

Charge Clarion

Dec/Jan, 2023-2024

Pastor Dave's Corner:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night but find no rest. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. But you, O LORD, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!—(Psalm 22:1-2, 14-15, 19, NRSV)

I don't know about you but it seems to me we're reminded of the Christmas season earlier and earlier each year. I remember I was in Hobby Lobby and Michael's in October, before Halloween, looking for some things for the All Saints Service and already, both places were stocked full of Christmas decorations. In fact, Hobby Lobby was having a 40% off sale on Christmas items. Needless to say, the area around all the Christmas stuff was mobbed!

And then there's Hallmark. I know, some of you love the Hallmark Channel and its Countdown to Christmas but there's something about it all starting in early November. To me, it seems like we're in a rush to Christmas.

In the church, the season of Christmas last for 12 days. The period leading up to it, Advent, lasts for 4 weeks. Advent is a season of preparation for Christ's coming. I don't mean just preparing to celebrate Christmas, Christ's incarnation and birth, his first coming, but it is also a time to prepare for Christ's return, his second coming. It is also a time of reflection, spiritual growth, and embracing the hope and promise in Christ Jesus. There is a three-fold purpose to the season. Advent invites us to slow

down, to resist the cultural temptation to jump ahead to Christmas, and to wait patiently on the Lord.

This year, in particular, I sense there are a number of folks in our congregations and neighboring communities who are patiently waiting on the Lord to come to their aid, to lift their cloud of darkness, sorrow, or despair. Whether due to the loss of a loved one, the loss of their health or that of a loved one, the loss of a job, a relationship, or the loss of joy or peace in their life, the Christmas and holiday season may not be joyful or joy-filled. Yet, our culture often expects folks to put on a cheerful smile when all they want to do is grieve.

This Advent Season, we will be hosting a "Longest Night," sometimes known as "Blue Christmas," service on Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 pm at Jennings Chapel. As the name of the service suggests, on the longest night of the year when the darkness is at its greatest and some experience overwhelming pain, this service acknowledges that the Christmas/holiday season isn't always a season of joy. In this service, there will be singing appropriate to the season, time to meditate on the pain and anguish we bring, and offer it to the Christ Child. It's a service of reflection, contemplation, and healing.

All are invited. I encourage you to share this opportunity with others, particularly those who are experiencing grief, sorrow, loss, health concerns, or other life challenges. It's a safe space to weep and mourn, to laugh and cry. I hope to see some of you and your friends there.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Dave

I hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving gatherings with friends and family. I know for some; this Thanksgiving may have been difficult due to the empty seat left by a loved one. For those, I hope you were able to find comfort and support as you gathered with family and friends.

I wanted to thank everyone for all your cards this past October during Pastor Appreciation Month. I especially treasure the notes and reflections you share. You may not know this but I like to keep handwritten cards and notes because each person's handwriting is unique and special to them. It's a part of them, like a picture, preserved on paper. I've found over the years that seeing someone's handwriting helps me to remember their face and my time with them. It brings me great joy. I am truly blessed to serve such loving congregations and I give thanks to God for you.

May the peace of God that passes all understanding keep you in the knowledge and love of God and of his son, Jesus Christ, this Advent and Christmas season and always.

Pastor Dave



Pastors Dave and TJ were honored to present a \$1,825 contribution to Hilda's Place on behalf of Poplar Springs, Jennings Chapel, and Lisbon churches on November 28, 2023 from the free will offerings collected from our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The contribution will go to purchase Christmas gifts for the children of these parents recovering from addiction or mental illness. It's a wonderful way to glorify God and it's through your support it was possible!



<u>Dec. Birthdays</u>	<u>Jan. Birthdays</u>
1-Doug Macuch	2-Clay Nichols
7-Rosemary Beall	3-Inge Seiling
Amanda German	7-Marge Cissel
9-Pattie Lamberti	8-Rhonda Newcomer
15-Bella Reifsnider	10-Ann Sansing
16-Miriam Reed	18-Mike Musgrove
18-Mary Delph	19-Ollie Bennett
19-Angela Delph	20-Margaret Johnson
Rebecca Hamilton	Paris Macuch
27-Sophia German	22-Justin Johnson
29-Averie Ueltschy	30-Keith Bennett
Gunner Floyd	Roy Van Norman
30-Donna Bennett	Debbie Wilk



DECEMBER YEAR B

December 3, 2023

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

December 10, 2023

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.

December 17, 2023

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

December 24, 2023

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46-55;
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.

December 31, 2023

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148;
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.

St. Michael's Food Cellar

St. Michaels Food Cellar is taking food donations. Please bring your canned goods to church on the 1st Sunday of the month or take them directly to St. Michaels Catholic

JANUARY YEAR B

January 7, 2024

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29;
Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11.

January 14, 2024

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51.

January 21, 2024

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12;
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20.

January 28, 2024

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28.



October 1, 2023, Ruby Margaret Plitt and Thomas Gene Plitt were baptised.

MORGAN'S COFFEE HOUSE

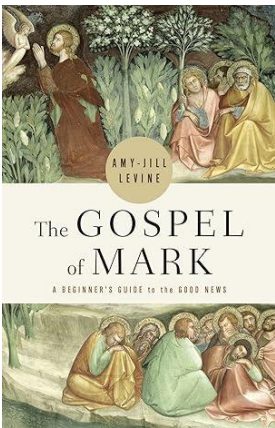
6750 Woodbine Rd – Woodbine, Md. 21797

Doors open at 5:30 pm, Music Starts at 7:00 pm

Dec 15: The Steven Gellman's Trio Holiday Show

Dec 31: New Year's Eve with The Shad Tree Collective at the coffeehouse

Jan 19: First Fruits Bluegrass



Lenten Study

Please join me for a Lenten Study, *The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News*, by Amy-Jill Levine, a professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt University. This study will explore the Bible's earliest

source for the life of Jesus, examine John the Baptizer, the Little Apocalypse, the Transfiguration, and several of Jesus's most notable stories and parables. We'll see Jesus as divine and human, powerful and weak, approachable yet mysterious as we study the Good News of the Gospel of Mark with Amy-Jill. The book features an in-depth study of select passages and illuminates the Gospel in its historical context and as a source for the other gospels.

The study will begin Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30 pm for six consecutive weeks. If you're interested, please let the office know by Thursday, January 25 so we can order materials. Sessions will be done through ZOOM.

I hope you will join me for this exciting study.

Pastor Dave



We want to offer everyone an opportunity to "forever be a part of the Worship center" by purchasing an engraved brick. Don't miss your opportunity to have a brick engraved with your name, dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one. All of the proceeds from the sale of the bricks will go directly back to support the worship center. Each brick costs \$45 and measures 4" x 8". Each brick can contain up to 3 lines of inscription, each line with up to 14 letters, spaces, or punctuation per line. Please double check spelling & make sure how you submit the form is how you want your brick engraved. Any questions? You can contact Judy Gaardsmoe a 301-518-3978.



Happy 80th
Birthday Carol!
80 Years Young!





Christmas Cantata

Dec. 17, Lisbon UMC, 7:00 pm
Let's celebrate the birth of Christ.

“A New and Glorious Morn!”

Community Choir Churches Represented:

Daisy UMC, Damascus Road CC, Gary Memorial UMC, Glade UCC, Howard Chapel – Ridgeville UMC, Jennings Chapel UMC, Liberty BC, Lisbon UMC, Poplar Springs UMC, St. John’s Episcopal, Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran, Westminster UMC, Winfield Bible Chapel.

Merry Christmas



Dorothy Greisler’s Celebration of Life

Saints Remembered on All Saints Day 2023

Dorothy Greisler	Betty Roach
Raymond Becraft, Jr.	Rev. Mary Jane Coleman
Edward Rossetter Jr.	Robert Duvall
Norman Hill	Mary Jane Watkins
Maynard Watkins, Jr.	Janet Zsebedics
Robert Styer	

The
Longest Night

A service of light in the
midst of darkness

Thursday, December 21
7:00 PM

Jennings Chapel United Methodist Church
2601 Jennings Chapel Road
Woodbine, MD 21797

For many, the holiday season is the hardest time of the year. Traditions that used to hold laughter and hope have become reminders of what has been lost. Join us as we gather in the midst of our pain and struggles to worship and remember the greatest gift.



December 24th – Jennings Chapel will host our combined Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m. May the miracle of Christmas fill your heart with wonder and joy.



DECEMBER

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 St. Michaels Food Pantry Collection	4 Christmas Cantata rehearsal, at Lisbon UMC, 7:00-8:30 pm	5 J.C. Cancer Support Group, 7:00 pm	6 Advent Study, Via Zoom, 6:30 pm	7 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm	8 Youth Cookies for Shut Inn Event. P.S., 5:00 pm	9
10 Christmas Luncheon, Poplar Springs, right after worship service.	11 Christmas Cantata rehearsal, at Lisbon UMC, 7:00-8:30 pm	12 J.C. Bd. Meeting, 7:00 pm	13 Advent Study, Via Zoom, 6:30 pm	14 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm	15 Morgan's Coffee House, 7:00 pm at M.C. The Seven Gellman's Trio Holiday Show	16
17 Cantata rehearsal, Lisbon UMC, 5:30 pm Christmas Cantata, Lisbon UMC, 7:00 pm	18	19	20 Advent Study, Via Zoom, 6:30 pm	21 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm The Longest Night service, J.C., 7:00 pm.	22	23
24 Combined Christmas Eve service, Jennings Chapel, 7:00 pm	25	26	27	28 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm	29	30
31						

JANUARY

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2 P.S. Board Meeting, 7:00 pm	3	4 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm	5	6 Holiday Putz performance, P.S., 6:00 pm, refreshments to follow.
7 St. Michaels Food Pantry Collection	8 J.C. Cancer Support Group, 7:00 pm	9 J.C. Bd. Meeting, 7:00 pm	10	11 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm	19 Morgan's Coffee House, 7:00 pm at Morgan Chapel UMC. First Fruits Bluegrass	20
21	22	23	24	25 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm	26	27
28	29	30	31			

POPLAR SPRINGS U.M. CHARGE

2601 Jennings Chapel Road

Woodbine Md. 21797