

# The Messenger

## A Note from The Pastor...

*"And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."*

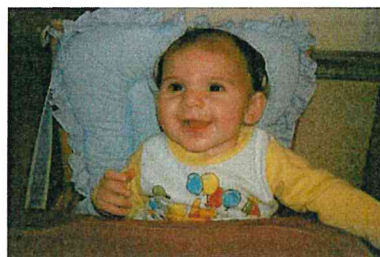
-Luke 2:7

Can you imagine? Pregnant and about to give birth...having traveled over eighty miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem at Caesar Augustus' decree...a week on the back of a donkey...and the labor pains begin. The time is drawing short and there is *"no room for them in the inn."* Things were too crowded. The world was distracted and had no idea that a child was about to be born who was the great *"I AM"*. Dwight L. Moody writes, *"And has the world grown better? Is not this world about like that little town in Bethlehem? There is no room for Him."*

Every year, before Christmas, in the season of Advent, we hear the words of John the Baptist crying, *"Repent! Messiah is coming! Repent."* In the midst of elves and jolly men in red suits and white beards, lights and ornaments, presents and bows, we hear of a man wearing camel's hair and eating locust and wild honey, a man whose voice carried over the Jordan and has echoed through the hills for over two thousand years preparing us each year for the coming of the Christ. John the Baptist says, *"Make Room."*

John the Baptist is saying, *"Go ahead and knock yourself doing all the things you normally do trying to get ready for Christmas. But you never will be ready unless you follow my instructions. I'm the Preparer of the Way. I know these things. Identify at least one road block that would keep the Christ from coming more fully into your life. Identify where your life has become cluttered, rooms of your heart filled. How will Christ find room? Through repentance, remove the obstacle, remove the dirt and grime. Clean house. Throw out the junk. Make room so Christ will find a place to lay His head. Only then will you be ready for Christmas!"*

I remember Deb and I as we prepared for the birth of our firstborn, for his coming. We cleaned out the bedroom in our first home, a small three-bedroom rancher. To have an empty room we had to get rid of a lot of stuff. We then repainted the walls and in place of what was unnecessary clutter, made room for a nursery, for a crib and dresser, a changing table and Noah's Ark curtains. We had to *"make room"* for the baby that was to come, for Nate.



Five years later, Deb and I had to do the same thing to prepare for the coming of a second child. More clutter was gone through, more room had to be made, for Matthew.



So much work to prepare for the arrival of our children, the clutter thrown out, room created for another to live and love and grow. If we are willing to put in so much work to get rid of things and make room for a child, a parent, a friend, shouldn't we be willing to do the same, willing to put in even more work, for the One who stands and knocks at the door of our hearts, the One who is ready to enter each room and fill our homes to overflowing.

In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says, "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*"

*"O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today..."*

Have we made room for Christ this Christmas?

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*

-Luke 2:8-20

Invite Him in. Bow before the manger. Make room in your heart and you too, like the shepherds of old, will find yourself "*glorifying and praising God for all the things*" you have "*heard and seen.*"

Merry Christmas!

-Pastor Drew



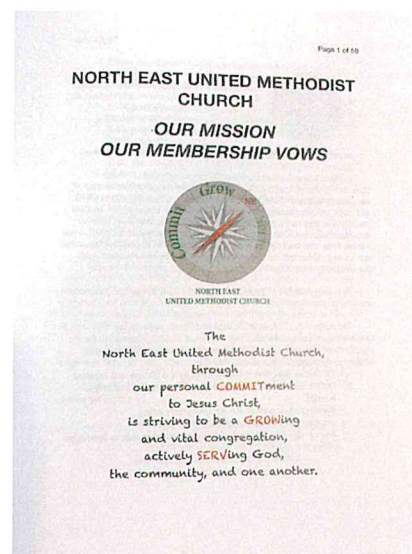
# OUR MISSION



NORTH EAST  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The North East United Methodist Church,  
through our personal **COMMITment**  
to Jesus Christ,  
is striving to be a **GROWing**  
and vital congregation,  
actively **SERVing** God,  
the community, and one another.

*Don't forget to pick up your booklet with  
messages and daily devotions on  
Commit, Grow, and Serve.*



# North East United Methodist Church Reaches Out To Community With Their Annual **Trunk or Treat**





# More Pictures from North East United Methodist Church's Annual **Trunk or Treat**







**Operation Christmas Child**, through Franklin Graham and Samaritan's Purse, collects shoeboxes filled with gifts and delivers them to children in need around the world. Every one of these shoebox gifts is an opportunity for the Gospel.

North East UMC had the opportunity to participate in this amazing ministry. The children that receive these boxes are amazed and awed at such a gift. The love of Christ shines through in such a gift. Many thanks to Jen Berkey for taking this ministry on!

**92 Shoeboxes were packed and delivered this year at NEUMC to go out to children around the world.**

#### **A Testimonial:**

Yuri Lopez grew up in 14 different orphanages in Honduras, after being separated from her family when she was 2 years old. Her life seemed hopeless. But when she was 6, Yuri received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift and “experienced hope for the very first time,” she said.

“Everything in my shoebox was special,” Yuri said. “But the most important thing was the picture and note from the little girl who sent that shoebox to me. Her note said, ‘Jesus loves you and I love you too.’ At that moment it made a big impact on me, and it continued to for many years.”

In fact, seven years later, Yuri took out the note the girl put in the shoebox and read it again when she questioned whether God really cared for her—and it made her realize that He did love her. “That day I embraced God’s love and accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior,” she said.

Now, as an adult, Yuri packs hundreds of shoeboxes to let children in need around the world know that God loves them—and that she does too!



Yuri still delivering love and boxes





# Welcome to our New Members

Be sure to welcome our newest members and congratulate our confirmands in the coming weeks and let them know how glad you are that they are a part of our church family.

Joined Sunday, November 21st

Pamela Poole (*Reaffirmation of Faith*)

Anthony P. Bernard

John Berkey

Jennifer Berkey

Keith Pelachick

Linda Pelachick

Will be Joining later in December

Gary Shears

Debbie Shears

Margie Coomes (*Affiliate Member*)



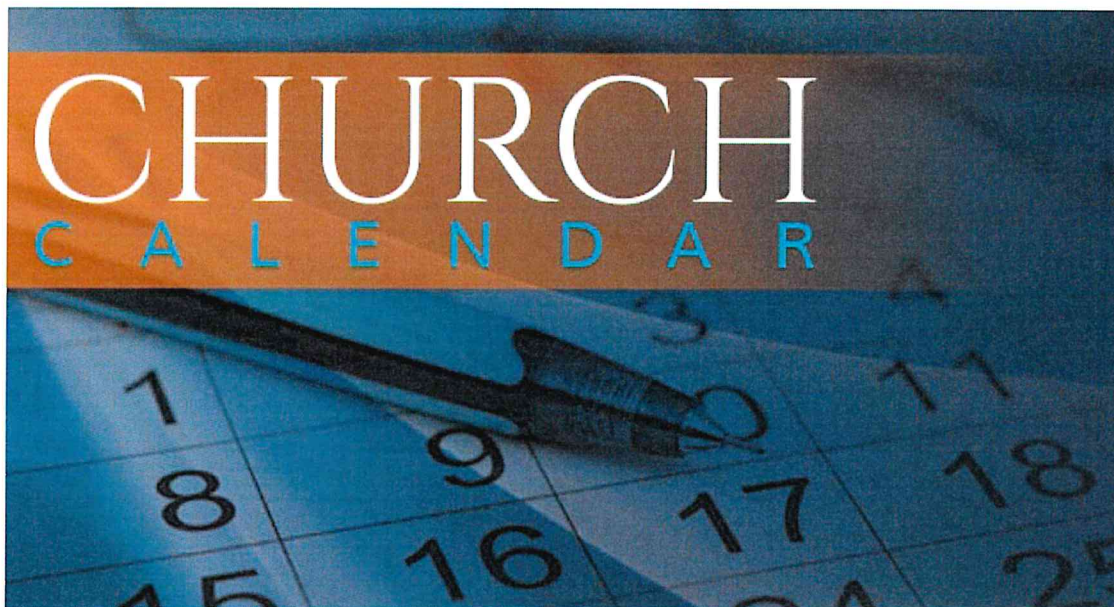
Will be Joining on Confirmation Sunday, December 12th

**(Don't forget the Agape Bags)**

Celyn Evans

Landen Christy

Olivia Pelachick



## November 28th-January 31st

Sunday, November 28th

1st Sunday of Advent

**\*\*Small Group Study - *All The Good* -**

**“Practicing Advent: Preparing the Way” (Wk 1)**

Sunday, December 5th

2nd Sunday of Advent

**\*\*Small Group Study - *All The Good* -**

**“Praying in Advent” (Wk 2)**

Sunday, December 12th

3rd Sunday of Advent

**\*\*Small Group Study - *All The Good* -**

**“Practices of Mercy:**

**Embodying God’s Love for Others” (Wk 3)**

**\*\*Confirmation Sunday @ 10:45 AM Service**

**\*\*Special Concert - Itzel Family @ 6 PM**

Sunday, December 19th

4th Sunday of Advent

**\*\*Small Group Study - *All The Good* -**

**“Christmas is Only the Beginning:**

**God Sends the Church to the World” (Wk 4)**



Thursday, December 23rd - Sunday, January 2nd

**\*\*Church Office Closed**

Friday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

**\*\*Christmas Eve Family/Children's Service @ 4pm**

**\*\*Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service @ 9pm**

Saturday, December 25th

Christmas Day

**\*\*Film: *American Underdog* Hits Theaters**

Sunday, December 26th

**\*\*Lessons & Carols - One Service @ 10 AM**

Sunday, January 2nd

**\*\*Special Concert - *Redeemed* - One Service @ 10 AM**

Friday, January 7 - Sunday, January 9th

**\*\*Youth Rally in Ocean City, Maryland**

Friday, January 14th

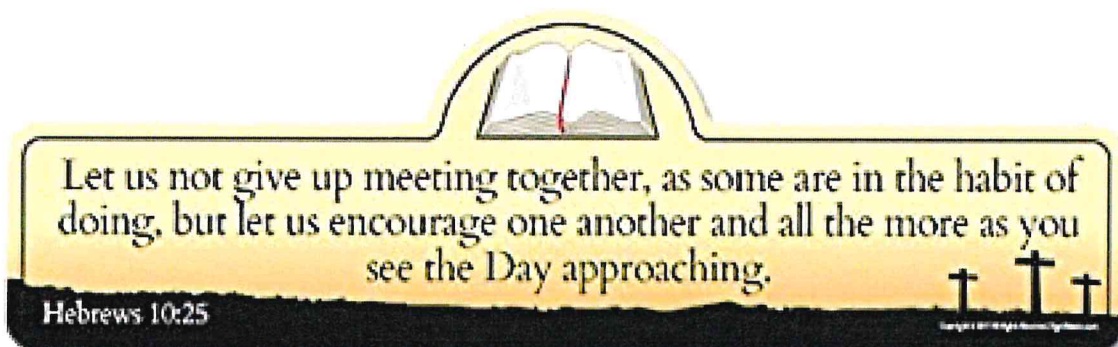
**\*\*Family Movie Night - 7pm**

Sunday, January 16th

**\*\*Youth Sunday - One Service @ 10 AM - Josh Mericle Preaching**

Friday, January 28th

**\*\*Family Movie Night @ 7pm**



**Please Join Us On**  
**Saturday, December 4th (Rain date December 11th)**  
***In-Front of North East United Methodist Church***  
***and In-Front of the Church Parsonage***  
**For the Annual North East Christmas Parade**

Bring Your Chairs Early as Spots Fill Up!  
Debbie Christian will have her famous Hot Chocolate Bar up-and-running!!

We will have an outreach table at the front of the church  
where we will be giving out Hot Chocolate  
and information about our church.  
We always need help working the table!





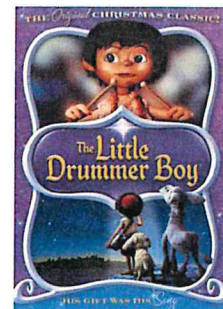


***Join us at North East UMC  
on December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve***

**4 PM – Children & Family Service**

*During the 4 PM Family Service there will be:*

- \*Starting sharp at 3:30 PM: The Little Drummer Boy  
(length 25 minutes)*
- \*A Children's Message told by Bernard the Elf.*
- \*A visit from Santa Claus,  
who will have a small gift for each child.  
Message: "Bah Humbug, No More"*
- \*Singing "Silent Night" with glow sticks to light the darkness.*

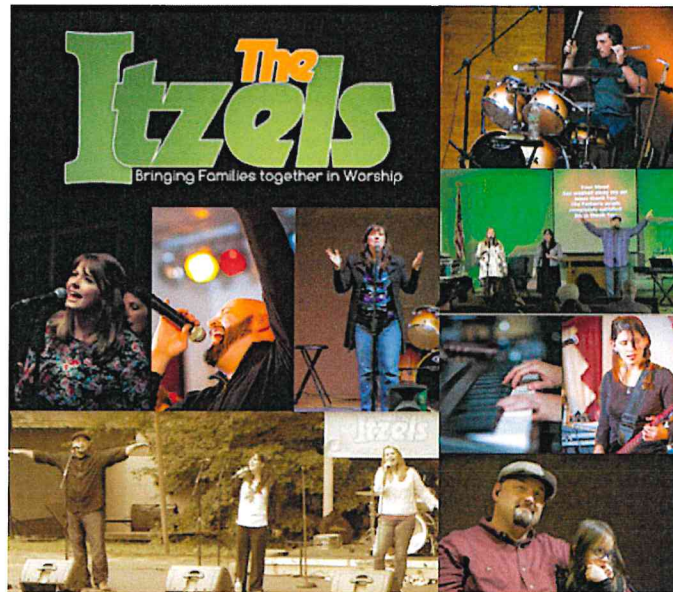


**9 PM – Traditional Candlelight Service**

- \*Christmas Carols and Candlelight.*
- Message: "Bah Humbug, No More"*

# **Special Concerts** **@ North East United Methodist Church**

**Sunday, December 12th @ 6 PM**  
**Free (A Love Offering Will Be Taken)**  
***Fun For The Whole Family***



**Sunday, January 2nd @ 10 AM**  
**Free (A Love Offering Will Be Taken)**





Singers/Songwriters  
Grammy & Dove Nominees

# The Itzels In Concert



**LOCATION:** NORTH EAST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

**DATE:** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

**TIME:** 6 PM

**ItzelMusic.com**

A Love offering will be received and the Itzels' CDs  
and other products will be available





## **About The Itzels**

A lot of Christian bands and singers have come and gone over the past 30 years, but the Itzels have stood the test of time. Bill and Karen, along with their children, Jessica, Ryan, Shannon, and Siri have now been touring full-time for over 3 decades, and even after 57 recordings, 365 original songs, and over 3500 concerts, they are more focused than ever.

The Itzels have designed their ministry to supplement the work of the local church. An Itzels' concert includes original music, modern and traditional hymns and worship songs, an emphasis on family relationships, and teaching of the Word.

There are many accolades that the Itzels could focus on such as Bill's number-one songs, "Saved To The Uttermost" and "He's Still In The Fire" with the Speer Family, appearances on the Bill Gaither videos, 2 Grammy and 2 Dove award nominations, and headlining concerts for over 40,000 people, but to the Itzels, there is no greater thrill than hearing the voices of God's people lifting musical praise to their sovereign Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In 1999 Bill and Karen officially sat down and totally re-worked the vision for their ministry. With a philosophy that was focused on how the local church operates and ministers, they were ready to become a one-of-a-kind ministry that churches could count on to fill "pulpit-time" in the 21st century.

In 2012 Bill and Karen formed the non-profit ministry "Bill and Karen Itzel Ministries Inc." for the specific purpose of spreading the gospel through biblically based songs and mission outreaches. In 2021, they added a weekly street preaching ministry to their concert ministry.

While the Itzels have no real answer as to what style they consider themselves (contemporary, country, rock, gospel, traditional), they have always been balanced and blended musically, with the emphasis on the lyrics and message of the songs.

The Itzels are singers/songwriters who are committed to Christ, committed to truth, and committed to excellence.





# Happy Birthdays

Chanelle Johnson	December 1	Bobby Blankenship	January 3
Melissa Schmidt	December 3	Betty Page	January 3
Rich Lane	December 5	Joe Young	January 4
Lara Truslow	December 5	Bert Krasman	January 6
Bob Boyer	December 6	Katelyn Joseph	January 7
Dafydd Evans	December 8	Laura Young	January 9
Sharon Laird	December 8	Art Justice	January 18
Mary Ann Bowers	December 11	Suzie Rhoades	January 18
Luke Ross	December 11	Dick Fisher	January 22
Kathy Ann Joseph	December 12	Clara Wyatt	January 25
Beverly Collins	December 13	Vickie Henry	January 26
Ren Miller	December 18	Amie Shirley	January 26
Olivia Pelachick	December 19	Joy Truslow	January 28
Jeremy Benjamin	December 20		
Helga Brackett	December 20		
Linda Pelachick	December 20		
Landen Dean	December 23		
Charlie Bernard	December 24		
Blake Bauer	December 26		
Dylan Bauer	December 27		
Joe Shirley	December 28		
Carolyn Williams	December 28		
Marianne Wood	December 28		



As Pastor Drew was preaching, I realized that I had just experienced the Holy Spirit working in my life in the way he and Billy Graham had spoken about.

My story began in preschool when one of our families mentioned that they were going to be remembering a young friend who had died by performing acts of kindness throughout the day. My co-teacher and I thought it was a wonderful thing to do and decided to go about the rest of the day with that in mind too.

On my way home from school, I noticed how beautiful the leaves were and decided that I should go for a walk after lunch. Even though I live in the woods, I felt a longing to visit the property by the Fair Hill Nature Center where I used to work.

On my way over to the park, it occurred to me that I had forgotten about my commitment to acts of kindness and was headed where I probably wouldn't see many people. I felt like I had been a bit selfish.

After a quiet walk through the woods, I was returning to my car when I noticed a past preschool mom who now works at the center. We chatted for a moment when she blurted out that she was terribly worried about her teenage daughter.

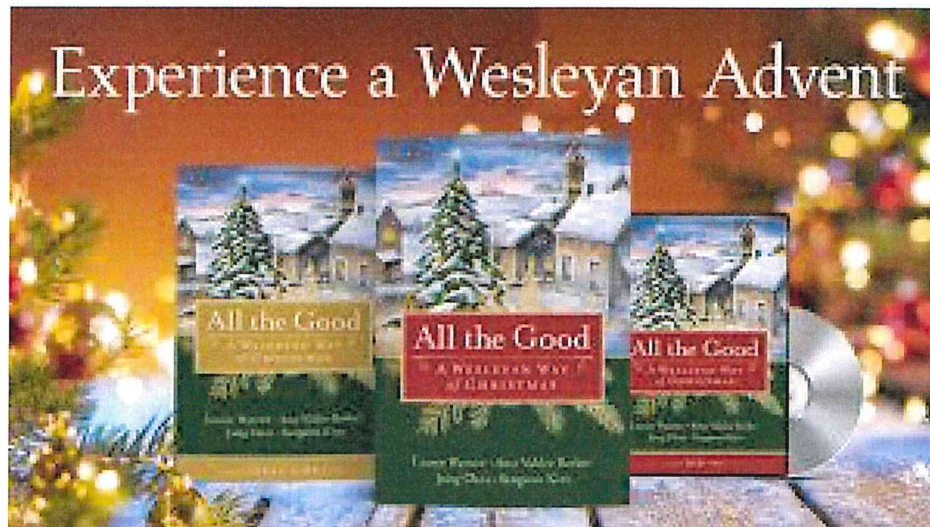
I learned that she had just had her daughter in the hospital the day before and that she had been diagnosed with an autoimmune disease. The tears flowed as she shared the many concerns that she had for her daughter who was struggling to cope with the various difficult symptoms. After praying with her, I was able to share some things that I had learned while dealing with my own autoimmune disorder.

As we were saying goodbye, I shared that I felt that God had brought me there that day to pray with her. She heartily agreed that she believed that too.

I believe that the Holy Spirit nudged me to go to Fair Hill so that he could use me to provide comfort to an anxious mom. I am so glad that I felt the Spirit and followed through. What an honor to be used by our caring, awesome God!

-Doris Andersen





## ADVENT

### ***Message Series & 4-Week Group Study***

Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>      1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

***Practicing Advent: Preparing the Way***

Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>      2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

***Praying in Advent***

Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>      3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

***Practices of Mercy: Embodying God's Love for Others***

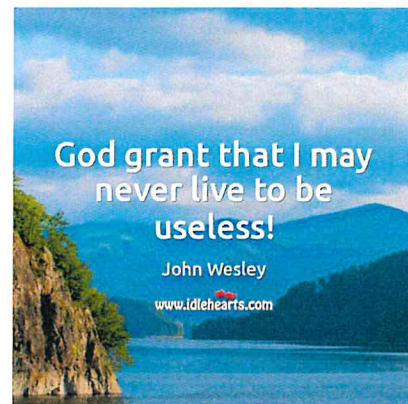
Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>      4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

***Christmas is Only the Beginning: God Sends the Church to the World***

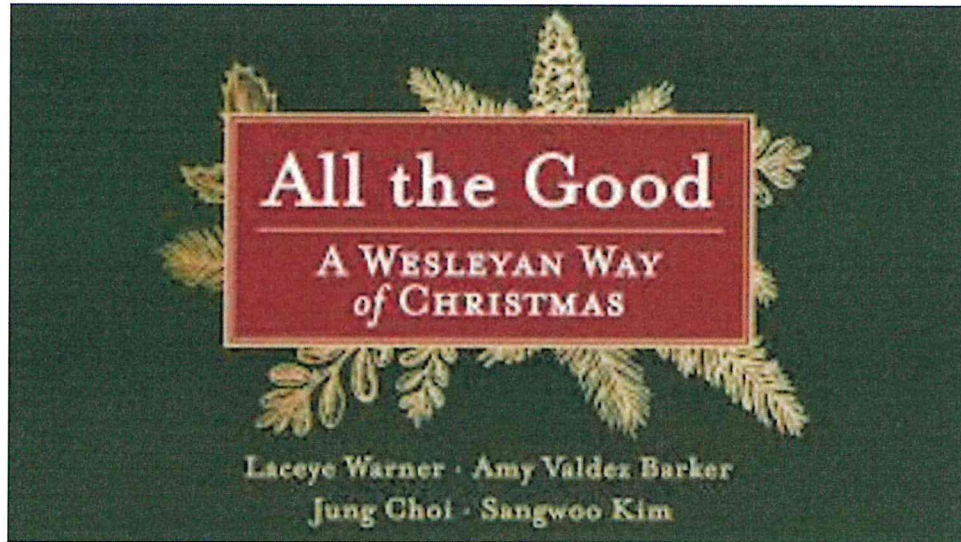
### **Synopsis**

In *All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas*, a group of diverse Wesleyan scholars will take you on an Advent journey guided by the practices in John Wesley's means of grace. In four sessions of study, prayer, and conversation, readers will look at preparing the way for God, the discipline of prayer, the substance of good works, and the recognition of God's presence with us in communities that are called to serve the world. Scripturally grounded, historically educational, and personally warm and engaging, *All the Good* not only reminds us of the good news as we prepare for Christmas but invites us to respond to it as well.

This Advent learn and practice works of mercy and works of piety examining on how God's love is embodied in communities of faith in the world.



# Be Sure to Join A Small Group For Our 4-Week Advent Study



## Small Groups Available:

### **Sunday Mornings at 9:40 AM**

Led by Kathy Styer – 443-553-5078  
Location: Room 206

### **Wednesday Mornings at 10:30 AM**

Led by Pastor Drew – 302-841-2569  
Location: Room 206

### **Wednesday Nights at 7 PM**

Led by Pastor Drew/Debbie – 302-841-2569  
Location: At the Parsonage

### **Thursday Mornings at 10 AM**

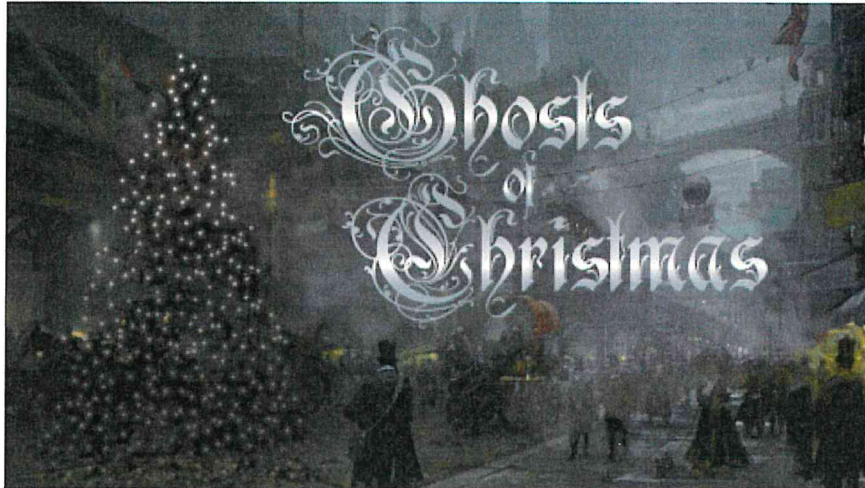
Led by Linda Shroyer – 410-693-3528  
Location: 22 Theresa Lane, North East, MD

### **Thursday Nights at 7 PM**

Led by Carol Nickle – 410-920-0987  
Location: 89 Woods Way, Elkton

**SIGN-UP At The Welcome Center TODAY!!!**





A six-chapter devotional, written by Pastor Drew, that takes you through the Advent and Christmas season. Through the ghosts in Charles Dickens' beloved story, *A Christmas Carol*, have your eyes opened to God's transforming truths, not only for Ebenezer Scrooge, but for all of us. **Available at the Welcome Center** (Requested donation \$3 to cover costs).

- Chapter 1 - Marley's Ghost
- Chapter 2 - The Ghost of Christmas Past
- Chapter 3 - The Ghost of Christmas Present
- Chapter 4 - The Ghost of Christmas Future
- Chapter 5 - Bah, Humbug No More
- Chapter 6 - He Knew How To Keep Christmas Well

If you have time this Advent/Christmas season,  
take time to read the novel,  
*A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens.  
It is marvelous.



Three movies you might want to check out.  
*The Man Who Invented Christmas* depicts Charles Dickens struggles and writing of *A Christmas Carol*. *Scrooge*, the musical, is my personal favorite version of *A Christmas Carol* on film. Lastly, Alistair Sims' *A Christmas Carol* is the ultimate classic!



## **Pick Up DVD or CD Set of the *Hope Is Here Series***

*Hope for the Weary, Hope for the Broken, Hope for the Underdog, Hope for the Doubter*

**Available at the Welcome Center**

*(Requested donation \$5 to cover cost of materials)*



**Also available:**

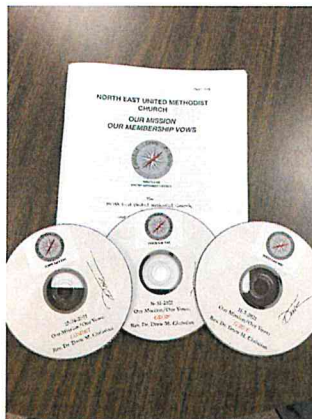
## **DVDs of *Our Mission, Our Vows Message Series***

**COMMIT, GROW, SERVE**

Along with the devotional booklet, *Our Mission, Our Membership Vows*

**Available at the Welcome Center**

*(Requested donation \$5 to cover cost of materials)*



**Missed a Sunday Morning and want to hear the Message!**

**Want to share a past Sunday message with a friend!**

DVDs Available of Past Messages 2020-2021

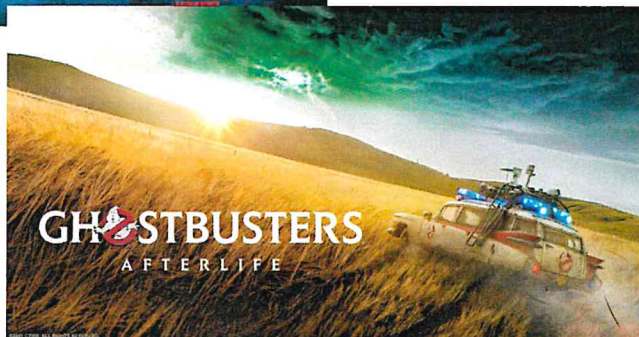
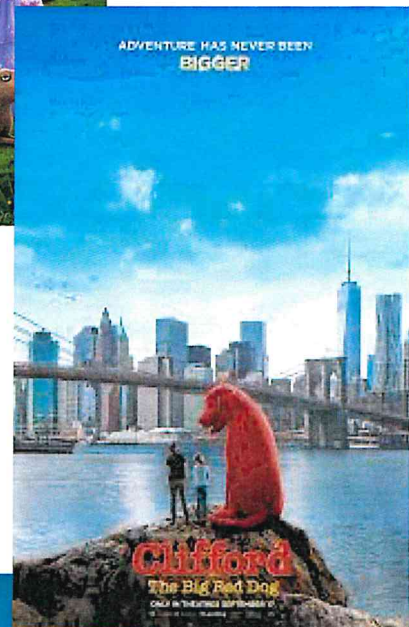
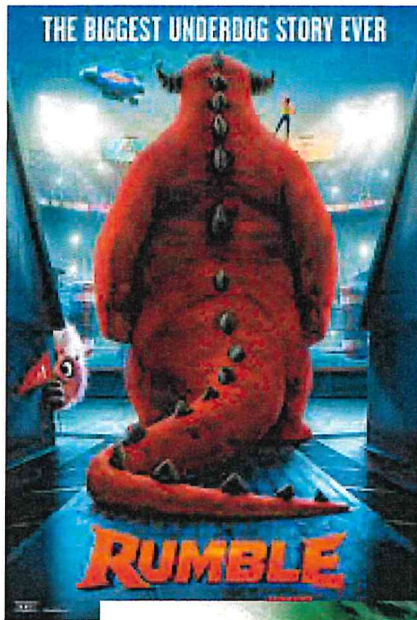
*(Requested donation \$2 to cover cost of materials)*



# Family Movie Nights

Friday Nights at 7 PM

January 14th & 28th, February 11th & 25th  
@ North East United Methodist Church



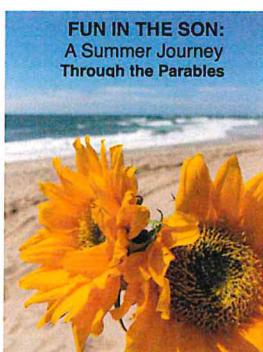
**Available @ Welcome Center & Church Office**

## **Devotional Booklets**

Written By: Rev. Dr. Drew M. Christian

Senior Pastor: North East United Methodist Church

***\$3.00 Donation Requested for Cost of Printing.***

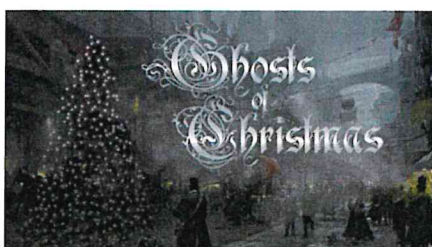


Journey with Jesus, over the course of twelve weeks, through the Parables. Hear Jesus talk about the Good Samaritan, the Persistent Widow, the Prodigal son, and the Great Feast. Read the scripture and a short message on each of the parables, and then throughout the week walk through the daily devotions on that week's particular parable, and be challenged to apply Jesus' teachings to your daily life.

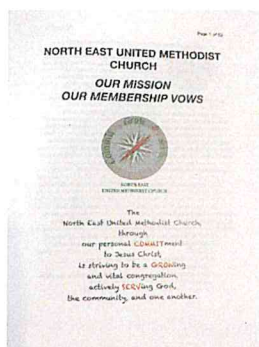


LESSONS FROM SHENANDOAH  
A DEVOTIONAL

A four-week study including weekly messages and daily devotions based on lessons gathered from summer trips to Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. Learn how God calls us to Step Up, Step Down, Step Across, and Step Inside.

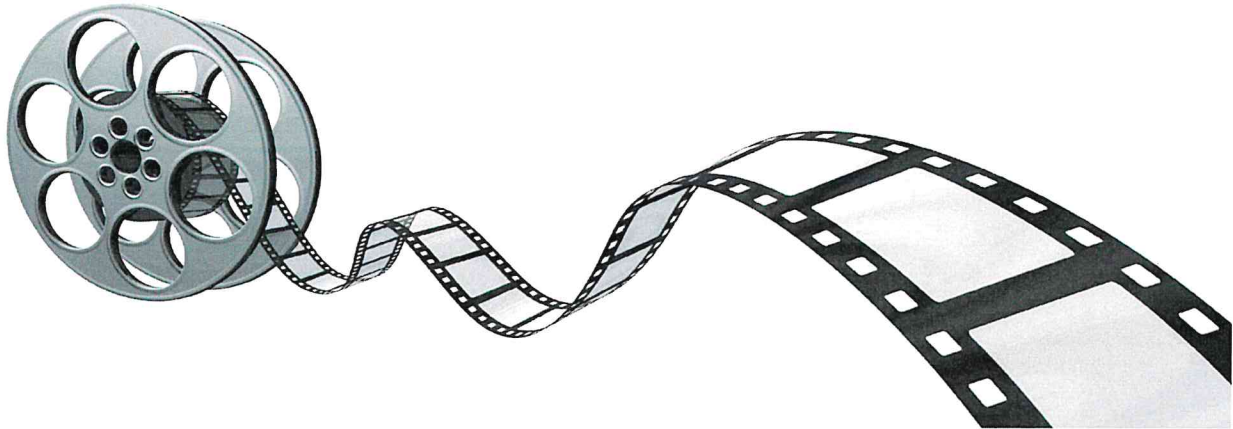


A six-chapter devotional that takes you through the Advent and Christmas season. Through the ghosts in Charles Dickens' beloved story, *A Christmas Carol*, have your eyes opened to God's transforming truths, not only for Ebenezer Scrooge, but for all of us.



*Our Mission, Our Membership Vows* takes you through multiple messages and devotions to help you remember the commitment you made when you joined North East United Methodist Church. You will rehear God's call to Commit, Grow, and Serve, and grow in your relationship with Christ and how you put that relationship into action each day.





### ***The Following Films Are Available to Check Out:***

If you are interested in checking out one of the films listed, just contact Pastor Drew by phone or email.

The DVD, if available, will be put in the mailbox on the front porch of the parsonage and can be picked up when you are in town.

The DVD can be returned to the same mailbox on the front porch of the parsonage when you are done.

If you are unable to pick the movie up, we will make sure it gets dropped off to your front door.

\*\*\*\*\*

- **A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (2019)**
- **A Question of Faith (2017)**
- **Acts: The Visual Bible (1994)**
- **Amazing Grace (2006)**
- **Beyond the Gates of Splendor (2002)**
- **Breakthrough (2019)**
- **Clare and Francis (2007)**
- **Courageous (2011)**
- **Demetrius and the Gladiators (1954)**
- **Do You Believe? (2015)**
- **God's Not Dead (2014)**
- **God's Not Dead 2 (2016)**
- **God's Not Dead 3: A Light in the Darkness (2018)**

- **Extreme Days** (2001)
- **Facing the Giants** (2006)
- **Fireproof** (2013)
- **Hacksaw Ridge** (2016)
- **Harriet** (2020)
- **I Am Patrick: The Patron Saint of Ireland** (2020)
- **I Still Believe** (2020)
- **I Can Only Imagine** (2018)
- **King of Kings** (1961)
- **Life Without Limbs: From No Limbs to No Limits** (2012)
- **Matthew: The Visual Bible** (1993)
- **Miracles from Heaven** (2016)
- **Most** (2003)
- **Nellie** (2003)
- **One Night with The King** (2006)
- **Overcomer** (2019)
- **Paul, Apostle of Christ** (2018)
- **Quo Vadis** (1951)
- **Risen** (2016)
- **Same Kind of Different as Me** (2017)
- **Samson** (2018)
- **Sight & Sound: Noah** (2019)
- **Sight & Sound: Moses** (2015)
- **Sight & Sound: Jonah: The Musical** (2017)
- **Sight & Sound: Jesus** (2020)
- **Song of Bernadette** (1943)
- **Soul Surfer** (2011)
- **The Agony and the Ecstasy** (1965)
- **The Bible...In the Beginning** (1966)
- **The Bible: The Epic Miniseries** (2013)
- **The Book of Daniel** (2013)
- **The Case for Christ** (2017)
- **The Chosen: Season 1** (2017)
- **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe** (2005)
- **The End of the Spear** (2005)
- **The Gospel of John: The Visual Bible** (2003).
- **The Grace Card** (2010)



- **The Greatest Story Ever Told** (1965)
- **The Jesus Film** (1979)
- **The Man Who Invented Christmas** (2017)
- **The Nativity Story** (2006)
- **The Passion of the Christ** (2004)
- **The Robe** (1953)
- **The Shack** (2017)
- **The Star: A Tale of Faith and Friendship** (2017)
- **The Ten Commandments** (1956)
- **Therese** (2006)
- **To Save A Life** (2009)
- **Transformations: A Documentary** (2000)
- **Unplanned** (2019)
- **War Room** (2015)
- **What if...** (2010)
- **Woodlawn: The True Story** (2015)

**NEWLY ARRIVED –**

- **Brother Sun, Sister Moon** (*story of St Francis of Assisi*)
- **The Miracle of the Lady of Fatima** (*three Portuguese children share vision of Mary, the Mother of Jesus*)
- **The Chosen: Season 2** (*see Jesus through the eyes of those who knew Him*)

