

METRO UMC MESSENGER



DECEMBER 18, 2024

ABOUT US

VISION STATEMENT

*Transforming the World
through Jesus Christ*

MISSION STATEMENT

*Passionate Christians Making
Disciples of Jesus Christ*



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Beloved Congregation and Community Members,

As we approach Christmas, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and anticipation. This time of year, often marked by festive lights, gift-giving, and gatherings with loved ones, offers us a precious opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

At the heart of Christmas lies the story of God's immeasurable love for humanity, manifested in the birth of Jesus Christ. The prophet Isaiah foretold this divine event, saying, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). This prophecy reminds us that Christmas is a celebration of the arrival of our Savior, a beacon of hope and salvation.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read the beautiful account of Jesus' birth: "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7). This humble beginning, in a simple manger, emphasizes the profound humility and love that Jesus brought into the world.

The angels proclaimed this good news to the shepherds, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). Their message of peace and goodwill continues to resonate today, calling us to embody these virtues in our daily lives.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us remember that it is more than a festive holiday; it is a time to renew our faith and commitment to Christ's teachings. Let us reach out to those in need, offer kindness to strangers, and share the love of Jesus with everyone we meet. In doing so, we honor the true spirit of Christmas.

May this season bring you and your loved ones peace, joy, and the boundless love of our Savior. Let us keep the light of Christ shining brightly in our hearts, now and always.

With love and blessings,

Pastor Faye

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

The story of Christmas is one of the most cherished narratives in Christian faith, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Rooted in biblical scripture, it is a tale of divine love, humility, and hope that has inspired countless generations. The prophecy of Jesus' birth is found in the Old Testament, where the prophet Isaiah declares, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). This powerful foretelling sets the stage for the miraculous events that unfold in the New Testament.

The Gospel of Matthew recounts how an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, assuring him of Mary's divine conception: "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:20). This divine message underscores the supernatural nature of Jesus' birth. In the Gospel of Luke, we find the detailed narrative of Jesus' birth. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to comply with a decree from Caesar Augustus that required a census. "While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them" (Luke 2:6-7). The humble circumstances of Jesus' birth, in a manger, highlight the profound humility that marked His life and mission.

The announcement of Jesus' birth was made by an angel to shepherds in the fields, a symbol of God's message being delivered to the humble and lowly. "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" (Luke 2:10-11). This proclamation was followed by a heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:14). The shepherds, filled with awe and joy, hurried to Bethlehem to witness the miracle. Finding Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus lying in the manger, they spread the word about what had been told to them concerning this child, and all who heard it were amazed (Luke 2:16-18).

The story of Christmas does not end with Jesus' birth; it is the beginning of God's redemptive plan for humanity. Jesus' life, teachings, death, and resurrection embody the ultimate expression of God's love and grace. As we celebrate Christmas, let us remember its true significance: the birth of our Savior, who brings hope, peace, and salvation to all who believe.

This Christmas, may we embrace the spirit of love, generosity, and compassion that Jesus exemplified. Let us share this joyous news with others and live in a way that reflects the light of Christ in our world.

May the story of Christmas inspire you and fill your hearts with the joy and peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



PRAYER REQUESTS

As we come together in faith and fellowship, let us remember the power of collective prayer. The Bible reminds us in James 5:16, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." With hearts full of love and compassion, we lift up the needs of our community, trusting in God's grace and mercy to bring healing, comfort, and strength.

In this spirit, we invite you to join our prayer list, a sacred space where we can lift each other up in times of need, gratitude, and celebration. Whether you are seeking healing, guidance, comfort, or simply wish to offer praise, your intentions are welcome here. Please take a moment to reflect upon the following prayer requests and join us in lifting these concerns to our Heavenly Father.

We would like to pray for:

Aaron Kane
Vernon Myers
Vivian Lewis
Kleston Whitaker
Thomas and Evelyn Dashiell
Felicia & Wilbur Greenfield
The Wood Family
Greg & Vivian Claytor
Alease Washington Stringer
Garrett Marbury
The Marbury Family

Michelle Jordan
Shannon Stewart
Debra Newsome
The Cooper Family
Nellie Barbour
Yvonne Hancock
Laverne and Charles Foster
Joseph ("Tick") Washington
The Family of Kyle King
The Taylor Family
Frank Boone



To add your name or prayer requests to the list or to include someone you know who could use our collective prayers, please reach out to us. Let us come together in faith, knowing that where two or three gather in His name, there He is with us (Matthew 18:20). May our prayers be a source of strength and solace, and may they bring us closer to the heart of God.

Prayer requests can be submitted through the church's website metroumcindianhead.com/Prayer-Request or by clicking the QR code.



CHURCH CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- **Sunday, December 22** at 10:00 am (*In Person*) - Holiday Program
- **Sunday, December 22** at 11:30 am (*In Person*) - United Women in Faith
- **Wednesday, December 25** - **MERRY CHRISTMAS**
- **Saturday, December 28** at 11:00 am (*In Person*) - United Methodist Men
- **Sunday, December 29** at 11:30 am - Pastor Faye's Farewell Fellowship



ANNOUNCEMENTS





NFL TEAM SPIRIT SUNDAY

SHOW US YOUR TEAM SPIRIT!

Come dressed in your favorite team jersey or apparel the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Who do you think is going to Super Bowl LIX? Make your prediction on the signup sheet in the back of the Fellowship Hall, starting September 8.



Dust Off Your Metro UMC Church Bank



Don't have one? See Sis. Diane Butler
SAVE YOUR LOOSE CHANGE FOR METROPOLITAN

Get a bank. Fill it up. Bring it back to church.
Get it back...and REPEAT



WEEKEND BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

STARTING IN OCTOBER

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

STOCKERS

PACKERS

DRIVERS



For more information, contact
Sis. Sheila Myers on (301) 326-0369 or see Sis. Nickki Harris

Ways to Give



BY MAIL

Send your checks or money orders to Metropolitan UMC
3385 Metropolitan Church Road
Indian Head, Maryland 20640

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH



ONLINE

Give online using our Church Center App



Select Metropolitan United Methodist Church

Offering envelopes are available at Metropolitan. If you would like the offering to be applied to a specific ministry or program, please make note of that on the envelope or check.



IN PERSON

Give in person on Sundays or drop contributions off in black box at Metropolitan Church
Sun: 9-11 am;
Mon-Wed: 9 am - 12 pm
Sat: 9 am - 11 am

SERVICE TIMES

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sundays at 10:00 am

Join us for In-Person or Virtual Worship Services

Join us on Zoom

Connect using your smartphone, table or computer (video and audio)

Meeting ID: 961 1274 4083

Connect using your telephone (audio only)

Dial: (646) 558-8656

Meeting ID: 961 1274 4083

When prompted for the Participant ID, enter #

Then press # again to enter meeting

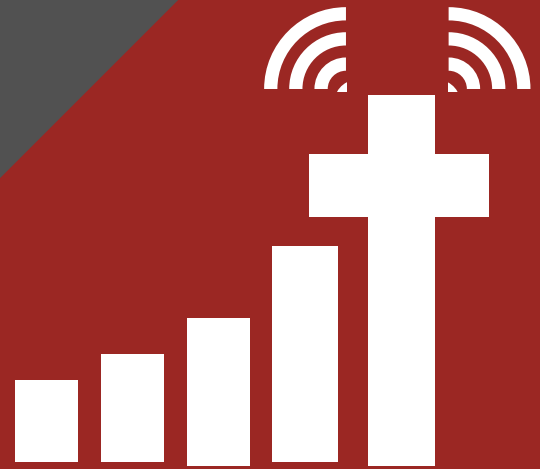
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Visit our YouTube Channel

BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays at 7:00 pm

GET **STAY** CONNECTED



CONTACT US:



(301) 375-9088



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