to do His Father's will, as they are One. No matter if the sickness is caused by a demon or it is just physical, in Jesus' name we can receive our healing, because “He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses” (Isaiah 53:4)

Jesus is the Son of God and has all authority in heaven and earth, over all powers and dominions and His name is above all names. If you need healing you may read more on the subject in the articles from the “Healing body mind & soul” section. Because Jesus took our infirmities, we can be made whole; because He took away our sicknesses we can be healed and completely restored. Sometimes we receive a miracle and are healed instantly, other times it takes a while, and we have to continue to have faith until we receive it all. No matter the method, Jesus is the source of our healing, and He deserves all the glory.

*Suggested prayer: Thank You my Lord that there is no sickness or infirmity that You cannot or would not be willing to heal. You never reject anyone who comes to You, but You love and heal us all. Thank You for all the diseases You healed me of and all the pains You took from me along the years. You are my Lord who forgives all my iniquities and heals all my sicknesses and in Your name I am made whole. Glory and honor to Your holy name for ever and ever, amen.*



## *“Season of Wonders”*

The Chancel Choir will share “Season of Wonders – Celebrating the Miracle of Christmas” by Joseph M. Martin on Sunday, December 19 during the morning worship service.

Joseph Martin said, “Miracles and wonders are meant to be shared. Their purpose is to reveal a larger truth, to glorify the One from whom such power comes. The events surrounding the birth of Christ are a series of wonders: from ancient prophecy, celestial phenomena (the star and the angels), and historical mandates (the census), to physical miracles (the virgin birth). In this season of wonders, may we add our voices to those of prophets and angels as servant messengers of God.”

We will have our annual Christmas covered dish dinner in the fellowship hall immediately following the cantata.

*Please bring your favorite dish to share and join in the spirit of the season with our church family.*

*United Methodist Men News  
Warren Wright-UMM President*



The UMM will not meet during the month of December. Our next meeting will be on Monday January 24th at 7 PM. Remember that there are no membership or dues requirements to be a part of the United Methodist Men of Clarksbury, just a willingness to serve Jesus Christ within your church and community.

**Mission–To Help Men Grow In Christ, So Others May Know Christ.**

## Worship Committee

David Dobson



Merry Christmas fellow Christians! This is a season we celebrate and are joyous, but we should also count our blessings and be generous with the gifts the Lord has given us. This recent reading [abbreviated] hit home for me:

*That nice, warm feeling you're carrying over from Thanksgiving? That fullness after the big family get-together? From the meal, from the company, from having plenty of it all? It's important that you realize not everyone is feeling that right now.*

*In fact, many people are experiencing the exact opposite. More than [950 million people](#) globally are food insecure. More than [38 million people](#) in America still face hunger. And some [1.5 million children](#) lost their primary or secondary caregiver from COVID-19 and now, those children don't know where their next meal is coming from. You might be thinking: So what? What can I do about it?*

*Focus on what's in your control. Those suffering humans are us, and we are them. To allow harm to come to them—through indifference or through callousness—is to allow harm to come to ourselves. Hierocles was a Roman Stoic who spoke of “circles of concern.” Our first concern, he said, was our mind, but beyond this was our concern for our bodies, for our immediate family, then our extended family. Like concentric rings, these circles were followed by our concern for our community, our city, our country, our empire, our world. The work of philosophy, he said, was to draw this outer concern inward, to learn how to care as much as possible for as many people as possible, to do as much good for them as possible. [Sounds a lot like John Wesley].*

*This is our obligation. It is our duty to help others and to serve others. This will illustrate those virtues of courage and justice toward and for and through others. We can make a difference, and indeed we must in the short time we are given. This is as Christmas as it gets.*

Sometime in January or early February we will hold a meeting of the Worship Committee. I have been experiencing an unprecedented level of travel and just trying to keep my head above water. In the words of Rev. Gary Davis, “I’ll be alright...someday”.

**Peace, Love, and Joy to you and yours this magical season of  
Christmas**

*Soup Ministry; Warming Tree Ministry; Coat Rack Ministry  
Chairperson-Kathy Wright; Lucy Blevins, Diane Faulkner, Val  
Bradley*



At the request of our soup ministry recipients, soup was not delivered during June, July, and August. We have now started our third Monday-of-the-month in September. We currently deliver only once a month because we now deliver groceries from the Cryer Center Mobile food pantry the first Saturday of each month to our recipients. If you would like to make some homemade soup for our recipients, just let one of the committee members listed above know. Four soup containers (quart size) are provided, make any variety, and return your soup to the church.

Our **warming tree ministry** and **coat rack** ministry will be available the first Saturday of each month beginning the first Saturday in November through the first Saturday of March. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be putting a table outside with the warming items, weather permitting, otherwise, you may contact Pastor Ken and he will be able to help you obtain the needed warming items. If you would like to provide any of these warming items, our **warming tree** will be in the fellowship hall for you to place your items. The **warming tree** also has items listed on an angel on the tree if you would like to take an angel, purchase the item, and bring the item back and place under the **warming tree**.

THANK YOU for supporting these very important ministries of your church. If you would like to help in any way, just contact one of the committee members listed above, or myself, Kathy Wright (757-373-9166) or email [kdwright@va.metrocast.net](mailto:kdwright@va.metrocast.net). God Bless.

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Annual Budget for 2021 Operating Funds:</b>            | <b>\$115,711.00</b> |
| <b>Total Received for Operating Funds as of August 8:</b> | 113,864.77          |
| <b>Total Needed by October 31:</b>                        | <b>-7,796.35</b>    |

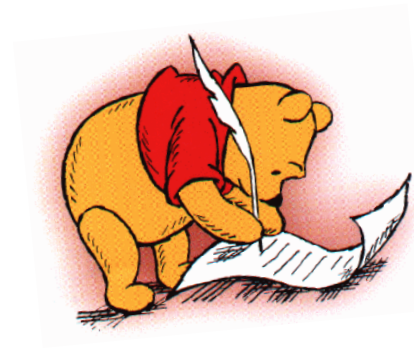
*Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live  
Christmas every day.  
--Helen Steiner Rice*



# welcome

*Wishing a warm Welcome to our newest church members  
John and Patricia Hooper!*

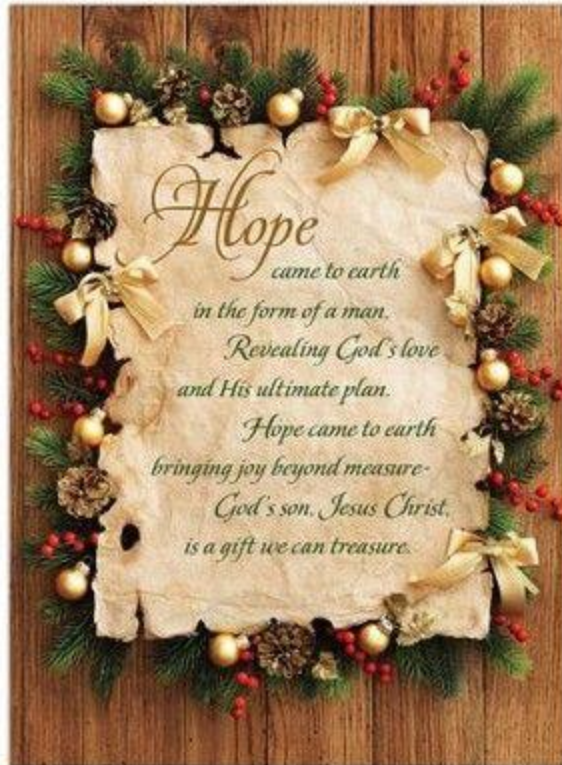
Mail a card of happiness to our home bound members! If you have time to send a card today, our homebound members would get a lot of joy just hearing from you! Take some time to say hello and we miss you! It really does feel good to get mail and it feels even better when we can make someone's day just a little happier and bring a smile to their face. It brightens everyone's spirit.



|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Myrtle Clark <b>10/2</b><br>P.O. Box 302<br>Deltaville, VA 23043 | Marion Miller 08/06<br>c/o Commonwealth Senior<br>Living @ Gloucester House<br>7657 Meredith Drive<br>Gloucester, VA 23061 | Lewis Musick<br>6023 Dixon Lane<br>Gloucester, Va., 23061 |
| Tinker Purcell 12/20<br>P.O. Box 502<br>Deltaville, VA 23043     | Pastor Jim Salmon <b>5/24</b><br>26306 Mattaponi Trail<br>Milford, VA 22514  |   |

# December POP

Lord,  
Bless the families of the earth  
As Christmas comes this year,  
Bring hope to all your children  
Raise their spirits,  
bring them cheer.  
Remind us that we're not alone  
No matter what we do.  
For you brought Baby Jesus  
to connect our hearts to You.  
Amen





# Grapevine

## Clarksbury December 2021

### UMC



| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday         | Thursday                     | Friday                            | Saturday  |
|--|--|---|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
|  |  |   | 1                 | 2 Elijah West<br>Noon Prayer | 3 Suzanne Ramsburg<br>Noon Prayer | 4 Sharon Tullos<br>Mobile Food<br>Pantry<br>Clarksbury<br>Noon Prayer |
| 5 Becky Foster<br>Noon Prayer  | 6<br>Noon Prayer   | 7 Spencer Crittenden<br>Bible Study<br>2pm<br>Noon Prayer | 8<br>Noon Prayer  | 9<br>Noon Prayer             | 10<br>Noon Prayer                 | 11 Anna White<br>Noon Prayer  |
| 12<br>Noon Prayer  | 13 UMW<br>Christmas Ornament<br>Exchange 6pm<br>Fellowship Hall<br>Bring Snacks<br>Noon Prayer | 14 Bible Study<br>2pm<br>Noon Prayer                      | 15<br>Noon Prayer | 16 Mason Duke<br>Noon Prayer | 17<br>Noon Prayer                 | 18<br>Noon Prayer   |
| 19 Jenny Crittenden<br>Dave Dobson<br>Cantata!<br>Potluck<br>Noon Prayer | 20 Tinker Purcell<br>Noon Prayer   | 21 Alyssa West<br>Noon Prayer                             | 22<br>Noon Prayer | 23<br>Noon Prayer            | 24<br>Noon Prayer                 | 25<br>Noon Prayer   |
| 26<br>Noon Prayer  | 27<br>Noon Prayer  | 28<br>Noon Prayer   | 29                | 30                           | 31                                |   |

The deadline for the **January 2022** Grapevine will be **Monday, December 27**

Send email to [pwalian2@gmail.com](mailto:pwalian2@gmail.com)

December **Birthdays** (If you know of any additions, deletions or corrections that should be made to the birthday calendar, please let the newsletter editor know.)

Ushers for the month of **December** Linda Bartz and Linda Dobbins

Scripture Reader for **December** is Suzanne Ramsburg

Counters for **December** are Chuck Banker and Lee White