




Hunt's Memorial United Methodist Church

The Point

December 2020 - January 2021



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Staff

Travis Knoll
Pastor

Beth Woody
*Administrative Assistant
&
Editor of "The Point"*

Patrick Weikle
Music Director

Jim Holford
Praise Leader

Service Schedule

10:00 a.m.
Livestreamed
Contemporary Worship
and
Traditional Worship
on alternating Sundays

11:00 a.m.
Outdoor
Sunday School

Hunt's Church Preschool
www.huntschurchpreschool.com

Grace and peace, brothers and sisters in Christ at Hunt's -

In preparation for writing this, I read last year's letter. A lot has changed. Last year at this time, we were getting ready for a "normal" Christmas, with a carol sing at Blakehurst, a full slate of in person worship planned for Christmas Eve, and a kind of innocence and expectation of "normal life" that is now almost hard to believe.

Christmas this year will be different. Much less gathering in person, much less singing together. Much less partying. Does that mean Christmas this year will be lesser? Maybe in some ways. On the other hand, there remains much to be grateful for and to look forward to this year.

We still celebrate the birth of Jesus in the world 2000 and more years ago. We look forward to celebrating God's grace and forgiveness offered to all through his own and only, begotten son who when he died for crimes he didn't commit, but we are guilty of, said on his cross "Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing." This son of God knew God because he was "one with the Father" and used his time among us to show us God's love in completely unpredictable, but overwhelmingly powerful ways.

JESUS.

That is the reason for the season, and even without parties, singing together, and gathering in person, it remains true.

Today (November 23) in Bible Study, among other passages, we read John 6:19-21, which reads: 'When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.' We noted that we are often afraid, and circumstances (being a boat in the storm, sometimes literally) are hard and threatening, time can crawl - with 5 minutes of stress feeling like forever.

ALSO INCLUDED

December Calendar

January Calendar

Finance News

Hunt's Church
Preschool

Moments in Time
*Memories from
Christmases Past*

Missions

Thank You Note

Christmas Eve
Services

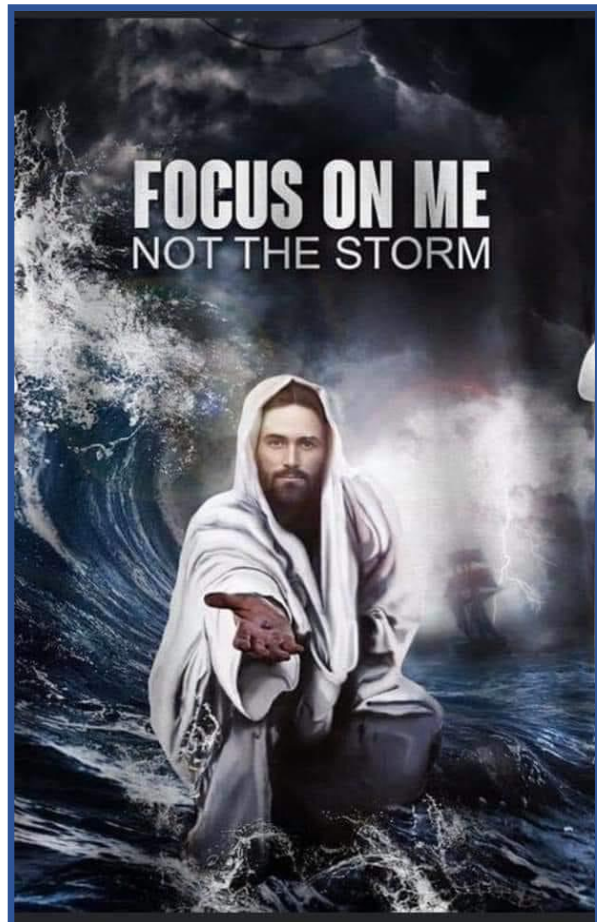
Clothing Shed

Then, when that fear and stress dissolve as Jesus arrives, time can seem to jump through the remaining efforts, and we find ourselves suddenly on the shoreline of hope, peace, and stability. Sometimes, as the songwriter says, he calms the storm, and other times he calms his child.

This reminds me of one of my favorite songs: "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace." The things of earth this season are hard, and strange, and sometimes very discouraging. Yet the power of Jesus' face is undiminished.

Christmas is coming, and we are going to get ready. Ready not nearly as much for the parties, for the gatherings from the 4 corners of the earth, for the in-person gatherings and celebrations. Not even this year for the singing. Our singing will be on the radio, our experience of community more through decorations and lights, and connected through our computers and phones. But still, Christmas is coming, and the reason to be excited is unchanged – get excited because God came, and is coming again. Jesus, the light of the world, comes into the darkest places, bringing peace, hope, and goodwill. May our season be blessed, as we welcome God into our hearts, homes, and lives.

Godspeed.
Pastor Travis



December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 6:00 pm Zoom Advent Gathering 7:30 pm Zoom Music Enrichment with Patrick	4	5
6 ADVENT 2 10:00 am Livestreamed (Facebook) Praise Service 11:00 am Outdoor Sunday School Sr. High TBD	7 7:00 pm Trustees Zoom Meeting	8	9 12:00 Noon "Casserole Ministry" <i>Casseroles due</i> 7:00 pm Zoom Finance Committee Meeting	10 6:00 pm Zoom Advent Gathering 7:30 pm Zoom Music Enrichment with Patrick	11	12
13 ADVENT 3 10:00 am Livestreamed (Facebook) Traditional Service 11:00 am Outdoor Sunday School Sr. High TBD	14 7:00 pm Zoom Preschool Meeting	15	16 7:00 pm Zoom Church Council Meeting	17 6:00 pm Zoom Advent Gathering 7:30 pm Zoom Music Enrichment with Patrick	18	19
20 ADVENT 4 10:00 am Livestreamed (Facebook) Praise Service 11:00 am Outdoor Sunday School Sr. High TBD	21	22	23	24 Office open ½ day <i>Schedule of Christmas Eve Services in this Newsletter</i>	25 Christmas Day  Office Closed	26
27 10:00 am Livestreamed (Facebook) Traditional Service 11:00 am Outdoor Sunday School Sr. High TBD	28 Office Closed	29	30	31 		



January					1 Office Closed	2
3 10:00 am Livestreamed (Facebook) Praise Service 11:00 am Sunday School Sr. High TBD	4 7:00 pm Zoom Trustees Meeting	5	6	7 7:30 pm Zoom Music Enrichment with Patrick	8	9
10 10:00 am Livestreamed (Facebook) Traditional Service 11:00 am Sunday School Sr. High TBD	11	12	13 7:00 pm Zoom Finance Committee Meeting	14 7:30 pm Zoom Music Enrichment with Patrick	15	16
17 10:00 am Livestreamed (Facebook) Praise Service 11:00 am Sunday School Sr. High TBD	18 The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Observance Office Closed	19	20	21 7:30 pm Zoom Music Enrichment with Patrick	22	23
24 10:00 am Livestreamed (Facebook) Traditional Service 11:00 am Sunday School Sr. High TBD	25	26	27 7:00 pm Zoom Church Council Meeting	28 7:30 pm Zoom Music Enrichment with Patrick	29	30
31 10:00 am Livestreamed (Facebook) Praise Service 11:00 am Sunday School Sr. High TBD						



LET'S END ON A HIGH NOTE!

No matter how much we might wish to do so, 2020 will be hard to forget. So much hardship, disruption, discord, and challenge – but God is still present and able to guide us through it all. As you can see from the table below, our church is in good financial shape through October due to the faithfulness of your giving and the tight management of expenses.

	2020 Actual through October	2020 Year-To-Date Budget	Difference	2020 Budget
Income	\$309,063	\$312,116	- \$3,053	\$386,662
Expense	\$307,061	\$348,311	\$41,250	\$418,445
Difference	\$2,002	- \$36,195	\$38,197	- \$31,783

So, if our finances look good, why did I title this article, “Let’s end on a high note!”? Well, our budget expectations for offering for November and December are extremely aggressive, and the early look at November’s offering suggests we may fall short. Furthermore, the cancellation of our traditional Turkey Dinner will deliver a blow to our finances. As a result, I would ask all of you to consider making a special year-end gift to the church in addition to your regular offering. If we all give a little extra, we will indeed end the year on a high note. Although we budgeted to have a shortfall this year, wouldn’t it be amazing to end this bizarre year at a breakeven level?

In closing out this update, I would be remiss if I didn’t thank the members of the congregation for all you have done to keep Hunt’s Church alive and vital this year. Not only through your faithful giving, but also by the time and energy you gave – be it making Sunday worship possible, bringing back Sunday School this summer, maintaining the church property, reopening the preschool to the community this fall, making an impact in our broader community through programs like Food for Thought and ACTC, providing scholarships to many worthy students. So many ways you have been a blessing to the church and the community – thank you!

Merry Christmas!

Yours in Christ,

Ted Ochs

Finance Committee Chair



I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the holidays! We are staying very busy at the preschool. We are working on Holiday gifts for our parents, decorating a school Christmas tree, learning Christmas songs and learning about the true meaning of Jesus at Christmas. Although we will not be having our Holiday pageant this year, we still expect Santa to stop by and visit us! Fingers crossed!

As a preschool, we participated in the Thanksgiving outreach with the church. We collected food items for ACTC. We collected 16 complete bags. Thank you to Sam Bayne for helping pack and deliver our bags! For our Christmas outreach, we are joining with Empower4Life and each class is adopting a child in need. We will be collecting clothing, bath necessities, school supplies, toys, etc. for each child. The children really enjoy helping families in need. We spend time discussing why we are so thankful for what we have, and we discuss ways we can help others. We are understanding that to help others we can hold the door, say hello, be a good listener, be a friend to someone, etc.



Registration for the 2021-2022 school year has started for families that are currently enrolled in the preschool. On December 1, registration will open to the public. Our Kindergarten is filling up. If you know of anyone looking for a great preschool, please send them our way. Also, remember discounts are given to church members as well as grandchildren of church members.

The staff at Hunt's Church Preschool would like to give a huge thank you to the members of the Hunt's congregation. We really appreciate the teacher gratification fund that was collected for us. Such a big surprise! Really nice to feel so appreciated! Thank you to all that donated!



I would like to share with you a prayer that the 4-year-old classes say at snack and lunch time. I think it really expresses how happy we all are to be together each day here at Hunt's Church Preschool.

Thank you, God for happy hearts, for rain and sunny weather. Thank you, God for this our food, and that we are together. Amen.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! TO ALL

I know this holiday season may not be the same but let's make it the best!



Thank you for your continued support!

Kelley Unger

Director - Hunt's Church Preschool





Moments in Time: Happy Memories from Christmases Past

In the 1980's, I began interviewing some long-time members and publishing excerpts from these interviews in the church's newsletter. However, by the mid-1990's, my church history work fell by the wayside due to increased family and work responsibilities. Fortunately, I retained copies of these earlier newsletter entries, so am able to share some happy Hunt's memories with you from Christmases past.

(Information shared by Cheryl Eisenhauer)

Mae Hales (1899-1991) - *Mae began attending Hunt's at age 4 in 1903. She joined the Church at age 10 in 1909, making her a member for 82 years at the time of her death.* Mae recalled that for many years she and her family walked to Hunt's every Sunday morning and then back again most Sunday evenings. She said that on Christmas mornings they would have to start off very early in the dark to make sure they made it to church for the traditional 6 a.m. Christmas morning service. She also remembered that she and other Hunt's children and their families would attend the traditional Christmas morning open house held by William Fell Johnson at his family estate on Falls Road in Rockland. Mae remembers Mr. Johnson handing out candy, oranges, and coins to children and adults alike. "You never knew how much money you might get. He had all these different coins spread out and whatever he happened to pick up when it was your turn is what you got."

Helen Howard (1911-1999) - *Helen began attending Hunt's at age 8 in 1919. She joined the Church at age 13 in 1924, making her a member for 75 years at the time of her death.* Helen also remembered Hunt's 6 a.m. Christmas morning services and recalled how beautiful the church looked those mornings all aglow in candlelight. She particularly remembered that having begun singing in church at age 9, she would often stand in the church balcony to sing a solo on Christmas morning. Helen also recalled the children's program on Christmas Eve where Findley Smith as Santa Claus would hand out boxes of hard candy to each child. As an adult, Helen's Christmas memories revolved around all the smocked children's dresses she made for the Church's annual Christmas bazaar, and the many Christmas tea rings and other baked goods she made for the bake table.

Dick Roller (1919-1996) - *Dick was Christened at Hunt's and joined the Church at age 11 in 1930, making him a member for 66 years at the time of his death.* When Dick recalled Christmas at Hunt's, he said he would always remember "Aunt" Mary Andrew, a prominent member of Hunt's congregation. "I remember her driving her big old Buick around with me and fellow MYF members piled in, delivering holiday food baskets to the needy. And I remember how on Christmas morning she would drive through Riderwood beeping her horn, picking us up to deliver us to Church in time for the 6 a.m. youth cantata we used to perform." Dick also remembered how for years he and his future wife, Dottie, were always chosen to be Mary and Joseph. "Even in the year we were married, and in our 20's, we were Mary and Joseph", he said.

May you too have many happy memories of Christmases at Hunt's.



MISSIONS

THE CASSEROLE MINISTRY - It was fantastic to see the freezer full of casseroles in November. I heard from Earl's Place and they were so excited. Thanks to all of the great cooks and to Samantha for inspiring us to make more casseroles.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - Marcia delivered 5 bags of grocery items to Ridge Ruxton on October 23 and another 5 bags on October 30. Also, Marcia delivered gift cards to the social worker, Jay Dover, who delivered them to the families' homes during the weekend. He said the recipients were very grateful. In consultation with the families, it was decided that gift cards to Target would be substituted for the food bags at least in November and December, given the challenges presented by the pandemic.

Although Food for Thought (Baltimore County) is distributing \$50 gift cards monthly to students at other schools in lieu of weekly food backpacks, we can afford to do \$75 gift cards. Because of the situation with these families, we are trying to address the families' needs. Marcia delivered them at the beginning of November. Jay said that there was a great need for Thanksgiving Baskets, so we purchased 5 bags like those for ACTC and a turkey for each family. They were delivered on November 23. I am sure this will be a great relief for the families.

CHILDFUND INTERNATIONAL AND UNBOUND - Each of the children we support received a Christmas donation that can be used at the little store in their town. You would be surprised how far a little money goes for these children.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT PROJECT - We ordered several presents for the gift bags for the Head Start programs and we will add one \$5 gift card. Can you imagine how much fun the kids will have at the Dollar Store. Many thanks to everyone who has donated either money or cards. You are the best!

EARL'S PLACE - We are planning to purchase gifts for the men to give to their children and great grandchildren. We have gotten some of the requests already.

BOARD OF CHILD CARE - Remember February is cookie month. Look for more information. we will probably be asking for financial donations because of COVID.

Please remember January is Food for Thought month.

During these tough times, we may be asked to take on more families Please make a donation.

*Use the designated envelope in your packet, donate electronically, or mail a check to the church office
(1912 Old Court Road - Towson, MD 21204)*



*Welcome Robin Bosley as the new point person
for our Food for Thought ministry.*

**REMEMBER TO USE YOUR ADVENT ENVELOPES. THESE DONATIONS SUPPORT
CAMP HOPE AND BALTIMORE COUNTY CHRISTIAN WORKCAMP.**

Lynn Henss

WITH HEART-FELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION

Thank you to so many folks in the Hunt's family who sent me sympathy cards for the recent death of my oldest brother, Phil, who died at the age of 91. He was my last sibling, so the words of care and comfort were especially important.

Merle Bayne



Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

All of you are familiar with the lovely, high-quality face masks that Mary Fredlund made during 2020.

Mary recently compiled a book of prayers. Her prayers are enhanced by lovely photographs that she has taken at home and while traveling.

God has truly blessed Mary with the gift of "prayer language." Her prayers are right-on-point. They are so personal, individualized, and heart-felt.



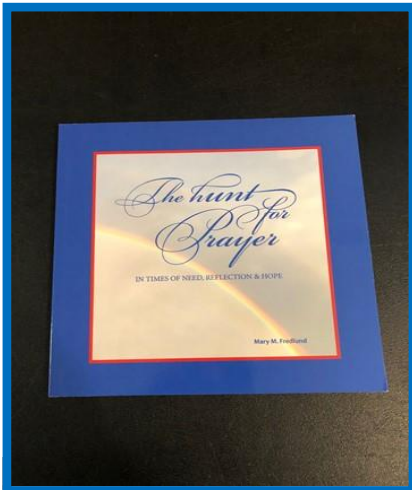
Mary Fredlund's book: *The hunt for Prayer*

The cost of each book is the publisher's cost plus a donation to Hunt's Missions.

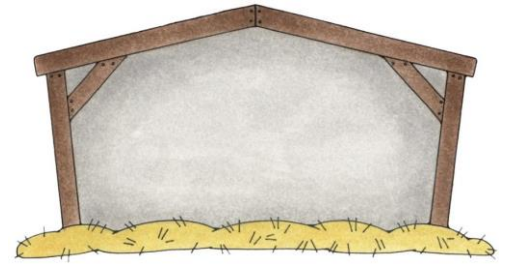
Purchasing online, the cost is \$36.95 per book.

<https://www.blurb.com/b/10351390-the-hunt-for-prayer>

Purchasing from the church office, the cost is only \$30.00 per book due to a bulk order discount we received.



CHRISTMAS EVE



This year is presenting
a lot of challenges
and adjustments.

Christmas Eve is another.

At this point in time, we are planning to have the **"family service"** at 4 p.m. outdoors in our cars, with a pageant done in separate "scenes" involving fewer children and limited weather exposure for those kids – who will be in their cars (out of the weather) when they are not "on stage."

If you have not been to one of our outdoor services, we have an FM transmitter that can be listened to on your car radio, tuned to 88.7 Mhz on your FM dial, if you are close by (in the parking lot or a neighbor's house, basically).

That means we can be relatively separated, relatively comfortable, and relatively capable of putting together a pageant all at the same time. Dave & Lisa McMillan are working out the details in Sunday School. If your family would like to participate, they encourage your attendance at one or more Sunday School sessions at 11 a.m. outdoors at Hunt's.

At this point in time, the **late service is planned for 9 p.m. and to be livestreamed.** If we can gather, we are planning to go outdoors for the conclusion of the service, to sing "Silent Night" together, unless we are in really bitter weather.

We hope to "see" you there.

Travis





(Shed on Hunt's Memorial U.M. Church's property near the Agapé House)

Items Accepted:

All clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillow cases, drapes, and stuffed toys.
(Your donation **will not** be cut up or shredded.)

Please ... no rags, fabric scraps, toys or household goods.

Please understand that these items are a hardship and expense to dispose of.



**To help keep your donations clean and dry,
please put your donations in sturdy plastic bags.**

THANK YOU

for the donations that we have already received!



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Towson, MD 21204**

*Address Service
Requested*

