



St. Marys Methodist Church Family News

December 2024 Volume 50 Issue 12

Rev. Robert F. Zilhaver

WORSHIP 10:15 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:45AM ADULT CLASS 9:00 AM CHILDREN/YOUTH



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8:00 PM



THANK YOU FROM
THE METHODIST WOMEN



WE ARE SO APPRECIATIVE OF ALL WHO HELPED IN ANY WAY WITH OUR
2024 HOLIDAY BAZAAR. THE MONEY RAISED ENABLES US
TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO MISSIONS LOCALLY,
IN THE U. S. AND AFRICA.

December Message

Newsletter: December 2024

THE TOP OF IT

Two men on a plane from Europe were looking down on the ocean from a great height. One said thoughtfully, “My goodness, that’s a lot of water down there.”

The other agreed and the first man continued, “And do you realize that’s just the top of it.”

In most cases, what we see is “just the top of it,” just the surface of life. But there are great depths: depths of meaning, depths of growth, depths of quiet and peace, depths of love and harmony. There is always much more to life than appears on the surface and the depths give motive and meaning to life.

Have you ever stopped to think even when the surface of the ocean is beaten by winds and disturbed by great waves of passing ships, there are always depths where there is calm? The surface view is always “just the top of it.”

Any condition you are passing through is only the top of what you see. God is working for you beneath the surface of the appearance.

Remember everything is working for good according to God’s plan. Even in turmoil, God is bringing good into your life.

So, remember as we get closer to Christmas, everything is working together for your good. Stop and be not afraid!

God Bless,

Pastor Bob

P.S. The Zilhaver Family wishes for you to have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!





Memorial In Memory of
Bob Hoffman

Given By
Marie Fritz
Thom & Sandy Hoffman



Memorial In Memory of
Paul Fledderman

Given By
Thom & Sandy Hoffman

We would like to thank our awesome church family for all the prayers and support received since Jean's recent accident.



Thank You
Tom & Jean Price



DECEMBER MEETINGS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 @ 6:30 PM—SPPRC MEETING



Opportunities to Serve

1 Peter 4:10 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"

Some Opportunities to Serve:

1. Sign-up for service as an Acolyte
2. Sign up for service as an Usher.
3. Sign-up to serve by reading Scripture
4. Sign up to serve by running Screens
5. Bake a cake or cookies for Bowls of Love



Send a Note to Our Shut-Ins

Jean Dodrill	Johnsonburg Road	St. Marys	PA	15857	Pinecrest Manor
Shirley Wendel	Edward Road	St. Marys	PA	15857	
Patricia Johnson	231 Dagus Mines Road	St. Marys	PA	15857	
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	



Man to Man

The men meet on
Wednesday **6:30 PM**
In Asbury Hall

All Men Welcome!

Decorating the Sanctuary

Saturday Dec. 7 1:00 pm
Help Appreciated!



Bowls of Love

Every Wednesday 4 PM-4:30 PM

MONETARY DONATIONS APPRECIATED

BAKERS FOR NOVEMBER

DEC. 4—DIANE K., NANCY M., JANET M., PAULA M.

DEC. 11—SALLY M., CATHY N., PATTY P., MARLENE P.

DEC. 18—JEAN P., CYNDI R., MARCI R., JENNY S.

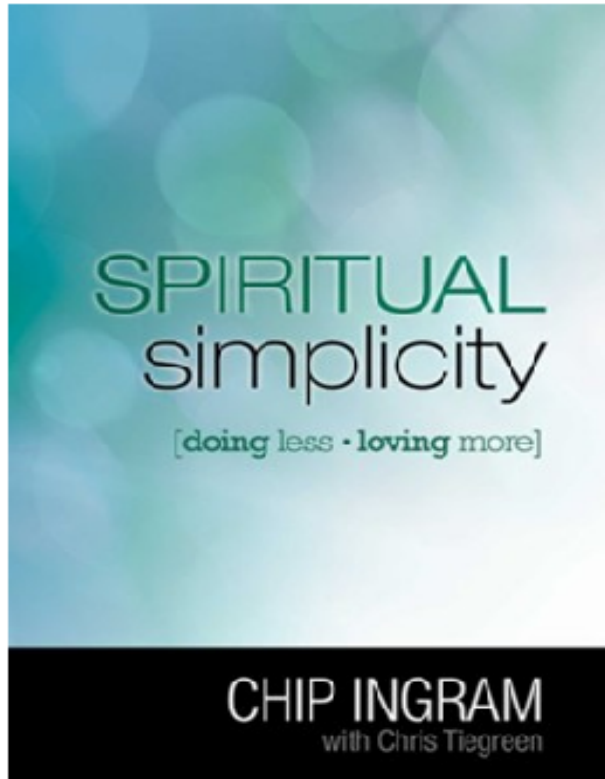
DEC. 25—NO BOWLS OF LOVE

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

LEADER: SHAWNA GRIM

BEGINNING January 5, 2025

ASBURY HALL



Join us for this exciting study! Sign up for the class and materials in the old kitchen.

SPIRITUAL SIMPLICITY

In our frantically driven, complex lifestyle, we suffer from fatigue, little margin, shallow relationships, and fractured families. As a result of this driven lifestyle, our souls are dis-eased—they have a lack of ease. This highly practical, comforting course maintains that it is possible to run the race at a different, more meaningful speed. Not only is it possible; it's absolutely necessary. The key to simplifying life, Chip Ingram says, is to make sure love is your #1 priority. Love redirects our focus and unravels the complex, overextended lifestyle that keeps us ever running but never arriving. In *Spiritual Simplicity*, Ingram explains how to change our love from a noun to a verb and choose to concentrate on what really matters: the people we love the most. If you crave simplicity, yearn for peace and calm, this study is for you. Through biblical teaching and practical insights, author Chip Ingram goes beyond so-called quick fixes and speaks to men and women who know what they need to do, want desperately to do it, but find it next to impossible to break free of the too many good and important things that flood their lives.

The thesis of this study is very simple: Spiritual simplicity will never be achieved by strategic, managerial attempts to control our lives and schedules but through *doing less* because we love more. As you learn the practice of loving people, you will experience a shift from complex to simple, from hurried to peaceful, from "never enough time" to "time enough for those you love." Lasting change is within your reach. This *Spiritual Simplicity* study is for people who already understand what they need to do, want desperately to do it, but find it next to impossible to break free of the complexity of *too many good and important things*.

This study is for people who are tired, overextended, emotionally exhausted, and spiritually drained. Spiritual simplicity will be achieved by *doing less* because we *love more*. Love redirects our focus and unravels the complex, overextended lifestyle that keeps us ever running but never arriving. As you learn the practice of really loving people in your relational network, you'll begin to experience:

1. A shift from complex to simple.
2. A substitute for 'bigger-better-faster-more.'
3. A satisfaction from receiving God's love and demonstrating it to others.



Adults at 8:45 am
Children/Youth at 9:00 am

2024 Methodist Women Looking Ahead

Women's Christmas Party Monday, December 2

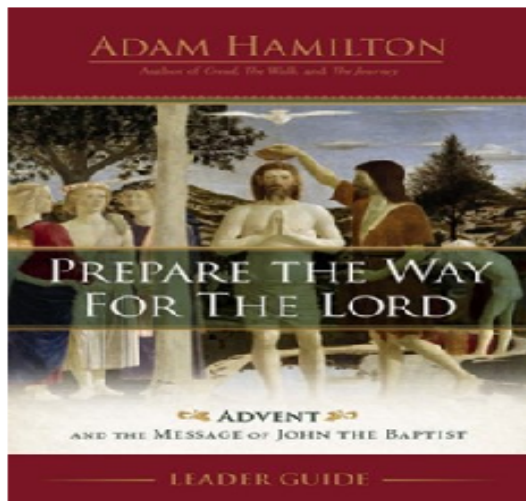
Sharon Herzing—President
Melinda Gasbarre—Vice President
Marci Rogers—Secretary
Deanne McAfoose—Treasurer
Lesa Lamb—Public Relations

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

LEADER: SHAWNA GRIM

BEGINNING DECEMBER 1, 2024

ASBURY HALL



Prepare the Way For The Lord

For centuries, Christians have turned to the story and message of John the Baptist in the weeks leading up to Christmas. In *Prepare the Way for the Lord: Advent and the Message of John the Baptist*, best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton explores the Advent themes of John's life and ministry, and how John calls all followers of Jesus to prepare our hearts for his coming.

In each of the Gospels, the story of Jesus is intertwined with that of his cousin John, the one whom the prophets foretold would come to "prepare the way of the Lord." When we hear the message of John the Baptist, it makes us and our world ready to receive Christ.

Prepare to receive Christ this Advent with the message of John the Baptist. Topics include:

1. A People Prepared for the Lord
2. God Is Gracious
3. The Fruit of Repentance
4. Witnesses Testifying to the Light

Join us for this exciting study! Sign up for the class and materials in the old kitchen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Adults at 8:45 am
Children/Youth at 9:00 am



Lights of Love is back.....We will be placing lights on the evergreen tree outside the Church by the stairway entry on the Parsonage side of the Church Building during the Advent Season. We invite you to participate by giving a “light” to be placed on the Lights of Love tree in honor of or in memory of — those you love and cherish.

For a donation of \$5 per person / light, we will put a light on our tree. We will make a complete list of names available for the February Newsletter:

Given By, In Honor Of, and In Memory Of.

All proceeds will go to support upcoming youth program.

Please send the bottom portion of this form along with check or cash to:
St. Marys Methodist Church, 140 N St. Marys Street, St. Marys, PA 15857.

I WISH TO GIVE A LIGHT IN

IN HONOR OF IN MEMORY OF

GIVEN BY:

(Name(s))

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to **St. Marys Methodist Church**
(in the memo: Lights of Love)

Elk County Churches and Citizens Supporting One Another Through

LIFE'S HURTS, HANG-UPS AND HABITS

LIFE'S HEALING CHOICES

OCTOBER 23 – DECEMBER 11, 2024

WEDNESDAYS

6:00-7:30 PM

An Additional and Optional Book Discussion
will follow 7:30-8:00 PM

SHILOH EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christian Education Building
217 Washington Street
St. Marys, PA 15857

Rev. Scott Wiest
814-512-3888

Got Struggles? We all do. How about a helping hand for your hurts, hang-ups, and habits? Why not take the hand that God is offering you and join us for an exciting eight-week life healing journey with other people who are experiencing the same challenges in life that you are?



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

St. Marys Methodist Church
140 N. Saint Marys Street
Saint Marys, PA 1585-1236



Please let us know if your address changes.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick blue border, intended for a name or address change.

Contact Information

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Web: www.stmarysmethodistchurch.com
facebook.com/FUMC15857



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