

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 17, 2023**

# ***3rd Sunday of Advent***



**Westmoreland United Methodist Church**

**3602 Auburn Road**

**Huntington, WV 25704**

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***Westmoreland United Methodist Church***

# **WESTMORELAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Reverend Dr. Thom Malcolm, Pastor*

*Pastor's Phone: 304-654-9440*

*December 17, 2023*

**PRELUDE**                                    *"HE IS BORN"*                                    **GARY MAYNARD**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADVENT READING AND LIGHTING OF 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> CANDLES**

**\*HYMN**      *"HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"*                                    **UMH 240**

**\*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:**                                    **ALL**

**Lord Jesus Christ, help us to open our hearts to the fullness of your living Word that we may truly live as your disciples today and every day you grant us life. Amen.**

**\*RESPONSIVE READING**                                    **PSALM 126**                                    **UMH 847**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**                                    **UMH 70**

**SOLO "SILENT NIGHT"**                                    **DEBBIE MAYNARD**

**HEBREW BIBLE READING**                                    **ISAIAH 61:1-4,8-11**

**SHARING OUR PRAISES & CONCERNS**

*(PLEASE USE YOUR PRAYER CARD AND PUT IN PRAYER BASKET)*

**PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER**

**\*OFFERING / DOXOLOGY**                                    **UMH 95**  
**& OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**EPISTLE READING**                                    **1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24**  
**STEPHANIE MALCOLM, RLLP**

**\*HYMN**      *"O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING"*                                    **UMH 57**

**\*ADVENT PRAYER**                                    **UMH 201**

**\*GOSPEL READING**

**JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28**

**SERMON**    ***“WITNESSES TO THE LIGHT”***

**PASTOR THOM MALCOLM**

**\*INVITATION**

**\*HYMN**    ***“SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING”***

**UMH 348**

**\*THE LEADING OF THE LIGHT**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**GARY MAYNARD**

*\*Please stand only if you are able.*

*A member of our church family, Loretta Hetzer, passed away on December 9, 2023. Please remember Loretta and her family in our prayers.*

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Join us for Sunday School on Sundays at 10:00am. We will be studying about Advent during this Christmas Season.

### **SHARING CHRISTMAS JOY**

We need volunteers to distribute the Christmas bags to “those unable to attend church”. If you can do so, please come to the parlor after church to pick up a Christmas bag (or two).

### **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

We will be having two worship services on Christmas Eve, December 24. We will have our regular worship service at 11:00am and will continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at a candlelight service at 7:00pm. Please join us and invite your family and neighbors.

# *Prayer List*

*If you have any additions or modifications to the prayer list, please complete a prayer request card or call the church office. For anyone placed on the prayer list, updates within 3 weeks would be appreciated so our prayer list can be kept current.*

**Pam Baker  
Dawn Baumgardner  
Mike Black  
Beth Carson  
Bob Carrico  
Barbara & Jim Christain  
Jill & Jim Combs  
Sara Beth Lowry  
Mabel Pillion  
The Roswell Family  
Brian Tuttle  
Gene Ward  
Family of Loretta Hetzer  
Family of Mark Johnson  
Family of William Lockhart**

*Remember those not able to join us for church:*

**Betty Craig, Donna & Dave Davis, Joy Fetty, Ruth Kelley,  
Patricia Morgan, Jim Reed, Harold Sowards,  
Dan & Shirley Webster, Marge Wheeler**

***Office Hours: Pastor Thom Malcolm Wed/ Thurs 1:30-4:00***

***Cell: 304-654-9440***

***Stephanie Malcolm Cell: 304-654-9148***

***Secretary: Donna Rumbaugh Wed/Thurs 2:30-4:30***

***Cell: 304-633-3680***

***Interim Music Director: Gary Maynard***

***Pianist: Gary Maynard***

***Liturgist: Donna Wolfe***

**Please note: Any information for the bulletin needs to be  
in the church office on Wednesdays by 2:30pm.**



# Poinsettias

- ❖ In honor of Pastor Thom & Stephanie with love from your WUMC Family
- ❖ In memory of Max and Norma Parks Forever in our Hearts, Love *Sheree, Steve & Sydney Downey*
- ❖ In memory of Spencer Michael Downey – We love you always, *Love, Mom, Dad, and Sydney*
- ❖ In memory of Hazel Shreve and Ben and Grace Parks – *Sheree, Steve & Sydney Downey*
- ❖ In memory of Elsie Perky, forever our backyard neighbor *Sheree, Steve & Sydney Downey*
- ❖ In honor of Sydney Elaine Downey – *Love always, Mom, and Dad*
- ❖ In memory of David & Joyce Ferro and Frederick & Evelyn Wolfe – *With love, Donna and Dan Wolfe and Family*
- ❖ In Memory of John P. Freeman-*Kay Freeman*
- ❖ In memory of loved ones – *Judy Given*
- ❖ In memory of Jim Wheeler, Don & Lillith Linville, Billie Cammarato – *Kay Wheeler and Judy Riley*
- ❖ In memory of loved ones – *Jim and Kay Chandler*
- ❖ In memory of loved ones – *Donnie & Donna Adkins*
- ❖ In memory of Tom Morgan and Kayla Harris- *Michael and Judy Morgan*
- ❖ In memory of Thomas E. Blake and Kiel Ward Blake-*Laura Blake*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## *Upcoming Events – December*

Tuesdays & Thursdays	10:00am	Exercise Class
Tuesdays	5:00pm	Choir Practice
Sunday, Dec. 24	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Service

### **BACKPACK MINISTRY**

Our support of the Backpack Ministry for Kellogg Elementary is feeding 42 children. We collected 90 cans of soup in November. Please bring individual servings of pasta for the month of December. THANK YOU!

### **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

If you want an easy way to send Christmas cards to your church family, we will have a card box in the vestibule and we will sort and have them available for pick-up in the 1<sup>st</sup> classroom on the left on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, each Sunday.

**We greatly appreciate the continued generosity of our church family.**

Contributions Received in November	\$	7,971	
Amount Budgeted	\$	9,406	
Received Year-to-Date	\$	90,037	
Amount Budgeted Year-to-Date	\$	93,625	
Over/(Under) Budget	\$	<u>(3,588)</u>	
2023 State Apportionment Paid	\$	22,360	<i>(Year-to-date 88%)</i>
2023 State Apportionment	\$	25,211	<i>(Annual Budget)</i>

***If you have any questions, please ask Debbie Maynard, Treasurer or Sheree Downey, Finance Chairperson.***



## 2nd Sunday of Advent Candle of Peace

**Reader 1:** In days when God’s people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.” (Isaiah 40:1)

**Reader 2:** We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

**Congregation:** We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

**Reader 1:** We light these candles as signs of God’s shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.



## 3rd Sunday of Advent Candle of Joy

**Reader 1:** When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed, "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit." (Isaiah 61:1-3a)

**Reader 2:** We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

**Congregation:** We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

**Reader 1:** We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.