



The Main Street MESSENGER

VOLUME 65 | NO. 12 | DECEMBER 2019



joy
TO
THE
WORLD

As I sit to write this letter, I'm already feeling the rush of the Holidays. It's only mid-November, and I think about the busy-ness that can become the season of Advent/Christmas. I want to encourage us to slow things down. Make sure we maintain time for prayer and worship, time for family and friends, and most importantly space for the Christ Child to enter into our hearts and lives. I'm excited about the offerings of worship here at Main Street UMC this Advent season. I hope and pray you will be a part of our worshipping community this season. It is a great way to prepare yourself for the holy time of Advent and Christmas.

Last year during Advent, we were treated to a beautiful rendition of *Silent Night* by Jim Dowaliby. It was the 200th anniversary of this all-time favorite Christmas carol. This year is the 300th anniversary of another all-time favorite Christmas/Advent carol, *Joy to the World*. This year during Advent our worship series will celebrate this beautifully rich hymn. We will be using a series of sermons and worship experiences based on the work of Rev. Larry Leland entitled "*Repeat the Sounding Joy*." This series will help us rediscover, experience and share the joy that comes in the midst of both the celebration of Christ's birth and the waiting for his return. Each week we will center on a passage from Luke's gospel, leading up to and including the birth of Jesus. We will also incorporate passages from Isaiah representing the Old Testament. Here are the scriptures and sermon titles for this Advent and Christmas season:

December 1 – "*Prepare Him Room*" A Celebration of Hope.
Luke 1:26-38, Isaiah 2:1-5

December 8 – "*Our Songs Employ*" A Celebration of Love.
Luke 1:39-45, Isaiah 11:1-10

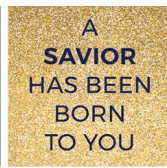
December 15 – "*His Blessings Flow*" A Celebration of Joy.
Luke 1:46-55, Isaiah 35:1-10

December 22 – "*He Rules the World*" A Celebration of Peace. Luke 1:(57-66)67-79, Isaiah 7:10-16

December 24 – "*Repeat the Sounding Joy*" A Celebration of Christ.
Luke 2:1-14(15-20), Isaiah 9:2-7

Please join us for these worship experiences where God is glorified and hearts are transformed when the messiness of humanity collides with a perfect, gracious God.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Rich



Join us as we present the Christmas Candlelight Musical "REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY!" Sunday, December 15

REPEAT THE SOUNDING joy

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
LIVE NATIVITY 3 PM | MUSICAL 4 PM

The Christmas Candlelight Service is a long-standing tradition at Main Street Church. For many years on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, the sanctuary has been ablaze with incredible decorations and beautiful music in celebration of the birth of the Christ Child over 2000 years ago.

This year our Advent/Christmas music and worship are inspired by the 300th anniversary of the carol, *Joy to the World*. This beloved carol was written in 1719 by Isaac Watts, a Methodist minister who wrote the hymn as an adaptation of Psalm 98. Amazingly, *Joy to the World* was never written to be a Christmas song. It was meant to be sung year round, glorifying the return of Christ and for all nations to celebrate that God has brought salvation to the world. The music itself was once thought to have been written by George Frederick Handel, but today most scholars believe the tune was actually composed by Lowell Mason in 1839. Mason was a prominent hymn writer during his life and spent much of his time studying and being inspired by the works of the Masters, including Handel.

Our 2019 Christmas Musical bears the title, "Repeat the Sounding Joy!" You may recognize these words since they come directly from *Joy to the World*. The Main Street Candlelight Choir and Girls' Choir will be joined once again by excellent instrumentalists from the Hampton Roads area. Many familiar carols and spirituals are included, as well as arrangements of beautiful contemporary Christmas songs. If you like the sound of Irish fiddle, there is a special treat in store! And finally, our Christmas Musical would not be complete without the presentation of the Christ Candle, the lighting of candles and the singing of *Silent Night*.

At 3:00 pm, our Main Street Youth will provide a Live Nativity in the front church yard. The Prelude by our Christmas musicians begins at 3:40 pm, and the Musical itself follows at 4:00 pm. A nursery will be provided for our youngest children, and the United Methodist Women are preparing a beautiful reception to follow.

Please invite family and friends to join us as we "Repeat the Sounding Joy!" on Sunday, December 15.

Soli Deo Gloria! To God alone be the glory!



joy TO THE WORLD



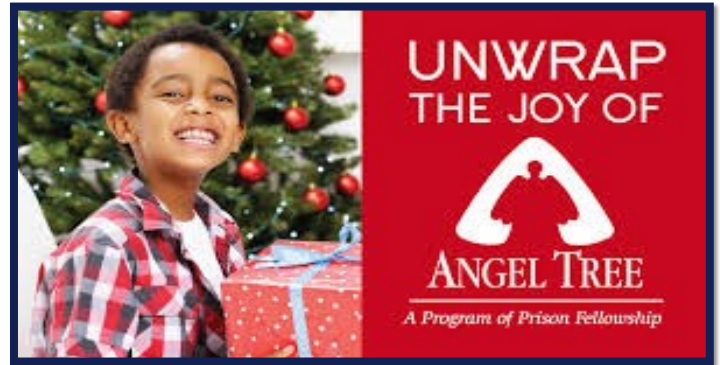
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 | 5 & 11 PM

5:00 & 11:00 pm Join us for Christmas Eve Worship as we celebrate the joy and wonder of the birth of Christ! At the 5:00 pm service, children are especially welcome, and a nursery will be available. Everyone is welcome; invite your family, friends and neighbors. Holy Communion at both services.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 | COMBINED MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE | 10:30 AM

10:30 am A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols. A beautiful and inspiring worship event!



ANGEL TREE GIFTS - 2019

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 ornament attached by Friday, December 13.

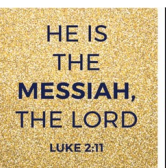
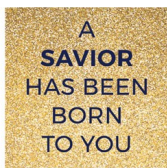
The children and families are invited to attend the Candlelight service on December 15, and volunteers are needed to fulfill this mission.

If you are interested, please contact Tess Popik at 757-343-9926 for information.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S ANNUAL ADVENT BREAKFAST AT MAIN STREET UMC SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019

- 9:00 - 9:15 am Fellowship
- 9:15 am Welcome & Prayer
- 9:15- 9:45 am Breakfast served
- 9:45 am Introduction of Guest Speaker
Rev. Richard L. Meiser, Jr.



COME CELEBRATE ADVENT

Families! Join us Sundays, December 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 9:45 to 10:30 am for Advent lessons, crafts, games, and music for ages 3 thru 5th grade.

Parents are asked to stay on Sunday, December 1 to assist with making an Advent wreath with your child. A light breakfast will be provided.



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 16-20. 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 Jay Butler at 757-621-9900.



The church office will be closed several days throughout the holidays. **Please check your weekly bulletin.**



Poinsettia and Memorial Donations

(Please make checks payable to Main Street UMC)

DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

I would like to give _____ **RED POINSETTIAS** to be placed in the Sanctuary.
(\$12.00 each)

In lieu of a poinsettia, I would like to give a contribution in the following amount.
_____.

PLEASE PRINT THE INFORMATION BELOW CAREFULLY AND LEGIBLY.

In **MEMORY** of: _____

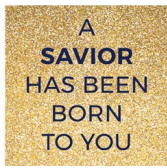
In **HONOR** of: _____

GIVEN by: _____

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): _____





DECEMBER 2019 [CALENDAR OF EVENTS]

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 am Worship
9:30 am Girls Choir Rehearsal
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am *Family Advent Workshop*
11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

6:00 pm Girl Scouts
6:30 pm Cub Scout LPM
7:00 pm Council On Ministries

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
7:00 pm Men's Bible Study
8:00 pm AA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

9:00 am *UMW Annual Advent Breakfast @ Main Street*
8:00 pm AA Meeting

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT *Poinsettia Order Deadline*

8:30 am Worship
9:30 am Girls Choir Rehearsal
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am *Family Advent Workshop*
11:00 am Worship
12:15 pm Stewardship Committee
4:00 pm UMYF Family Dinner

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

6:30 pm Cub Scout Den/Pack Christmas Party
7:00 pm SPRC Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

10:00 am UMW Meeting
7:00 pm Boy Scouts Dinner & Court of Honor

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
7:00 pm Men's Bible Study
8:00 pm AA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

6:00 am Men's Bible Study
7:00 pm Christian Women's Book Club
7:00 pm Girl Scout Service Unit Mtg.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 *Angel Tree Gifts Due Today!*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT *Newsletter Articles Due*

8:30 am Worship
9:30 am Program Rehearsal
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am *Family Advent Workshop*
11:00 am *Worship - Youth & Children Christmas Celebration*
3:00 pm *UMYF Live Nativity*
3:40 pm *Prelude by Guest Musicians*
4:00 pm *Christmas Candlelight Musical - Reception will follow*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

4:00 pm *Salvation Army Ring the Bell @ Walmart*
6:00 PM Girl Scouts

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

4:00 pm *Salvation Army Ring the Bell @ Walmart*
7:00 pm Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship
4:00 pm *Salvation Army Ring the Bell @ Walmart*
7:00 pm Men's Bible Study
7:00 pm Trustee Meeting
8:00 pm AA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:00 am Men's Bible Study
4:00 pm *Salvation Army Ring the Bell @ Walmart*
7:00 pm Day Care Christmas Program

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

4:00 pm *Salvation Army Ring the Bell @ Walmart*
6:00 pm Day Care Staff Christmas Party

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 *UMYF Ice Skating*

8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 am Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am *Family Advent Workshop*
11:00 am Worship
4:00 pm UMYF

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE
Church Office Closes at Noon
5:00 pm *Christmas Eve Communion Children's Message & Nursery*
11:00 pm *Christmas Eve Communion*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

Church Office Closed
8:00 pm AA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26 *Church Office Closed*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 *Church Office Open - Regular Hours*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

11:00 am Salvation Army Kitchen
8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 COMBINED SERVICE AT 10:30AM

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am *Combined Worship Lessons & Carols*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30 *Church Office Open - Regular Hours*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 *Church Office Closes at Noon*

AND OF
GOD TO GOD
IN THE HIGHEST
KNOWERS.

THE 1000TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

AND ON EARTH **PEACE** AMONG THOSE WHOM **GOD** FAVORS.

GOD WITH US

A black and white line drawing of a landscape. In the foreground, there's a winding path or road. To the left of the path, there's a fence with sheep. In the background, there are rolling hills and a large banner that curves across the sky. The banner contains the text: "I DO NOT GIVE AS THE WORLD GIVES." The text is written in a stylized, hand-drawn font. The banner is held up by two figures, one on the left and one on the right, who are partially visible. The overall style is simple and illustrative.

I DO NOT GIVE AS THE WORLD GIVES.



DECEMBER 2019 [BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES]

[BIRTHDAYS]

12/2 Dillard Horton	12/12 Benjamin Beale
12/2 Milaena Clark	12/12 Todd Pruitt
12/3 Drew Catlett	12/13 Taylor Elliott
12/4 Katie Askew	12/14 Margo Johnson
12/4 Hope Carr	12/15 Spencer Anthony
12/5 Lee Bowman	12/16 Miller Carr
12/6 Ruth Livingston	12/16 Lynne Martin
12/6 Marcus Welch	12/17 Mary-Carson Stiff
12/7 Scott Graham	12/18 Bo Russell
12/9 Colette Ballard	12/18 Samuel Towler
12/10 Don Albritton	12/18 Samantha Bright
12/10 William Ballard	12/19 Becky Henschel
12/10 Jennifer Webb	12/20 Haley Grizzle
12/10 Miles Birdsong	12/20 David Russell
12/10 Lynelle Martin	12/20 Laurel Johnson
12/11 Chris Graham	12/21 Kilani Majette

12/22 Jennifer Williford
12/23 Marie Baker
12/24 Jenna Brooks
12/24 Zac Hill
12/24 Sam Hill
12/24 Laura Wrighte
12/25 Henley Totten
12/27 Russell Bright
12/28 Laura Callis
12/29 Kellyann Austin
12/29 Lee Carey
12/29 Noah Callis
12/29 Tess Popik
12/30 Beth Gist
12/31 Anna Grace Towler
12/31 Kathy Salsbury

[ANNIVERSARIES]

12/01 Gordon & Katrina Parker
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 Katie & Rick Humphrey
12/28 Lee & Marie Bowman
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

RECENT PRAYER: 11/20 Erin McPherson, Walt Barker & family, Kristi Bishop, Ayden Munford, Hannah Goetz, Sylvia Talley, Mabel Schimpf, Randy West, Jim Decker, Dorma Hedrick, Charlie Logan family, Carolyn Hahn, Vivian Ellis, Lee Hendricks, Carolyn Davis

SYMPATHY: Family of Kenny Smith (Father of Miriam Birdsong)

ONGOING: Willis "Corky" Davis, Carrie Hill, Steve Clark, Sylvia Funkhouser, Bob Catlett, Heather Lawrence, Leila & Bob Tompert, Michael McPherson and Family, Shellee Stevens, Lee Bowman, Otto Wegman, Lucas Lawrence, Joseph Medeiros, Stan Waterfield, Bishop Sharma Lewis, Trenton Bishop, Juanita Colley, Shellee Stevens

CANCER: Bob Tompert, Janis Greene, Betty Sowell, Kate Rhoads, Brenda Atkins, Ralph Knapp, Nick Cleary, Wilma Babich, Ed Barber, Pam Askew, Linda Argust, Ray Holland, Midge

Sanchez, Judy Duonela Vicars, Johnny Hardy, Thomas Burnett, Cheri Lane, Al Bremer, Sally Gum Palmer, Diane Liles, Majdah Schiavi, Linda Harper, Faye Askew, Lois Barker, Judene Hartless, Angela Seed, Dave O'Neill, David Holloway, Judy Calfee, David Hollowell, Craig Holland, Jean Brinkley, Christine Duran, Rod Rodrigues, Melaine Medeiros, Pat Wegman, Colton Cover (2 yrs old), Carol Coleman, Mary Lou Hedgepeth, Judy Holland, Kelly Grier (Ferguson) Coston, Fran Holland, Holly Wilson, Anita Nelson, June Adcock, Heather Carr, Dolores Farrero, Robert Wilson, Susan Shea, Jessica Chamberlain, Julie Nance, Michael McClung, Marshall Thomas, Jill Harris, John Nodeen, Michael Barrett, Richard J. Peko

SKILLED CARE: Bill Gallant

HOMEBOUND: Melanie French, Jean Sutphin

ASSISTED LIVING: Colette Ballard, Susan Rivenbark, Ray Shamburger

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Main Street United Methodist Church & Pastor Rich Meiser; **United Methodist Church Worldwide, Bishop Sharma Lewis, Bishop Pete Weaver**, John Elmore (Chile Covenant Mission Project Director); CRU - Stephanie & Quin Strouse

OUR NATION AND WORLD: Military Troops & Families: Chris Smith, Anthony Hickler, Cedric Dedeaux, Hunter Pietrowski, Adam Waddell, Kent Brooks, Bryanna Grant, James Russell, III, Kristi Kilborn, Will Crow, Wesley Linder, Duncan Bevan, Jonathan Burton; Children in Poverty; Police, Fire & Rescue Workers; CAPS (Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk); Our Schools Main Street Day Care & Preschool; Workplaces & Homes; Domestic Violence

Church Staff & Contact Information

Main Street United Methodist Church

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Cell: 434.294.1957 | Parsonage: 757.539.2612

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Mark Popik | mapopik@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Barbara McPhail | barbara@mainstumc.org

CHILDREN'S RESOURCE COORDINATOR

Karen Waddell | karen.mainstumc@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Wendy Perry | wperry@mainstumc.org

PROPERTY MANAGER

Bland Newman | bnewman@mainstumc.org

Main Street Day Care & Preschool

Office: 757.539.3431 | Fax: 757.539.7566
www.mainstreetdaycare.org

DAY CARE/PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Julia Farmer | julia@mainstumc.org



The Main Street MESSENGER

OF MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



2019 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Friends, thank you for your faithful stewardship of God's gifts! Great is the faithfulness of God!

NOVEMBER [1-29]

Individual Worship Attendees: 226
Average Worship Attendance: 163
Average Sunday School Attendance: 52
2019 Operating Budget: \$530,835
Received YTD Tithes & Offerings: \$442,922
YTD Expenses: \$456,870

OCTOBER

Individual Worship Attendees: 215
Average Worship Attendance: 154
Average Sunday School Attendance: 54
2019 Operating Budget: \$530,835
Received YTD Tithes & Offerings: \$394,488
YTD Expenses: \$406,495.08

SEPTEMBER

Individual Worship Attendees: 251
Average Worship Attendance: 157
Average Sunday School Attendance: 37
2019 Operating Budget: \$530,835
Received YTD Tithes & Offerings: \$349,515
YTD Expenses: \$362,410

4 WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE



SMART
PHONE



SUNDAY



MAIL