

# Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## KEEP SEEKING HIM

### Celebrating Epiphany

Epiphany, from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means an appearance or manifestation. Christians celebrate this festival each year on January 6, the 12th day after Christmas. Epiphany ends on Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins.

Epiphany marks the coming of the Magi, or wise men, to worship the baby Jesus. Because the Magi were Gentiles, Epiphany symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews. It's a reminder that Christ came as the light — and Savior — of the whole world.

The traditional color for Epiphany is green, indicating life, growth, hope and eternity. Symbols for the season include a light, candle or star; a crown or three crowns; three gifts; and a globe. In the modern church, Epiphany has become a time to focus on reaching out and “showing” Jesus as the Savior of all people. It's also a reminder to engage in Christian community and to heal divisions among God's children.



The Hisdikz Choir did a wonderful job as they presented *Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night* on December 6, 2020.



What a blessing we had on December 20, 2020. We had the most beautiful program for our *White Christmas Music and Candlelight Service*. Eight singers lifted our spirits with songs of the birth of our Savior. The story was magnified by the drama delivered by the Youth of our church. Angels with their balls of light brought such beauty and awe to us all. The shepherds, Simeon and the kings brought chills to us all as they processed to the manger where Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child were.

Thank you Chancel Choir, Instrumentalists, Narrator, Youth and children for an excellent, inspiring program which touched those present and reached so many by livestream. Thank you J. T., Hayes and Sherrill Ann for your technical assistance.

God made a way for us to continue our traditional service even in 2020!

## THIS WEEKS CALENDAR

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 3**

9:00 a.m. Come AZ U R Service

9:50 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship

**NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6**

6:00 Chancel Choir

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 9**

9-12 noon Methodist Market

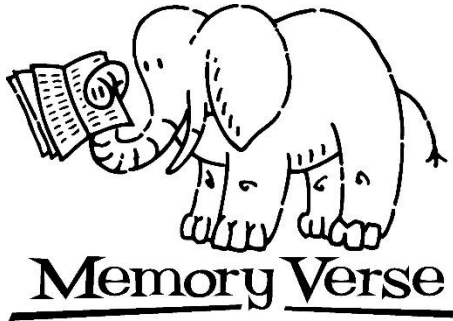


3. Tina Thomas
4. Brielynne McClellan  
Sarah Ragland
6. Jennifer Summers
7. Larry Lafferty  
LaShone Robins
9. Sara Beth Wyatt

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5. Mr. & Mrs. Owen Richards

# Children's Page

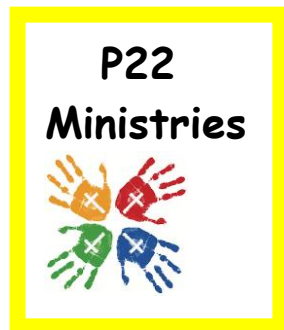


"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but will have eternal life."

John 3:16



This Sunday we will have Sunday School and our lesson will be a glimpse into the life of Jesus as a boy.



We will continue to be on a break throughout the holidays, but our Bible studies will begin meeting back sometime in January.

## **Solid Ground Youth**

This week in Sunday school, we will talk about the greatest gift!

### **Sunday Night Youth & Wednesday Night Small Group**

There will be no youth activities this week. We will resume our regular schedule on Sunday, January 10, 2021. Hope you have all enjoyed your holidays.

**Sunday, January 3, 2021**

Greeters Jim & Dixie Roberts/Linda & Edwin McDonald  
Scripture Psalm 40:1-5  
Sermon **“Hope for the New Year”**

## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

### JANUARY

- |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>3. A blessing for rulers</b> | <b>Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14</b> |
| 4. Fellow heirs                 | Ephesians 3:1-12           |
| 5. Assured by faith             | Hebrews 11:1-6             |
| 6. <i>Epiphany</i>              | <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>      |
| 7. Loving discipline            | Revelation 3:14-19         |
| 8. Like a refiner's fire        | Matthew 3:1-12             |
| 9. He will bring justice        | Isaiah 42:1-9              |