



The Main Street MESSENGER

VOLUME 68 | NO.12 | DECEMBER

THE
HEART THAT GREW THREE SIZES
FINDING FAITH IN THE STORY OF THE GRINCH



Dear Friends,

I literally just took a deep breath to try and cleanse the anxiety that can often be the norm for this time of year. It gets so busy and the hustle and bustle of the Holidays sets in. It can especially be busy in the life of the church. But again, I take a deep cleansing breath and focus on this Holiday season as a Holy time, not a busy time. I know it can be hard to put that into perspective because of the over bearing commercialization of Christmas. That is why I love the study we will be doing for Advent *"The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch."* The study is based on the iconic story by Doctor Seuss *"How the Grinch Stole Christmas."* We are never told why the Grinch hated Christmas so much but it seems to have something to do with the commercialization of the season. "In fact, Seuss identified with the Grinch's frustration over the commercialization of Christmas, and soon began to realize that the Grinch's story was more autobiographical than he cared to admit." This story has become so iconic that the word Grinch was informally used as a synonym for "killjoy" and was eventually added to Webster's

Dictionary. "The Grinch's story is universal in scope, easy to understand, and ends with a positive message of hope and reconciliation, which is why it continues to be such a powerful Christmas story today". Over the next four weeks we will look at this amazing story and how we can find faith and room for the Christ child to enter our hearts. Each week we look at selected Bible verses and how these verses impact our understanding of Pop culture. What this basically means is, "How we are allowing our faith and scripture to speak to our modern world?"

I understand it may seem strange to use a children's story to help us find faith during this Holy season but I think it is a great opportunity to look at how we divide the sacred and what is considered secular. At first glance, it may seem easy to make judgments on how we divide our world but you may be surprised at what scripture says about this division we make. I'm reminded of our scripture from "Reign of Christ Sunday", Colossians 1:20 "through Christ *all things* were reconciled to God." And John 1:3 says "*all things* came into being through Him." "In other words, everything and everyone in our world contains a spark

of the divine – everything is sacred, and whether or not we choose to live in that truth depends on our perspective." God put on flesh and walked among us, in other words, God assumed culture by becoming Jesus in time and space, and God/Jesus transformed our culture/world. That is the mystery of the incarnation that we celebrate at Christmas and await during the Advent season. For this reason we cannot "reject the culture we live in but we should re-narrate its meaning – to tell God's story in the midst of it."

God can be seen in the midst of our culture in the stories of Holy Scripture, heard in the beauty of hymns and in the icons of worship but if we learn to look for the Holy, we can see God in other places too. We just might learn to see God and the Hope of Jesus in the story of the Grinch. As we walk with Christ, we discover the divine all around us and in turn, the world invites us into a deeper picture of its Creator. I look forward to our journey together through this season of Advent as we come to the birth of our Savior.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Rich



STEWARDSHIP DECEMBER THEME

THE GIFT That Empowers Us/The Word Became Flesh



Angel Tree 2022

Angel Tree Christmas works by connecting parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts given on the parent's behalf.

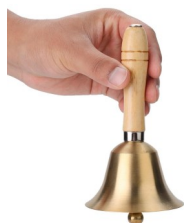
Angel Tree ornaments are available to select on the tree in the Atrium.

Please return the wrapped gifts with ornaments attached on or before Friday, December 8.

The children and families are invited to attend the Candlelight service on December 11, and volunteers are needed to fulfill this mission.

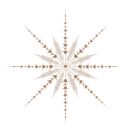


Ring the Bell FOR THE SALVATION ARMY AT WALMART



Main Street Church has participated in this fund raising ministry for several years. There is a sign-up poster in the Atrium. Please spend an hour or two ringing the bell. Our dates are Monday-Friday, December 12-16. Our hours are 4:00 to 8:00 pm.

It is a fact that more contributions are received when enthusiastic volunteers ring the bells for the Salvation Army. Please support this vital ministry! Questions? Please contact Keith Johnston at 810-516-0141.



Advent Bible Study

*The Heart That Grew Three Sizes -
Finding Faith In The Story of the Grinch*
November 29, December 6,13,20

Pastor Rich and Holly will lead us in this study on Tuesday nights at 7:00

In four sessions, the study looks at the following themes:

- ◇ When Everything Is Wrong
- ◇ When Christmas Isn't Christmas
- ◇ When Light Shines
- ◇ When Joy Is Our Song

Sign up in the Atrium or call the church office at 757-539-8751



CHRISTMAS CAROLING! SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 MEET AT MAIN STREET UMC AT 4:00 PM

We will go to designated places together for caroling.

When we are done, we will gather back at the church for a time of food and fellowship. There will be bowls of chili and hot dogs to warm you.

Invite friends to come along for this fun, festive activity.



**MOVIE NIGHT AT MAIN STREET
HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 4 AT 4:00 PM
Pizza and Popcorn for everyone!
Discover the Biblical truths found in the movie.**

DECEMBER 2022 [BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES]

[BIRTHDAYS]

12/2 Dillard Horton
12/2 Milaena Clark
12/3 Drew Catlett
12/4 Katie Askew
12/4 Hope Carr
12/6 Ruth Livingston
12/6 Marcus Welch
12/7 Scott Graham
12/10 Don Albritton
12/10 William Ballard
12/10 Jennifer Webb
12/10 Miles Birdsong
12/11 Chris Graham
12/12 Benjamin Beale
12/12 Todd Pruitt

12/12 Linda Ziegenfus
12/13 Taylor Elliott
12/14 Margo Johnson
12/15 Spencer Anthony
12/16 Miller Carr
12/17 Mary-Carson Stiff
12/18 Bo Russell
12/18 Samuel Towler
12/18 Samantha Bright
12/19 Becky Henschel
12/20 Haley Grizzle
12/20 Laurel Johnson
12/21 Kilani Majette
12/22 Holly Richardson
12/23 Marie Baker
12/24 Jenna Brooks

12/24 Zac Hill
12/24 Sam Hill
12/24 Laura Wrighte
12/25 Henley Totten
12/26 Aubrey Yauger
12/27 Russell Bright
12/28 Laura Callis
12/29 Kellyann Austin
12/29 Lee Carr
12/29 Noah Callis
12/29 Tess Popik
12/30 Beth Gist
12/31 Anna Grace Towler
12/31 Kathy Salsbury

[ANNIVERSARIES]

12/07 Cliff & Pat Smith
12/08 Paul & Amy Callis
12/08 Ted & Debbie Williams
12/11 Danny & Amy Farley, Jr.
12/18 Brad & Barbara O'Berry
12/19 Jack & Lenora Holland
12/21 Jeff & Scherry Johnson
12/24 Rich & Katie Humphrey
12/30 Bill & Roberta Powell, Jr.
12/31 Robert & Marie Baker, III
12/31 Gregg & Molly Crow
12/31 Cabell & Mary Jane Birdsong



PRAYER LIST UPDATE

PRAYER LIST: 11/01/22: James Butler, Denise Jackson, Nicholas Medeiros, Ken Taylor, Nury Janania (Honduras), Anne Jones, Tracy Nelson, Hurricane Ian victims, Jeff Lawson, Riley Cerabona, June Johnson, Heather Foxwell, Diane Horst, Bobby Funkhouser, Roberta Tripp, Denny Lewis, Ron Schupner

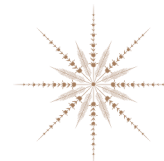
ONGOING: Steve Clark, Heather Lawrence, Bob & Leila Tompert, Erin & Michael McPherson and Family, Carolyn Davis, Bob Callis, Herman Terrell, Harold Wald, Louise Elliott, Stan Waterfield, Martha Callis, Randy Hicks, Jim Dowaliby, Rod Rodrigues, Cathleene Norville, Ricky Nelson, Brooke & Susan Pruden, Patti Meese

SYMPATHY: Family of Carol Lynne Shotton, Families of University of Virginia Students

CANCER: Pam Askew, Linda Argust, Ray Holland, Al Bremer, Linda Harper, Faye Askew, Rod Rodrigues, Melaine Medeiros, Carol Coleman, Mary Lou Hedgepeth, Julie Nance, John Nodeen, Richard J. Peko, Shannon Rivera, Juel Carr, Nancy Spring Parker, Anita McLemore, Gary Graham, Glen Harrell, Ralph Knapp, Judy Gales, Eli Dowaliby, Lynn Foster, Brian Clark, Marea Bishop, Jay Robbins, Filmore Brinkley, Kenny Hirsch, Kevin Driscoll, Jennifer Skipper, Lorrie Staples, Tuffy Braithwhite, Donald Blount, Bev Rooker, Michael Ross, Brenda Bradshaw, Bill Leary, Greg Wray, Marty Irvine, Sr., Robert Marich

ASSISTED LIVING: Ray Shamburger, Frances Kelly

OUR NATION AND WORLD: Military Troops & Families: Chris Smith, Anthony Hickler, Adam Waddell, Kent Brooks, Bryanna Grant, James Russell III, Kristi Kilborn, Wesley Linder, Duncan Bevan, TJ Argust; First Responders; CAPS (Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk); Our Schools; Main Street Day Care & Preschool; Workplaces & Homes; social justice, unity and peace; students, parents, teachers and administrators in local schools; safety and well being of our college students and professors; our President and national leaders; the people of Ukraine: the people of the United Methodist Church



Do you know Main Street has an AED? AED stands for Automatic External Defibrillator. This is a device that sends an electric impulse or shock to the heart to restore a normal heart rate. Do you know where it is?

It is located in the entrance to the Fellowship hall as you are walking in from the Atrium. It is on the right side above the water fountain.



connect.grow.serve.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45-10:45 a.m. **EVERY** Sunday

This month we will participate in
"The Heart That Grew Three Sizes" study.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

December 4 & 18 during the 11:00 a.m.
service. For children ages 5 years to 4th
Grade, and led by our 5th through 12th
grade youth.

YOUTH GROUP

Meets from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., on
December 4 & 18. This month we are
sponsoring a "Reverse Advent Calendar",
collecting food for Suffolk Christian
Fellowship. Support our youth and pick-up
a calendar in the Atrium!



The Care Team started years ago as
the Care and Concern Committee of
the United Methodist Women. When
COVID happened the committee was
not able to continue helping others as
they had been. Now we would like to
reinvent this committee to involve all
of our congregation in serving God by
meeting the needs of our members.
These acts of caring are not limited to
a small group of women.

Some of the things we would like to
offer are:

- ◇ Provide a meal when someone
has had surgery or is sick
(homecooked or store bought
either is fine)
- ◇ Provide transportation when a
member is unable to drive to a
doctor's appointment
- ◇ Mail a card to a member that is
on our prayer list, lost a loved one
or just needs to be reminded we
care
- ◇ Call members that just need to
hear a friendly voice.
- ◇ Visit shut in members

There is a sign-up sheet in the atrium
where you can choose how and when
you will be able to help.

We are starting with the first quarter
of next year.

There will be others signed up with
you in case you have a conflict and
cannot serve.

Laura Solomon is the chairperson of
the committee and will be contacting
you when and if there is a need during
your time that you have volunteered.

We thank you in advance for your
help.



CAPS MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Start thinking about CAPS Nightstay, which Main St. and West End (Molly Crow)
will be hosting the first week, Wednesday, January 4th -11th. This is the first
week of the program, and the Salvation Army is providing the facility, and the
churches will provide meals and volunteers willing to perform "Intake" as we
welcome and screen our guests, as well as overnight chaperones. The latter is always a struggle, but hopefully we'll have
some night owls sign up for the graveyard shifts. More details on that later, as we post the signup sheet in the atrium.

Our calendar is full for the next 7 weeks, and I feel blessed to be a part of such a loving church family as we celebrate the
Advent season, preparing and anticipating the arrival of the Christ child. Please pray for Main Street and it's family during
this special season.





THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

6:30 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 am Worship

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am In-person & Virtual Worship

1:00 pm Macedonia AME Worship

4:00 pm **Movie Night**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

6:00 pm Girl Scouts

6:30 pm Cub Scout LPM

7:00 pm Stewardship

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

7:00 pm Advent Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

8:00 pm AA

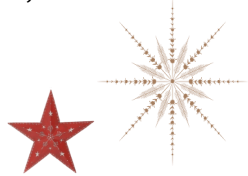
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

Angel Tree Gifts Due Today!

7:00 pm Women's Book Club

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:00 pm AA



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 am Worship

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am In-person & Virtual Worship

1:00 pm Macedonia AME Worship

4:00 pm **Christmas Candlelight Cantata & Reception**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

4:00 pm *Salvation Army Ring the Bell @ Walmart*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

4:00 pm *Salvation Army Ring the Bell @ Walmart*

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

7:00 pm Advent Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship

4:00 pm *Salvation Army Ring the Bell @ Walmart*

8:00 pm AA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

4:00 pm *Salvation Army Ring the Bell @ Walmart*

6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting/Party

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

4:00 pm *Salvation Army Ring the Bell @ Walmart*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 am Worship

9:45 am Sunday School

10:00 am Faith Family fun

11:00 am In-person & Virtual Worship

1:00 pm Macedonia AME Worship

4:00 pm Christmas Caroling & Supper

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:30 pm Girl Scouts

7:00 pm SPRC Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

7:00 pm Advent Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship

8:00 pm AA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

Church Office Closes at Noon

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm *Christmas Eve Communion
Children's Message & Nursery*

11:00 pm *Christmas Eve Communion*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30AM ONE SERVICE

No Sunday School

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Church Office Closed

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship

8:00 pm AA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

NEW YEARS DAY

10:30 AM ONE SERVICE, Lessons and Carols



DECEMBER BIBLE READING

1 1 Corinthians 10 – 13

2 1 Corinthians 14 – 16

3 2 Corinthians 1 – 4

4 2 Corinthians 5 – 9

5 2 Corinthians 10 – 13

6 Galatians 1 – 3

7 Galatians 4 – 6

8 Ephesians 1 – 3

9 Ephesians 4 – 6

10 Philippians 1 – 4

11 Colossians 1 – 4

12 1 Thessalonians 1 – 5

13 2 Thessalonians 1 – 3

14 1 Timothy 1 – 6

15 2 Timothy 1 – 4

16 Titus 1 – 3 Philemon 1

17 Hebrews 1 – 4

18 Hebrews 5 – 8

19 Hebrews 9 – 10

20 Hebrews 11 – 13

21 James 1 – 5

22 1 Peter 1 – 5,

2 Peter 1 – 3

23 1 John 1 – 5

24 2 John 1 3 John 1

25 Luke 2:1 – 20 Jude 1

26 Revelation 1 – 4

27 Revelation 5 – 9

28 Revelation 10 – 13

29 Revelation 14 – 17

30 Revelation 18 – 19

31 Revelation 20 – 22



Church Staff & Contact Information

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Mia Diggs | office@mainstumc.org

Main Street Day Care & Preschool

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www.mainstreetdaycare.org

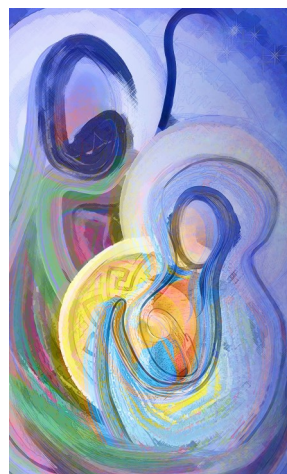
DAY CARE/PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Heather Abbott | habbott@mainstumc.org



The Main Street MESSENGER

OF MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Christmas Cantata

The Gift, A Christmas Worship Experience

Featuring the Main Street Choir, Handbells

and Chamber Orchestra

December 11 at 4:00 pm

followed by a Reception

Poinsettia and/or Memorial Donation

I would like to give _____ **RED POINSETTIAS** to be placed in the Sanctuary (\$15.00 each)

In **MEMORY** of:

In **HONOR** of: _____

In lieu of placing a Poinsettia in the Sanctuary, I would like to give a contribution to Main Street United Methodist Church in

Memory/Honor of (circle one): _____

GIVEN by: _____

