



St. Marys Methodist Church Family News

January 2024 Volume 50 Issue 1

SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 8:45AM ADULT CLASS
9:00 AM CHILDREN/YOUTH
FALL/WINTER WORSHIP @ 10:15 AM

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again
Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

AMEN

- Author Unknown



January Message

New Year's Greetings to the St. Marys Methodist Church Family:

I am a terrible waiter --- I don't mean the kind that waits on your table at Hoss'. I am referring to the type of individual who lacks the skill/talent/gift, whatever you want to call it, to wait on something in life. We pondered the notion of "waiting" in our Advent study, in the adult Sunday School Class, during the month of December. We learned that the people of Israel waited 400 years for the promised Messiah to arrive. In that four centuries, "there was no prophet, no voice, no promise, and no act of God in recorded scripture." Until Jesus arrived, generations held on to the promise that that God would send a Deliverer "when the fullness of time had come." (Galatians 4:4)

Have you ever wondered how much of our lives are actually spent waiting "for something to happen?" A lot of time is spent waiting. It is a fact of life which cannot be avoided. Success in waiting makes all the difference in the quality of life we will enjoy. Most important to this subject of waiting is where does God fit into the process? We just celebrated the birth of our Savior. In the hope of Christmas, we waited for the Christ Child and in the midst of waiting for His arrival, we may have been aware of other things in life that we are waiting for. We may feel stuck in our waiting and wonder if the wait will ever end. We may think nothing is happening and we may grow weary and even want to give up. We wonder where God is and if He is ever going to do anything about the thing we are waiting for. We look for our "fullness of time."

Advent taught us to slow down and discover a faithful God Who is always there acting on our behalf, behind the scenes, moving forward with His master plan for our lives, as we wait. We were reminded of God's faithfulness in the story of Abraham and Sarah who waited 25 years from the time of the promise of Isaac to his actual birth (to parents aged 100 and 90 at the time!) That was one great wait! Jacob had to wait 14 years to marry Rachel. Joseph had to wait through many troubled years before experiencing vindication and justice in his lifetime. Mary held onto a promise for 30 years which resulted in the fulfillment that her child was, indeed, the Messiah. David waited 15 to 20 years from his anointing as King of Israel until he actually took the throne. The Bible is full of examples of God working in the lives of people who had to wait very long periods of time to see God end the time of waiting and see a promise fulfilled. So what do we do about our waiting? Especially when it has been a long time and we don't ever see it ending. Here are some strategies that can help in our time of waiting:

- **Prayerfully** ----- Psalm 25:4-5
- **With strength and courage** ----- Psalm 27:14, 31:24
- **Rejoicing and trusting in His holy name** ----- Psalm 33:21
- **Based on the fear of the Lord and His unfailing love** ----- Psalm 33:18,22
- **With hope** ----- Psalm 33:20, 39:7
- **Patiently** ----- Psalm 37:7, 40:1; Habakkuk 3:16, Romans 8:25, Hebrews 6:15
- **Obediently** ----- Psalm 37:34, 119:166; Isaiah 26:8-9
- **Desiring Him** ----- Isaiah 26:8-9
- **Single-mindedly** ----- Psalm 62:5
- **Expectantly** ----- Psalm 123:2, Micah 7:7
- **Believing His Word** ----- Psalm 130:5
- **Assured He is all we need, He is our portion** ----- Lamentations 3:24
- **Quietly** ----- Lamentations 3:26
- **Always** ----- Hosea 12:6
- **In anticipation of joy** ----- John 3:29
- **Eagerly** ----- Romans 8:19,23

Please be encouraged in 2024 that God is faithful and is always working out the best plan for us. Happy New Year blessings to everyone!! I thank God for all of you. Shawna Grim

Poinsettias on the alter Christmas Eve

Given by: In Memory of

Nancy Haberberger & family in memory of Mr. & Mrs. William Hollobaugh

Lesia, Lori, Cassidy & Bobby in memory of George Lamb

Lesia, Lori, Cassidy in memory of Lucille & Ray Rhodes

Ray Gornati in memory of Beth Gornati

El & Charlene Carr in memory of Loved Ones

Jeff & Linda Johnson in memory of deceased family members

Jeff & Linda Johnson in memory of Bob Walker

Jim Horchen family in memory of Abby Horchen and Hal & Alice Steis

Pat Johnson in memory of Loved ones and friends who have passed

Carol Cunningham in memory of Merle Cunningham & parents

Faye Wittmer in memory of Mary Wenger and Ryan Herman

Gabbie Steele in honor of Thom & Sandy Hoffman

Bob & Sandy Buerk in memory of Bob Walker, Phil & Pat Buerk

Dee & Don Corp in memory of our parents

Sally Murone & family in memory of Loved Ones

Fred & Diane Krug in memory of deceased Loved Ones

Bonnie & Bill Gausman in memory of Paul Grabofski & Janice Molella

Aileen Mattiuz in memory of our parents

Jean Dodrill & family to the Glory of God

Marlene Pistner to the Glory of God

Mindy & Joe Gasbarre in memory of Loved Ones

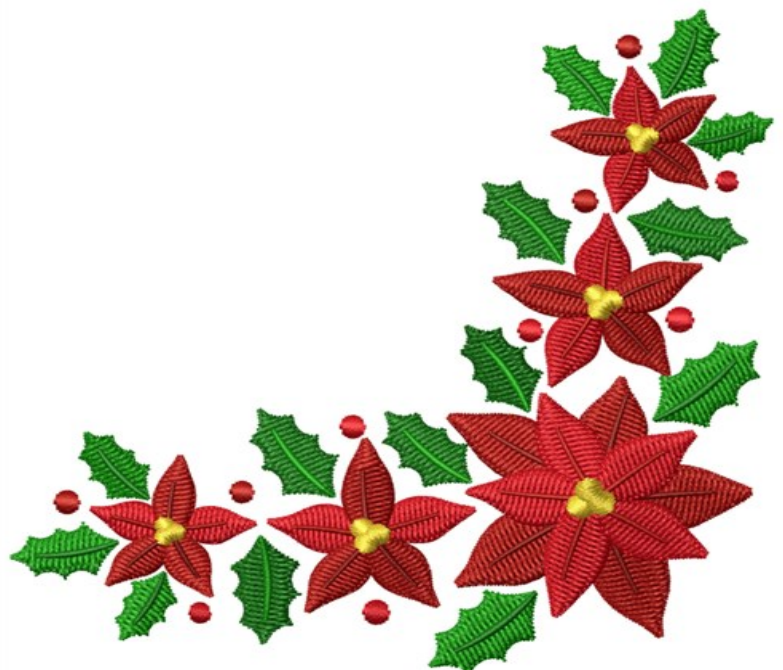
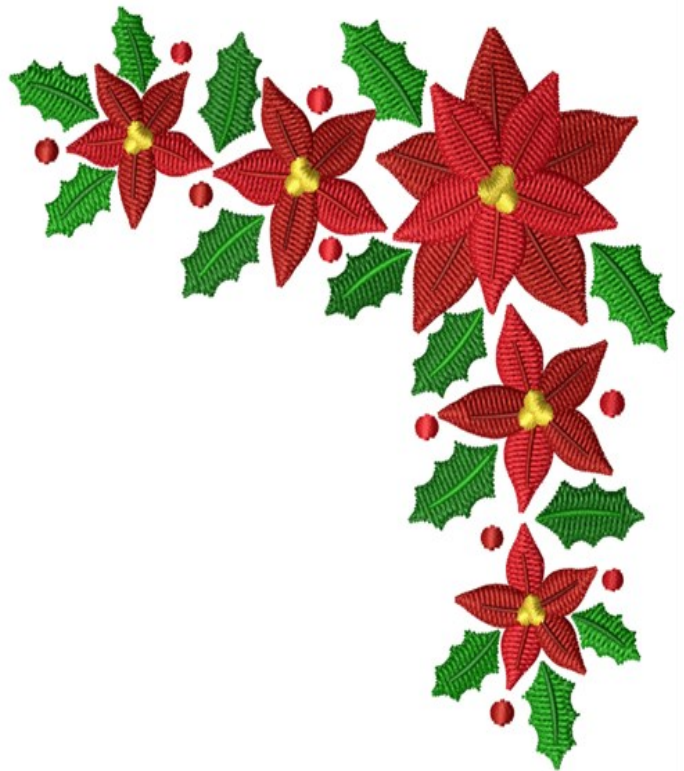
Susan Kunkel in memory of Loved Ones

Joyce Fledderman to the Glory of God

Mike & Cyndi Rippy in memory of Vada Liptak & Frieda Cassels

Tim & Carolyn Hockman in memory of Parents & Grandparents

Tim & Carolyn Hockman in honor of Dee & Don Corp



LIGHTS OF LOVE 2023

Carol Cunningham In Memory of- Merle Cunningham, Parents, Vada Liptak
In Honor of – Faithful Bowls Bakers, Bowls of Love Crew, All Small Groups

Carol Sweitzer In Memory of Beth Gornati

Leah Reiter In Memory of Doug Price, Grant and Janet Reiter, John Bauman

Nancy Haberberger & Family In Memory of Mary Elvie & William Hollobaugh

Konner Horchen In Memory of Abby Horchen

Mike & Cyndi Rippy In Memory of Tom Schloder, Diane Schloder Miriam Arnold, Alice Steis

Steve & Terry Kunes In Memory of Parents

Bob & Aileen Mattiuz In Memory of Parents

Janet McCoy and Family In Memory of Norman McCoy

Larry & Diane Dandoy & Family In Memory of Christopher Dandoy

Anonymous In Honor of Cheryl Schwentner, Laura Horchen, Thom Hoffman

Joyce Simon In Memory of Sherry Simon

Mike & Sharon Herzing In Memory of Hal & Alice Steis

Fred & Diane Krug In Honor of our grandsons, Charlie & Cal

Linda DeLullo In Honor of Church Acolytes
In Memory of Charles & Barbara Patterson

Jeff & Linda Johnson In Honor of Veterans
In Memory of Vada Liptak, Dr. Charles Hauber, Neil Johnson

Marcie Assetta In Memory of Joann Stake

January

Worship Schedule

Jan 7 & 14- Melissa Sylvis

Jan. 21-Rev. Jon Swart

Jan. 28-Paul Morelli



**MEMORIAL
IN MEMORY OF
Barbara Patterson
Given by**

Diane Krise
Debbie, Jack & Brian Delhunty
Etta Gardner
Mike, Missy & Candy Uhl
Fred & Diane Krug
Debbie Abramson
Judy VanAlstine
Rick & Cindy Geci
Ann Fledderman
Ray Gornati
Bob & Sandy Buerk
Ronna Fasenmyer
Renee Paropacic
Diane DeLullo
Thom & Sandy Hoffman

**MEMORIAL
IN MEMORY OF
TOM SCHOLDER
GIVEN BY**

Thom & Sandy Hoffman

**MEMORIAL
IN MEMORY OF
ANNA JUNE FORD
GIVEN BY
BRENNEN & SCHAUT CHILDREN**

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday following Worship
New Members Welcome!

Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday 6:00 PM
New Members Welcome!

January Meetings

Tues., Jan. 9—SPPRC
Tues., Jan. 23—Trustees
Tues., Jan. 30—AD Council

January

Worship Schedule

Jan 7 & 14- Melissa Sylvis
Jan. 21-Rev. Jon Swart
Jan. 28-Paul Morelli

**CURRENT ST. MARYS METHODIST
CHURCH CHAIRS**

Ad Board Chair Dave Fitzgerald
PPRC Chair Joyce Fledderman
Finance Chair Laura Horchen
Christian Ed Chair Shawna Grim
Trustee Chair Bob Buerk
Worship Chair Carolyn Hockman
Lay Leader Cathy Nesbitt
Methodist Women President Sharon Herzing



Bowls of Love

Every Wednesday 4 PM-4:30 PM

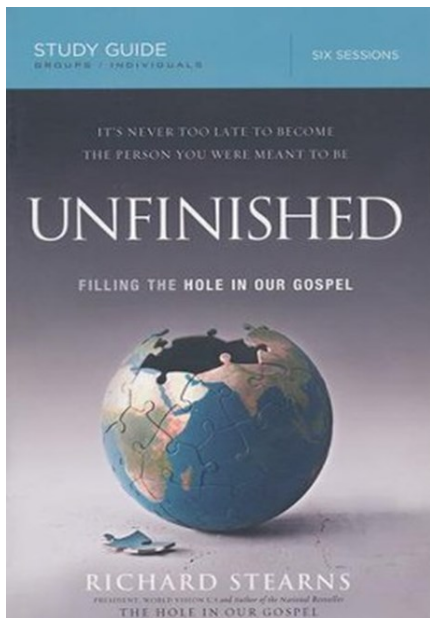
DONATIONS OF DESSERTS APPRECIATED

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

LEADER: SHAWNA GRIM

BEGINNING January 7, 2024

ASBURY HALL; 8:45 a.m.



Unfinished: Filling the Hole in Our Gospel

Despite knowing the truth and having a relationship with Jesus Christ, many Christians feel like something is missing. They read the Bible regularly, participate in church life and community and give of their time and resources, but still lack a sense of purpose and mission in their daily lives. If you're feeling like something is missing, you may be right.

Richard Stearns, president of World Vision and author of *The Hole in Our Gospel*, believes that what many Christians need is a reawakening of God's purpose and passion in their lives.

In *Unfinished: Believing Is Only the Beginning*, Stearns explores the invitation God offers to each of us to be a part of His greater work in the world. Sharing lessons from Scripture and inspiring stories of how real people are making a difference, *Unfinished* will show you that God has a dream for this world that Jesus called the kingdom of God. Discover how the journey into your heart's cry for significance and purpose can be answered by uniting with God's vision for His eternal kingdom.

Exercise Class with Cindy

Cindy Schuster is currently having an exercise class each Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00 am in Asbury Hall. Each class will begin with a devotion, then some warm up stretches. If you are new to exercise class you don't have to be intimidated. Everyone can work at his or her own level and she will make modifications for those who are unable to get down on the ground by doing chair exercises. (Please bring a mat or beach towel.) Everyone is welcome, all ages, male or female. You do not need to be a church member to attend, find a friend to attend with you or make a new friend!

Come join in!!





Send a Note to Our Shut-Ins



Patricia Johnson	Johnsonburg Rd.	St. Marys PA 15857	Pinecrest Manor
Thressa Brock	185 Center Street	St. Marys PA 15857	Elk Towers, Apt. 404
Gary Wonderly	185 Center Street	St. Marys PA 15857	Elk Towers, Apt. 608
Anita Vollmer	Sunrise Road	St. Marys PA 15857	



REMINDER

Food Donations for the Christian Food Bank can be put in the box in the old kitchen or brought into the church office.



Man to Man

The men meet on Wednesday **7:30 PM** In Conference Room

All Men Welcome!



CHRISTIAN COUNSELING ASSOCIATES OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The mission of Christian Counseling Associates (CCA) is to provide excellent, accessible, and comprehensive counseling from a Biblical worldview. Our counselors are experts in the field of clinical mental health and highly trained from accredited institutions.

They are active in their local faith communities, have a heart for God, and are gifted in serving those who struggle with cognitive, emotional, and spiritual issues. Ready to make an appointment?

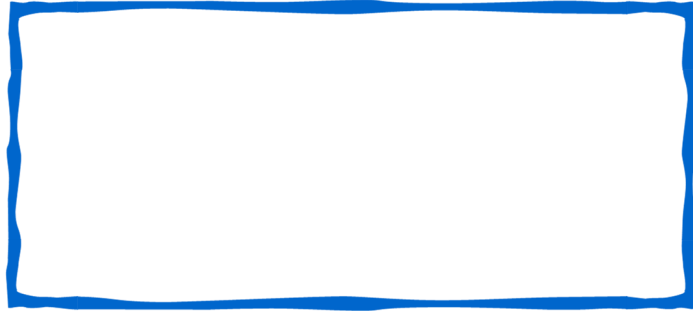
Call **724-396-1510** or CCAWPA@gmail.com

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

9:00 AM—MONDAY IN Asbury Hall
 6:30 PM— MONDAY IN Asbury Hall
 4:00 PM— THURSDAY IN Conference Room
 CONTACT Carol Cunningham or Joyce Fledderman

St. Marys Methodist Church
140 N. Saint Marys Street
Saint Marys, PA 15857-1236

Please let us know if your address changes.



Contact Information

Phone: 814.834.3016
Email: smmethodistchurch@gmail.com
Web: www.stmarysmethodistchurch.com
facebook.com/FUMC15857



FALL/WINTER WORSHIP TIME
@ 10:15 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES FOR
ADULTS @ 8:45 AM
CHILDREN/YOUTH @ 9:00 AM