



*Drawing on our heritage, centered in Jesus Christ, looking to the future;
Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church reaches out with the Gospel to our community and the world.*

DECEMBER 2022

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SUNDAY AT DMPC



Worship each Sunday is
 broadcast live over WDNE 1240 AM
 and live-streamed on
 our Facebook Page
www.dmpc.org

Dear Church Family Members,

Christmas this year will once again be very different for many of us due to the changes of 2022 and the changes coming in 2023. Yet the promises of God remain sure and steadfast. The familiar Scripture passages of the Christmas story contain many themes, including: “Do not be afraid” (or the more emphatic translation “Fear not”). The shepherds as well as Mary, Joseph, and Zechariah all needed this reassurance from the angels.

“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in a town of David a Savior has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11).

Our trust in God is one way to manage fear. During Advent we focus on the waiting time before Christmas. It is a time to reflect on the birth of Jesus which shows God’s love for us. We hope you will be able to attend the traditional Christmas Eve service of scriptures, carols, and candles. We will gather on Saturday, December 24th at 7pm in the Sanctuary. Then on Christmas morning we will have a special service of singing a lot of carols and the reading of poetry as we celebrate Christ’s coming.

May Christ be born again into each of your hearts this Christmas season.

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace to those on whom his favor rests”. (Luke: 2:14)

Fear not, and Merry Christmas!

Peter Vial, Pastor

REV. DR. PETER A. VIAL RETIRES...

It is with a deep sense of gratitude for our partnership in ministry that at its November 14th meeting, I let the Session know that I plan to retire from the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on July 1, 2023.

I am choosing to alert the church to my decision at this time so that the budgeting process might be best informed when it comes to the line items for the pastor in 2023.

It has been an honor and a privilege to journey with you in ministry over the past 14 years. It has been a very rewarding experience for Tina and me and we say “thank you” from the bottom of our hearts. We look forward to the coming months of reflections, goodbyes and supporting you in your next steps as a congregation.

Until then we have work to do in ministry together. Let us continue to fulfill our common calling to be in partnership together with grateful hearts.

In Christ’s service,

Peter

SESSION NOTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 14TH SESSION MEETING...

The Session dealt with the following items:

- *Took the first voice vote on a recommendation from the Finance and Capital Gifts Committee on withdrawing \$30,000 from the Angel Fund to address the deficit budget.
- *Heard a presentation from D&E student Morgan Perry and Tina Vial on partnering with the college in a “Night to Shine” prom event for people with special needs, ages 14 and up, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. The Session acted to approved the idea of the partnership.
- *Elder Bob McCutcheon confirmed he will be traveling to Kenya on a mission trip in 2023 and will submit a proposal to the Capital Gifts Committee as plans develop.
- *Peter Vial informed the Session of his intention to retire from the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, effective July 1, 2023.



Family Advent Calendar
Begin reading this calendar on the first Sunday of Advent
and "count down" the days until Christmas
 (Prepared by Dana Marzolf)

<i>First Sunday in Advent</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p>The birthday of Jesus is coming!</p> <p><i>Read Isaiah 40:3-5.</i></p>	<p>Advent is a journey we make together to Bethlehem. Take special care of those you love.</p> <p><i>Read Luke 2:15.</i></p>	<p>Create a manger scene (or creche). Don't add Baby Jesus until Christmas Day.</p>	<p>For each good deed you do, add a small piece of shredded paper to a small box to make a soft crib for Jesus.</p>	<p>"The Lord your God is in your midst."</p> <p><i>Read Zephaniah 3:17.</i></p>	<p>Jesus is a gift from God. Think and pray about that today.</p>	<p>"And a little child shall lead them."</p> <p><i>Read Isaiah 11:6.</i> How do children lead you to God?</p>
<p><i>Second Sunday in Advent</i> "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks."</p> <p><i>Read Thessalonians 5:16-18</i></p>	<p>Help collect items, such as canned goods or presents, to give to those in need.</p>	<p><i>Read Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-17; Matthew 1:18-25.</i> These verses declare that God's plan is coming into place.</p> <p>How are God's plans coming together in your life?</p>	<p>Read a Christmas card you have received. Pray for the sender.</p>	<p>Evergreens stand for God's undying love. Pray around your Christmas tree.</p>	<p>Allowing God into our hearts to instruct us makes a difference as we grow in faith, hope and love.</p> <p><i>Read Isaiah 48:17-19.</i></p>	<p>Tell someone "I love you" today. Love is a precious gift-often overlooked.</p>
<p><i>Third Sunday in Advent</i> "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make His paths straight."</p> <p><i>Read Mark 1:3.</i></p>	<p>God encourages forgiveness. Who can you forgive today?</p>	<p>Thank God for all your blessings-include your family and friends.</p>	<p>Sing some of your favorite Christmas carols and hymns. Take some time to think about the words.</p>	<p>Be a 'precious' angel and help someone today without being asked.</p>	<p>Let us strive to live justly as we await the fulfillment of justice in God's Kingdom.</p> <p><i>Read Jeremiah 2:5-8.</i></p>	<p>"Welcome one another; therefore just as Christ has welcomed you."</p> <p><i>Read Romans 15:7.</i></p>
<p><i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> Mary trusted in God, and so she agreed to bear Jesus to the world. May we likewise trust!</p> <p><i>Read Luke 1:39-45.</i></p>	<p>The Spirit of the Lord moved over the darkness of earth and there was light and life. May the burning of candles remind you of the Lord's coming.</p>	<p>The long wait is almost over- our redemption is at hand.</p> <p><i>Read Isaiah 52:10.</i></p>	<p>Traveling to Bethlehem Mary and Joseph go past the field with the shepherds. They have had no way of knowing their Son would later declare Himself "the Good Shepherd."</p>	<p>Christmas Eve As we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, may we realize the promise of abundant life for <u>all</u> people.</p> <p><i>Read Luke 2:14</i></p>	<p>Christmas Day! Add Baby Jesus to the small box filled with paper strips in your manger or creche.</p> <p>"Hallelujah! Glory to God in the highest"</p>	<p>Throughout the Christmas season -until Epiphany, Jan 6th: Reread ALL your Christmas cards and offer a prayer for each person who sent you a card.</p>

ADVENT in Two Minutes

ADVENT begins four Sundays before December 25th, lasts about four weeks and prepares us for Christmas. We all know about Christmas, right? There's a lot more to it than shopping, planning, buying, baking, parties, eggnog, Santa, cards, gifts, decorating, caroling, stressing. There is **ADVENT**!

ADVENT is the expectant waiting and cheerful preparation of God breaking into our lives... in all moments, all places, at all times... **PAST, PRESENT** and **FUTURE**;
Preparing for Christ's return and welcoming God into our lives every day.

ADVENT prepares us for these events, reminds us there's joy in waiting and is the beginning of the church year.

ADVENT is NOT stressing about Christmas, rushing around shopping or a race to December 25th. **ADVENT** is also **NOT** Lent!

ADVENT is about HOPE, **NOT** repentance.
Lent is a more of a spring cleaning of our lives...

ADVENT is a cozier getting your home ready to welcome a special guest...

JESUS – the One we've been waiting for!

ADVENT's colors are **NOT** **RED** and **GREEN**...

They are **PURPLE** and **PINK**... like the **ADVENT** wreath



Purple is used to indicate spiritual readiness, and reflection. It also represents royalty – perfect for the King of Kings! Pink (lit on the third Sunday) represents Gaudete or Joy Sunday in anticipation of the birth of Christ. Sometimes a white candle is placed in the center – lit on Christmas Eve –representing the Light of Christ coming into the world.

Remember: **ADVENT** is **NOT** about shopping, stressing, planning or buying.

ADVENT is about expecting, waiting, hoping and praying.

If you're sick of Christmas by December 25th
you haven't done **ADVENT** correctly!

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED...

Twenty-nine individuals of Church Women United in Elkins met on November 4 at Woodford Memorial United Methodist Church. Our meeting began with a blessed meal and fellowship shared by the women after not being able to gather for over two years. We celebrated World Community Day and learned about the different free weekly lunches provided by churches in our community. Pastor Jeremiah Jasper also shared information with us about the different projects being developed within in our community that could provide additional housing and jobs for people. During our business meeting, Jane Hazer asked if anyone was interested in serving as a board member of leadership for the local CWU in Elkins. There were no volunteers so a motion was made to dissolve the local CWU in Elkins. Sandy DiBacco explained that CWU in West Virginia had gone through the same steps for the collectively six CWU units (Buckhannon, Charleston, Elkins, Petersburg, Tygarts Valley, and Weirton) that were still meeting. Sandy explained that local units could continue functioning on their own with the National Church Women United in Atlanta GA. The CWU in WV will be dissolving on December 31, 2022, and Petersburg and Weirton are going to try to continue on their own. After a discussion, a vote to dissolve was approved effective the end of 2022.

We discussed the disbursements of our remaining funds to local non-profit organizations. The women voted to divide the \$200.00 from CWU in WV between Common Grounds at Woodford Memorial United Methodist Church and the noon feeding program at First United Methodist Church. With our remaining funds, the women voted to send the following programs: Catholic Charities \$100.00; American Legion for Christmas baskets \$100.00; Meals on Wheels \$100.00; Tyrand Cooperative Ministries, Inc. \$100.00; Randolph County Library \$100.00; First United Methodist Church for backpack program \$100.00; Common Grounds at Woodford Memorial UMC \$93.00; and noon feeding program at First UMC \$93.00. Our remaining funds of approximately \$100.00 will be sent to Church Women United National Office to close out our bank account on December 31, 2022.

The ladies discussed ways to continue meeting and sharing as faithful women within the Elkins community in hopes that in some way they could continue to support local agencies. Everyone agreed that the ecumenical work among our faiths demonstrates God's love for everyone is very important within the Elkins community. We just need to find a way.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS CORNER ...

The ladies from Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church held their annual Thanksgiving luncheon at Holy Trinity on November 17. A special thanks goes to Brenda Ramsey for the beautiful table decorations and favors and her hard work in the kitchen.

We were unable to attend services at Holy Trinity on November 20 as the heater was broken in the sanctuary and the temperature was only in the 20's. Our congregational meeting was postponed until November 27.

The Nelsonville Ev. Lutheran Church in Nelsonville, Wisconsin has offered to match up to \$200,000 if we donate to the Lutheran World Relief by December 31, 2022. All we need to do is put "Congregation match" on the memo. You may give your check to Jane Hazer or send it directly to: Lutheran World Relief, P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Make sure to put "congregation match" on the memo of your check.

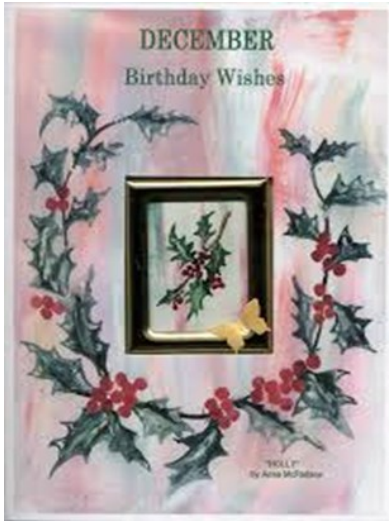
Christmas Eve service will be held on December 24 beginning at 5:00 P.M.

Mary Rose Rinell's new telephone number is 304-600-7443.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO RUTH WHITESEL ON DECEMBER 24!



DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CHOPPING DOWN OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE REPRESENTS THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND PUTTING IT BACK UP AGAIN REPRESENTS THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST. DID YOU KNOW THAT THE WREATHS WE HANG ARE NEVER ENDING CIRCLES THAT REPRESENTS ETERNITY? CANDY CANES WERE MADE TO LOOK LIKE SHEPHERDS HOOKS AND THE COLOR RED REPRESENTS JESUS' BLOOD AND WHITE PURITY. THE GIFTS REPRESENTS THE THREE GIFTS THE WISE MEN BROUGHT FOR JESUS. SO WHEN YOU ARE RUNNING AROUND TRYING TO GET THE "PERFECT GIFT," STOP YOURSELF, TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND REMEMBER WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE PERFECT GIFT; JESUS CHRIST WAS GIVEN TO US TO REMOVE ALL OF OUR SINS.



- 1 Elliot Harper
- 1 Julia Ann Varner
- 4 Naomi Cassells
- 5 Robin Mams
- 9 Mary Emily Anger
- 12 Steven Corbin
- 15 Deborah Cook
- 15 Walt Lesser
- 19 Virginia Cassells
- 23 Mitchell Price
- 23 Jacob Riddle
- 24 Mark Talbott
- 26 Chrisantha Hermanson
- 26 Kaia Miller
- 26 Quincy Miller
- 27 Bronwyn Bear
- 30 Richard Legg

Happy Anniversary

December 23 Gary & Mary Moden

DATES TO REMEMBER...

- Dec. 1 10:00am PW Coordinating Team/White Chapel
- Dec. 8 10:00am Circle 2/White Chapel
- 1:30pm Circle 1 White Chapel
- Dec. 12 6:30pm Session
- Dec. 20 1:30pm Meals on Wheels/Dunham Room
- Dec. 23 Church closed for Christmas Eve
- Dec. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE**
- Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY**
- Dec. 26 Church closed for Christmas Holiday
- Dec. 30 Church closed for New Year's Eve
- Jan. 2 Church closed for New Year's Day

- Mondays @6:30pm Boy Scouts
- Tuesdays @6:00pm Girl Scouts



Members of the After School Program show off a donation of Halloween socks that were left under the Mitten Tree in October. The socks were greatly enjoyed by everyone at the agencies that received them.





DAVIS MEMORIAL
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 450 RANDOLPH AVENUE
 ELKINS, WV 26241

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Minister	Rev. Dr. Peter A. Vial
Director of Music	Dr. Melody Meadows
Assistant Organist	Mark Armentrout
Church Secretary	Marsha Gardner
Clerk of Session	Mark Armentrout
Financial Secretary	Dr. Larry Wing
Treasurer	Sherri Marsteller
After School Program	Monica Varchetto
Kids Club	Nate Garver-Daniels
Custodian	Dan Harper

Church office	304-636-2788
Peter's Cell	304-621-8282
Vial e-mails	minister@dmprc.org
	tinamvial@gmail.com

CIRCLE 1	Mina Cupp, Chair Dec. 8 @1:30pm in the White Chapel
CIRCLE 2	Judy Guye Swanson, Chair Dec. 8 @10:00am in the White Chapel

Join us on [Facebook!](#) Join the *Group* "Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church" to receive current announcements, discuss topics, see our growing photo gallery, and generally stay in touch. Follow our Facebook *Page* "Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church" for live-streaming worship.

