

Triumph Newsletter

DECEMBER 2018

Preparing Our Hearts During Advent!



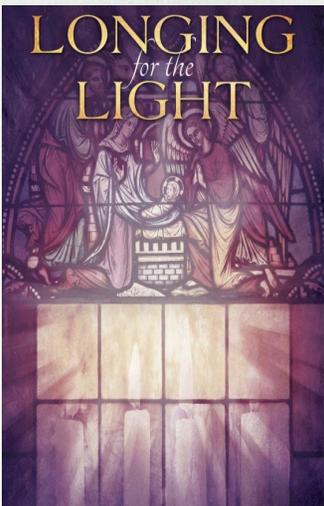
Join us for our annual Family Advent Night and Hanging of the Greens Service all in one fun filled evening! We'll kick things off with dinner together in the Fellowship Hall. Then you'll have a chance to decorate homemade cookies, build an Advent Wreath to take home, make Chrismon ornaments

to hang on your own tree, or create a give-away gift for a neighbor or friend! Afterwards we'll join together for worship, and finish the night off with some caroling down Grant Avenue to share the joy of the season with our neighbors who live closest to the church! We hope you will join us as we kick off the season of Advent together as a church family. Whether you have kids, no kids, are grandparents, or

on your own; this event is designed for everyone! RSVP in worship or call the Church Office — or just come if your schedule permits! A suggested donation of \$25 per family or \$5 per person is requested to help defray costs of dinner and materials.

This Year's Christmas Cantata

The Chancel Choir will present the Christmas Cantata, *Longing for the Light*, on Sunday, December 16th at the 8:15 & 11:00am worship services; and the Praise Band will present a Contemporary version of the Cantata at the 9:40am service. Join us for this special time of Praise & Worship as we approach the birth of our Savior on Christmas.



Upcoming Events

- Dec 2** UMW Mini-Bazaar
- Dec 2** Family Advent Night
- Dec 7** UMW Christmas Party
- Dec 8** Living Nativity
- Dec 16** Christmas Cantata
- Dec 16** Open House at Pastor Abi's
- Dec 23** Children's Christmas Service at 9:40am
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve Services Featuring Candlelight & Communion
 - 7 pm Contemporary
 - 9 pm Traditional
- Dec 25** Christmas Day Dinner 11 am to 2 pm
- Dec 30** Two Special Services of Lessons & Carols
 - 9 am Traditional
 - 10:30 Contemporary

From the Senior Pastor

"It's the sense of touch. In any real city, you walk, you know? You brush past people, people bump into you. In L.A., nobody touches you. We're always behind this metal and glass. I think we miss that touch so much, that we crash into each other, just so we can feel something."

Recently, I was re-watching the 2004 movie "Crash" where one of the main characters Graham, played by Don Cheadle, opens the movie with the words above. I imagine, these same words could just as easily be spoken about our community here in Manassas. "Crash" is a dynamic movie with a simple premise: the lives of 8 main characters from all walks of life, cultures, and races intersect during one 24-hour period. The one common thread is that in some way each character is alienated from their life and their surroundings. Throughout the course of the movie, everyone faces a fork in the road – they are given a resurrection moment of some sort. Some recognize it for what it is and take it, others refuse to embrace the change and consequently, they remain alienated from the hope of a new day.

As I watched the movie mindful of the approaching season of Advent and Christmas, I couldn't help but think of the impact that the birth of Christ made nearly two thousand years ago when the little babe in the manger born in Bethlehem came crashing into our world to remind us we are not alone! History was changed forever – whether we recognize it or not. Jesus came that we might be touched by the love of God, that we might feel something here on earth. Without the hope of Christ, we are destined to aimlessly wander around feeling alienated and alone in our careers, our families, and our very lives, bumping into each other only occasionally when there is conflict, misunderstanding, or dire need.

But God had so much more in mind for our lives. Even in the darkest of times, God loves us and comes crashing into our messy lives with new life through the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. John 3:16 reminds us, "This is how much God loved the world: He sent his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life."



This season, may we crash heart first into the love of the Christ Child so that our lives make sense not only today but eternally as well.

Grace upon grace,
Pastor Abi



Sometimes it feels like the world is broken beyond repair – as if things are just getting worse, as if they will never get better. Sometimes chaos and darkness seem to be winning, and we feel as if we are all alone in this world. But the story of Christmas tells us that God has not left us alone – that God is doing a new thing, and that, even in the darkest time, God's light is shining.

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| December 2 | The Days are Surely Coming
Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Luke 21:25-36 |
| December 9 | Renewing the World Together
Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1: 68-79 |
| December 16 | "Longing for the Light" Advent Cantata
8:15 & 11:00am Traditional Cantata
9:40am Contemporary Cantata
Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Luke 3:1-18 |
| December 23 | In the Most Unexpected Places
8:15 & 11am Traditional Services
9:40am Children's Christmas Service
featuring KidzRock Choir & King's Kids .
Wear your ugly Christmas Sweater!
Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-55 |
| December 30 | Christmas Story with Lessons and Carols
2 special services over Christmas holiday!
9:00am Traditional
10:30am Contemporary |

Did you know? We are planning on printing 1000 post-cards using the image above on one side and information about our Christmas Eve services on the other. These will be used to give to our Living Nativity guests and for each of us to share with our friends and neighbors too. We are doing this because we want our community to know they are not alone either! We are here for them through worship and all the other ministries we offer throughout the year because Christ is here with us – Emmanuel! Merry Christmas!

Christmas Missions

Angel Shop for Loch Lomond Elementary School:

Want to help children in our community that may not have a wonderful Christmas? St Thomas is hosting the Angel Shop for our partner school, Loch Lomond Elementary School. The money has been donated to buy the gifts so we are looking for "elves" to help shop for the gifts and then a few people to host Santa's Angel Shop on December 17 and 19 from 5—8:00 pm at the school. Shoppers may shop from December 2—16 whenever it is convenient for you. If you would like to help, please sign up on your connect card in worship or contact Lori Perez at megmar27@hotmail.com or 703-967-8863. Thank you for helping the children in our community experience the love of Jesus.

A "Senior Christmas":

Thanks to all who took a tag for the "Seniors", permanent residents of Manassas Health and Rehab. Please put your gifts in gift bags, if at all possible and return them to the church no later than December 9. Gift bags make it easier for them to open. If that's not possible it is okay to wrap them. Make sure you fasten the tag securely on the gift. The gifts will be distributed in time for Christmas. For questions, please contact Cathy Campbell, at ssteechur@yahoo.com or 703-369-3220

Un Trim a Tree:

Thank you so much for helping 64 kids from 30 families enjoy a very Merry Christmas! Please bring your wrapped gifts back to church by Sunday, December 9. If you would like to help with sorting and delivery on Monday morning December 17, contact Linda Sears at imcrafti@aol.com.

Advent Mission Bags:

We invite your family to participate in helping those in need during this holiday season. Pick up an Advent bag at the Kings Kids check in area on Sunday morning with full instructions. Please use the attached Advent calendar to make this a special fun way for your family to observe Advent while you fill a grocery bag for the St. Thomas Food Pantry.

Please return your filled and decorated bag to church on Sunday, December 16 and place under the Christmas tree in the Narthex. Thank you and have a blessed Advent season!

St Thomas 18th Annual Christmas Day Dinner



Thank you to all who have taken cards off our board and/or signed up to help. It takes many hands to prepare this gift for our community. If you have not yet taken a card or signed up, won't you please consider how you can help us? Please remember that all food items EXCEPT desserts need to be in the church kitchen by Saturday, Dec 22. Desserts may be brought in Monday, Dec 24.

If you know of anyone who is in need of a meal delivered, please let us know. You may email Janel Weed at: jbgirl211@yahoo.com or call 703-507-9075. We send meals to our local police stations, fire stations, hospitals and any homebound sweethearts we know about.

We invite all of you to come, bring your families and friends, and enjoy a scrumptious dinner with great fellowship, singing, special moments and memories. We will be serving dinner from 11:00am -2:00pm.

The 2018 Christmas Day Dinner Team

United Methodist Women



UMW Mini-Bazaar

Sunday, December 2
In the Fellowship Hall

In case you missed the Bazaar or remembered one more gift you need, you have one final opportunity to get gifts and Christmas décor from our Crafters at the Holiday Mini-Bazaar. Sunday, December 2, the Crafters will be in the Fellowship Hall all morning. All proceeds will go to local and international missions supported by the United Methodist Women.

White House Ornaments are still on sale. These make excellent gifts. Stop in the church office or give them a call. Cost is \$21 each .

This year the ornaments celebrate the presidency of Harry Truman and the addition of the Truman Balcony to the South Portico of the White House.



UMW Christmas Party

The United Methodist Women's Christmas Party will be held on Friday of December, December 7 from 6– 9pm at the Manassas campus, Room 300. Please bring a dish or dessert to share and a wrapped and untagged gift to participate in the Yankee Swap gift exchange.

This is always a highlight of the season. Plan to have an evening of great fun and Christmas cheer!! You do not have to be an active UMW member to participate. All ladies are welcome! Questions? Email Pat Dodson andyandpatd@yahoo.com.

Sunbeam Children's Center Thanksgiving Feast



Drive-Thru Nativity

“Come One! Come All!”

It’s that time of year again! St. Thomas UMC has presented a Drive-Thru Nativity to the community in December for over 20 years. The presentation consists of 12 scenes located around the campus of the church. Only one night of the Drive-Thru Nativity will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 5:30 – 8:30pm (rain date, Dec. 9).

Of course, there is more to a Drive-Thru Nativity than the actors – set builders, greeters, traffic controllers, food providers, scene managers, carolers, luminary lighters. Did we mention food providers? You can be part of the excitement! Young or old, family or friend – there is a spot for you! Scene players rotate through a 30-minute scene duration. This requires *two sets* of players for each scene. Each group will be “on stage” three times over the course of the evening. The math says that easily 75 people are needed to fill all of the roles. Then there are the hands needed to build the sets and tear them down after the show is over and a number of behind the scenes support folks – scene managers, food providers, etc. Now we are at a minimum of 100 people. There is a spot for you!

Please consider participating in the Drive-Thru Nativity this year. It truly is a gift to the community that shares the story of the night that changed the world forever! Generally, 250-300 cars come through, sometimes twice! STUMC members make this event what it is every year. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Renee Kinnear at renee@rrkinnear.com or Ron Campbell at rcampbell46@yahoo.com or the church office.



News from the Kitchen

We have a new kitchen refrigerator! Our old one is still gimping along but we know it won’t last much longer. We will continue to use it for overflow of items until it no longer works. If we have a lot of food items for the Tuesday Night Dinners we may transfer some of the other food items to the old refrigerator so please look both places if you need something. Thank you.

It’s been great seeing many of you at the Tuesday Night Dinners. Thank you for coming to dine with us. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to come dine with you on Tuesdays. If it’s their first time, the dinner is free for them. Remember too that we offer a “to go” option with dinner. We will have 3 meals in December and then enjoy some time off between Christmas and New Year’s week. Tuesday Night Dinner returns on January 8, 2019.

The online sign-ups are working well, if you miss church this is a great way to let us know you are coming.

Our December menus are:

Dec. 4

Chicken and Waffles
Cole Slaw
Dessert

Dec. 11

Chili and Baked Potato Bar
Dessert

Dec. 18

Christmas Feast



Dec. 25

Christmas Day Dinner
We’re serving from 11am-2pm
Come volunteer and come eat!

Thank you & Merry Christmas!

Frank Priest & Janel Weed
on behalf of The Kitchen Ministry Team

Kids Care 2

In November we helped with the Operation Christmas Child project by helping sort items and prep boxes for the packing day. Our kids also got to pack a box that will go to help another kid have an exciting Christmas! We ended the night with some ice cream at Baskin-Robbins!

NEXT GATHERING is January 11, 6PM-8PM: All 3rd-5th

Graders are invited to next month's gathering in Fellowship Hall as we learn more about Therapy Dogs in our community (dogs are coming to meet us!).

Every month we gather for food, fun, faith, and a hands on service project. Plan to join us this month and bring a friend!



This year our kids will tell the story of Christmas through drama and song on Sunday December 23 during the 9:40 worship service! We hope your child will decide to join us in Kings Kids this month as we prepare for this celebration.



THE PACK AM: SUNDAYS AT 9:40 AM in Room 305 Students 6th-12th grade.

THE PACK: Meet at 5:30pm on the 1ST, 3RD, AND 5TH TUESDAYS. All students grades 6th-12th are welcome!

UPCOMING PACK MEETINGS

December 4: Topic-Family

December 18: Christmas Party and sock gift exchange!



Pack Friendsgiving 2018: We have a tradition of getting together with an adult Sunday School class for a Thanksgiving feast. This year 28 people enjoyed our potluck style Friendsgiving complete with a turkey, delicious side dishes, and of course lots of dessert! Another highlight of the night was when four teams competed to build the most creative turkey out of a pumpkin and given supplies. This is always a great time to fellowship, eat, and build relationships across generations!





PRESCHOOL — BIRTHDAY BASH

Happy birthday, Jesus! Yes, we know that Christmas is all about Jesus' birthday, but do our preschoolers know? It will be a new idea to some of them. We have the best jobs in the world because we get to share with preschoolers for the first time that Christmas is all about Jesus' birthday and we are going to celebrate it BIG!

We also want our preschoolers to know that the reason we celebrate Jesus' birthday is because Jesus is God's Son. God's Son deserves a celebration as big as Christmas and a birthday bash as big as what we're going to give Him this month! He is that special!

So, gather up all the birthday celebration you can and prepare to party all month long! It's not just balloons and party hats. We are sharing the true story that God gave us His only Son, Jesus, and HE is worth celebrating!



ELEMENTARY — Undercover Christmas

God's compassion for the people He created led to the greatest act of love the world has ever seen. God sent His only Son to make us right with Him. We reflect that compassion when we care about others and show them how much God loves them. That's what this month is all about in our Elementary classes.

BOTTOM LINE: Compassion is a reflection of the character of God.

MEMORY VERSE: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16, NIV

King's Kids

Our ministry with children seeks to share the faith with the next generation of children from birth through 5th grade. The primary ministry occurs on Sunday mornings. Check it out...



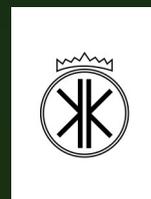
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT STUMC:

Nursery, 0-2 years old:

Provided during all three worship services from 8:00 AM—12:15 pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9:40 am

Preschool Kids, Room 107



Elementary Kids, Worship Center

KIDS CHURCH @ 11:00 am

Kindergarten-2nd Grade

Begins in the Sanctuary and ends on the 1st floor.



November in Kings Kids our kids learned all about cooperation and the importance of working together! Our K-2nd Grade class took this idea seriously and worked together to collect 21 boxes of cereal for our Food Pantry. Awesome job guys!



Christmas Eve SERVICES

Featuring Candlelight & Communion

7pm *Contemporary* | 9pm *Traditional*

Childcare Provided



St. Thomas
United Methodist Church

MANASSAS CAMPUS

8899 Sudley Road
Manassas, VA 20110
Phone: 703-368-5161

Abi Foerster - *Senior Pastor*

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Sundays 8:15, 9:40 and 11:00 AM

Tuesdays 6:30PM

stthomasumc.org

Haymarket Church
Where Faith & Life Connect

HAYMARKET CAMPUS

Sunday Meeting Place:
Gravelly Elementary School
4670 Waverly Farm Dr.
Haymarket, VA 20169

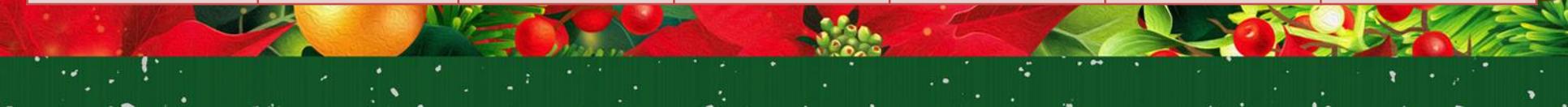
Brian Johnson - *Campus Pastor*

WORSHIP SERVICE TIME

10:00 AM

haymarketchurch.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December Manassas Campus Calendar						1
2 UMW Mini-Bazaar 5:00pm Family Advent Night & Hanging of the Greens 5:00pm DC Homeless Mission Trip	3 2:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive	4 5:30pm The PACK Mtg 7:15pm Trustees Mtg	5 6:00pm Alzheimer's Networking Group	6 7:00pm Missions Committee	7 6:00pm UMW Christmas Party	8 5:30pm Living Nativity
9 Rain Date – Living Nativity	10 6:00pm Evangelism & Outreach Committee	11 1:00pm Dorcas Circle 7:15pm Finance Committee	12	13 7:00pm Stewardship Committee	14	15 11:00am Memory Café
16 8:15am & 11:00am Christmas Cantata 4:00pm Open House at Pastor Abi's	17	18 5:30pm The PACK Mtg 7:15pm Church Council	19	20	21	22
23 9:40am Children's Christmas Program	24 Christmas Eve 7:00pm Contemporary 9:00pm Traditional	25 Christmas 11:00am Christmas Day Dinner	26	27	28	29
30 9:00am Traditional 10:30am Contemporary	31					
Weekly Schedule (subject to change due to holidays or other events – check with your coordinator)						
12:15pm Joyful Noise Singers	7:30pm St. Thom Cats	5:30pm Tuesday Night Dinner 6:15pm KidzRock Choir 6:30pm Worship 7:30pm Praise Band 8:00pm AA Meeting	10:00am Quilts for Kids 6:45pm Chancel Choir	7:30pm Bells of St. Thomas	9:30am Mom's Group	8:00am Ladies Emmaus Group 8:00am Men's Breakfast Group 9:00am Food Pantry



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December Birthdays						1 Peggy Lawlor
2 Denise Strickland	3 Cary McMahon	4 Monique Buchanan Thomas Davison	5	6 Carolyn Glade	7 Bill Bixby Suzanne Hossein	8 James Mouser Elizabeth Goldfarb Caroline Luetkenhaus
9	10 Matt Rea Pat Whitehead	11 Jacob Wagner Jenalynn Weed	12 Tim Haggerty	13 Marjorie Must	14 Philip Adams David Martin Brandon Hayes Jocile Johnson	15
16	17 Mason Sanchez Danielle Harcup	18 Cheryl Wagner Brittany Massey	19 Katie Luetkenhaus Kevin Obaugh	20 Sybil Johnston Leonard Fick Lauren Goldfarb	21 Virginia Bixby Stephen Hammack	22 Dennis Zahorchak Claire Yeomans Mike Sallada
23 Paul Petrillo	24	25 Christmas John Verosko Chris Haggerty	26	27 Missie Duffy	28	29 Giovanni Schoch Donovan Keyser Trudi Grab
30 Tracy Spencer John Fellenbaum Robin Gardner Martha Jones	31 New Year's Eve					

