

The Kernstown Courier



3239 Valley Pike, Winchester, VA 22602-5303

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Rev. Gary Heaton



December 2023—January 2024

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From the Pastor

Watchman, tell us of the Night.....

Isaiah 22: 11

There is a great deal of anxiety and darkness in our world today. The response of the Gospel to the uncertainty and fear that we face is the promise of God that ***the Light will Shine in the Darkness and the Darkness can not overcome it.*** (John 1:5)

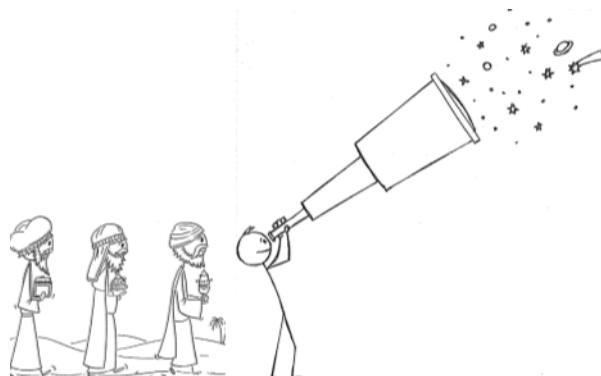
This Advent and Christmas Season, we will offer a message of Hope and Faith and Love through special music, programs and worship. Our theme for the season is ***"Starlight, for Our Journey through the Darkness."***

We will be helped in our celebration of Advent & Christmas by the Shenandoah Astronomical Society who will teach us about watching the night sky as the Magi of old. We will have opportunities to gaze at the stars through telescopes provided by the Society, and instructed about the wonders of the heavenly lights. On the nights of December 9 & 16, you are encouraged to join us for an evening of stargazing. (Addresses and details are printed on the back).

It is my belief that what we have planned at Kernstown United Methodist Church this season will be a unique and meaningful experience for everyone who attends. It is my hope that the congregation will use this opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to our programs and worship services. Our journey of faith may take us through difficult and dangerous places, yet we do not lose Hope. The Love of God will never leave us and our Faith allows us to look to Christ to redeem and save all.

Come make a unique Christmas memory by joining the Magi of old in a journey through the darkness as we seek the Light of the world.

Gary



Our next **New Member Sunday** is December 17. Orientation classes are December 3 and 10 at 9:00. If you have any questions, see Rev. Heaton or call the office.

Care & Connect

Health Ministry - Purpose is to promote Wholistic health & prevent/minimize illness at KUMC and the surrounding community. Contact me if you have any health concerns that I can help or if you would like a hospital or home visit from me, **Parish Nurse**, Doris Miller, BSN, RN, Faith Community Nurse, cell 540-303-3135 (leave msg), **New email:** Pameric2021@Outlook.com

Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:12 NRSV "I am grateful to Christ Jesus, our Lord, who has strengthened me, and appointed me to his service."

Blood Pressure Checks: 2ND and 4th Sundays in mission room after worship service.

Walk with a DOC - Dec. & Jan. on 2nd Wednesday at 11 am-12 noon. Meet at Valley Health Wellness and Fitness Center for a talk by a physician and walk around the lake with others.

Friends and Family CPR - Class has been delayed until February or March 2024 due to the lack of an instructor at this time. Contact Doris Miller if you have any questions.

Update on FLU /COVID/Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) - The Communicable Disease Center (CDC) is monitoring the spread of these respiratory viruses weekly as it did last year. Per November 11, 2023, Respiratory Activity is low overall in Virginia, but increasing. COVID-19, RSV, and flu are increasing in most of the country. However, Winchester and Frederick County are **LOW** in transmission. Each household can receive 4 COVID-19 test kits free at COVID Tests.gov. There are vaccines for Flu, RSV, and COVID-19. It is not too late to receive the flu vaccine. The COVID-19 has been formulated for Omicron varieties, so CDC is recommending that we receive the new updated COVID-19 vaccine. There is also a vaccine for RSV and CDC is recommending that the young and persons over 60 receive the RSV vaccine. Ask your physician if these vaccines are recommended for you. These vaccines may be obtained at the pharmacies. There is treatment for COVID-19 but you need to receive the treatment as soon as symptoms occur. If you have symptoms - fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue (tiredness), loss of taste or smell. Stay Home, get tested, and seek treatment - contact your physician for recommendations for you. Prevention tools: vaccines, handwashing, cleaning, air ventilation by opening windows, masks.

Doris Miller

Reach & Serve

R & S Meetings will be on the 2nd Thursday in 2024

BASTAS-Be a Santa to a Senior - Home Instead Senior Care Program has asked us once again to participate in their "Santa to a Senior" gift program. We have received the gift tags & they are hanging on the Angel tree in the narthex. Each tag has only 3-6 requested items on them. Please take only 1 tag to allow the entire congregation to pick a client. The gifts are due back on Sunday, Dec. 10. Please tape the tag to your box or gift bag with the unwrapped gifts & place them under the tree.

United Women in Faith (UWF)

Sisters in Christ - Scripture:

"Matthew 1:23 *"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, God is with us.*"

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 10 am in the fellowship hall. Program will be Installation of Officers for 2024 by Mary Preston, Shenandoah River District UWF President.

Kernstown UWF Christmas Luncheon: Tuesday, Dec. 12, at Hayfield Restaurant at 12:00. You may invite a friend to attend with you. RSVP to Doris Miller by Dec. 5, so that we can let the restaurant know how many will be attending.

District UWF Christmas Luncheon and Program hosted by Camp Overlook: Tuesday, Dec. 5, at noon. The cost is \$16.50 a person. Menu is honey roasted ham, sweet potato casserole, green beans, rolls, salads, & desserts. We will carpool from KUMC parking lot at 10:30. RSVP Doris, so she can contact Camp Overlook to reserve spots for us.

UM Day at General Assembly is Thursday, Feb. 1, Richmond & Zoom.

Upper Room: when you take a copy of Upper Room, leave a donation in the jar next to them in the narthex.

Cookbooks: We still have cookbooks at \$3. They are in the mission room. Leave money for them in the jar.

Fundraiser for local missions: "Lighting the Path to the Christ Child" - donations will be given to Weekday Religious Education (WRE), CCAP, Laurel Center, & Winchester Rescue Mission. Lighting ceremony on the 1st Sunday in Advent, Dec. 3, at 5 pm. We will be using electric lights this year, so, they will be brighter & visible from Rt 11.



Souper Bowl Project - Look in Feb. newsletter for more info., Doris Miller, President

WATTS Dinner - KUMC will be preparing & serving dinner for WATTS clients on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, when Opequon Presby. Church is hosting them. We will need donations for the food (lasagna, garlic French bread, tossed salad & banana pudding for dessert) & persons to help. See sign-up sheets in narthex. Doris Miller

Correction from SPPRC: During the charge conference, a mathematical error was found in the Pastor's Compensation report for 2024. The correct total compensation is \$59,060.33, not \$56,859.68. The District Superintendent has been updated with the corrected figures.

Educate & Equip

Confirmation Class- Rev. Heaton (KUMC) & Rev. Keith Ritchie (Macedonia UMC) will be offering a Confirmation Class for young people ages 12-17 in February and March of 2024. The congregation is encouraged to share this opportunity with young people you know who may be interested in learning and exploring a relationship with Jesus through church membership.

Encounter—The Book of John group is still in progress on Sunday Mornings, another will follow.

New Small Group study on the book of Revelation beginning Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 1:30. Sign up in the narthex.

Worship & Wonder

Cantata - The Choir will present "Morning Star" during the worship service on December 17. Through this presentation, we pray that you will find hope in its message and encouragement in the unconditional love of God. Hold fast to the promise that even in the darkest of nights, the Morning Star will rise!

Jan. 7 -The first Sunday of the new year will be a **Wesley Covenant Service** where the church leadership will be commissioned and blessed for service in 2024.



Finance Committee Update

The 2024 Stewardship Campaign was a great success! The estimate of congregational giving to the annual budget exceeded last year, and the amount pledged to the Capital Campaign is sufficient to move ahead on our projects. The new roof on the fellowship hall has been completed and paid for and progress is already being made on the other improvement projects. We hope to begin work on the office renovation in the new year. THANK YOU to everyone who's faithfulness and giving will carry us into the future. A written report will be presented to the Church Council on Dec. 7th.

October 2023 Financial Report

Tithes & Gifts Received \$25,813⁵⁰
 Needed to meet Budget \$34,142⁰⁵
Difference \$ 8,328⁵⁵

Staffing Update

It is with mixed feelings that we must announce that JJ Gibbs will be leaving our staff in January as his wife, Christina, will be taking a new Camp Director position in North Carolina. We wish them well in their new ministry opportunity and pray God's blessing on them and their family. Christina Gibbs will be leading the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 31st, and we will celebrate their ministry with us on the Shenandoah River District.

Trustee Committee Update

The new roof on the Education Building is complete. This type of roof is called an EPDM ballasted roof. EPDM (ethylene propylene diene terpolymer) is a synthetic rubber membrane that covers the roof and then ballast (large rock about 1-to-1.5-inch diameter) is spread over the top to hold it in place. For our job, they removed the ballast and the existing 0.040-inch-thick membrane, replaced it with a 0.060-inch-thick membrane and then reinstalled the same ballast. They must seal the membrane at all the edges, pass throughs and joints. The roof has a low slope to prevent water from pooling, though it looks flat in the photos.



Photos courtesy Cody R Williams.



In addition, the exterior painting and wood repair is complete as well as new electrical outlets installed outside the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall for the coffee bar. The semi-annual HVAC maintenance was also completed.

Kernstown UMC Leaders for 2024

Church Council

Brian Henshaw
 Ric Dunkle
 Steve Spurr
 Roy Walker
 Dave Ford
 Cathy Lichvar
 Lisa Dawson
 Roger Hill
 Doris Miller
 Sam Henshaw
 Danna Doyle
 Danny Aube
 Carolyn Carney
 Steve Wells
 Lisa Dawson
 Lorraine Shelton
 Cathy Richard
 Rev. Heaton

Finance

Roy Walker
 Rev. Heaton
 Brian Henshaw
 Steve Spurr
 Dave Ford
 Ric Dunkle
 Lisa Dawson
 Rich Lichvar
 Cheryl Spurr
 Polly Look
 Cathy Lichvar
 Roger Hill
 Gary Lantz
 Kevin Mosser

Trustees

Dave Ford
 Jerry Chapman
 Susan Hill
 Chris Lutz
 Brenda Long
 Dennis O'Neal
 Larry Sullivan
 Cathy Richard
 Jim Park

SPPRC

Steve Spurr
 Ric Dunkle
 Judy Allen
 Carolyn Carney
 Daniel Conklin
 Carolyn Fields
 Barbara Mosser
 Richard Nenge
 Karen Wells
 Nora Seabright
 Lisa Dawson

Nom. & Leadership Dev.

Rev. Heaton
 Carol Ay
 Mary Anton
 Barbara Cooper
 Lisa Dawson
 Sandy Dunkle
 Carolyn Sibert
 Eugene Wise
 Cathy Richard
 Dolly Park



December Birthdays

Catherine Augustine	01
Katie Hill	02
Cleatus Spitznogle	03
Roland Creswell	04
DeLaney Newcome	05
George Rust	05
Steven Ayers	06
Jonathan Hill	06
Tina Raia	06
Michelle Stonesifer	09
Mike Newcome	10
Jennifer Ambrose	11
Gerard Avvenire	11
Roger Hill	11
Jeffrey Matthews	12
Richard Nenge	13
Carl Ay III	14
Carla Ay	14
Dana Williams	14
Clinton Ritter, Jr.	15
Loretta Lantz	16
Judy Chapman	17
David Dye	17
Aria LaRusso	17
Michael McWhorter	17
Darren Carper	18
Sandy Duvall	18
Tammy Look	19
Tearah McWhorter	19
Sandra Keiter	20
Marie Cheshire	21
Ashley Bowman	22
Jeremiah Brown	22
Margaret Anderson	23
Fred Cheshire	23
Debbie Martin	24
Roy Walker, Jr.	24
Steve Wilhelm	24
Kenny Martin, Jr.	26
Nora Seabright	26
Sandy Wilson	26
Nancy Chick	27
Christina Gibbs	28
Lorraine Wilson	28
Aiden Fields	29
Emma Fields	29
Ronald Harding	29
Brianna Jackman	29
Kevin Mosser	29
Danielle Mango	30
McKenna Newcome	30
Madonna Sponaugle	30
Wendy Aube	31

January Birthdays

Austin Renner	01	Justin Childs	19
Charles Hale, Jr.	02	Aaron Rust	19
Amy Park	02	Gerri McDonald	20
Gary Yost	-02	Emily Folger	21
Grace Lewis	03	Courtney Creswell	22
Betty Lou Langager	06	Paul Burchard	24
Concetta Shipp	06	Nicholas Dawson	24
Jim Markley	10	Zachary Dawson	24
Janine Avvenire	11	James Smith	24
Brittany Dillow	11	Brayden Wilkins	24
Emilie Epstein	12	Michael Wilkins	24
Linda Straight	12	Nicholas Kelchner	25
Pamela Martin	13	J. L. Snider	26
Sharon Mills	15	Edna Renner	29
Beth Heaton	16	Addison Sanders	29
Don Adams	17	Pam Wilson	29
Jennifer Hill	17	Brenda Homer	31
Lisa Manuel	18	Ginger Matthews	31
Blane Wilson	18	Edwin Shipp	31

December Anniversaries

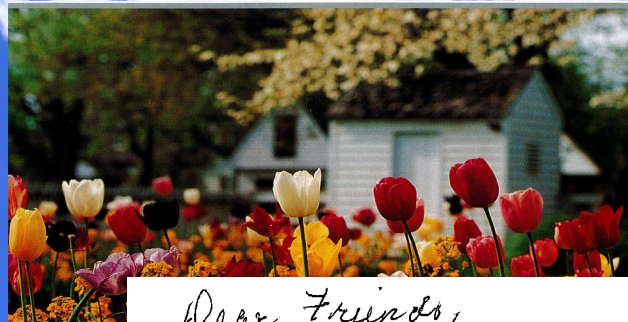
Jonathan & Jennifer Hill	12/04	13 th
Jim & Dolly Park	12/06	49 th
Bryan & Kim Renner	12/08	
DeAnn & Scott Whitacre	12/14	32 nd
Doug & Nora Seabright	12/20	20 th
Steve & Linda Straight	12/23	46 th
Gary & Beth Heaton	12/30	40 th

Directory Updates: Please remove Evelyn Patton from the directory; she is deceased. Email or call updates to the office. Updated directories are in the cubby by the coat rack in the narthex.

With Deepest Sympathy

To the family of Virginia Ebbs who passed on November 1, 2023.

To the family of Harold "Doc" Madagan (November 13, 2023)



Dear Friends,

Oct. 24, 2023

How do we ever begin to say thank you - To each and everyone who brought us food and kept us in prayer during our down time.

We are grateful and appreciate all you have done.

Kernstown Church has been a true Blessing to us.

Thank you.

Love & Prayers
Nelda Hobbs

Thank You



Edward & Bri Jackman

Pastor Gary, Pam, Lorraine, David,
and Mr. Spurr,

Thank you so much for all
of the support, kind words,
coordination and love you all
gave for me and Edward to
make our wedding perfect. We
would have not been able to
enjoy our day without you.
We are beyond blessed to have
found such a wonderful church
family.

all the love,
Mr. & Mrs. Jackman



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
December 2023					1 No Brdg 9 W&W Decorate Church	2
3 1 st Sunday of Advent 9:00 New Member Class 10:20 Worship 5:00 UWF Program	4	5 1 Staff Mtg 12-4 Bridge fh UWF District Christ- mas Cmp. Overlook	6 9-11 BSF (3rms upstairs) 11 Prayer & Care fh 12 Advent Service 5 ³⁰ TOPS (DeMoya) 7 Choir 🎵	7 8 ³⁰ TOPS fh 11 Grave- side service	8 9 ³⁰ -2 ³⁰ Bridge fh	9 Stargazing 7 Stargazing
10 2 nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 New Member Class 10:20 Worship	11 7pm Church Council New Date	12 UWF Christmas luncheon offsite 12-4 Bridge fh	13 9-11 BSF (3rms upstrs) 11 Prayer & Care fh 12 Advent Service 5 ³⁰ TOPS (DeMoya) 7 Choir 🎵	14 8 ³⁰ TOPS fh 6:30 Trustees	15 9 ³⁰ -2 ³⁰ Bridge fh	16 10 Jubilee Kitchen@FPC 10 Choir Stargazing 7 Stargazing
17 New Member Sunday 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 New Member Class 10:20 Worship/Cantata	18	19 10-C&G 12-4 Bridge fh	20 11 Prayer & Care fh 12 Advent Service 5 ³⁰ TOPS (DeMoya)	21 8 ³⁰ TOPS fh	22 Office Closed 9 ³⁰ -2 ³⁰ Bridge fh	23
24 Christmas Eve 4 th Sunday of Advent 10:20 Worship 7:00 Candlelight Service	25 Christ- mas Office Closed	26 12-4 Bridge fh	27 11 Prayer & Care fh 5 ³⁰ TOPS (DeMoya)	28 8 ³⁰ TOPS fh	29 Office Closed 9 ³⁰ -2 ³⁰ Bridge fh	30
31 Christmas Sunday New Year's Eve 10:20 Worship-	January 2024 Jan 5 Undecorate Sanctuary 9am Jan 7 Wesley Covenant Service					

Gary Heaton, Pastor

3239 Valley Pike

Winchester, VA 22602-5303

540-667-7298; email: office@kernstownumc.org

Worship at 10:20

www.kernstownumc.org | facebook.com/kernstownumc/

Primary Business Address

Charles Harless, Pastor Emeritus

Cathy Richard, Lay Leader

Kelly Henshaw, Chancel Choir Director

Cathy Lichvar, Treasurer

Doris Miller, RN, Parish Nurse

Vicky Maphis, Nursery Attendant

JJ Gibbs, Director of Program Ministry

David Landrum, Director of Music Ministries

Pam Brannon, Administrative Assistant



December Lectionary/Scripture Readings:

12/3 Isa 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

12/10 Isa 40:1-11; Ps 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Pet 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

12/14 Isa 61:1-4,8-11; Ps.126; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

12/24 2 Sam 7:1-11, 16; Lu 1:47-55; Rom 16:25-27; Lu 1:26-38

Ch Eve: Isa. 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Lu 2:1-20

12/31 Isa 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

1/7 BL: Gen. 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11;

ES: Isa. 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph. 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

NON-PROFIT

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 66

Winchester, VA



Sunday, December 3, 10:20 am | Rev. Heaton
Faith & Science; Our Search for Meaning

Saturday, December 9, 7:00 pm | Stargazing |
Opequon Presby. Parking lot (217 Opequon Ln.)

Sunday, December 10, 10:20 am | Rev. Wells
Preparing for What Is to Come

Saturday, December 16, 7:00 pm | Stargazing
Rev. Heaton's Home (392 Rocky Bluff Rd.)

Sunday, December 17, 10:20 am | Rev. Heaton
Singing in the Dark | Cantata Morning Star

Sunday, December 24, 10:20 am | Rev. Heaton
Christmas Eve Day Facts & Faith

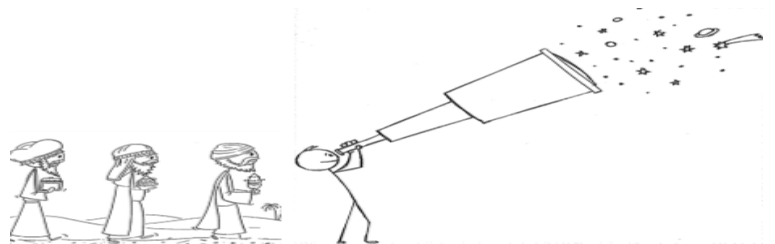
Candlelight Service 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 31, 10:20 am

Christmas Sunday | Christina & JJ Gibbs

Sunday, January 7, 10:20 am

Wesley Covenant Service



The community is invited to gather for an evening of stargazing through telescopes provided by the **Shenandoah Astronomical Society (SAS)** whose members will share their interest in the night sky. facebook.com/shenandoahastronomical

The first program will be offered on December 9 at 7pm, in the parking lot at Opequon Presby. Church at 217 Opequon Church Rd., Winchester, VA 22601.

Instructions, Star Charts & Telescopes will be provided, and everyone will be given an opportunity to look through a telescope. The SAS is an amateur club who share experiences and knowledge in their enjoyment of the beauty of the universe. A second opportunity will be offered on December 16 at 7pm, at Rev. Heaton's home (392 Rocky Bluff Rd., Strasburg VA 22657).

Come make a unique Christmas memory by joining the magi of old in a journey through the darkness to seek the Light of the World!