



Emmanuel United Methodist Church  
11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705

301-937-7114  
www.eumcbeltsville.com

*Rev. Dr. Andrea M. King*  
*PastorKing@eumcbeltsville.com*



**The Lamplighter**

The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church

# HAPPY New Year

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face  
shine upon you, And be gracious to you...



# The Lamplighter

HAPPY NEW YEAR

You crown the year with your bounty, and  
your carts overflow with abundance.

Psalm 65: 11

## The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church!

# January

## JANUARY 2024

### IN THIS ISSUE

- + And This Is Christmas p. 2
- + The History of Chrismons p. 2
- + The Mitten Tree Returns for Another Year p. 3
- + Bundles of Joy p. 3
- + Thank you from UpStage Artists p. 3
- + Christmas Letter from Pastor Davis and Candace p. 4
- + A Christmas Message from Bishop Easterling p. 5
- + The Gift of the Magi p. 6
- + History of Hymns: 'A Charge To Keep I Have' p. 7
- + Cooking with Pastor King p. 8
- + A Prayer for New Year p. 9
- + January Calendar p. 10



Do you have something for our  
newsletter? Send items to the editor,  
Rick Bergmann at  
lamplighter@eumcbeltsville.com



From the  
Pastor's  
Desk...

One of Emmanuel UMC's Community Partners that secures affordable housing for families in the state of Maryland contacted the church and requested assistance in providing a mattress to a senior who was placed in housing but was literally sleeping on the floor. The case manager originally said that they wanted to get a twin bed for this gentleman. After arrangements were made to have the mattress delivered, I called "Mr. John Doe Jones" to verify his address.

In our conversation Mr. Jones revealed that he was over 6 feet tall, 200-plus pounds, and had just had a full hip replacement. He said that he had been sleeping upright in a straight back chair, and someone recently loaned him a twin size air mattress. Mr. Jones went on to say, "I appreciate the loan of the mattress, but it is so low on the floor, I have to almost scale the wall to get upright... I feel like Spider-Man!"

After that conversation, it was clear Mr. Jones needed a bigger bed, and a complete mattress set with bed a bedframe was delivered to him by one of our other community partners the very next day. When Mr. Jones received the delivery he excitedly called to say thanks, adding, "Where is you church? I will have to come (when I get more mobile) to tell them how grateful I am!"

"My church is in Beltsville," I said. However, Mr. Jones now lives in Baltimore City, as a result of being selected in a public housing lottery.

He responded, "I used to live in Beltsville 15 years ago when my mother was still alive. Are you the church on the corner ....?" "No, our church in on Cedar Lane," I retorted.

He further inquired, "Just past the 7-11 on Powder Mill, past Emack, and right on Cedar?"

"That's exactlty right!"

He, continued, "I used to live in one of the houses on Cedar Lane when I lived in Beltsville!"

Mr. Jones mentioned other landmarks where we seem to have been in the same places at different times, and concluded, "God has purposely brought us together!"

I responded, "Wow, look at God! After all these years God has made a connection between us! That's what we call that a Wesley Love Connection!"

Pastor King

## And This Is Christmas!

Trustee Karen Mackey made the excellent suggestion of putting up a Chrismon Tree for the first time since Covid-19. After a brief discussion about getting a live or artificial tree, Karen found a super sale on a beautiful 6 foot tree at Home Depot for \$60. The church administrator attempted to place an online order for the sales item but could not find the tree in-stock in nearby stores.



Meanwhile the Black Clergy Women's Christmas Gathering was scheduled in a few days, and some PVC pipes needed to be purchased and cut to build a framework for a backdrop.

Well, what should have been a 30 minute store experience turned into a morning long customer dissatisfaction saga, beginning with store associates giving incorrect information about goods and services available at the store, which resulted in frustration, vexation, and a call to customer relations.

Once store management found out about the matter, in short order a call came from the store manager to investigate the concern, with her afterwards pronouncing: I do not know why the store associates said Home Depot does not cut pipes because we cut pipes in all our 2097 stores!

After a profuse apology about the PVC pipes, the Home Depot donated a Christmas tree and asked for a

recommendation of families to bless at Christmas!

What's more incredible is that a family of a mother of 7 children who tragically lost their father was lifted up by the Black Clergy Women at their Christmas Gathering, and Home Depot selected them as one of the families to bless!

**THANK YOU TO KAREN FOR DECORATING THE SANCTUARY AND THE TREE THIS CHRISTMAS!**

## The History of Chrismons

Submitted By Karen Mackey



In 1940, Reverend George Pass, an elderly minister who visited her home during the Christmas season, influenced Frances Kipps Spencer. Reverend Pass was from a poor church and, in order to acquire the materials to make decorations, asked Mrs. Spencer for her discarded wrappings. His creations from these meager materials were then shared with his congregation.

Reverend Pass' great devotion moved Mrs. Spencer and her husband, Harry, to continue the tradition and make their own ornaments for decoration of their tree.

In 1957, Mrs. Spencer volunteered to be in charge of the decorations for her church, The Ascension Lutheran Church of Danville, Va. She decided instead of traditional balls and colored lights, that hand-made ornaments would be more appropriate.

Mrs. Spencer began to study the monograms of Christ and, after discovering the Latin word *chrisma*, the name Chrismon was born. Four instructional books were written by Mrs. Spencer with the help of her congregation so that this "ministry" might be shared throughout the United States and the world.

As the popularity of Chrismon making grew, it became increasingly difficult to get supplies. In 1964, Rufty's Garden Shop in Salisbury, NC became the chief supplier of Chrismon components. Harold and Barbara Rufty searched and found manufactures in New York and Japan who could supply the necessary materials for making Chrismons.

One should not underestimate the contributions of Harold Rufty to the growth of Mrs. Spencer's Ministry. He was willing to satisfy this small market ignored by the established crafts industry.

*"Early Christians used symbols of the early church to transmit the faith and beliefs of the artist/teacher to the viewer. Thus the inspiration was shared and passed on." - Frances Kipps Spencer*

## The Mitten Tree Returns For Another Year!



UW Faith will start collecting mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for students at local elementary schools in the narthex starting Sunday, December 31 through Sunday, February 4. Also, if you would like to crochet a string (approximately 38" long) to attach onto the store-bought mittens, you are welcome to do so.

## Bundles of Joy!

Church and community donations of toys, snacks, and clothing items were put together to create bundles of Christmas JOY for more than 100 families!

Ardina Hamilton of UIGI Social Club and her teammates supported the Build a Snowman Amazon campaign, and she drove all the way from the Eastern Shore to volunteer time to pack Christmas bundles!

Meanwhile, John Clay hit the road to pick up "wagon loads" of toys for tots to be shared among more than 300 children!

Thank you to everyone who donated in to make Christmas Special for the children and families!



## Thank you from UpStage Artists

By Rick Bergmann



Those of us at UpStage Artists want to thank Emmanuel for it's generosity with the use of the fellowship hall. Each year seems to get a little for successful than the last. This year we were able to donate over \$1,000 to Emmanuel and local non-profits such as Beltsville Community Cats and Hopeworks of Howard County. We were able to purchase a spotlight to enhance our performances, and we were able to have our biggest cast ever (25) with "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." We have also begun to truly build an audience and a following in the community. We see many returning audience members come through our doors every show, and some of them come multiple times to see a show more than once.

We truly do appreciate all of the support Emmanuel has given us over the last four year and we look forward to doing more in the future.

Sincerely,  
Michael, Rick, Anna, John, Harsha, Melvin, Joanne, and Polly (UpStage Artists Board of Directors)

## Christmas 2023

Merry Christmas! That is more than a wish; it is our prayer for you and your family. Christmas seems to come just in time to awaken us to the reality that God so loved the world that He gave us His Son, so that as we believe in Him, we can have a more abundant life today, with a promise of eternity tomorrow, when our life here will end. We need the Christmas story and what it brings! This is especially true for us and for the family of Jeanne Horn (Candace's mom), who passed into the eternal glory of God. We are of course, heartbroken, but have the promise of God that we will see her again. It is a gift of Christmas that is there to be opened. All our parents have gone to glory, and now we seem to be the oldest on both sides of our families. This brings us to a deeper understanding of the gift of Christmas and we are more eager to sing, O Come Let Us Adore Him!

Saylor, our oldest grandchild, has started his first year of college after successfully graduating from high school with honors. His mom and dad are missing him at home since he went to West Virginia University in Morgantown. But the Thanksgiving break helped soothe the pain. Indeed, we had a family reunion during Thanksgiving, with Sarah, David, Chloe, and Willow, all from Ohio; joining Rachel, Ryan, Saylor, Savian, and Shevaun, who live very close by, at our house. What joy to the world that brings! With all the extra help around, we pretty much got all the outside lights up and the Christmas tree glowing!

Last winter, we made plans to stay in Florida for a whole month in one location. We went with Bill and Peggy McCowan to Davenport, FL which is in the middle of the state. The weather was perfect and we did several memorable things, like going to the beaches on both coasts! We only went to Disney twice and that was to eat, at the Planet Hollywood, and the Rain Forest Café. They have the VOLCANO there. (It's a huge hot fudge sundae made of brownies, ice cream, whipped cream, with a sparkler on top). So much fun! Then you finally go home to springtime that just does not seem warm enough.

We had the pleasure of attending two separate weddings of Candace's nieces, Madison and Hannah: two sisters in the same year! There is a January wedding of Richard's niece, Rebecca. So, our social calendar is quite busy with joyful things.

The whole family expects to gather again in mid-December to attend Shevaun's ballet performance in "The Nutcracker." Yes, Shevaun dances with the big girls now; while Saylor goes to college and does e-sports; while Savian enjoys painting and music; while Chloe does cross-country and plays a saxophone; while Willow enjoys violin, ballet dancing and gymnastics. All of them are doing exceptionally well in school. Our grandchildren make us so proud!

Candace is closing in on finishing her therapy after shoulder surgery this year. Richard is mourning the loss of the Redskins football team but is finding a new beginning with the Ravens. We are part of a church small group that meets regularly to study God's word and to pray for needs, while thanking God for His amazing grace. The world needs God's amazing grace. The world needs Christmas! May your Christmas bring to you hope, joy, and a faith that will sustain you through another year.

With love,

Richard and Candace

## A Christmas Message

Beloved,

I was recently in a meeting where the following beautiful prayer was offered. It resonated deeply. It simultaneously captured and spoke to the depth of exhaustion, pain, trauma and lament so prevalent among us today. It also answered a question we didn't realize our souls were asking, "How does a weary world rejoice?" This is not the first Advent and Christmas season when this question was relevant, and yet it has a different profundity this year. May this prayer speak to your heart as it did mine, and may it remind you that even in the darkest of nights, Hope shall be born!

Loving God, in your constant presence with us, we lift our eyes to you and ask,  
How does a weary world rejoice?

How does a world, weary in the realities of war, poverty, violence, division, and despair,  
find a way to rejoice?

In your constant presence among us, a connectional people,  
we turn to you, tired, anxious, doubtful, grieving ... and you receive us.

In your loving presence among us, a beloved community,  
we turn to you, longing for joy, inspiration, healing, hope ... and you receive us.

In your unfailing presence with us among friends, strangers, allies, or foes,  
help us to remember we have stories of hope...we must tell those stories.  
Help us to trust that seed-planting actions of justice will bloom in the spring despite a hardened winter ground ... we must act.  
Help us to pray without ceasing for children, youth, and adults who live in fear and the immense grief of overwhelming losses, whose eyes bear witness, night and day, to unimaginable violence and inhumanities ... we must never forget them.

Loving God, in your constant presence among your people and all of creation,  
open our eyes, lest we forget that Holy Night, when a world long laying "in sin and error, pining,"  
received the gift of our Savior's birth that brought it to its knees to "hear the angel voices."  
Help us to remember that with our Savior's arrival among us "souls felt their worth,"  
and out of despair weary souls rejoiced at the breaking of a "new and glorious morn."

How does a weary world rejoice?  
With gratitude and assurance, that you, as our Loving and ever-present God, are  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, forever and ever.  
Amen.

Blessings and peace, this Christmas and always,  
*Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling*



## The Gifts of the Magi



In January the Church commemorates the Epiphany, the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (or wise men) as conveyed in Matthew 2:1-12.

According to Matthew 2:11, wise men "...opened their treasures and presented [Jesus] with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

The Magi were prophets in their own right, and all of their gifts were prophetic in terms of what each gift revealed to the world about who Jesus was and foreshadowed what would become of his short life on earth.

The gold symbolized Jesus' kingship, the frankincense symbolized his priesthood, and the myrrh symbolized his suffering.

- 01. Carrie White
- 03. Doug Galloway
- 07. Katie Cavallo, Dan Kenyon
- 11. Jane Grays
- 13. Dare Hassan
- 14. Hazel Newell
- 21. Glendy Hernandez
- 26. Doug Weston
- 28. Rebecca Vaughan
- 31. Rick Bergmann



14. Rick and Nancy Zerbe

### Worship Through Giving: How Can I Give?

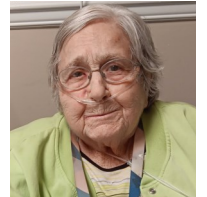
**Online:** [www.eumcbeltsville.com/giving](http://www.eumcbeltsville.com/giving) or scan the QR Code below. This is a great way to keep up with your giving if you are out of town, are sick or if you can't come to church.

**Through the Mail:** mail your offering to 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.



### Please pray for our homebound

Glen and Pauli Colburn  
Bob Humphrey  
Ernie Kilbourne  
Out of state: Lil Mizzer



Ernie is feeling better!

### Christian Love and Sympathy to

Christian Love and Sympathy to the Families of Rosa Stiggers (Grandmother of Greg Stiggers) and Marula Moore (Cousin of Abel Martin)

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Use this link if you wish to attend virtually: <https://zoom.us/j/97839889289?pwd=YzUxZjJKTzUybTJnZEt4UC9qTkI4QT09> or go to zoom.us and click join a meeting.

**The meeting number is 978 3988 9289. The Password is EUMC**  
You can call in on any telephone (cell or landline) at 1-301-715-8592  
If you're calling on the telephone the information is  
**Meeting ID: 978 3988 9289 Passcode: 479360**



## History of Hymns: 'A Charge to Keep I Have'

By Michael C. Hawn

### "A Charge to Keep I Have" Charles Wesley

The United Methodist Hymnal, No. 413

*A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify,  
a never dying soul to save, and fit it for the sky.*

A Charge to Keep I Have 413

1. A charge to keep I have, a God to glo - ri - fy,  
2. To serve the pres - ent age, my call - ing to ful - fill;  
3. Arm me with jeal - ous care, as in thy sight to live,  
4. Help me to watch and pray, and on thy - self re - ly,

a nev - er - dy - ing soul to save, and fit it for the sky,  
O may it all my powers engage to do my Mas - ter's will!  
and oh, thy ser - vant, Lord, pre - pare a strict ac - count to give!  
as - sured, if I my trust be - tray, I shall for - ev - er die.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1762 (Lev. 8:35)  
MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1832

BOYLSTON SM

In their recent book, *Presidential Praise: Our Presidents and Their Hymns* (Mercer University Press, 2008), authors C. Edward Spann and Michael E. Williams Sr. note that the title of President George W. Bush's autobiography, *A Charge to Keep*, was drawn from Charles Wesley's hymn.

The choice of this title is but one indication of the role this hymn has played in the life of President Bush, as well as the influence of this hymn 250 years beyond its composition.

As is the case with hymns by the Wesleys, "A charge to keep I have" is grounded in Scripture. In this case, Leviticus 8:35 is the primary source: "Keep the charge of the Lord, that ye die not" (KJV).

The hymn was included in *Short Hymns on Select Passages of Holy Scripture* (1762), a massive two-volume collection of 2,030 hymns based on biblical texts from Genesis to Revelation. UM Hymnal editor Carlton Young also

points out additional references: 2 Peter 1:10, Hosea 6:2, and Matthew 25:30 and 26:41.

Wesley scholars F. Hildebrandt and Oliver A. Beckerlegge propose in their commentary on the important Wesley hymnbook *A Collection of Hymns for Use of the People Called Methodists* (1780) that Charles Wesley (1708-1788) based his text on Mathew Henry's *Commentary on Leviticus*. Henry notes:

"We have every one of us a charge to keep, an eternal God to glorify, an immortal soul to provide for, needful duty to be done, our generation to serve; and it must be our daily care to keep this charge, for it is the charge of the Lord our Master, who will shortly call us to an account about it, and it is our peril if we neglect it. Keep it 'that ye die not'; it is death, eternal death, to betray the truth we are charged with."

This hymn is an unequivocal call to commitment to follow the Master and to fulfill our vocation through service. The language is unambiguous. Our calling is to save a "never dying soul" and "fit it for the sky"—that is for eternal life with Christ. This eschatological goal is central to Charles Wesley's hymns: Our goal is heaven.

In the second stanza, we find that we fulfill this calling by our service to "the present age." Fulfilling this calling requires us to engage "all [our] powers." The third stanza is a petition that God should "arm [us] with jealous care" as we live in God's sight. Wesley is not afraid to offer a stern admonition that we will one day be required to give "a strict account" of our activities in pursuit of our calling.

The final stanza is perhaps the most uncompromising. The singer begins with the imperative verb—a petition to the unnamed Holy Spirit—to "Help me to watch and pray . . ." Rather than suggesting a positive reward for faithfulness, Wesley warns us of the outcome "if [we] our trust betray": we "shall forever die."

Hymnology scholar Fred D. Gealy notes that there have been several attempts to alter the final lines in order to soften the ominous judgment that is implied. The *Historical Companion to the Influential Hymns Ancient and Modern* concludes the hymn with these two lines:

*And let me ne'er my trust betray, But press to realms on high.*

The British Methodist hymnal, *Hymns and Psalms* (1983) altered the final two lines as follows:

*So shall I not my trust betray, nor love within me die.*

Professor Gealy notes that the "alteration [of these lines] weakens the intensity of the hymn. The Gospel always comes with [both] threat and promise."

This hymn has traditionally been a favorite at annual conferences, or in African-American congregations at the conclusion of Holy Communion. The tune BOYLSTON was composed by the famous New England music educator Lowell Mason (1792-1872) and was first found in his *The Choir, or Union Collection of Church Music* (1832).





## A Raisin In The Sun

### COMING FEBRUARY 2024!



Melvin Smith  
Walter Lee Younger



Stacey Saunders  
Ruth Younger



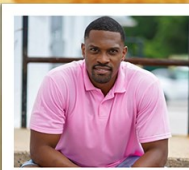
Elizabeth Wiggins  
Lena Younger



Olivia Corbett  
Beneatha Younger



Binta Kassambara  
Travis Younger



Antoine Avery  
Joseph Asagai



Joseph Battley  
George Murchison



Edward Crews  
Bobo



Peter Rouleau  
Karl Lindner

### Cooking with Pastor King: Beet Red Velvet Cake

#### Ingredients:

##### **Beet red velvet cake batter:**

1 3/4 cups all purpose flour  
1 cup sugar  
2 tablespoons natural cocoa powder  
1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1 1/2 cups grated beetroots  
1/3 cup buttermilk  
1 tablespoon distilled white vinegar  
1 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 eggs, at room temperature  
1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temperature

##### **Cream cheese frosting:**

1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened  
1 1/4 cups powdered sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
8 ounces cream cheese, softened.



#### Directions:

##### **Beet red velvet cake:**

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line a 12-hole muffin tin with cupcake liners. Sift flour, sugar, cocoa powder and baking powder into large bowl. Set aside.

Place grated beetroots, buttermilk, white vinegar, and vanilla extract in a food processor. Process until smooth. Add butter and eggs. Process until just combined. Add beetroot mixture into the flour mixture. Gently fold.

Fill each hole in the muffin tin with 1/4 cup of batter. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until a wooden toothpick or skewer inserted into the middle of the cupcakes come out clean. Transfer onto a wire rack to cool completely.

##### **Cream cheese frosting:**

Place butter, half of sugar and vanilla extract in a large bowl. Using an electric mixer, beat until smooth. Add remaining sugar and cream cheese. Combine ingredients, but do not over blend. Frost cupcakes and enjoy!

## A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

God of the ages, you have blessed  
us with another year.

Help us to make room for the blessings  
that are in store for us in the coming months.

May we be open to learn the right lessons,  
even if they hurt a little.

Help us to be patient so that we  
won't miss divine opportunities.

Show us how to be fulfilled without  
material possessions, so that we will not  
miss what it means to be a blessed people.

Enable us to be a blessing so you will recognize us as the  
ones who gave you bread when you were hungry, drink when  
you were thirsty, and clothes  
when you were naked.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*Adaptation of a prayer by the Rev. Kevin B. Smalls*



# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Emmanuel is on Instagram! Follow @eumc_beltsville  Instagram</p> <p> Join us on Facebook! <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/EUMCBeltsville">https://www.facebook.com/groups/EUMCBeltsville</a></p>			 <p><b>EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> BELTSVILLE, MD Life is a journey, don't travel it alone</p>			
	<p>1 New Years Day Office Closed</p> 	<p>2 Office closed</p>	<p>3 9:30-2:30 Office Hours</p> <p>7pm The Lions Club in The Chester Stewart Room</p> <p>7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>4 Office closed</p>	<p>5 9:30-2:30 Office Hours</p>	<p>6 5 pm NA</p>
<p>7 10 am Worship</p> <p>2 pm Zimbabwe Church in Fellowship Hall</p> <p>6 pm Boy Scouts in Chester Stewart Room</p>	<p>8 9:30-2:30 Office Hours</p> <p>7 pm Rehearsal A Raisin In The Sun In The Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>9 Office closed</p>	<p>10 9:30-2:30 Office Hours</p> <p>7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>11 Office closed</p> <p>7 pm Rehearsal A Raisin In The Sun In The Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>12 9:30-2:30 Office Hours</p> <p>7 pm Rehearsal A Raisin In The Sun In The Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>13 5 pm NA</p>
<p>14 10 am Worship</p> <p>6 pm Boy Scouts in Chester Stewart Room</p>	<p>15 9:30-2:30 Office Hours</p> <p>7 pm Rehearsal A Raisin In The Sun In The Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>16 Office closed</p>	<p>17 9:30-2:30 Office Hours</p> <p>7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>18 Office closed</p> <p>7 pm Rehearsal A Raisin In The Sun In The Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>19 9:30-2:30 Office Hours</p> <p>7 pm Rehearsal A Raisin In The Sun In The Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>20 5 pm NA</p>
<p>21 10 am Worship</p> <p>2 pm Zimbabwe Church in Sanctuary</p> <p>6 pm Boy Scouts in Chester Stewart</p>	<p>22 9:30-2:30 Office Hours</p> <p>7 pm Rehearsal A Raisin In The Sun In The Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>23 Office closed</p>	<p>24 9:30-2:30 Office Hours</p> <p>7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>25 Office closed</p> <p>7 pm Rehearsal A Raisin In The Sun In The Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>26 9:30-2:30 Office Hours</p> <p>7 pm Rehearsal A Raisin In The Sun In The Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>27 5 pm NA</p>
<p>28 10 am Worship</p> <p>6 pm Boy Scouts in Chester Stewart Room</p>	<p>29 9:30-2:30 Office Hours</p> <p>7 pm Rehearsal A Raisin In The Sun In The Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>30 Office Closed</p>	<p>31 9:30-2:30 Office Hours</p> <p>7 pm Bible Study</p>			