

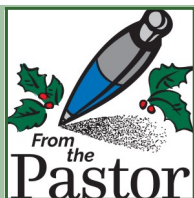


Church Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 am — 1:00 pm



“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”
Isaiah 7:14



Wesley is Shining the Light of Advent

Recently, in church, I spoke of the themes of Advent represented by our Advent candles—**hope, joy, peace, and love**. As we light the candles of Advent, each flame reminds us of the eternal gifts Christ brings to the world. These are not fleeting emotions or abstract ideas—they are life-changing realities grounded in Jesus and shared by his followers. How is that so?

- **Jesus is our Hope:** In a world filled with uncertainty, Jesus offers us the assurance of God's faithfulness and love. His birth was the fulfillment of long-awaited promises, and His life assures us that God is always working for our good. His resurrection assures of new, perfect life in the eternal age to come.
- **Jesus is our Peace:** Through Christ, we are reconciled to God and to one another. His presence stills our anxieties and empowers us to seek peace in our relationships and our world.
- **Jesus is our Joy:** True joy is found in knowing we are loved and saved by God. Even in difficult times, the good news of Christ's coming fills us with a deep and abiding gladness.
- **Jesus is our Love:** The love of God was fully revealed in Jesus, who gave Himself for

us. This love is unconditional and everlasting, calling us to reflect it in our own lives.

At Wesley, we strive to share these eternal realities with our community and the world—not just in words but through action. By living these gifts, we are pointing the world to the future that will be at Christ's return. You are invited to join us in living out Christ's hope, peace, joy, and love.

- **Hope:** Through our financial and Christmas gift support of Join Hands Ministry, we bring hope to those experiencing food insecurity and/or financial struggles. This ministry reminds our neighbors that they are not forgotten, and it demonstrates God's provision through the generosity of His people.



- **Peace:** Through Mom2Mom, we offer tools for moms to live fruitful lives and nurture their children. We build relationships rooted in Christ's love, creating a space for peace to flourish.
- **Joy:** Through our Christmas Decorating Party, we share the joy of the season with all, including those who may feel isolated during the holiday season. The simple act of

decorating together for Christ's birth can bring light and warmth to someone's heart.

- **Love:** Our children's Christmas play, filled with children for our church and our ministries, reminds everyone of Christ's unbounded love for Children. We are living that love by making children a vital part of our worship.

I could go on with the many Advent activities we have planned. Each one is a way for us to be a light to the World. Our Celebration of the Evergreens on December first, our Christmas brunch on the eighth, our Christmas Eve candlelight service, and so many activities here in this newsletter are opportunities for us to live these eternal realities so others may come into the Light.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, may the light of Christ fill your heart and home. And as a church, let us continue to be Christ's light in our community, offering hope, peace, joy, and love to all.

Serving Christ with You,
Pastor Bob Ryder

Inside this issue:

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DECEMBER WORSHIP

Sundays at 9:00 am
with Children's Church

Adult Sunday School
10:30 am

Worship with us Online

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wesleyumcmvl/>
- Website: <https://www.wesleyum.org/>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVh5ckeYZuoHGIVgqY3wQtQ>

Sunday Servant Schedule

Ushers & Greeters



December

- December 1
Jeff & Becky Wolfe
- December 8
Nevin & Malinda Kern
- December 15
Washington Family
- December 22
Sandy Corl
Donna Donaldson
- December 24
- December 29
Nevin & Malinda Kern



December

- December 1
Pastor Bob
- December 8
Pastor Bob
Cindy Lacroce
- December 15
Barb Hammaker
- December 22
Ginny Rech
- December 24
Pastor Bob
- December 29
Pastor Bob



Sounds of the Season - On December 15, we resume our series entitled "**Sounds of the Season.**" we will continue looking at Christmas carols that are in our hymnals and digging into the message of Emmanuel through these carols.

December 1, 2024

1st Sunday of Advent

THEME: Celebration of the Evergreens—We see through scripture readings and carols how our decorations point to Christ.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-20

MESSAGE: "Seeing Christ in the Chrismsons"

WHAT TO EXPECT: Holy Communion



December 8, 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent

THEME: The children will present their play, "Christmas Gifts" by Valerie Howard. The play showcases a group of friends who discover the gifts God has given them.

WHAT TO EXPECT: Christmas Brunch will follow the morning worship service.



December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent

THEME: Jesus comes as king worthy of our worship and allegiance. But Jesus also comes as Savior to rescue us from sin and guilt.

SCRIPTURE READING: Job 38:1-7 / Luke 2:8-15

MESSAGE: "Sounds of the Season: Angels from the Realms of Glory"



December 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

THEME: In the hymn "Joy to the World," the composer writes as if Jesus' second coming has already happened. If we live like this we show the world its future.

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 98 / Romas 8:18-23

MESSAGE: "Sounds of the Season: Joy to the World"



December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve Candlelight service—7:00 pm

THEME: Readings and Carols celebrating the birth of our Savior. Candle-lighting for all ages.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2



December 29, 2024

1st Sunday after Christmas

WHAT TO EXPECT: A service of music as we enjoy singing favorite Christmas Carols in celebration of the newborn King.



Wesley Outreach, Activities, & Announcements



Mom2Mom

Wednesday, December 4 — 6:30—8:00 pm

Mom2Mom Cookie Bake! Moms with children of any age are invited to come bake and exchange cookies with us this evening. Please bring the ingredients to bake a batch (roughly 2 dozen) cookies. Kids will also be decorating cookies and enjoying other Christmas themed activities this gathering. Mom2Mom always includes a free family style meal.

Don't
Forget

Don't forget
to sign up
for the
Brunch!



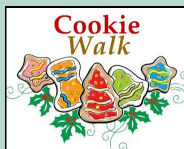
December 8—A Wesley Family Celebration!

Children's Christmas Play

Join us at 9:00 am for the morning worship service where the children will perform "Christmas Gifts" by Valerie Howard. When the elementary school's annual Christmas talent show rolls around, Kara has trouble finding her place in all the activities. As she struggles to find her talent, she wonders if God made her good at anything at all. Inspiration comes from an unexpected source, and Kara's part in the show turns out to be the most life-changing talent of all. You won't want to miss this delightful presentation for the Christmas season!

Christmas Brunch

Following the morning service join us downstairs in the multipurpose room for our annual Christmas Brunch Party. **Sign up** on the bulletin board by the elevator so we know how many to prepare for.



Cookie Walk

The Cookie Walk is a fundraiser for the United Women in Faith. Our ladies will bake a variety of Christmas cookies. Come purchase a box for \$5.00 and fill it with whatever cookies you choose!



Preschool is in need of volunteers to wrap presents during their holiday shop. The holiday shop is **December 10th, 11th and 12th** from 9:00 - 11:30. If you have questions, you can contact Holly Bitner. Your help to the little ones is very much appreciated! There is a signup sheet at the back of the sanctuary.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."
James 1:17



JOIN HANDS
MINISTRY
Christmas Program

Reminder: All gifts must be delivered to Wesley (unwrapped) **by Sunday, December 1.**

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
John 1:1-5

Christmas FOOD BOXES

The Marysville/Rye Council of Churches is collecting food items for those in need for Christmas. Here is how you can help!

- ✔ Non-perishable food items to help fill pantry shelves
- ✔ Monetary donations for Christmas Food Boxes – Checks payable to Marysville/Rye Council of Churches
- ✔ Non-perishable food items for holiday meals
- ✔ Deliver food items to the Wesley Fellowship Hall by **December 18**

Questions? Contact **Sandy Corl @ 717-877-1467**




Ministry Opportunities
Don't just go to church. Be the church.

This information came as a ministry opportunity. If you are interested in participating with this effort, please contact Pat Kolak as indicated on the bottom of the flyer.

WARMING CENTER MEAL DONATIONS NEEDED

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

THE WARMING CENTER IN DUNCANNON WILL OPEN FROM 5 PM TO 7 AM STARTING NOVEMBER 20TH THROUGH MARCH, OFFERING OVERNIGHT SHELTER FOR THOSE IN NEED.

WE'RE SEEKING DONATIONS OF PREPARED MEALS, SUCH AS CASSEROLES, SPAGHETTI, SOUPS, CHILI, OR LASAGNA, AS WELL AS TAKE-AWAY ITEMS LIKE SANDWICHES, FRUIT, AND GRANOLA BARS.

THE CENTER HAS A MICROWAVE, REFRIGERATOR, AND CROCKPOT, BUT NO STOVE OR OVEN. WE EXPECT TO SERVE 10 PEOPLE EACH NIGHT. GROCERY GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED.

PLEASE DELIVER MEALS BY 5 PM.

YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!



TO SCHEDULE A DONATION OR FOR MORE INFORMATION TEXT PAT KOLAK 717-448-1602



Coming in January – War Room

A worship series on being a prayer warrior. This series is based on a Christian movie of the same name. We will show the film here at church on January 10. Everyone is invited to join in the evening. Then on Sunday, we will consider how we become stronger in prayer.



OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Bob's Schedule and Contact Information

Tuesday through Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

- Please call first to ensure he is in the office and not out at appointments.
- Friday is Pastor Bob's Sabbath - The best way to reach him is to leave a message on his cell number (*listed on the back cover of the bulletin*).
- Email is the most efficient way to reach him in a timely manner rather than the church admin. His email is: revbobyder@gmail.com.



Wesley Family,

You are not alone in thinking what I am going to remind you of, so relax; we worship and journey together. Yes, this has been a very crazy year. We only need to review the second half of 2024 to shake our heads in a somewhat stunned acknowledgement.

Quick refresher; we were baked, shown maybe 10 days of normalcy, then saturated, and then overly dried out. During our trip through the environmental test machine for the senses, someone threw out the rule book on elections. So, while we were living in a science experiment, we were being bombarded continuously with a test of our mental acuity in some sort of ultimate true or false test! Please refer to the first line of this note again.

You are not alone. We are Wesley Family on the Hill strong. Nobody threw our rule book out! We may differ on interpretation, but the guidance of our rule book has withstood the test of time. If Jesus were here now, he would be standing right with us shaking his head and reminding us that we know what is right; just follow his example!

Most times, it is good to acknowledge what is affecting your happiness and view of our world. Above, I have highlighted how our recent journey has identified our resiliency and reassured us we are on the right path, reading the Bible (our rule book) and following Jesus' examples.

Next, I want to share my happiness gained from Wesley on the Hill's

Consecration Sunday gathering. Let me start with the fact that it is also a fellowship gathering not just a worship experience. Some of you arrive early. Sometimes the lively talking must be squashed so the service can begin. As soon as we finish worshiping, the lively conversations ignite unabated. Our fellowship spills out into the foyer and the driveway. Unlike some churches, there is little zipping in & out, and on with the day. Our Wesley Family gathers to worship and be family for each other.

On Consecration Sunday, November 24th, we were reminded of our "Harvest of Righteousness" which gave those of us worshiping in person and online much reassurance. We are proud of our Wesley Mission and left church with a new commitment to outreach within our community. I personally only directly affect one element of helping to keep Wesley on the Hill mission capable. It was good for all of us to be reminded of the ministries that we are successfully providing to grow our family and serve our community while remaining mission forward. If you were not able to attend, please watch the service recording on You Tube at "Wesley Wave." You will enjoy sharing in our proud happiness when you do.

Finance Nuts & Bolts:

- Consecration Sunday- If you have not considered submitting an estimate of giving for next year, please know that it will help us budget resources. This is just a non-binding indication of what you would like to give. Drop your card in the offering plate or drop it in the driveway wall box, Thank you.
- Church Envelopes- If you are not currently using our printed church

envelopes, please consider doing so; it helps smooth our process and provide statements to you. These can be used regularly, randomly, with or without having provided an estimate of giving. Just contact the office to receive yours or email:

WUMC450bookkeeper@gmail.com

- Advent Offering- Your generous sharing will be split, with half going to the Marysville Council of Churches. We work with them to create food boxes during the holidays. The other half going to Join Hands Ministry, which helps struggling residents of Perry County.
- Hope for the Future- We are 2.5 yrs. along in our 3 yr. Capital Campaign to reduce our mortgage. Since May of 2022 First Fruits, we have lowered our mortgage principle over 20% which has reduced our monthly payment over \$950. All thanks to your faithful giving to secure Wesley's future. Thank you to every one of you. After Christmas we have five months to reach our goal of \$300,000 if we are blessed to receive \$10,000 by May of 2025. I have faith we can do this; in fact, I believe we can exceed our goal and reduce our mortgage even more. If we do, at minimum we will have reduced our mortgage principle over 25% and our mortgage payment over \$1,000 per month. Freeing up more resources for our ministries.
- Current Expenses- Remain first priority as we support our facilities and ministries each month. Thank you for your faithful giving empowering Wesley on the Hill.

(Continued on page 6 - FINANCE)

(Continued from page 5 - FINANCE)

In the spirit of Christmas let us keep those less fortunate in our prayers and giving. Remember the recent flood and hurricane victims who are struggling to recover. December is also a great time to practice random acts of kindness, smile, say thank you, and let others know they are seen and respected.

Employing that thought, thank you Cindy and Dave Thomas for strengthening Wesley on the Hill and blessing us with your smiles. May you both be blessed as Cindy pastors her first church. Zion Stone UMC in Halifax will soon know that they too have been blessed.

Be sure to save this newsletter and enter our holiday services and events on your personal calendar. Life does not get more special than Christmas and sharing with family, friends, and community. Thank you for your commitment to providing Wesley on the Hill's open doors for all to worship.

Reminder to IRA owners age 70½ or over:

Qualified charitable distributions are an option for making tax-free gifts to your church (and other charities). Search IRS QCD, and make sure you end up on the [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) website for information and consult your tax advisor.

Retirement plans and IRA required minimum distributions

Search IRS RMD, and make sure you end up on the [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) website for information and consult your tax advisor.

Required minimum distributions (RMDs) are the minimum amounts you must withdraw from your retirement accounts each year. You generally must start taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, and retirement plan accounts when you reach age 72 (73 if you reach age 72 after Dec. 31, 2022).



David Palmer,
Finance Chairperson

"Every man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly, or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." II Cor. 9:7



Our Advent Special Offering

You will soon receive a letter in the mail explaining our Advent offering this year. Like last year, we will direct our entire Advent offering to partner ministries. We will split the Advent offering, with half going to the Marysville-Rye Council of Churches. The other half is going to Join Hands Ministry, which helps struggling residents of Perry County. Let's generously help these two crucial ministries as they care for those in need.

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."

Isaiah 9:2-7



JUST FOR KIDS

And Kids
at heart!

"Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."
 Luke 1:29-33

Nativity Word Scramble

1. STBALE _____
2. HEEPS _____
3. NLGEA _____
4. TSAR _____
5. GAMREN _____
6. JHPOES _____
7. OENYDK _____
8. EUSSJ _____
9. SKNGI _____
10. YMAR _____



Help Mary
and Joseph
get to the stable.





December Birthdays

Do we have your birthdate so we can celebrate with you?

December 2

Noah Bowers
Morgan Fowler

December 4

Denise Smith

December 5

Charley Baker
Jeannette Keezel

December 6

Tony Lacroce
Brian Miller

December 7

Andrew Hansrote
Sara Sherman

December 8

Carsyn Cooper
Bobby Hosler

December 9

Max Flurie
Traci Jumper

December 10

Brian Fisher
Wanda Gauker

December 11

Erin Washington

December 12

Ann Alandar
Zachary Barrick

December 13

Alyssa Eichelberger
Scott Kocher

December 14

Rylan Gray

December 16

Jessica Budd
Harrison Laman

December 17

Jason Edwards
Evin Fisher

Mia Havens

Laura Rowe

December 20

Terry Kline
Brenda Stees

December 21

Myron Lebo

December 23

Stephen Copp

December 24

Judy Hann
Erica Hartzell
Mary Kocher
Amy Whitworth

December 26

Jayden Hornberger

December 27

Morris Eppley

December 28

Lori Nelson
Alois Spease

December 29

Donna Donaldson

December 30

Art Corsetti
Jessica Greene

December 31

Tom Shroyer



Devotional

What Does It Take to Celebrate?

By Arthur J. Schoonveld

SCRIPTURE READING —LUKE 1:26-38

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."—Luke 1:38

Some years ago, a Christmas musical included Mary saying, "If the Lord has spoken, I must do as he commands. I will put my life into his hands. I will trust him with my life."

That was Mary's response to the surprise announcement that she would be the mother of the Son of God. Whatever the consequences, she was able to say, "May your word to me be fulfilled."

Mary was ready to surrender her life to the Lord, even if it meant that she might be disgraced in the eyes of everyone who knew her. And because she trusted the Lord with her life, she became the mother of Jesus and could celebrate the coming of the Savior. Mary took God at his word, accepted God's will for her life, and placed herself in God's hands.

That's what it takes to truly celebrate Christmas: to believe what is completely unbelievable to many people, to accept God's will for our lives, and to place ourselves in God's service, trusting that our lives are in his hands. Only then will we be able to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Ask the Holy Spirit today to help you trust God with your life and to turn the controls of your life over to him. When you do, your life will never be the same.

Lord, our God, please give us faith to believe that the child we celebrate on Christmas is your Son, our Savior. Help us to acknowledge him as Lord and to trust him with our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WESLEY'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|---|-----------|---|
| 1 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:30 AM-11:30 AM Adult Sunday School 2:00 PM Christmas Play Practice 6:00 PM-8:30 PM Disciple Bible Study | 2 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 | 3 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Marysville Baseball | 4 6:30 PM-8:00 PM Mom2Mom | 5 9:00 am-12:00 pm Bishop/Clergy Retreat 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Susquenita Midget Football Cheerleaders 6:30 pm-8:30 pm Emmaus Walk 6:30 PM-7:30 PM Prayer Together 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM AA Group | 6 | 7 12:00 PM-6:00 PM Birthday Party— Amspacher |
| 8 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship— Children's Christmas Play 10:00 AM-2:00 AM Wesley Family Christmas Brunch 6:00 PM-8:30 PM Disciple Bible Study | 9 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 | 10 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Marysville Baseball | 11 | 12 10:00 AM-11:00 AM Prayer Together 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Susquenita Midget Football Cheerleaders 6:30 PM-7:30 PM Prayer Together 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM AA Group | 13 | 14 12:00 PM-7:00 PM Birthday Party- Brandt 12:00 PM-6:00 PM Birthday Party- Morris |
| 15 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:30 AM-11:30 AM Adult Sunday School 6:00 PM-8:30 PM Disciple Bible Study | 16 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Worship Planning Team Meeting | 17 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Marysville Baseball 7:00PM-9:00PM Wesley Church Council | 18 | 19 9:00 AM-11:00 AM Preschool Holiday Program 10:00 AM-11:00 AM Prayer Together 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Susquenita Midget Football Cheerleaders 6:30 PM-7:30 PM Prayer Together 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM AA Group | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:30AM-11:30 AM Adult Sunday School 6:00 PM-8:30 PM Disciple Bible Study | 23 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 | 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm-8:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service  | 25 Christmas Day  | 26 10:00 AM-11:00 AM Prayer Together 6:30 PM-7:30 PM Prayer Together 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM AA Group | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship— Music Sunday 10:30AM-11:30 AM Adult Sunday School 6:00 PM-8:30 PM Disciple Bible Study | 30 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 56 | 31  | | | | |

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:11



 **Wesley United
Methodist Church**

450 Sylvan Street
Marysville, PA 17053

Return Service Requested

Phone: 717-957-4481

E-mail: WesleyUM.Office@gmail.com

Find us on the Web!
www.wesleyum.org

*"Your Church on
the Hill"*

**Wesley United Methodist
Church**

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Christopher Albright
c.e.albright@icloud.com

Finance Chairperson

David Palmer
palmtown@yahoo.com

*Good news from heaven the angels bring,
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:
To us this day a child is given,
To crown us with the joy of heaven.*

- Martin Luther

Have a blessed
CHRISTMAS

*May your hearts and homes be filled with the
joy of Christ as you celebrate his birth.*

*From the Pastor, Staff, and Leadership of
Wesley Church on the Hill.*

