#### Announcements, continued

Be faithful in prayer - Romans 12:12 NIV Please join us Wednesday as we pray for our congregation and others. Prayers: Evie Grosenick; Connie Heironimus; Israel; hostages; Krista Baker; Greysin & Kaden; Simone Poulin; thanks for prayers for Bob; Jerry Chapman; Donna Williams; family of Rose Horwath; Joe Patterson; Ted Morgan; Norman Bayliss; Monty Hounshell; Russ & Helen; Brenden & fiancée; Epstein family; Anglin family; Pastor Bill's extended family; Welbornes; Haynes; Funkhousers; Chris Guerra; Tracy Ford; Bailey family; thanks for the beauty in this world; Sabrina; Derek; Kelly; Paul; KayleeAnna; all those grieving loved ones; Adina; Annie; Caleb; Jaeda; Eden; family dysfunction; our country; Barbara Bledsoe; Sarah; Sage; Staci; Vicki; Zelda Miller, homeless; Beverly; Freddie & Marie; Cathy Richard; children of the world; my parents; Scott Tumblin; Tom Chicca; travel safety for all; Lois Smith; Ellsworth Rhinehart; family tranquility; the lost; peace; Mark Wells; Laban Sadtler; Lana Austin; Danny Smith; Daniel Whitacre; Mary Kathryn Clark; Shirley Dick; Jane Thomas; Marilyn Stelzl; Dawna Wilson; Wilsons; Nelda & Charles Harless; Tina & Shane Weagley; Rev. Clay Knick & Lisa; Nellie Snoots; Florence Roman; Sharon & George Teets; Simon & Vicky Newlin; Adele Birnbaum; Amy, Frank & boys, our world; Betty Murphy; Pamela Martin; new jobs & opportunities; Cindy Brennan (Pam's cousin)

Scriptures for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: 2 Sam 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-

Scriptures for Christmas Eve: Isa. 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

#### Calendar

## Sunday, December 24 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve

10:20 Worship

Reader: Cathy Lichvar; Greeter: Margo Young Counters: Roy Walker & Lorraine Shelton
7:00 Candlelight Evening Worship Service

Greeters: Lorraine Shelton, Susan & Roger Hill

Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas (office closed)

Tuesday, December 26 12-4 Bridge (f. hall)

Wednesday, December 27 11:00 Prayer & Care (f.hall)

5:30 TOPS

Thursday, December 28 8:30 TOPS

#### Friday, December 29

9<sup>30</sup>-2<sup>30</sup> Bridge (fh)

Sunday, December 31

10:20 Worship

11:30 Farewell to the Gibbs family

Reader: Nancy Tisinger

Greeters:

Counters: Roy Walker & Lorraine Shelton

#### <u>Upcoming</u>

Jan. 3 WATTS Dinner at Opequon Presby.

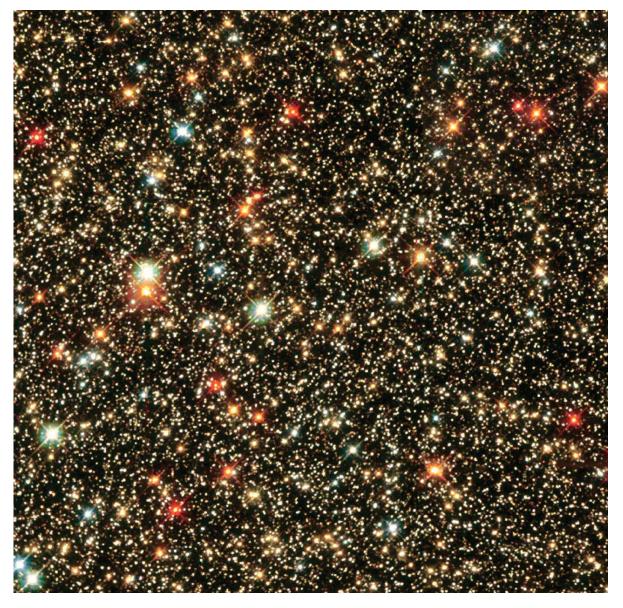
Jan. 5 Undecorate Church

Jan. 7 Wesley Covenant Service



Please know that ALL children are **ALWAYS welcome** to attend our entire church service in the sanctuary. We offer an optional short **Children's** Church program during worship. Parents bring their children into the worship service with them. After the offering, Miss Vickie & Miss Beth will lead the children to the first-floor classroom for story, song, prayer, and fun. Children will be returned to their parents in the sanctuary.

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**



7:00 p.m. Worship Service

**December 24, 2023** 

**Rev. Gary Heaton** 3239 Valley Pike, Winchester, VA 22602, 540-667-7298 <u>kernstownumc.org</u>

\* All who are able, please stand, bold print - all respond

Prelude

Greeting

\*Opening Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1-4) UMH 234
CALL TO WORSHIP The Lighting of the Christ Candle Lorraine Shelton

Come, faithful watchers, and behold, your salvation is here!

### We greet the Wondrous Light, our Messiah, Christ the Lord.

We have waited and watched, longing for God to show up and save us from the suffering and pain in our world.

### We greet the Wondrous Light, the fulfillment of our shocking hope.

We have waited and watched, longing for peace to reign among us, a peace that removes unjust barriers, frees us from sin, and binds us together as neighbors, family, and friends.

## We greet the Wondrous Light, the bringer of our just peace.

We have waited and watched, longing for joy that is persistent in the face of the grief, lament, chaos, and oppression that weigh on us day in and day out.

## We greet the Wondrous Light, the source of our fierce joy.

We have waited and watched, longing to encounter the love that transforms us, the Love that is now here among us, first as a babe in a manger, then as a teacher, a friend, and our Savior.

# We greet the Wondrous Light, Love Incarnate, Who has come to save us and transform us. Amen.

*Hymn	Hark! the Herald Angels Sing	UMH 240
Scripture Lesson	Luke 2:8-20	Lorraine Shelton
Response to the Word	Come and See What's Happenin' In The Barn	Steve Wells
<b>Congregational Prayer</b>		<b>UMH 231</b>

Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ You gave Yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, He may save us from all our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, to Whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

*Hymn	O Little Town of Bethlehem	<b>UMH 230</b>
Homily	"A Deeper Look "	Rev. Heaton
	Romans 16:25-27	

Lord's Prayer UMH 895

**Invitation to Holy Communion** 

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Lord's Supper & Offering

The Service of Lights

Special Music O Holy Night

Kelly Henshaw

**UMH 239** 

Silent Night, Holy Night

\*The Benediction

Postlude

\*Hymn

(\*Please stand as able) CCLI#11408803

The image on the front of the bulletin this evening is a Deep Field photo from 2002 when the Hubble telescope was fixed on the darkest part of the sky to see what was there.

#### **Announcements**

Who's Who in The Pew - Member Attendance & Visitor Info - Please fill out the card located in the pews and place it in the offering basket. Include your name and any prayer requests or concerns for our church leaders. If you are a visitor, please include your contact info and any requests.

On the first Sunday of the new year (January 7), our morning worship will include a **Wesley Covenant Service** for church leaders. All who serve on church committees or work areas are encouraged to attend.

Welcome to Our Guest Musician - This morning we welcome our guest musician, Jason Labrador, Shenandoah Conservatory Alumnus, who will be playing the violin. He is a Winchester resident who is the founder/owner/performer of Labrador Entertainment. We are so blessed to have him with us today to share his talents during the holiday season.

Greeters/Readers are needed for the next few weeks, please sign up in narthex and be a part of this ministry. .

**Farewell** - Next Sunday after church we will be hosting a reception for JJ & Christina Gibbs as they are returning to the North Carolina Conference. We pray God's blessing and traveling mercies as they begin their new ministries.

**Thanks and Invitation** – Thank you to all of the people who played a part in making the music ministry thrive this season. From our bell ringers, to our choir, to our guest musicians it was a wonderful season and I hope to have even more join us in the new year. Bells and choir resume on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 and 7:00, respectively. Hope to see you there.