



# The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia December 2019

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

Our Mission:

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

## Pastor Ken's Corner

Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

There are many events scheduled for this Christmas and Advent season. After you enjoy your Thanksgiving, I hope to see all of you as we **hang the greens on Saturday, November 30**, starting at 9 a.m. (unless Warren tells us otherwise...) ☺

In our Advent study these past few weeks we have encountered some thoughts and ideas that are powerful this time of the year. Session one, The Wonder of a Star, and session two, The Wonder of a Name, gave us more insight into the uniqueness and majesty of the Advent season, not just in antiquity but for us today. Session one told of the three men from the East who followed the Star to find the one who would be King, and when they found that Baby they bowed down and presented gifts.

In session two we learned how important **Jesus'** name would be. For **Jesus is the Greek** form of the **Hebrew name Joshua**. Joshua is the combination of Joshua's original name **Hoshea, meaning "salvation"** which Moses changed to **Joshua** even before he sent the twelve spies into the Promised Land. By combining two words – **Jehovah** (the God of Israel) and **Hoshea** meaning "salvation", the combined name Joshua, in Hebrew and Jesus in Greek means "the Lord is Salvation". **Jesus is the Lord of Salvation**. Just as Joshua led the people of Israel after Moses died across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land so Jesus leads His followers and people of God into a new Heaven and a new Jerusalem. The real meaning of Christmas is the Savior coming into the world for OUR SALVATION.

It's December, a time for fireplaces and hot chocolate and for those who love the cooler weather...snow shoveling and ice removal ☺. It's a time for decorations on trees and shrubs outside as well as all manner of decorations inside the houses. It's a time for the smell of apple cider and turkey and hams and the joyous sounds of family and friends as they gather to celebrate the "reason for the season" – that Baby born so long ago who will come again in His resurrection body to take us all to His Father's house where there are already places prepared for us.

On the note of cooler temperatures and more perilous driving conditions, we do have a number of our Clarksbury family who are at greater risk from the cold temperatures and inclement weather. It would be a good thing to call or, better yet, stop by and visit some of our mature members to check on them. Everyone needs to know they are cared for. Another thought is as weather can be different in different areas, use your best judgement on driving based on your LOCAL conditions this wintery season; be cautious and be safe. If we know in advance of bad weather we will try to get the word out on cancellations. **But, again use your best judgement on driving conditions.**

This Saturday, December 7, Philippi has lead with the **Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry from 9-11 a.m.** There are always plenty of things to do, and as the weather might be cold and inclement, we may want to run relays in and out so that no one gets stuck in the cold for too long. There will be plenty of work for all of us. Come, pray, talk, lend a hand or just come and have fun being servants of the Lord. I'll have hot coffee and some pastries to keep the energy levels up. **Our coat closet and warming tree will be up as well.**

Our Advent study ends with session 4 on Tuesday, December 3, at 3 p.m. The Advent study is entitled *The Wonder of Christmas: Once You Believe, Anything Is Possible* by Ed Robb and Rob Renfroe. I think it has been an exciting Advent experience.

*<sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us.*

Matthew's account gives us Joseph's perspective and deals with his reaction to the news of Mary's incredible condition and what this means for him and Mary and their son whom they will call "*Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.*" There is something about that Name!!!!

Don't miss our **children's pageant** on **Friday night, December 13, starting at 5 p.m.** with a potluck dinner to follow around 6 p.m. **Come and enjoy.**

Our choir will perform their **Cantata on Sunday, December 22**, during our 11 a.m. service.

We will hold our **Candlelight service at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve**.

As always, I will make every effort to keep the Prayer Warrior e-mails updated as information and changes become available. Please don't assume that someone else has come forward. If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive the Prayer Warrior updates, let me know and provide me with your e-mail address.

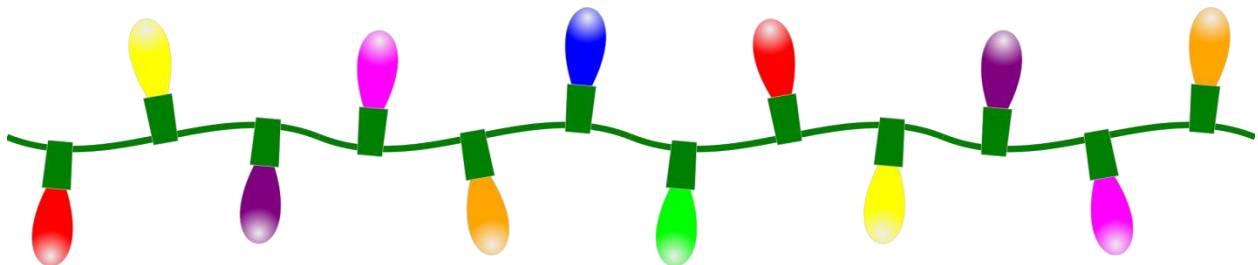
Please remember to be faithful in letting me know if you hear about one of "ours" who is headed to the hospital. I would prefer to hear twice about those in need rather than it be assumed that I must already know.

**Nurture and Outreach** to our community and our congregation are instrumental in faithfully serving our Lord, not just at Dockside, but throughout the community in various ways. Talk to Jerry Dant about cards or letters or contacting some of our shut-ins. Volunteer for work at Dockside. **See Jerry or Fred or David for more information.**

**Jesus is alive, and we're forgiven!**

Merry Christmas to all!!! Travel blessings to those traveling to visit friends and family. May we all celebrate the birth of our Savior and look expectantly for **His soon return**. **Peace on earth and good will to all humanity!!!**

**Peace & Grace**  
**Pastor Ken**



|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Annual Budget</b> for 2019 Operating Funds:                 | <b>\$114,935.00</b> |
| <b>Total Received</b> for Operating Funds as of November 2019: | <b>100,716.00</b>   |
| <b>Total Income Needed to Meet November Budget:</b>            | <b>105.357.00</b>   |



*Find your confidence in  
Christ*

*COFFEE HOUR FOR December*



|          |    |                      |
|----------|----|----------------------|
| December | 1  | Anne Tompkins        |
| December | 8  | Gayle Gilliland      |
| December | 15 | Betty Farmer         |
| December | 22 | Polly Van Benschoten |
| December | 29 | Terry Cleveland      |

*If you would like to be a part of this church ministry,  
please contact Polly Van Benschoten, 776-0569*

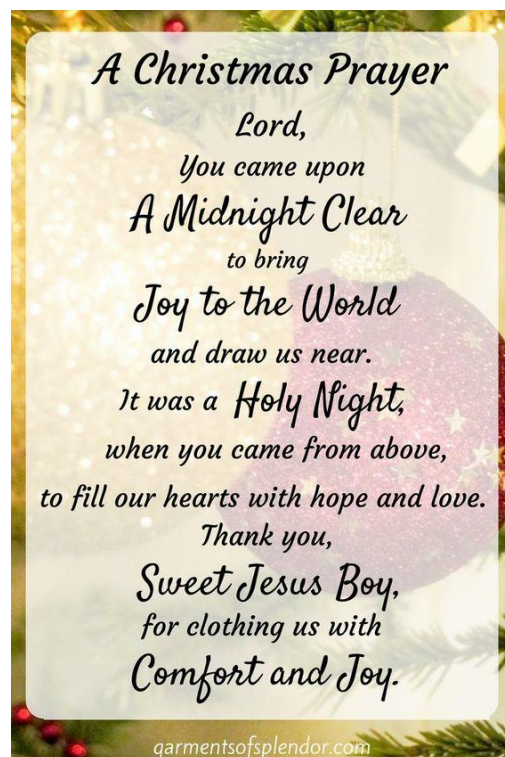
## A Message from Your Lay Leader Warren Wright



Christmas is a time of giving. And that means Christmas is a time of shopping. Ever since the wise men from the east showed up at the stable carrying gold, frankincense, and myrrh, people have been exchanging gifts at Christmas. Today it's much more complicated than it was for the wise men. For one thing, they didn't have to contend with Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and shopping malls, all packed full of parents going from store to store to store to find the latest and greatest new toy. The magi didn't have to worry about sizes, or colors, or return policies. No new electronics to worry about, just plain old gold, frankincense and myrrh. Well, this year, just like every year, millions of people, both children and adults, will open millions of gifts. Some won't fit. Some will be the wrong color. Many will be returned or exchanged just because it's something nobody really wanted. But there's one gift that meets everyone's need, one gift that will never wear out, never break or need repairing. A gift that is appropriate for a small child, or a teenager, or an adult, or a senior adult. Boy or girl, man or woman, it makes no difference. The gift we all need, the most valuable gift of all, is that baby in the manger, the reason for the season. On Christmas, we celebrate the fact that God has given us the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, so that through faith in Him we could be forgiven of our sins and have eternal life.

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." – John 3:16 (NIV)**

Have a great Christmas season and may the love of our Lord and Savior radiate through you like the brightest light on your Christmas tree.





## Warming Tree Ministry, Coat Rack Ministry

Kathy Wright

Members: Lucy Blevins, Diane Faulkner, Val Bradley



Our warming tree ministry at Clarksbury U.M.C. will start at the beginning of our Advent season. You will remove an angel from the warming tree with the needed item printed on the angel, purchase or make the item, and then return the needed item and place under the Angel tree. You will put your angel ornament in a box and replace it with a Christmas ornament for the tree (which is provided). This ministry is focused through the fall/winter season. There will be one last opportunity for recipients to receive these warming items on Saturday, March 7, when the Cryer Center Mobile Center food pantry will be at Clarksbury U.M.C. THANK YOU for supporting this very important ministry 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.



The Coat Rack Ministry will again be made available at Clarksbury U.M.C. at the beginning of the Advent season through March 7, 2020. These coats are to be **NEW or SLIGHTLY USED WINTER COATS ONLY**. THANK YOU for contributing to this very important ministry of Clarksbury U.M.C. If you have any questions or would like to contribute in any way, please call Kathy Wright, chairperson, 757-373-9166 or email [kdwright@va.metrocast.net](mailto:kdwright@va.metrocast.net) or one of the members listed above. God Bless.

## Worship Committee

David Dobson



Has it been a year since we last met for the worship committee? I don't know but have been on the "if it isn't broke, don't fix it" bandwagon among other things. Be that as it may, I think it time we again congregate to discuss the past year of services and perhaps see if there is something 2020 may bring as a special "vision" for those that attend Clarksbury.

I am planning on a Monday, 6:30-8:00 pm meeting, 6 January 2020 barring any conflicts. If you are currently on the worship committee team and wish to remain so, or if you prefer no longer to be part of this committee, just let me know before the meeting.

Thank you for your confidence in me. May the blessings of this glorious season be plentiful for you all, Merry Christmas.



### *Joy Has Dawned*

*The Chancel Choir will present a Christmas cantata titled “Joy Has Dawned” on Sunday, December 22, 2019 at 11 a.m. during the morning worship service. The cantata was composed and arranged by Lloyd Larson.*

*This composer explains that “the message of Christmas is truly a message of joy! It is an eternal message for all... and a message to be embraced in the good days and the bad days. Joy has dawned upon the world.” Mr. Larson reminds us that “true joy – deep joy – is not founded in the moments of life, but on the Creator of life.”*

*Our choir will share this message of joy through four-part harmony, solos, and even a quartet. The selections include new and familiar carols and spirituals. Please join us to celebrate this message of joy!*

### *Christmas Pageant*

*A traditional Christmas pageant presented by the primary, middle school, and high school young people of Clarksbury will be on Friday, December 13, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. The primary children will present a traditional Christmas pageant in costume with Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, and kings in a Nativity setting. Speaking parts, sign language, and traditional carols will be a part of the program.*

*Our middle school and high school students will also be performing instrumental and vocal selections throughout the pageant including choir chimes, guitar, flute, and percussion instruments.*

*The congregation will be invited to join the children and youth in a Christmas sing-a-long following the pageant. To conclude the evening, we will join together in the fellowship hall for our annual Christmas pot-luck dinner. Please bring your favorite dish and share with all!*



## United Methodist Men News Warren Wright-UMM President

The UMM will be having a Christmas dinner, for all the men of the church, at The Bangkok Noi Restaurant in Gloucester on Tuesday December 10 at 7 PM. Each man will be responsible for the costs of their meal. Please contact Warren Wright or Don Bartz for reservations. The UMM will not have a business meeting in December. Our next business meeting will be Monday January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. The UMM will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner on Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> from 4-6:30 PM and the cost is \$10.00.

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.**

***FOR THE LOVE OF JESUS, GIVE ALL THE HUGS YOU CAN.***

## NURTURE and Outreach Jerry Dant

Let's remember our home bound members with the upcoming holidays. I am sure some would like a call or visits from us during the winter months being shut in.

There are members who volunteer in some community activities that we are not aware of their participation. Pastor Ken and Terry made a donation to the LIFT program to purchase 2 banners to be used at events LIFT sponsors. Linda Bartz volunteers at the Cryer Center and other members help with the Cryer Center Food Bank at our church on the 1st Saturday each month. Fran has been seen volunteering at the Library and Va. Clark gives a musical program at different nursing homes and the jail in Saluda. Kathy Wright and the ladies deliver soup and crackers to some community residents as well as their food on the 1st Saturday each month. We, also, have a Nursing Home Ministry with Fred and Dave going 2 Sundays and others during the month to visit, and with Diane Faulkner making holiday gifts for the residents. We have so much to be proud of with our OUTREACH and our church helps in many other ways thru the men and women groups. Let's keep REACHING OUT for OUTREACH

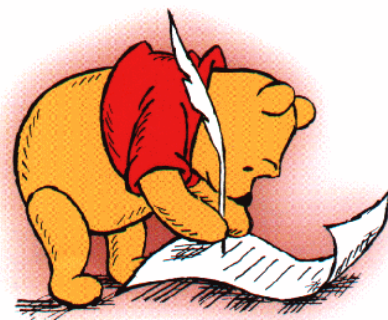




## Mail a letter or card of happiness to our home bound members!

If your last name starts with the letter listed below, please send a card or note to the shut-ins listed. Why not make a home bound member smile by sending them a card often as well as on their birthday.

If we all participate, our home bound members will get a card frequently from church members, and will have more great memories of Clarksbury.



### A-C

Roegean Speight **09/10**  
#208  
Commonwealth Sen Living  
460 South Main Street  
Kilmarnock, VA 22482

Ivey Huff **10/12**  
233 Mae Lane  
Wake, VA 23176

Jane Crittenden **8/22**  
P.O. 30  
Hardyville, VA 23070

### D-G

Sue Myers **09/30**  
Westminster Canterbury  
132 Lancaster Drive  
Irvington, VA 22480

Reggie Jackson **7/12**  
672 Gloucester Road  
Saluda, VA 23149

### H-L

Myrtle Clark **10/2**  
P.O. Box 302  
Deltaville, VA 23043

Pastor Jim Salmon **5/24**  
26306 Mattaponi Trail  
Milford, VA 22524

### M-Z

## Serving our Country

Floyd Andrew Forrest  
3980-3 Buckeye Lane  
Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703  
United States

Elizabeth Hill  
378 EMEDS  
Unit 61364  
APO AE 09877-1364



# December PoP!

from the front of an old Christmas card:

*For God so loved the world, that He have His only begotten Son. . .  
John 3:16*

*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*



# The Grapevine

## December 2019



| <i>Sunday</i>  | <i>Monday</i>                                  | <i>Tuesday</i>   | <i>Wednesday</i>   | <i>Thursday</i>                           | <i>Friday</i>                                   | <i>Saturday</i>  |
|--|--|--|--------------------|---|---|--|
| 1  | 2<br>Soup<br>Ministry<br>11 a.m                | 3<br>Suzanne<br>Ramsburg<br>Advent Bible<br>Study 3pm              | 4<br>Sharon Tullos | 5<br>Becky Foster                         | 6   | 7 Spencer<br>Crittenden<br>Mobile Food<br>Pantry Phlippi<br>5-5:45 p.m.<br>Contemporary<br>Worship |
| 8<br>10-10:40 a.m.<br>Sunday School<br>11 a.m.<br>Worship<br>Communion | 9  | 10<br>EYC Christms<br>Party 6pm<br>UMM Dinner<br>Bankok NOI<br>7pm | 11<br>Anna White   | 12  | 13<br>Christmas<br>Pagaent<br>5pm<br>Potluck pm | 14<br>5-5:45 p.m.<br>Contemporary<br>Worship   |
| 15<br><br>10-10:40 a.m.<br>Sunday School<br>11 a.m.<br>Worship         | 16<br>Mason Duke<br>Soup<br>Ministry<br>11 a.m | 17   | 18                 | 19<br>Jenny<br>Crittenden<br>David Dobson | 20  | 21<br>5-5:45 p.m.<br>Contemporary<br>Worship   |
| 22 Cantata<br>10-10:40 a.m.<br>Sunday School<br>11 a.m                 | 23   | 24<br>Candlelight<br>Service 5pm                                   | 25                 | 26  | 27  | 28<br>5-5:45 p.m.<br>Contemporary<br>Worship   |
| 29<br>10-10:40 a.m.<br>Sunday School<br>11 a.m.<br>Worship             | 30   | 31   |                    |   |   |  |

The deadline for the January 2020 Grapevine will be Thursday, December 26 Send items to:  
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.)

Scripture reader for **December** is Betty Anne Keiter-Tabler

Counters for **December** are Kathy Wright and Delores Decker  
Lee White and Chuck Banker will serve as ushers for **December**