

Clarendon Happenings



2023 Messiah Sing **Today** at 7PM

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

~ Luke 2:10-11

Handel's *Messiah* is indeed for *all* people, and we would love for you to join us for the 52nd Annual Messiah Sing-Along! Erin Freeman (City Choir of Washington) will be at the podium to conduct us through Part I and the Hallelujah Chorus.

The event starts at **7:00PM** with an engaging pre-concert experience that includes a vocal warm-up and peek inside Handel's marvelous score. At 7:30PM the sing-along will begin, showcasing fabulous soloists and accompanied by chamber orchestra. A delightful reception will cap off the evening. **This year we are also highlighting area choral ensembles and giving away pairs of tickets to some of the best local choral events!**

You can bring your own score or borrow one of the ones provided, and there will be a free-will offering accepted to help CUMC keep events like this going. The sing-along will also be live-streamed, so share it with friends and family!

CUMC Annual Cookie Exchange

When: **Friday, December 8th, 6-9PM**

Where: Corry Hall, at the church

Who: CUMC ladies and friends

Bring: 4 dozen cookies to share



What's happening? We'll gather at 6:00PM, have a soup and salad dinner at 6:30. Celebrate and exchange cookies from 7:30-9PM. There will be a Christmas program, carol singing and plenty of time to chat with old friends and meet new ones. We'll also pack up some cookies and sign greeting cards for our homebound members.

Please RSVP by clicking the button below and please indicate if you will be able to bring soup, salad or bread. For more information contact Laura Bishop or Catie Christiaanse via the office (office@clarendonumc.org).

It is not too late to complete your 2024 Commitment Card. Cards are available at the sanctuary entrances and can be turned in via the offering baskets or use the QR code to access the Google form. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the office (office@clarendonumc.org).



Buy Your Christmas Tree and Help the Homeless



You can now pre-order your Christmas tree. We have 300 beautiful firs available for sale this year—*coming to us directly from Canada!* Trees will be available for pickup starting Saturday, November 25th. This year the profits from the sale will be donated to New Hope Housing. You are not just buying a gorgeous tree; you are helping our neighbors facing homelessness.

For more information and to place your order visit our website at:

<https://clarendonumc.org/events/christmas-trees/>.

Volunteers Needed to Help With Tree Sales

We also need volunteers to help with the sales. You can sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/3QMaDan> or by using the QR code.



2023 Reverse Advent Calendar

In a normal Advent calendar, people count down the days until Christmas by opening a little door and taking out a candy, toy or other goodie. We invite you to count down using a "reverse" advent calendar. Instead of getting a trinket, you put an item aside that helps a neighbor in need. As you shop each week, please pick up the items on the list and then bring them to worship on the appropriate Sunday. Then join together in the social hall right after service to assemble the items for donation to our neighbors in need. This is especially a great activity for families.

If you can't attend worship that week, please consider making an online donation to help defer some of the costs for bags and other items needed for each mission.

Hard copies of the calendar are available at the sanctuary entrances or you can download the pictures below.

Beginning this Friday, December 1: Holiday Baskets

- Dec. 01 1 can Cranberry Sauce
- Dec. 02 1 box or bag of Stuffing
- Dec. 03 1 can Fruit
- Dec. 04 2 jars or packets of Gravy
- Dec. 05 1 Desert Mix (brownies, cake, or pie filling)
- Dec. 06 2 cans of Vegetables
- Dec. 07 1 can of Sweet Potatoes
- Dec. 08 1 package of Rolls or box of Biscuit Mix
- Dec. 09 Potatoes - fresh, box of instant or 2 cans

**Dec. 10 Bring all of the items to church for our Advent Mission:
New Hope Housing Food Baskets**