



GOOD NEWSLETTER

Clarendon United Methodist Church ————— December 2018

Light of the World

In this modern world, we have light everywhere. We have lights in our homes, our cars, on street corners, even our phones have flashlights. We expect light and are slightly upset when our lights don't work when we want them. You might say, we do not lack for light—day or night.

This year we watched and waited for the news covering a group of young boys following their coach on an adventure that turned deadly when they were trapped underground in a cave of rock and water for days. We prayed that somehow, someday, these innocent boys would be saved from the dark, dank cave as they waited for help from above. What a frightening experience of total darkness with little hope for the light to come and save them. Thankfully, they made it out safe.

We all have dark moments or days in our lives...the darkness of poor health, or family members trapped by addictions, or the pain of hopes and dreams unfulfilled. We also always have light - the light that is our Savior Jesus Christ sent down from heaven at Christmas. That light is our hope and it can never be extinguished.

We celebrate the season of Advent with preparations to remember the light of the World coming down as a tiny baby in a dark, dank stable welcomed by animals huddled together, outcast shepherds coming in from the fields, and a young mother and faithful father. Who would have guessed that this baby would be the Light of the World. You are invited to come to the Light this season of Advent.

"I am the Light of the World and whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

— John 8:12

Living Love



Beginning at the end of October and continuing through November, we as a congregation spent four Sundays in conversation as part of the series *Unity in the Church and Human Sexuality: Toward a Faithful Witness*. Over 65 people attended at least one of the sessions, and many came to all four.

The table discussions were thoughtful, respectful, and authentic as we learned about our faith, our church, and ourselves. We will be announcing further opportunities to have Holy Conversations about this and other topics. We thank all who dedicated time and themselves to come as a family of faith in this effort. Please contact the church office for information links.

December Events

CUMC'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

November 24–December 15

Saturdays: 10:00 am–8:00 pm

Sundays: 12 pm–6:00 pm

Weekdays: 6:00 pm–8:00 pm

Our annual Christmas Tree Sale to support local and international charities is up and running! During our first weekend we sold 50 trees for over \$2,000. We have a total of 250 trees and we need your help. **Please sign up to help.**

LADIES COOKIE EXCHANGE

Saturday, December 8, 6:30 pm

Bring a batch of cookies to this soup and salad dinner and make new friends. RSVP to Jane Dixon (jdixon580jd@gmail.com).

WORDS & MUSIC

Saturday, December 8, 5:00 pm

Words & Music vocal chamber ensemble presents *Star of the Morning*, their annual candlelight program celebrating Advent, Hanukkah, the Solstice, Christmas, and the coming of the New Year. Free will offering. All are welcome.

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, December 11, 7:30 pm

We Shall Not be Moved: The Jackson Woolworth's Sit-In and the Movement it Inspired, with author M. J. O'Brien and activist Joan Trumpauer Mulholland. Come talk about this important event and how it changed the Civil Rights Movement.

FAITH, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, December 13, 12:00–1:45 pm

FFF will have the Executive Director of Arlington Free Clinic, Nancy White, as the guest speaker. This agency provides vital health care to those who are in need in Arlington.

THE FIRST NOEL, PRESENTED BY VIRGINIA BRONZE

Saturday, December 15, 7:00 pm

Virginia Bronze handbell ensemble presents *The First Noel*, a holiday concert with their new director, Brian Seemann. Tickets are available online at vabronze.org. Advance tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and children. At the door, tickets are \$15 for all ages.

SECRET SANTA WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 16, 9:45 am

All children are invited to come and Christmas shop for their parents and other family members in our special workshop.

CHANCEL CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 16, 11:00 am

Join us for a special service of music, carols, and story performed by our Chancel Choir along with brass and other instruments. Complete with a telling of the Christmas Story, this annual tradition helps to prepare our hearts and minds for the arrival of the Christ Child!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Monday, December 24

- **5:00 pm: Family Service**
An interactive service geared toward children, but enjoyed by all ages! Youth lead the music and drama.
- **9:00 pm: Candlelight and Communion**
A beautiful service led by Pastor Tracy and the Chancel Choir.

GET IN THE KNOW!

Sign up for the church communications email distribution list. To be added, contact Tanya (office@clarendonumc.org)



November Recap

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

It was a great day at CUMC as we packaged 20,000 meals for those in need. Thanks to Attila Lantos and the Outreach Committee for organizing and to all who gave up a Saturday morning to give back and make a difference.

THE YOUTH BAKE SALE

The bake sale raised \$4,000 for their Honduras Trip in June! Many thanks to all of the youth, parents, and other CUMC members who baked and sold pies, cakes, cookies, muffins, and all kinds of treats. The youth are deeply grateful for the generosity and support of the CUMC congregation.

MESSIAH SING

Our 47th Annual *Messiah* Sing brought in 230 people from all over the DMV to celebrate the miracle of Christmas in song. Our church has the longest running *Messiah* Sing in Virginia. Thanks to Lisa Gibbs-Smith for coordinating the musical portion of this tradition and for Jim Davidson and Cherie Williams for organizing an amazing spread of food for the reception afterwards.

Dan Uscinski	12/05
Phil London	12/06
Gabe Rodriguez.....	12/07
Gary White	12/08
Lillian Brunk	12/09
Doug First.....	12/12
Glen Evans.....	12/14
Wade Miller.....	12/17
Lyn Stewart.....	12/17
Grace Miller	12/18
Susie Bachtel.....	12/20
Michelle Derieux.....	12/21
John Bankson	12/22
Grace Alexander	12/23
Katherine Chalmers.....	12/23
Jon Larimore	12/23
Laura Lewis	12/23
Carol Rees.....	12/23
Charlotte Bearden	12/24
Kellie Brown	12/24
Noel Swearingen	12/25
Jane Dixon.....	12/26
Bree Meyer	12/26
John Howard.....	12/27
Anna Newell.....	12/27
Richard Barr.....	12/28
James Davidson.....	12/29
Leah Dudani.....	12/29
Tyra Symathong.....	12/30
Opal Vincent.....	12/30
Pamela Egan.....	12/31
Thomas Parker.....	12/31



Clockwise from top left: the Youth Bake Sale, Rise Against Hunger event, *Messiah* Sing performers, baby Lukas Erik Paulsen.

Milestones

WELCOME LUKAS ERIK POULSEN

Baby Lukas was born on October 31 to Kelly and Niels Poulsen, four weeks early, much to his Mom and Dad's surprise. Congratulations to the family including Janet and Chuck Pike, CUMC members, who are the proud grandparents.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE: WINNIE MACFARLAN

Thursday, December 20, 3:00 pm

Please join us at at the Signature Theater to celebrate Winnie MacFarlan, a passionate supporter of the arts in the DC area.

REPORT FROM STEWARDSHIP: OUR LOVE STORY

During the Stewardship Campaign, we shared videos that illustrated how CUMC has changed our member's lives. Testimonials from teens, children, and adults provided a snapshot of how we can make a difference as Christians who live our love stories every day.



We are asking for your help today. We have received 80 commitment cards of estimates for giving in 2019 totaling \$411,000. We are close to our goal of 100 cards for \$500,000! If you have returned your commitment card—thank you! This makes planning for next year so much easier. If not, please complete and return your 2019 commitment card or [go online to update your giving statements or make a contribution](#). Your support can and does change lives.



Clarendon UMC

Pastor Tracy McNeil Wines
606 N. Irving Street
Arlington, VA 22201

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:

8:30 am Informal Service

11:00 am Formal Service