

**Community Advent Lunchtime Worship** - Join us each week for our Community Advent Lunchtime Worship at noon thru December 20. For this ecumenical gathering, we welcome pastors and special musicians from congregations in our community and region. We will provide a "light lunch" immediately following worship in the fellowship hall. If you are on a tight schedule, please feel free to go to the front of the line.

**Advent & Christmas at Kernstown United Methodist Church - Our Journey Through the Darkness.** Join us as we look for **HOPE & FAITH & LOVE** In the timeless story of the birth of **JESUS**. We will be looking to the heavens by searching the stars in the night sky to remind us that the light that shines in the darkness has come to us through our **SAVIOR**. Pick up a brochure in the pew.

*Be faithful in prayer - Romans 12:12 NIV Please join us Wednesday as we pray for our congregation and others:* Becky Cather; Connie Heronimus; hostages; Susan Habre family; travelers; Doug & Mary; all leaders; Elizabeth White; Carol Moolrick; Piccolo family; Suzanne Conklin; Dottie Holstine; Peter Prosser; Penny Myers; Jeff & Rose Pule; Krista Baker; Bob & Linda Nesmith; Ian & Emily Epstein; the life of the church; thanks for caring for us; Jane & Annie; Chris Guerra; Caleb, Jaeda; Michael Geiss; Bob; Amanda; Sarah; Sage; unspoken; our world; Walkers; Wilsons; Audrey Dorton; Beverly; Vicky; Freddie & Marie; Russ & Helen; Jack Wood; my parents; Butch Hoover; Drew; Wes; Holly; Lindsey; the Pawchak family; Tom Chicca; Rev. Welborn; Mary Walker's family; men & women in prison; orphans, church family; the war; peace; Daniel Whitacre; Mary Kathryn Clark; Marilyn Stelzl; Shirley Dick; Mary Shetler; Jane Thomas; Dawna Wilson; Nelda & Charles Harless; Nellie Snoots; Florence Roman; Rev. Clay & Lisa Knick; Tina & Shane Weagley; Simon & Vicky Newlin; the Doc Madagan family; Adele Birnbaum; Sharon & George Teets

*Scriptures:* Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 ; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Calendar

<b>Sunday, December 3 ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 New Member Orientation/Open Class 9:00 Hospitality 9:00 Bible Study John 10:20 Worship -3;00 Sight & Sound Miracle of Christmas -5:00 United Women in Faith <i>Reader:</i> Steve Wells <i>Greeters:</i> Barb & Kevin Mosser <i>Counters:</i> Roger Hill & Brian Henshaw <b>Tuesday, December 5</b> 12-4 Bridge ( <i>f. hall</i> ) staff <b>Wednesday, December 6</b> 9-11:30 BSF ( <i>2-3 rooms upstairs</i> ) 11:00 Prayer & Care ( <i>f.hall</i> ) 12:00 Advent Service/Lunch 5:30 TOPS 7:00 Choir ( <i>f.hall</i> )	<b>Thursday, December 7</b> 10-2 Tops Christmas Party <b>Friday, December</b> 9 <sup>30</sup> -2 <sup>30</sup> Bridge ( <i>f. hall</i> ) <b>Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup></b> -10:00 Training Offering Counters <b>Sunday, December 10 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 New Member Orientation/Open Class 9:00 Bible Study John 10:20 Worship <i>Reader:</i> Stacey Park <i>Greeters:</i> Charlie Donohoe & Mary Walker <i>Counters:</i> Gary Lantz & Carolyn Carney  <i>Upcoming Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting 7pm</i>  <b>St★rg★zing Sat., Dec. 9, 7:00 pm at Opequon Presby. Parking lot</b> <b>St★rg★zing Sat., Dec. 16, 7:00 pm at Rev. Heaton's Home</b>
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1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent



Our Journey Through the Darkness

10:20 a.m. Worship Service

December 3, 2023



Rev. Gary Heaton

3239 Valley Pike, Winchester, VA 22602, 540-667-7298 [kernstownumc.org](http://kernstownumc.org)

Prelude	David Landrum
Ringling of the Bell	Sam Henshaw
Greeting /Announcements	Cathy Richard
Advent Antiphonal Introit	"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" Steve Wells
*Hymn	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel UMH 211
Lighting of Altar Candles	Sam Henshaw
*Call to Worship	Lighting of Advent Candle Barbara and Kevin Mosser
Reader: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"	
<b>All: We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical hospitality. It is a place where, together, we can search in wondrous anticipation of the coming Messiah.</b>	
Reader : "Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us search the heavens for a star in the East. Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in Gods paths'."	
<b>All: We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored – our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.</b>	
Scripture Lesson	Isaiah 21:11-12 Steve Wells

Response to the Word

*What Child Is This?*

Handbell Choir

Testimonial to Astrologers

Steve Shank SAS

Offering and Children's Church

*He Has Made Me Glad*  
*I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart. I will enter His courts with praise.*  
*I will say this is the day that the Lord has made. I will rejoice for He has made me glad.*  
*He has made me glad, He has made me glad. I will rejoice for He has made me glad.*  
*He has made me glad, He has made me glad. I will rejoice for He has made me glad.*

Prayers of the People & Congregational Prayer

**God of justice and peace, from the heavens, You rain down mercy and kindness, that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before Your marvelous deeds. Raise our heads in expectation, that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord and stand without blame before Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Preparation

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

UMH 196

Sermon

*“Light Shines in the Darkness ”*

Rev. Heaton

Mark 13: 24-37

Response to the Spoken Word

*He Shall Reign Forevermore*

Chancel Choir

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and Earth. You formed us in Your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, Your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through Your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. And so, with Your people on Earth and all the company of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and Earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed Him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set

at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when You would save Your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection, You gave birth to Your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. At His ascension, You exalted Him to sit and reign with You at Your right hand.

On the night in which He gave Himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

When the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood. By Your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at His heavenly banquet. Through Your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in Your holy Church, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord’s Supper

\* Hymn

*There’s a Song in the Air*

UMH 249

\*Choral Benediction

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*  
*Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace.*  
*Let us each, Your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.*  
*O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.*

\*The Benediction

Rev. Heaton

Postlude

David Landrum

(\*Please stand as able) CCLI # 11408803

Announcements

***This morning we welcome Steve Shank of the Shenandoah Astronomical Society who will introduce us to the use of telescopes and other stargazing instruments.***

***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. Our next **New Member Sunday** is December 17. Orientation classes are today and December 10 at 9:00. If you have any questions, see Rev. Heaton.

