Maysville Presbyterian Church Newsletter

December 2023

Calendar:

December 3-Worship Service and Communion 11:15 a.m., Angel Tree gifts due, *1st Sunday of Advent*

December 10-Two-Cents-A-Meal offering and Worship Service 11:15 a.m., *2nd Sunday of Advent*

December 17-Christmas Cantata and Worship Service 10:00 a.m., 3rd *Sunday of Advent,* no Sunday School

December 24- Worship Service 11:15 a.m.; *4th Sunday of Advent*; Christmas Eve service 7:00 p.m.

December 25-*Christmas Day*

December 31- Worship Service 11:15 a.m.

Communion:

December: Pattie Bailey and Vicki Williams

Bulletins:

December: Margaret Thomas

Ushers:

December: Spencer Adams and Phil Bailey

Sunday School Leader:

December: Margaret Thomas

Sanctuary Flowers:

December: Chrismon Tree

Nursery Duty List:

December 3- Nancy Stuart
December 10- Margaret Thomas
December 17-Sharon Chandler
December 24-Mariann Dennison
December 31-Marty Martin

Happy Birthday:

December 6-Chip Davis
December 6-Melissa Louis Wallace
December 9-Emily Anderson
December 10-Helen Saxon
December 13-Kathy Bryant Seiler
December 14-Susan Moseley
December 24-Mimi Webb Stout
December 25-Deborah Davis
December 31-Margaret Thomas
December 31-Remy Montgomery-Rodgers

Happy Anniversary:

December 15-Paul and Martha Louis

Trunk or Treat Event:

Thanks to Melissa Wallace, her friend Caroline along with Vicki and Maggie Williams, children who experience stimulation overload from traditional holiday happenings like Halloween were able to have a wonderful and calm time participating in activities designed to address their particular needs. The parents were especially appreciative to have such an event for their children to enjoy which was held at our church on October 28th.

Adult Sunday School Class

Come join us Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. We are reading and discussing Kate Bowler's *Bless the Advent We Actually Have: 4-Week Advent Guide.*

ANGEL TREE

We invite everyone to participate in our Angel Tree Christmas project. Please select one or more angels from the tree (located in the new Fellowship Hall) and bring wrapped gifts for distribution by December 3rd. Please contact Nancy Stuart if you have questions.

Christmas Cantata

Our annual Christmas Cantata will be performed December 17th at 10:00 a.m. as part of the 3rd Sunday of Advent Worship Service. This always one of the highlights of the Advent Season. Please make plans to attend.

Christmas Joy Offering

Each week during Advent we will collect the Christmas Joy Gift Offering. The Offering goes to support retired Presbyterian Ministers experiencing financial need. The Offering also supports Presbyterian related schools and colleges.

Christmas Eve at Maysville

Join us once again as we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ with our annual Lessons and Carols service. The service will be held December 24th at 7:00 p.m. This is always a special event in the life of our Church and we hope that you will not only attend, but will also bring friends and family with you as we eagerly await the coming of the Christ Child.

Community Events:

December 1 (after tree lighting), 2 & 3 (1:00-4: 00 pm) Christmas Open House at the Housewright House and Adams Museums
December 2-Village Christmas Market at the Historic Village 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
December 24-The Wallace family invites everyone to Manse Open House on Dec 24th. 5:00-7:00pm

Community Outreach:

Lou Thomas recently made an upgrade on an existing wheel chair ramp in our community. We appreciate his work in our mission field.

200th Year Anniversary Celebration

Next year for Homecoming we will be celebrating our two hundredth year anniversary. With that in mind the Planning Committee (Margaret Thomas, Irene Ellis, Martha Louis, Nancy Stewart, Patti Bailey and Bunny Snoddy) asks that you start gathering photos, newspaper clippings and memorabilia to share. The Committee will gladly copy submissions and return the original to you.

Emergency Food Pantry

Once again thank you for your generous support and donations. Due to our substantial stock at this time we ask that you suspend your donations until further notice. If you know of someone in need and they want help, let's figure out how we can address their immediate needs.

Pastor's Ponderings

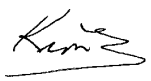
"Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us…" *Luke 1:1 ESV*

The line above that starts the *Gospel According to Luke* could just as well come from an end-of-year corporate report to staff and shareholders of some anonymous large corporation. Yet, it is the beginning of one of the most read, quoted, and revered of the four Gospels that tell the Story of God's work in, through, and as Jesus the Christ.

So often, we see the Christmas season as a culmination of the year ending; when, in fact, Advent and Christmas are the beginning of the church year. It is the celebration of the announcement of Christ's coming and the tale of Jesus' birth. In truth, it is how we orient ourselves as Christians — most of us, I think. For many of us were born into Christian families, raised up going to Sunday School and worship services. If we could, we'd probably think about changing our calendars to start the year on the First Sunday of Advent, which comes four Sundays before Christmas. But, the world has other priorities, other perspectives on time. Thus, we get to end the calendar year with a party…a birthday party that carries into the new year.

As we approach the seasons of Advent and Christmas, let us look back at what God has accomplished in and through us. And, let us be both grateful for all that has happened and look forward to (and discern) what God is calling us to do in 2024.

As they say in the British Isles and Ireland, Happy Christmas!



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