



The Main Street MESSENGER

VOLUME 64 | NO. 12 | DECEMBER 2018

Good Tidings of Great Joy! *Celebrating the Joy of Christmas*



And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you
good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people. Luke 2:10

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:30 am Worship

11:00 am Children and Youth Christmas Celebration "Journey to Bethlehem"

4:00 pm The Candlelight Choir and Girls' Choir of Main Street Church presents the 2018 Christmas Musical, "Night Of the Fathers Love." The choir will be accompanied by professional musicians. Reception immediately following the Musical in the Atrium. Nursery provided.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 & Join us for a Christmas Eve Worship

11:00 pm Experience 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.

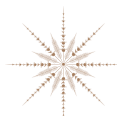
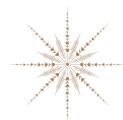
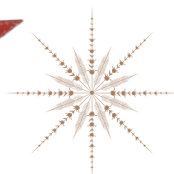
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

Combined Morning Worship Service at 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 worship event!

6:00 pm Connect Worship Service



"PREPARE FOR THE GIFT"

A Note From Pastor Rich Meiser, Jr.



Dear Friends,

December is here and there are less than 4 weeks of shopping time left before Christmas. I hope you survived Black Friday and haven't been sucked into the dark abyss of frantic holiday shopping. I tend to avoid shopping because of the increased volume of

shoppers. However, it puts me in the unenviable position of those "last minute shoppers." I find myself avoiding the crowds so much that I'm in a panic December 23rd because I haven't even started my shopping. Somehow I manage to pull off getting all the gifts on my list but not without an incredible amount of stress.

Perhaps the stress could be avoided if I approached the season from the perspective of Advent. Advent is a season of preparation. We prepare our hearts and minds to receive the gift of the Christ Child. This preparation could be seen as a Journey. As we read the scriptures over the next four Sundays they will lead us through a time when we consider not only the birth of Christ but also his return as Christ the King.

Journey with us as we walk the Road to Bethlehem. We will encounter a bold prophet, a meek and mild teenage girl, a confused fiancé, amazed shepherds, and a sacred stable. At this sacred stable we will hear and experience the joy of heaven. It is my prayer that you will indeed meet the Christ child. Create space in your heart and home this season for the one that makes all things new. May you and yours have a blessed Christmas.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Rich

DECEMBER STEWARDSHIP | CELEBRATING GENEROSITY



Advent is here and we are looking forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our journey through the Advent season will give us the opportunity to reflect on **celebrating** with grateful hearts this awesome event. Pastor Rich will take us on "The Road to Bethlehem" through his sermon series. Sermon Series - The Road to Bethlehem

[December 2, Luke 21:25-36 | The Road to Bethlehem: No Dead Ends](#)

[December 9, Luke 3:1-6 | The Road to Bethlehem: The Clear Path](#)

[December 16, Luke 3:7-18 | The Road to Bethlehem: The Path to Fruitfulness](#)

[December 23, Luke 1:47-55 | The Road to Bethlehem: An Unexpected Turn](#)

You can pick up an Advent devotional, ***Surprises Along the Way***, from the Society of Saint Andrew. That will include a little box if you choose to do a monetary gift.

On December 16, our children will collect another Noisy Offering and you will be treated to the children's program in the morning as well as the wonderful Candlelight Cantata at 4 pm.

Christmas Eve brings our favorite 5:00 pm communion service geared towards families with young children and the peaceful 11:00 pm communion that brings us to Christmas Day.

Continue to journal your way through the season as you celebrate with thanksgiving in your heart.



NIGHTSTAY PROGRAM [WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6-17]

As you know, Pastor Myrtle was instrumental in the creation of the CAPS (Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk), and Pastor Rich is very supportive as well. This year Main Street has a special opportunity to serve our homeless community.

Main Street is partnering with Molly Crow and West End Baptist Church. We are asked to supply volunteers for the Nightstay program, to include food preparation and serving, and overnight chaperones for the guests for the week of February 6 through 13. Since we don't provide our church for this Nightstay program, we provide people power. A sign-up list will be placed in the Atrium, and I hope you will give prayerful consideration to signing up to help those less fortunate during these coldest months of the year. The Nightstay program provides a safe and warm place to spend the night. Please consider signing up.

On a more urgent note, First Baptist Church has agreed to provide housing for the week of Christmas,

but other churches are asked to provide the volunteers. This information will be posted on the sign up board in the atrium. This effort is particularly important during this Christmas season. What more perfect gift could we offer?

If you have questions, please call Phil McPhail at 676-1131.



[WE NEED SMILING FACES]

"One of the most important roles in a church is to have a welcoming smile to all who enter our sanctuary. This warm greeting can make all the difference in a person's demeanor for the day or reaction on whether to return. We are looking for those warm smiles to Greet our church members and welcome new faces into our Main Street family for 2019.

Please look at your calendars and choose a month that fits your schedule for either the 8:30 or 11 am services and submit to Carol Harry, at wirts63@gmail.com or 757-641-9212. After greeting, I promise you will feel great the rest of the day."



[PECANS FOR SALE]

Don't forget to pickup your bag or bags of pecans for your holiday baking. The sale of this product benefits the Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth (a National mission institution of United Methodist Women). The pecans sell for \$11.00 per pound bag and checks may be payable to "Wesley Center." I am available for any questions or additional information if needed.

THANKS - John Hatcher



[GOLF ANNOUNCEMENT]

The first meeting for Main Street's 2019 6th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, December 2 at 9:35 am in the downstairs Boy Scout meeting room. Everyone is invited to join this fellowship meeting. If you cannot attend but would like to help plan the tournament please contact Marie Baker at mariebaker509@yahoo.com.

ADVENT LESSONS, CRAFTS, GAMES & MUSIC

Children Ages 3 to 5th Grade & Youth



We have three Sundays left for Advent lessons, crafts, games, and music for ages 3 to 5th grade. Join us from 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. on December 2, 9, and 16.

Beginning Sunday, December 2, Advent Candles will be lit each Sunday near the beginning of the morning worship services. Different family may volunteer for this activity so call Chris

Ward if you would like to participate. Karen Waddell will keep the children for The Launching Point in church through the lighting of the candles. They are learning the chorus of the Advent Song, so this will give them the perfect opportunity for singing it every week.

Our youth and children will lead the 11 am service on December 16. We

have a Girls' Choir with 11 girls including 2 returning college freshmen. Other youth will assist with readings and the younger children will join them for a songs they have learned on Sunday mornings. This includes our very youngest from the nursery who are invited to ring jingle bells as we sing "Come On, Ring Those Bells."

Noisy Offering On December 16

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE TO MISSIONS

Help our children collect a "Noisy Offering" on December 16, 2018. Decorated bags are available so that you can begin to save your coins for them. Then during the Children's program on December 16, they will collect the noisy offering.

This is a second offering in our service where the money given goes directly to helping others. As they pour the coins in a bucket, it makes a clanging noise and that is why it is called the "Noisy Offering." Yes, we are making a joyful noise unto the Lord! (Psalm 66:1).



PRAYER LIST UPDATE

RECENT PRAYER: 11/27 Erin McPherson, Rev. Bob Hauck, Bill Rutter, Dave Reilly, Nicole Ruffner, Hannah Chase, Ariana Belmo, Andy & Lael Collette, Margie Wills, Tom Brothers, Curtis Prior, Sr., Curtis Prior, Jr., Pamela Edwards, Dave Burks, Zoe & Emmie Jo Siders, Sabrina Valentine, Alvis Winslow, victims and families in Pittsburg synagogue, Candy Fawcett, Charles (Red) Williams, Shirley Fisher, Lalita Ruffin, Sandra Wilson, Ray Shamburger

SYMPATHY: The family of Bill Cloe, The family of Lawrence Evans Bishop (Father of Wendy Perry)

ONGOING: Willis "Corky" Davis, Carrie Hill, Steve Clark, Bob Walton, Sylvia Funkhouser, Bob Catlett, John and Kate Reilly, Heather Lawrence, Leila Tompert, Gloria & Beverly Bredemeyer, Ferebee Bowman, Michael McPherson and Family, Shellee Stevens, Lee Bowman, Lauren Johnson, Otto Wegman, Paula Bishop, Lucas Lawrence, Janet Wunderlich, Joseph Medeiros, Sue Birdsong, Stan Waterfield, Trenton Bishop

CANCER: 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, Todd Walton, James Blair, Cheri Lane, Phil Beck, Margaret Heuberger, Al Bremer, Sally Gum Palmer, Diane Liles, Majdah Schiavi, Linda Harper, Faye Askew, Tami Wyse, Lois Barker, Judene Hartless, Joan Byrd, Angela Seed, Audrey Kent, Lisa Copeland, Dave O'Neill, David Holloway, Judy Calfee, Ed Murphy, David Hollowell, Craig Holland, Jean Brinkley, Christine Duran, Rod Rodrigues, Melaine Medeiros, Pat Wegman, Carol Coleman, Mary Lou Hedgepeth, Judy Holland, Julie Hilland, Colton Cover (2 yrs old), Kelly Grier (Ferguson) Coston, Fran Holland, Holly Wilson, Anita Nelson

SKILLED CARE: Bill Gallant, Bill Cloe

HOMEBOUND: Melanie French, Jean Sutphin

ASSISTED LIVING: Colette Ballard, Susan Rivenbark

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Main Street United Methodist Church; Our sister

churches on the James River District; Pastor Rich Meiser; Church Staff; Lay Leadership (Lay Leader: Bo Browne; Sunday School Teachers; Bible Studies); United Methodist Church Worldwide (VA Annual Conference, Bishop Sharma Lewis, Missionaries & Mission Sites, John Elmore (Chile Covenant Mission Project Director); Friends of Barnabas; CRU - Stephanie & Quin Strouse

OUR NATION AND WORLD: Military Troops & Families: Adam Balint, Chris Smith, Dr. Michael Johnston, Anthony Hickler, Cedric Dedeaux, Hunter Pietrowski, Adam Salsbury, Adam Waddell, Kent Brooks, Christy Whitten, Brian Mouton, Mike Spangenburg, Bryanna Grant, James Russell, III, Kristi Kilborn, Will Crow, Wesley Linder, Duncan Bevan; Children in Poverty; Police, Fire & Rescue Workers; CAPS (Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk); Our Schools (Teachers & Administrators, Staff & Volunteers, Students & their families), Main Street Day Care & Preschool; Workplaces & Homes; The Marketplace; Missionaries; Domestic Violence victims

THE CANDLELIGHT CHOIR AND GIRLS' CHOIR

Christmas Musical

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018 | 4:00 PM

NIGHT
of the FATHER'S
LOVE



DECEMBER 2018 [CALENDAR OF EVENTS]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

UMYF HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

- 9:00 am UMW Advent Breakfast
- 8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:35 am Golf Tournament Meeting
- 9:45 am Advent Activity for Children
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship
- 2:00 pm Girl Scouts
- 3:00 pm UMYF
- 4:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting
- 6:00 pm CONNECT Worship Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 6:00 pm Girl Scouts
- 6:30 pm Finance Committee Mtg.
- 6:30 pm Council On Ministries
- 7:30 pm Church Council

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 9:30 am UMW Leadership Meeting
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship
- 6:00 pm Covenant Prayer Group
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir
- 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study
- 8:00 pm AA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 7:00 pm Connect Team Meeting
- 7:00 pm Day Care Christmas Program

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT POINSETTIA ORDER DUE TODAY

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:45 am Advent Activity for Children
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Coffee with the Pastor
- 11:00 am Worship
- 12:15 pm Stewardship Meeting
- 3:00 pm UMYF
- 6:00 pm CONNECT Worship Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 10:00 am UMW
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship
- 6:00 pm Covenant Prayer Group
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir
- 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study
- 8:00 pm AA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 7:00 pm Girl Scout Service Unit

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE TODAY

- 8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT NOISY OFFERING

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:45 am Advent Activity for Children
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship - Children/Youth Christmas Celebration
- 2:00 pm Girl Scouts
- 3:00 pm UMYF
- 4:00 pm Christmas Candlelight Cantata & Reception

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 6:30 pm Girl Scouts

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 12:00 pm School Board Christmas Luncheon
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 10:00 am Happy Hands Fellowship
- 6:00 pm Covenant Prayer Group
- 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study
- 7:00 pm Trustee Meeting
- 8:00 pm AA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 11:00 am Salvation Army - Fell. Class
- 8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship
- 3:00 pm UMYF
- 6:00 pm CONNECT Worship Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH OFFICE | DAY CARE CLOSED

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

CHURCH OFFICE | DAY CARE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

CHURCH OFFICE | DAY CARE CLOSED

- 8:00 pm AA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

CHURCH OFFICE | DAY CARE CLOSED

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

CHURCH OFFICE | DAY CARE CLOSED

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 8:00 pm AA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Combined Worship**
- 3:00 pm UMYF
- 6:00 pm CONNECT Worship Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEW YEARS EVE CHURCH OFFICE | DAY CARE CLOSED



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE AT VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 7, 2018
7:30 P.M.

The VWU Choirs present a festival of holiday music and traditional tales.

Dr. Bryson Mortensen, conductor.

We have a few tickets left for this wonderful performance. If you would like to attend please contact Anne Rooker at 703-969-5582.

[BIRTHDAYS]

12/2 Dillard Horton
12/2 Milaena Clark
12/3 Drew Catlett
12/4 Katie Askew
12/4 Hope Carr
12/5 Lee Bowman
12/6 Ruth Livingston
12/6 Marcus Welch
12/7 Scott Graham
12/9 Colette Ballard
12/10 Don Albritton
12/10 William Ballard
12/10 Jennifer Webb
12/10 Miles Birdsong
12/10 Lynelle Martin
12/11 Chris Graham
12/12 Benjamin Beale
12/12 Todd Pruitt
12/13 Taylor Elliott

12/14 Margo Johnson
12/15 Spencer Anthony
12/16 Miller Carr
12/16 Lynne Martin
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 David Russell
12/21 Kelani 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
12/31 Anna Grace Towler
12/31 Kathy Salisbury

[ANNIVERSARIES]

12/02 John & Myrtle Hatcher
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

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO THE DECEMBER MEMBERS
OF THE 90+ CLUB! COLETTE BALLARD

JULIA FARMER NAMED MAIN STREET DAY CARE DIRECTOR



It is with great pride and excitement that I write this letter to you as the newly appointed Director of Main Street Day Care and Preschool. For almost eight years, I held the role of Assistant Director, and I am now honored to have the opportunity as Director to lead a center with such a rich tradition of early childhood education and child care. Along with the teachers and staff, I will work hard to continue the legacy of success established by MSDC, and previous

Directors, continuing to build strong relationships with parents, students and community partners.

As a parent, I understand how rewarding but also how difficult the role of a parent can be at times. We all want our children to be happy, cared for and provide them with the best learning opportunities. I can assure you that I am committed to improving children's outcomes. My role, along with the teachers and staff at Main Street, is to assist your child on their early learning journey giving them the freedom to explore and develop in a warm and caring environment.

My door is always open, and I welcome your input. Please feel free to call or email me to discuss any concerns you might have throughout the year. I look forward to working with you as a team to help each child at Main Street Day Care and Preschool have the opportunity to expand his/her concept of the world through a developmentally appropriate physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual program.

Sincerely,
Julia Farmer

Church Staff & Contact Information

Main Street United Methodist Church

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PASTOR

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Cell: 434.294.1957 | Parsonage: 757.539.2612

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC / ORGANIST

Chris Ward | cbward114@aol.com

MODERN WORSHIP COORDINATOR

David Springstead | david.springstead1989@gmail.com

UMYF COORDINATOR

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

CUSTODIAN

Herman Terrell



The Main Street MESSENGER

OF MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



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 17-21. 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.