

**Please note that our online newsletter is modified from our print edition. If you would like to receive our unmodified newsletter, please contact the church office at 717-944-6181 or [eumch.org/contact-us](http://eumch.org/contact-us)**



# *The Messenger*

## *Evangelical United Methodist Church*

157 East Water Street, Middletown, PA 17057

717.944.6181 [www.eumch.org](http://www.eumch.org)

### From the Pastor's Pen



Our theme for the season of Advent and Christmas Eve is “inbreaking.” At first glance, “inbreaking” is a weird word. If you flip the words, breaking in has bad connotations. No one relishes the idea of a person breaking into her home or car. “Break” is a violent and threatening word. How could inbreaking be a positive thing?

Our sermons this year will focus on God’s kingdom, breaking into our lives. God’s light dispelling darkness. Emmanuel-God with us-making real God’s love to our hurting world. Jesus offering the kingdom’s ways to compete with the ways of the world. Jesus irreversibly disrupting the world. We will wrestle with how our lives intersect with the inbreaking kingdom. How is God calling us to be part of this inbreaking process? What in our daily lives needs disrupting?

Join us this Advent and on Christmas Eve as we wrestle with God’s disruptive power. This year, we plan to have two worship services. Our first one will be a child-oriented service with our children taking part in the service. The second service will be at 11 PM in person and live streamed. The adult choir will sing. We’ll celebrate Holy Communion. At both services, we’ll sing “Silent Night” with candlelight. Invite a friend and join us in worship as we celebrate God’s kingdom inbreaking into the world.



The Mission and Care Team held a Holiday Bazaar and yard sale on October 12, 2024, headed up by Shirley and Kathy. Thank you to Deb, Julie, Sherry, Allie, Karl, Eleanor Jane, Wendy, Justina, Randall, Jordan, Landan, Kaydan, Ken, Bailee, Harper, Sage, Erich and Kim. Many hand-crafted items were made to be sold.



Community churches and people donated items for sale. A profit of \$1571.60 was collected to help pay off the HVAC. Leftover Christmas decorations were given to Nicci's Magical Minis and More LLC. Thank you to Rodney and Tad for the use of their trucks so that items not sold could be taken to Community Aid in Harrisburg. This project couldn't have been accomplished without prayers and donations.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a small envelope. Remember the Maji who traveled so far to bring their gifts to our King. Let us also honor Him as best we can. Please prayerfully consider what you can contribute, Thank you.





November 3 (All Saints Sunday)

Focus: Peace in prayer

Scripture: Philippians 4: 4-7

Holy Communion, Potluck luncheon after worship in Fellowship Hall

November 10 (25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

Focus: With us

Scripture: Isaiah 41: 1-10

Veterans Day Sunday, Fellowship Sunday after worship

November 17 (26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

Focus: The Heart of Giving

Scripture: Mark 12: 38-44

Fall Harvest, UWF Thank Offering Boxes

November 24 (Christ the King Sunday)

Focus: Kingdoms

Scripture: John 18: 33-37

Hunger Fund, United Methodist Student Day, decorate for Christmas after service

Our worship service starts at 10:15am.

Please join us in person or by watching on our YouTube channel.



# WORSHIP

*With* US

December 1 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent)

Focus: Root            Scripture: Jeremiah 33: 14-16  
Holy Communion, Potluck luncheon after service

December 8 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent)

Focus: Refining        Scripture: Malachi 3: 1-4  
Fellowship Sunday after worship

December 15 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent)

Focus: Wholeness    Scripture: Zephaniah 3: 14-20  
Benevolent Homes offering, 50 year member recognition

December 22 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent)

Focus: Peace            Scripture: Micah 5: 2-5a

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

6:00 pm – Family service, no livestream

11:00 pm – Worship with Communion, choir and livestream

Focus: Christmas    Scripture: Luke 2: 1-20

December 29 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day)

Focus: Praising God        Scripture: Psalm 148  
Hunger Fund

### **Inbreaking Advent Bible Study**

7 PM on Zoom or in Room 3 in the basement of the educational wing.

Pastor Andrew's theme for Advent this year is "inbreaking." In his sermons, Pastor Andrew will look at the traditional Old Testament scripture lessons of Advent through the lens of "inbreaking." How did God promise through the prophets that God's ways, God's kingdom would break into our world? How is Jesus part of this inbreaking process? This Bible study will delve deeper into these scripture lessons that Pastor Andrew will preach from on Sundays. Join Pastor Andrew as the class explores God's disruptive power and wrestles with what needs disrupting our lives.

The class is being offered in-person or on Zoom. All sessions will be on Monday nights at 7 PM. In-person session will be in Room 3 in the basement next to the fellowship hall. Zoom information is below.

#### **Schedule (scripture lessons are tentative)**

- December 2-Jeremiah 33
- December 9-Malachi 2:17-4:6
- December 16-Zephaniah
- December 23-Micah 4-5

## **An Unlikely Advent**

### **Pastor's Sunday School Class October/November**

9 AM on Zoom or in Room 3 in the basement of the educational wing

#### **Expect the unexpected this Christmas**

This four-week Advent study focuses on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the Nativity story. During this Advent season, Rachel Billups guides readers through the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas.<sup>1</sup>

Join Pastor Andrew as his Sunday School class reads and discusses Rachel Billups' *An Unlikely Advent: extraordinary people of the Christmas Story*. Participants should pick up a copy *An Unlikely Advent*. If you would like the church to order a copy of the book for you, please contact the church office. The cost of the book is \$13.50. If the cost of the book will be a problem, please talk to Pastor Andrew. If you would like to order through the church, please let us know by **Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **Schedule**

December 1-Introduction and Chapter 1

December 8-Chapter 2

December 15-Chapter 3

December 22-Chapter 4 and Epilogue

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<sup>1</sup> From book's promotional materials



## Financial Update

by Larry Greenawalt, Finance Committee Chair

Based on the 2024 budget we need to receive an average of \$20,000 per month. For the first nine months this year, our average income is \$14,000 per month, leaving a shortfall of \$6,000 per month. That equates to a \$72,000 shortfall for the year. In order to close the gap we pulled from our investment

accounts at the end of each quarter. Pulling a total of \$60,000 to date.

We have three investment accounts listed as follows:

Kuhn: we can only use this for Red Bird Mission and other Mission related donations

Reider: per the will, the base is set at \$156,000 and we can only pull earnings from this account.

Bretz: this account does not have any restrictions. The base on this was \$125,000 and we only pulled from the earnings on this account until we needed more money to cover basic expenses. The current base on this account is \$100,000.

Following the last pull from the Reider and Bretz accounts, both of those accounts are now at the base. If we need to pull more and go below the base clearly, we will not earn as much and eventually the Bretz will go to \$0.

We also owe the congregation \$43,000 to pay off the HVAC loan.

Things really are not all that bad even though based on the above you may think so.

Well here it is:

We have 137 members and if each member gave \$6.04 per week, we would pay off the \$43,000 HVAC loan in 12 months.

In addition, if each member gave \$10.11 extra each week we would close the deficit.

Thanks for reading.

## A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Oh God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry;  
When I have work, help me to remember the jobless;  
When I have a warm home, help me to remember the homeless;  
When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer;  
And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency  
and bestir my compassion.

Make me concerned enough to help, by word and deed  
those who cry out for what we take for granted.

Amen.

Samuel F. Pugh



## Evangelical United Methodist Church

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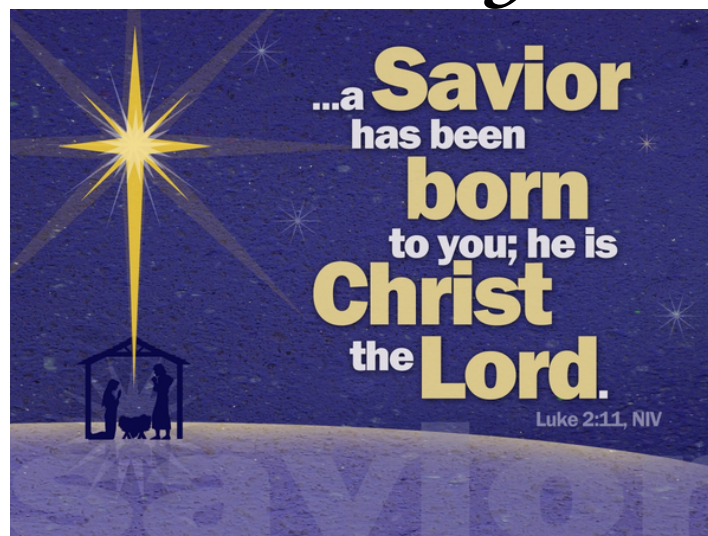
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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

## *The Messenger*



Join us as we celebrate with two services!

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Children/Family Service at 6pm

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Adult Choir with Communion Service at 11pm