

Loving, Learning and Serving Together

TODAY (8:30 am) Worship at New Hope
(9 am) Sunday School at Highland
(10 am) Worship at Highland
(4pm-6pm) Christmas Eve Communion at Highland
(7 pm) Christmas Eve Worship at New Hope

MONDAY-THURSDAY *(pending weather)*

Amy will be in Waynesboro visiting her parents Monday-Thursday, returning to Callaway on Thursday evening. She can be reached at her cell (804) 694-9759.

December 31 Fellowship Hall Reserved

January 6 (9-Lunch) Bishop Lewis at Bethlehem UMC Chat and Chew

January 7 (After worship) Worship Committee

(5:30 pm) Community Celtic Worship at St. Peter's Episcopa

January 8 (7 pm) Choir Starts Back! *Every Monday, except 3rd*

January 10 (6:30-8 pm) *Wesley Covenant Group at Parsonage*

January 14 (9 am) Devotions and Doughnuts in FH *Every Second Sunday*

(After Worship) Highland Council meeting

January 15 (7 pm) United Methodist Women (UMW)

January 17 (Noon) Community Lunch at Bethany COB *3rd Wed*

January 20 Newsletter Information due to Pat Webb

January 21 WHY Youth

January 23 Audit

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

Please write down these names shared in worship so that together we can pray for them this week.



All Jesus Wants for Christmas: You
December 24, 2017 Joyful Obedience

Giving the Gift of Ourselves to God and Each Other

A grandmother, traveling, said: "I am bringing my grandkids ME as a gift. I don't put pressure on myself to buy them things because they don't need anything." When Jesus traveled to earth he brought himself as a gift: Emmanuel—God With Us. All Jesus wants for Christmas is us. What does it take for us to give ourselves to God as a gift? How do we give others our presence as a gift? For the past four Sundays of Advent, we have been reflecting that Jesus is "coming" (the meaning of the word "Advent")—Jesus wants our lives. With each Sunday, a different light has helped us to pray.

December 3: Choose—Flashlights

December 10: Grapple—Night Light

December 17: Praise and Trust—Lanterns

December 24: Joyful Obedience—Tea Lights

May we be a witness to our world that we give ourselves to be with God and each other.

Today we invite all who are fighting or have fought cancer to join us up front during the lighting of the Advent Wreath. As Kenny Bernard says, "Let's stand up and give thanks." Thank you for being a light to us and we support you with our prayers, companionship, and love.

READING AND PRAYING GOD'S WORDS

Today I heard God say to me: _____.

Because of what I heard, I will: _____.

Like Mary and Joseph, has there ever been a time you needed to do something or go somewhere that you did not want to go? _____.

What do you think when you hear the word “obedience?” When are times you have been obedient to God? What helps you be obedient? How does it help to think of “obedience” as a gift from God?

Eugene Peterson defines “obedience” as the “strength to stand” and the “willingness to leap” (from *A Long Obedience*). What would this look like in an area of your life?

In the Bible, “obedience” means hearing and doing—acting on what we hear. Pray about what keeps us from acting on what we hear God calling us to do. Pray about being freed for “joyful obedience.”

How do you pray for Jesus to be born to you this year? _____.

LIVING GOD'S WORDS

Tonight: Celebrate Christmas Eve

Highland is offering communion between 4 pm and 6 pm. Come anytime. New Hope is offering a candle light worship service at 7 pm. The worship will include carols, a new message and communion.

Devotions and Doughnuts

Every second Sunday, 9 am, join all ages in the Fellowship Hall for fun, games, and best of all doughnuts (fruit, too).

Greatest Story Ever Told

DVD's of the Christmas Program are free and available by the mailbox. THANK YOU to Mike Neal for making and donating them!

CHAT and CHEW! 2.0

You are invited for conversation with our Bishop on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at Bethlehem United Methodist Church, 13586 Old Moneta Road, Moneta. Session begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes with lunch served at 12:30 p.m. Registration and lunch is free but space is LIMITED! Please sign up on the bulletin board or contact Amy at AmyPannell@vaumc.org or 540-483-1053. Deadline is TODAY.

Sign up to be a Greeter

Sign up to smile, welcome, and hand out bulletins in 2018! The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board (across from the mailboxes)

Today's Servants: Thank You!

GREETERS

December—Mitch Webb
and his grandsons

ACOLYTES

December 24—Hannah McPherson
December 31—Emma McPherson

USHERS

December 24—Men
December 31—Youth

NURSERY

December 24—Cyrstal Weaver
December 31—Sherri Krauss

Prayer Requests

December 17—Joyce Sledd, Eric Akers, Amanda and Colby Rude

December 10—Ronnie Bernard and family, B.L. Furrow, Jimmy Guilliams and family, Lucas Hagar (neighbor of Paula Furrow), Sarah Haskins, Skye McPherson and family, Robert McPhillips (friend of Sheldon Mankes), Marie Sigmon, Joyce Sledd, family of Mary Elizabeth Woody,