



Hunt's Memorial United Methodist Church

The Point



February 2021



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Staff

Rev. Travis Knoll
Pastor

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

Patrick Weikle
Choir 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
Kelley Unger, Director

To the sinners and saints (these are the same people) of Hunt's:

2020 was an interesting year. I just read my newsletter article from February 2020, and it is clear that we had no idea what was coming... As the first newsletter of 2021, it is appropriate to look backward and also forward.

So, first backward. 2020 was hard. For me, the hardness was about to begin when I wrote that newsletter article. On February 14, my father died. Since my mother died 16 years ago, I am now an orphan. On March 13, the Covid lockdown began, a 15-day "flatten the curve" lockdown that turned into 10 months and the counting of slowing the spread. A summer of pent-up frustration expressed itself in mostly peaceful protests in many U.S. cities and elsewhere, and an election highlighted the divisions within the body politic. Perhaps the cruelest aspect was the isolation and separation of loved ones from each other. Funerals for people who had not been able to visit their grandparents for months occurred. Depression, suicide, and overdose deaths are up 30%, clear indicators of social and emotional stress within the community. Poverty, both locally and globally, increased rapidly and is causing hardship and suffering. It was a hard year.

Yet within 2020, a number of important things happened. Community continues, even in limited forms. Our outdoor worship was well received, relatively safe, and pretty effective. We have been dragged, kicking and screaming, into a computer age when Zoom meetings are commonplace, live streamed worship is happening weekly, and we continue to pray for and love one another even at a distance. As weather improves, hopefully we can resume outdoor in-person worship – it matters that we continue to interact and worship together. The faithfulness of Hunt's congregation in terms of ministry outreach, financial commitment, and flexibility has been demonstrated, and we have much to celebrate even in the midst of a trying time. Collectively, we have much to be grateful for.

**Also included
in this newsletter:**

February Calendar

Thank You
from Kristina Bayne

Moment in Time

Financial News

Missions

Thank You(s) from
Pastor Travis,
Beth Woody, Jim Holford,
and
Kelley Unger
(in *Preschool article*)

Preschool News

Preschool's **Purple Friday**
Pictures

Senior High News

Ash Wednesday News

Lenten Study News

Used Clothing Shed

Personally, God has been kind. Today, I find myself the Chair of the Board of a public charity founded with funds from my father's estate, and already doing work that my parents would have found valuable and important. In that work, I see God operating to potentially magnify this gift and transform it into a vehicle for God's people to continue to support one another across continents. I marvel at what God is doing, seeing God at work is the greatest source of comfort and strength that I have ever experienced. The good people at Hunt's have also been generous with me and my family, both financially and also in supporting us through a LOT of transitions, all of which were far from seamless or cost-less. Thank you for your generosity and grace.

Now, looking forward – what will 2021 bring? We will see together, but there are reasons to be optimistic. Vaccines created in about 9 months (this was supposed to be impossible) are being distributed even as I type this letter. God's people continue to be faithful, both at Hunt's (in year 248) and throughout the world. Politics appear to be ready to take a backseat, hopefully, to getting about doing the work of living. With vaccinations becoming commonplace, our economy, including such strange things as movies, plays, concerts, in-person sporting events, and for us especially, in-person worship, gatherings, and fellowship are, we hope, soon to once again be part of our lives.

Resumption of "normal" life will allow families, holidays, friends, parties, and such currently verboten things as handshakes and hugs to once again occur. It may be that masks are a relatively permanent part of our lives together, though I do miss seeing people's smiles. Facial expressions are important to our experience of connection, but we do what we must, and what cares for one another effectively.

In the meantime, keep praying, keep loving, keep hoping, and with God's help, perhaps 2021 will indeed be a new beginning.

Godspeed – *Pastor Travis*



February						
	1 10:00 am Zoom "Unshakeable Hope" Study 7:00 pm Zoom Trustees Meeting	2	3	4 7:30 pm Zoom Music Enrichment with Patrick	5	6
7 10:00 am Livestreamed Traditional Service 11:00 am Outdoor Sunday School Sr. High TBD	8 10:00 am Zoom "Unshakeable Hope" Study	9	10 7:00 pm Zoom Finance Committee Meeting	11 7:30 pm Zoom Music Enrichment with Patrick	12	13 
14 10:00 am Livestreamed Praise Service 11:00 am Outdoor Sunday School Sr. High TBD <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15 Presidents' Day 10:00 am Zoom "Unshakeable Hope" Study	16	17  7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Livestreamed Service	18 6:00 pm Zoom Lenten Study 7:30 pm Zoom Music Enrichment with Patrick	19	20
21 10:00 am Livestreamed Traditional Service 11:00 am Outdoor Sunday School Sr. High TBD	22 10:00 am Zoom Lenten Study	23	24 7:00 pm Zoom Church Council Meeting	25 6:00 pm Zoom Lenten Study 7:30 pm Zoom Music Enrichment with Patrick	26	27
28 10:00 am Livestreamed Praise Service 11:00 am Outdoor Sunday School Sr. High TBD						

Thank you!
♡

Dear Hunt's Church,

Thank you very much for the Thanksgiving bonus. I truly appreciate you thinking of me and all of the other teachers.

Love, Kristina Bayne

Moment in Time...February 1933

On Sunday, February 12, 1933, just an hour before Sunday School classes were to begin, Hunt's Church was gutted by fire. As people started to gather for worship that morning, they stood and watched in disbelief as their beloved church burned.

According to news reports at the time, portraits of Phineas Hunt and various Hunt family memorials were destroyed, among them the large stained-glass window that had been dedicated to William Beall Hunt in 1917. As quoted from the *Baltimore News*, "As the sun sank yesterday, it shone through a dark hole in the wall where the large stained-glass window had been." Thought to have started in the lower level by an overheated furnace, the fire quickly raged throughout the stone structure, completely destroying the building's interior, leaving behind nothing but blackened walls, warped floors, and water-soaked furniture. Thankfully, the church's steeple and bell, though damaged, were able to be restored. The Lutherville Fire Department, which vigorously fought to save the structure, offered its building as a temporary site until the church could be rebuilt.

Amazingly, just four months later, the church was completely restored. The new structure was officially dedicated on Sunday, June 18, 1933 as part of Hunt's 160th anniversary celebration. Reports at the time credited the quick turnaround to the congregation's "heroic zeal and unending faith, financed by insurance and a few gifts." Hunt's pastor at the time was Reverend John E. Holt. The building committee consisted of J.G. Hales, Chairman; J. E. Holt, Secretary; C. H. McComas; Treasurer; J.G. Naylor; C. Homer Janney; and Clarence Wright. The cost of the construction and restoration was noted as being \$11,325, which today equates to approximately \$227,000.

*Information shared by
Cheryl Eisenhower*

Note: Photo taken by *Baltimore News* staff photographer. The *Baltimore News-American* was a broadsheet newspaper published in downtown Baltimore until May 27, 1986. It had a continuous lineage (in various forms) of more than 200 years.



2020 Financial Performance – The Year in Review (and what a year it was)!

Throughout 2020, I provided updates on our financial picture as it related to our operating budget. I now want to provide you with a final reporting for the year.

	2020 Actual	2020 Budget	Difference	2019 Actual	2020 Actual vs 2019 Actual
Income	\$359,820	\$386,662	- \$26,842	\$399,640	- \$39,820
Expense	\$362,685	\$418,445	\$55,760	\$402,272	\$39,587
Difference	- \$2,865	- \$31,783	\$28,918	- \$2,632	- \$233

After a disappointing offering in November, the congregation responded to the Finance Committee's appeal at the end of the year and gave generously in December. Thank you! This helped us significantly reduce the projected shortfall. As a result, the shortfall for the year was only \$2,865 versus a budgeted shortfall of \$31,783.

As with the rest of our daily lives, COVID-19 impacted our results and make meaningful comparisons to last year difficult. That being said, there are some comparisons that are relevant. For example, offerings for the year at \$291,200 were approximately \$9,000 less than last year. While this is a concern on some level (our offerings have stagnated for the past four years), it also represents an amazing achievement and a testament to the congregation's faithfulness and generosity. Many churches are in financial distress due to the impact of the coronavirus, but you have stepped up and helped us avoid that fate. Other components contributing to the income shortfall include the cancellation of the Turkey Dinner (\$11,000) and reduced use of our facilities by the community (\$5,000). Finally, 2019's results included an extra contribution from the Preschool program (\$19,000).

Expenses versus last year are also significantly lower (~\$39,600). COVID-19 restrictions drove some of these "savings" due to our inability to use our church building in a normal fashion. We were also blessed that the Baltimore-Washington Conference provided financial assistance to all of its churches by reducing the charges for benefits and pension the church normally pays. Due to the incredible efforts of so many (especially the Trustees), facility expenses were kept to a minimum. Our church has a heritage of an active volunteer community that works hard to maintain the church property and save the church money year after year. Thank you to those who gave of their time in this manner.

I would also note that your support of our mission programs continues to be impressive as over \$40,000 was received to help support a wide range of programs, including many in our immediate community – Food For Thought, Helping Up Mission, Board of Child Care, ACTC, Baltimore County Christian Work Camp, Mondawmin Support, educational scholarships, and Earl's Place. Many lives were touched by your generosity. We clearly did not let the pandemic stop us from helping our community. Thank you!

While the 2020 results were much better than expected, our financial challenges remain, and much work needs to be done to put the church on a firmer financial foundation. COVID-19 will affect us in some fashion throughout 2021. Please continue to keep our church in your prayers and to give as generously as you can of your time and treasure to help us have a strong year serving Christ in our community.

If you ever have questions about our finances, please do not hesitate to contact me at tedochs@msn.com.

Yours in Christ,

Ted Ochs, Finance Chair





Missions

Assistance Center of Towson Churches – ACTC has been extremely busy. Families can come every two weeks instead of ever three months. You can imagine what a strain that puts on the food supply. At the end of the year, we sent \$400 to ACTC from your generous donations.

They receive produce every Tuesday from the Food Bank and there is one person from Hunt's Church who regularly brings baked brownies, cookies, and cakes with some others, from time to time. I did not know that was an option. (Maybe we have more bakers who would like to get involved.)

The prison ministry is ramping up. ACTC provides sheets, pillows, blankets, socks, and food to those being released, if they have a place to stay.

Baltimore County Christian Workcamp (BCCW): Unfortunately, we do not know what the format of BCCW will be for this July; however, we are still planning under the assumption of conducting the 38th annual BCCW from **July 19-23**, whether it is a COVID variant, like in 2020, or how it was pre-COVID. In 2020, Hunt's was able to field a team which built a ramp in Rosedale in less than two days; hopefully, there will be another such opportunity this year. Several other BCCW projects were completed by volunteers from other churches. Stay tuned (and mark those dates on your calendar)! BCCW's mission is the home repair for the needy in Baltimore County by volunteers of all ages. For more information, see its website at www.bcchristianworkcamp.org.

In addition to needing volunteers to work on projects, we are always willing to consider potential work sites located within Baltimore County. Though we prefer that the sites are vetted by a third-party, independent, governmental agency, we do consider referrals by others. If you know of someone who may need assistance and does not have the financial resources to have the work done, send an email to bcchristianworkcamp@comcast.net. If deemed to be a potential site, a referral form will be sent to be completed. Likewise, if you know of another group, agency, or organization which might know of someone who could use some assistance, please forward this information to them. Contact Steve Lippy if any questions.

Board of Child Care (BCC) "Cookie Drive" - It was discussed at the January Missions Committee meeting that February has been typically Hunt's month to provide cookies for BCC. Over the past few years, we have been ramping up our annual donations and setting donation records; however, this year needs to be different in order to minimize the COVID risks and difficulties associated with the collection (especially with no church services), storage (somewhere at Hunt's), and then delivery of cookies to BCC. In addition, at BCC's end, parceling out of cookies from large bags or tins is probably not the preferred option as small single serving packs are probably now preferred.

As a result, we are asking for designated monetary donations for the "BCC Cookie Drive" that can be sent with your offerings, whether mailed, electronically given, or dropped off to the church

office. Please consider donating the monies spent in previous years for store bought items or possibly for the ingredients used for homemade cookies. Hunt's would then send one check, earmarked for cookies, to the BCC Auxiliary in order for (1) the Auxiliary to buy the cookies and snacks in the sizes and packaging that is the most suitable and are the most liked by the children or (2) pass the earmarked funds to the BCC to buy the appropriate cookies and snacks whenever they buy other food for their dining hall.

Please submit any monies to the church office in February, in order that our donation may be disbursed to BCC in March.

PLUS, due to having some unrestricted funds in the Missions Committee account, the Committee voted to have a "matching grant" to match dollar-for-dollar the special "BCC Cookie Drive" donations received in February . . . up to \$1,000.

BCC's purpose is "Enriching communities, one family at a time." They have multiple programs and campuses, including a residential campus in Randallstown, for those children with difficult family situations. For more info, see their website at www.boardofchildcare.org.

Casserole Ministry – The Casserole Ministry is going well. Thanks to Samantha for the great and easy recipes, and also for delivering the casseroles. A warm "Thanks" is also extended to the many casserole makers. (Sixteen casseroles were placed in the freezer this month.) It is so enjoyable to make one for church and one for dinner at our homes.

Child Fund International/Unbound – We are currently sponsoring five children. Along with our yearly support, they also get a present for their birthday and for Christmas. The children are very thankful.

The Christmas Present Project for the Head Start Program was a great success! Hats off to Donna Sibley for purchasing all of the presents and organizing what goes in each bag. Also, many thanks to Donna & Bob's grandchildren for stuffing the bags...and to Bob for lugging all of the boxes and bags. A special thanks to Pastor Travis for delivering all of the goodies in his truck. Many thanks to everyone who donated gift cards or money to purchase gift cards. You are awesome!!!!



Earl's Place loves the casseroles that Samantha delivers every month. This past Christmas, we delivered about twenty bags of gifts for the men to give to their children and grandchildren. Thanks to Shirley Lin, who knitted hats for all of the residents. They really appreciate everything that is done for them. In January, the church sent a donation of \$1,000 to help with their needs.



Hi Walter & Lynn,

I want to let you know the difference a year makes.

Kenny moved to Earl's Place in December of 2019 and found the stability he needed. Prior to moving in, he spent time in a recovery program, then seven months in an emergency shelter, and then a few more months in another recovery program. Due to the lack of transitional housing, it is common for people to go from program to program looking for housing.

This year, Cornerstone Community Housing provided housing and support to Kenny and 31 other men in Earl's Place and 12 in Prospect Place -- people who need us to provide a safe, supportive home where they can rebuild their lives and rejoin society as positive and productive citizens.

Eleven of the 15 men who left Earl's Place in 2020, moved to permanent housing. Since coming to Earl's Place, Kenny has addressed some physical health needs, obtained employment, and applied for housing. He will be moving to his own apartment early next year.

Thanks to many generous donors, so much has been accomplished.

And with your help, we can help even more men in 2021! We'll move forward together with those who need us to:

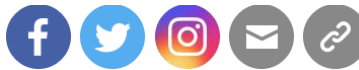
-
- provide transitional housing so they can take the time they need to regroup and secure permanent housing,
 - help them address addiction, mental health, and physical health needs,
 - help locate resources for education, job training, and more, and
 - help them maintain their housing.

As you consider your giving plans for year-end, we hope that you will choose to provide Hope, Help and Home through a gift to [Cornerstone Community Housing](#).

With gratitude,

Sheila Helgerson
Executive Director

P.S. [Monthly gifts](#) are budget-friendly and will help us build a sustainable future.
Thanks for caring about your neighbors.



[Please give now. Change a life today!](#)

Food for Thought is still taking gift cards to Ridge-Ruxton School. The social worker is delivering them to the five families that we support because the children are not in school. Donations for Food for Thought are appreciated any time during the year.

A family was helped though Marcia Conlin's Santa's Helpers (Christmas Project).



Christmas Project for a cancer patient and his siblings was a great success! Marcia Conlin and I (Lynn Henss) spent more than two hours in Walmart shopping. This year, Hunt's Church had a two-year-old little boy with brothers and sisters. We were able to get some neat toys and some cute clothing. This is one of our favorite projects because it is so personal. Prayers to the family.

The **Helping Up Mission** has had a very difficult year with COVID. They need support more than ever. If you are going through your closets and have clothes to donate, please give me (Lynn) a call (433-600-2325). I will be glad to pick them up. Because of the great need, Hunt's donated \$2,000 to support this important program. We hope to have the choir at Hunt's Church some time in 2021.

Manna House – With COVID, we have not been able to go to Manna House to serve. Hunt's Church sent \$500 in January to help with food.

Nan and Miguel, our missionaries in Mexico, have had a hard year. Please look at their attachment for an update. In January, we sent them a donation of \$1,000 to help with their work.

Do not forget that February is the Lent Offering, which supports Baltimore County Christian Workcamp and Camp Hope. Both of these projects need our support.

From: Missionary Support Team <itin@umcmmission.org>
Subject: United Methodist Missionaries are Grateful for You!

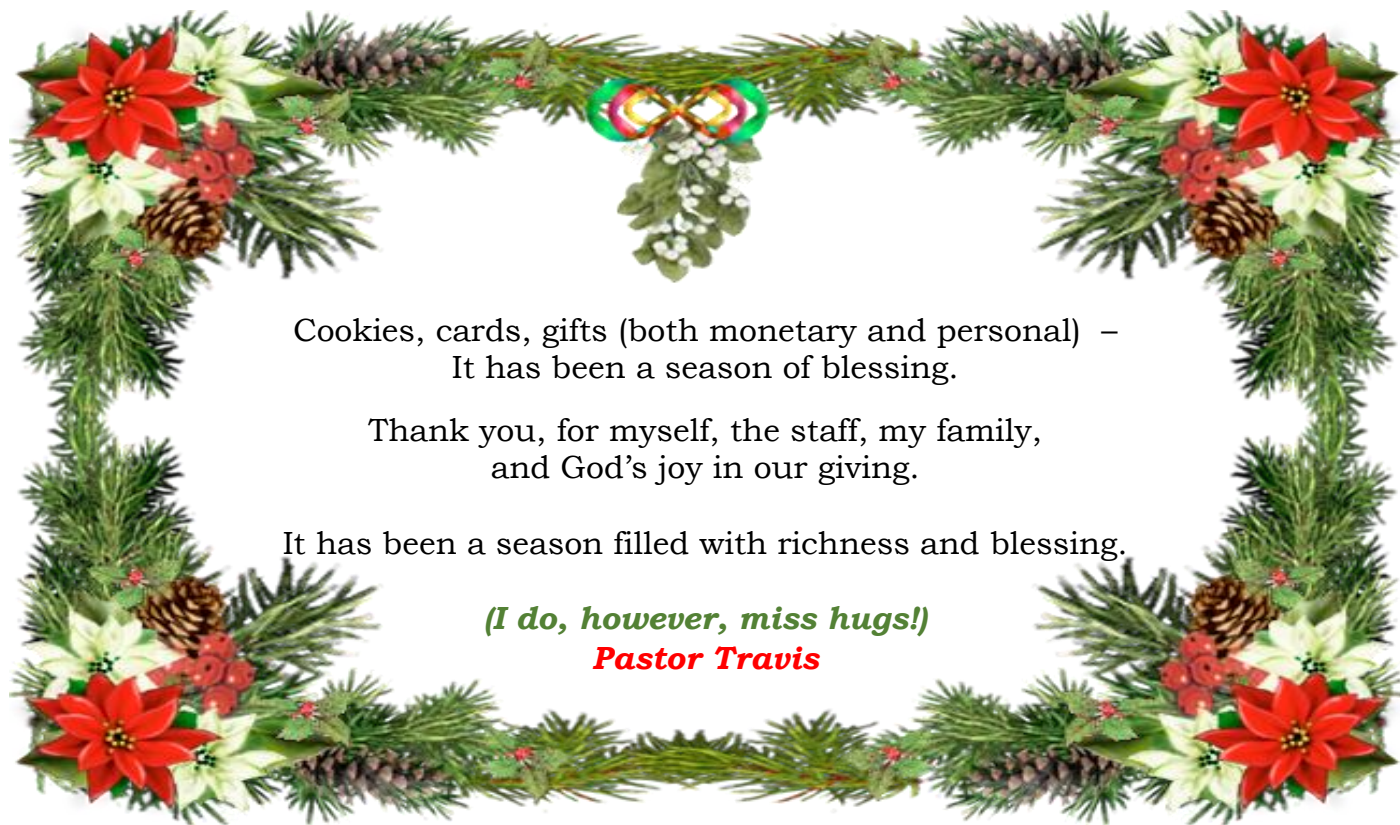
Dear Partners in Mission,

We are nearing the end of 2020 and God's mission is still active and so are your missionaries! Your church's prayerful giving to God is a blessing and our United Methodist connection makes every dollar of every gift count 100% to mission through the Advance. To keep missionaries in service it takes faithful givers like you who not only give, but also pray for your missionaries and the communities they serve. On behalf of the entire missionary community of over 300 folks, thank you so much for the blessing of your time and resources to God's mission. Thank you for the support that you and every member of your congregation have generously given to sustain United Methodist Missionaries and ministries.

The United Methodist Missionary Association has put together a thank you video with the help of missionaries serving from everywhere to everywhere, even during this time of pandemic. You can access the [video here](#) on vimeo. We hope that you will share this word of thanksgiving with your parishioners so that they may feel the warmth of our gratitude for each and every one of your church members.

We look forward to continuing to be in mission with you as we enter 2021.

The Itineration Team
Eric Angel, Senior Manager of Itineration & Missionary Support
Brandolyn Pope, Program Associate
Erica Oliveira, Missionary Support Coach



Cookies, cards, gifts (both monetary and personal) –
It has been a season of blessing.

Thank you, for myself, the staff, my family,
and God's joy in our giving.

It has been a season filled with richness and blessing.

(I do, however, miss hugs!)

Pastor Travis

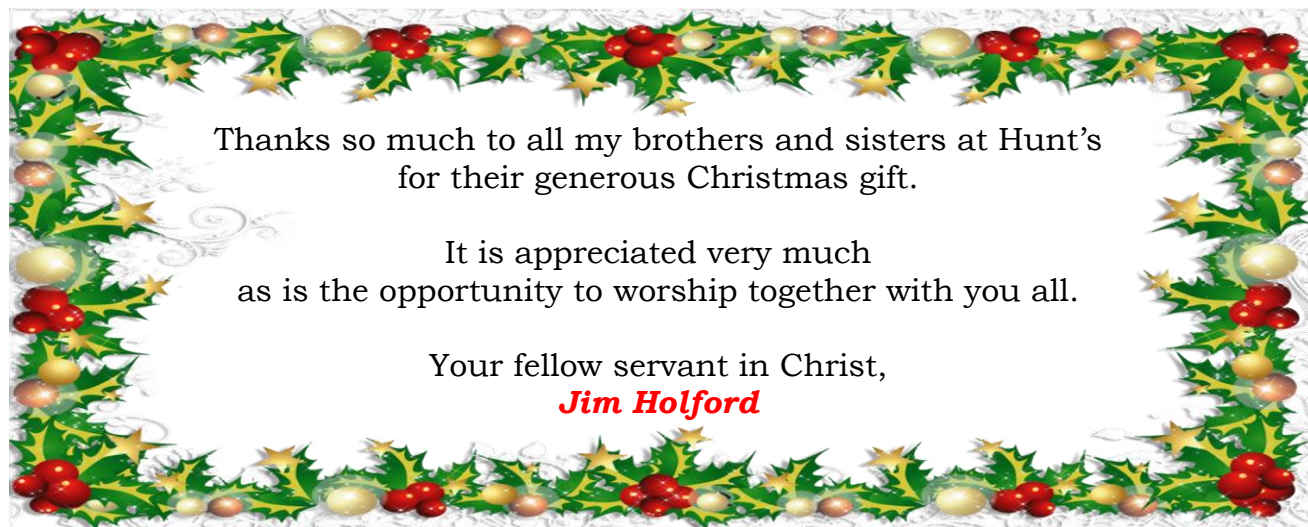


Dear Hunt's Church Family,

Thank you very much for your lovely, thoughtful, and
delicious Christmas gifts. I sincerely appreciate your
generous financial Christmas bonus. It was used wisely.

It was enjoyable decorating the Agape House for the
Christmas season and even more enjoyable sharing the
festive decorations with others. People appreciated the
"homey" feeling of the Conference Room and my indoor
"snowman" brought a smile to everyone's faces.

Beth Woody



Thanks so much to all my brothers and sisters at Hunt's
for their generous Christmas gift.

It is appreciated very much
as is the opportunity to worship together with you all.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Jim Holford



Happy New Year!

The preschool is back in action after our Winter break. We are learning about Hibernation, Martin Luther King, the changing season, the properties of liquid and solids and so much more. As part of our Religion unit the children discussed the Epiphany. They enjoyed learning about how the Kings went to visit baby Jesus to bring him presents. Our PreK class made puppets and put on a play about the Epiphany. Kristina Bayne's father, Pastor Greg Martin, recorded another chapel for us. His lesson this week was on how God is our shepherd because he protects us and keeps us safe.

We had a great time cheering for the Ravens on Purple Fridays. We sprayed our hair purple, wore ravens gear, made signs, had a parade and so much more. We are all a little disappointed after their loss to the Bills, but we will look forward to next year's season. Lamar Jackson had a birthday on January 7 and the PreK class sang him happy birthday and put it on Twitter. Lamar "retweeted" it and personally thanked "the littles". The children were so excited!

We continue to be diligent about our COVID cleaning and sanitizing. We have noticed that we are really healthy around the preschool this year (knock on wood). Parents are being very conscientious about keeping their children home if they show any signs of sickness. My staff has been working overtime in keeping everything sanitized and in tip top shape. We are definitely all in this together!

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is in full swing. We are happy with the responses we have gotten this far. Some of our classes now have a wait list. If you know anyone looking for a great preschool, please send them our way.

My staff and I are very grateful to the "church bakers" that baked and separately packed dozens of cookies for us! What a wonderful Christmas treat. The cookies were delicious, thank you!

I would like to thank the Hunt's Church Family for the very generous Christmas gift to me. What a nice surprise. It is very appreciated! Thank you very much!

Kelley Unger
Hunt's Church Preschool Director

Hunt's Church Preschool



Senior High Fall Recap

Senior High has been maneuvering through these challenging times.

We have been holding our meetings in the outside heated tent, we enjoyed an outside fall retreat and even held our Annual Holiday Progressive Dinner without the “progressive” part this year.



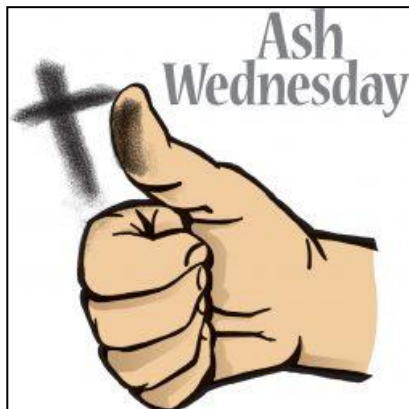
The week of Christmas we held a Christmas Caravan Hayride. We drove around two local neighborhoods and tossed out little toys and candy canes to the children outside who were waiting for our music and lights to drive by. We also made a dozen special stops to some residents who we thought could use some special holiday cheer and gifted them with a holiday plant and note from our group. It was a fun evening.

Things are different, but the kids have a good attitude and we're making the best of it!

- The Senior High Counselors

Ash Wednesday is coming to a computer near you...

February 17th is Ash Wednesday. We will worship online (live streamed and then edited and uploaded later) at 7 pm. If there is another congregation that can be enticed to join us, we may do this together but if not, we will do it ourselves.



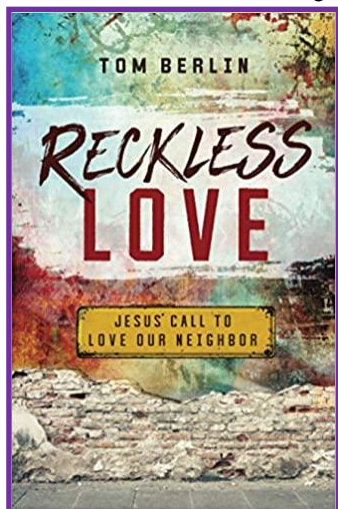
In the past we have had a pancake supper on the night before, and I hope that you will consider having pancakes for dinner and reminiscing about the fun and fellowship we hope soon to again enjoy. This tradition of the pancakes was a way to enjoy all of the rich foods that were going to be missed during Lent, by eating them to clear the larder the night before. You will have to do that at your home separately this year.

In our service, I will be unable to impose ashes on/for you, naturally, but we will symbolically recall that we were formed from ashes, and to ashes we all return – and we will offer “take-home” ashes outside of the office in small baggies during the first week in February. *(If you prefer to have them mailed to you, please contact Beth Woody.)*

If you take a bag with ashes from burned palm branches, please add a few drops of olive or baby oil, and mix; this will serve to “anoint” everyone in one household. If you would like to, you may prepare to do that with us during the live stream or later with the edited service.

Together, let us do what we can to prepare to once again encounter God’s power and presence in both the memory of and the experience of resurrection. We hope to ‘see’ you there. - *Pastor Travis*

Lenten Study



On February 17, we will celebrate Ash Wednesday, the traditional beginning of Lent. During Lent, we are going to have a study in two sessions: Mondays at 10:00 a.m. beginning February 21, and Thursdays at 6 p.m. beginning on February 18. Both will be one hour in length, and on the topic of **Reckless Love**, led by **Methodist leader and thinker, Tom Berlin**. If you are interested in a book to help you through this study, one can be purchased at: <https://www.cokesbury.com/Reckless-Love>, or your favorite online bookseller. The theme and subtitle for this study is “Jesus’ call to love our neighbor.” The cost at the time of this writing for this book is \$8.50 + shipping. In order to avoid potential for virus transmission, we are not going to order multiples for distribution through the office. All studies will be online via zoom, with the usual link coming soon to an inbox near you.

In addition, our theme for Lenten worship services will be Neighbors. If you have an interesting story regarding a “neighbors” experience to share, I would love to include such stories into these sermons from among our congregation. If you have one to share, please contact Pastor Travis in whatever manner is most convenient for you.

- *Pastor Travis*

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.

****Hunt's receives revenues based on the estimated weight of clothing recycled.***

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



(Located on the Agapé House lot)

THANK YOU

for the donations that we have already received!

**Hunt's Memorial United Methodist Church
1912 Old Court Road
Towson, MD 21204**

*Address Service
Requested*

