

# The Falling Waters Messenger

Issue Twelve

December 2016

Volume XXXII

## 'Tis the Fear-Not Season



Here we are, right at the beginning of Advent. We're waiting, once again, for the birth of Jesus. Decorations have been making appearances in neighborhoods and shopping centers. Advertisements for Christmas bargains are dancing over our smart phone and computer screens, and jingling on our televisions and through our radios. Even the scroogiest of Scrooges can't help

humming along with one of the many recordings of, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas" at least once.

Whether you know it from the Bible or *Peanuts*, you've probably heard, "Fear not, Mary, for you have found favor with God." Advent, this season before Christmas, is chock full of Fear-Nots and Be Not Afraids. Over and over people are told they don't have to be afraid of God's messengers. Chill! - they're told, because the angel is bringing good news! Apparently it must not look or sound like good news. On the other mitten-clad hand, perhaps it's the messenger who inspires the fear. Maybe Gabriel looks more like something from *Monsters Inc.* than a *Precious Moments* figurine.

Whatever the cause of her dismay, Gabriel urges Mary to, "fear not." Then proceeds to share the "good" news. You'll soon be pregnant with the son of God. Mary, being a clever young woman, wants to know how this can possibly happen because she's completely clueless about stuff like that. If ever someone had reason to be afraid, it's Mary. Being pregnant is difficult enough. But having to explain that you're pregnant to your fiancé, and your parents, and your aunts and uncles and cousins, and neighbors, and friends, and the people you go to worship with every week - well, it's enough to cause nearly anyone to shudder in their sandals with fright.

There are plenty of reasons for being afraid these days. A few minutes spent perusing the day's news is enough to alarm even the calmest of souls. Diseases, catastrophic weather events, poverty, all of the worries about health care, violence in our homes, violence in our neighborhoods, and around the world are but a few things on a long list of life's potential frights. Many, if not all of

us can share stories of our own frightening experiences. Maybe we haven't had to travel around the world to do battle. Maybe we've only had to travel across the street to face a neighborhood bully while we wait for the school bus. Maybe we haven't been told we're pregnant right after getting engaged to someone who thinks they're literally our one and only. But maybe we have been told that the disease we thought was gone has returned with a vengeance.

During this season of Advent, we Christians wait and we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's Messiah. We wait and prepare for Jesus to be born. And we do it year after year! Why? We don't wait and prepare because we think babies are cute. We certainly don't wait and prepare because we think that once the Word becomes flesh he'll snap his infant fingers and fix all that's wrong in the world. We definitely don't wait and prepare because we believe Mary's son will clear up all of our religious confusions and disagreements. Neither do we wait and prepare because we're rendered powerless by our fears.

We wait and prepare because, along with Mary, we hold fast to Gabriel's promise. It's a promise that's easy to miss in all the excitement of the angel's frightfully sudden appearance. It's a promise that's easy to miss when we're feeling overwhelmed by life's difficulties. Here it is again - "Greetings...The Lord is with you." We wait and prepare and on Christmas Day we celebrate the fulfillment of the promise. Emanuel, God is with us. Though we don't know when, we have faith that the maker of heaven and earth who promises to make all things new and right chooses to break into time and history in order to meet us face to face. The Prince of Peace, Love Incarnate is born to a young, unwed mother so that instead of just knowing about God, we might actually, personally **know** God, the source of our salvation. So, fear not!

Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Debra



## Pray Without Ceasing

Billy and Bill Berg  
Helen Brown  
Deborah Chambers  
Joan Chambers  
Kenny Cushwa  
Jimmy Cloud  
Mary Hodges  
Irvin Horst  
Ted Largent  
Pete Mekkelson  
Pastor Debra  
Virginia Snyder  
Bill Zombro



## December Greeters

4 Ruth Berg, Gwen Noll, Brenda Carper  
11 Ruth Berg, Marge and Richard Chamblin  
18 Ruth Berg, Sharron and Joe Reel  
25 Ruth Berg, Robin Brown, Helen Brown

## Happy Birthday

2 Jason & Beth Henry  
5 Lily Campbell  
6 Carolyn Linton  
10 Dinah Aulabaugh  
12 Ernie Weidman  
15 Yvonne Lantz  
20 Holly Brown  
21 Laura Peach  
22 Nancy Linton  
27 Richard Chamblin  
25 Bea Taynton  
30 Kim Tucker  
31 Hollie Higginbottom



## Amazing Grace Fund



Plans are under way to ensure that approximately 20 disadvantaged families in our local area are provided fixings for a Christmas dinner, a turkey, gifts (for children) and other essential products. Tuscarora Presbyterian Church is already working on the food boxes and children's gifts. Therefore we here at FWPC plan to provide the turkeys and other essential necessities. This is where we need your help. Boxes have been placed in the Fellowship Hall and downstairs to collect items such as (lots of) toilet paper, paper towels, bar soap, laundry and dish washing detergent. Anyone wanting to make a donation please contact Beth Henry (274-2112) or Brenda Carper (274-3053). Items are needed no later than **December 4**. Your kind gestures will change lives.

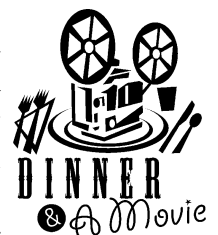
## Women's Christmas Brunch

The Women's Bible Study group will meet, Wednesday, December 14, at the home of Jeanie Cushwa at 10:00 a.m. for brunch. There will be no lesson but they will have devotions, and sing Christmas carols. Please bring a covered-dish to share. All ladies are welcome to come. Jeanie's address is 117 Adrian Drive, Martinsburg.



## Movie Night

Please join us for **Dinner and a Movie** on December 17. We will meet for dinner at 5:00 at Country Roads in Hedgesville, followed by a movie, title to be announced, at 7:00. We will have refreshments and door prizes.



## Nursery Attendants

December 4	Adam and Anna Collis
December 11	Heather and Archie Locke
December 18	Amanda and Olivia Lamb
December 25	No Nursery



During Advent there will be two **Angel Trees** in the sanctuary on the landings going up to the balcony.

Please feel free to bring an angel ornament of your own to place on the trees in memory or honor of a loved one. If you wish your love one's name to be included in a list, please see Crystal Mason.

## “The Glory of Christmas”

Come celebrate with the **National Christian Choir and the National Christian Childrens Christmas Choir** on Saturday, December 3 at 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. at International Community Church, Frederick, MD.

The 160 member choir is directed by Kathy Bowman and the 150 member Children's Choir is directed by Donna Issacs and all accompanied by Full Orchestra.

General Admission is \$20.00 with the Director's Circle tickets at \$25.00..Order on line at [www.NationalChristianChoir.org](http://www.NationalChristianChoir.org) or by phone at 1-301-670-6331 or toll free 1-800-599-4710.

Our own Nat and Jacob Hylton, Abigail and Alison Howard Gois and Gracie Cramer are members of the Children's Choir and Jeanie Cushwa is in the Adult Choir.

You will be filled with Christmas Joy as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.

## Flock Notes

Congratulations to **Kate Lewis Brown** who was installed as 2017 Moderator of Shenandoah Presbytery. Visit our FB page for pictures of Kate's installation on November 1, 2016. Kate was also recognized at the Community Thanksgiving Service on November 22 for her volunteer work.

Thank you to **Crystal Mason and Anna Collis** for their work with the flood victims in Richwood and Birch River, WV. So many have been blessed by your hard work and generosity.

**Bettie Jane Porterfield** has moved back to WV. Her new address is: 128 Bashore Dr., Martinsburg, WV 25404. Her cell phone is: 352-857-7096. Welcome back Bettie Jane!

## “What Sweeter Music”



The Falling Waters Presbyterian Church Choir will present John Leavitt's **cantata "What Sweeter Music"** on Sunday afternoon, **December 18 at 3:00 PM** at Falling Waters Presbyterian Church.

"What Sweeter Music" is an elegant work that captures the varied moods and colors of the Christmas season. The cantata is set in the "Lessons and Carols" format beginning with Advent and proceeding through the Christmas season into Epiphany. Popular carols such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", "He is Born", and "We Three Kings of Orient Are" are featured along with other slightly lesser known, yet delightful carols such as "The Angel Gabriel", "Pat-a-pan", and "Fum, Fum, Fum".

Please come and join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ through a wonderful program of music. A cookie and punch reception will follow.

# GOOD NEWS! GREAT JOY!



The birth of Jesus gave joy to a people who had been waiting for the Messiah. His birth fulfilled one promise and made another. Jesus changed the lives of people he met and touched and he continues to change the lives of people he touches—through Scripture, through the Holy Spirit and through the people who follow him today. We, here at FWPC, have the opportunity to share that joy this holiday season.

**Advent calendars**, “A Journey of Memories”, are available in the vestibule. These devotionals connect us as we read the same passages of scripture each day. Please take one.

We will begin the Advent Season with a “**Hanging of the Greens**” service on December 4 at 10:00 a.m. when we will bring our sanctuary alive with holiday color.



December 11 is our **Service of Lessons and Carols** followed by the **Fellowship Dinner**.

December 18 is the **Children’s Christmas Program**. There will be **no coffee hour after worship**. That afternoon at 3:00 the Adult Choir will present the **Christmas cantata**, “What Sweeter Music” which will be followed by a cookie and punch reception. Cookie donations are needed. If you plan to contribute, please see Becky Hawthorne.



Christmas Eve Service

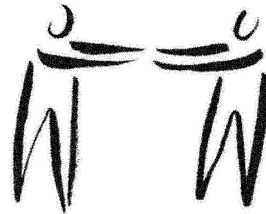
We will have two services on **Christmas Eve** - 4:00 & 11:00.

**Christmas** is on Sunday this year. Therefore the time of morning worship will be changed to 11:00 a.m. There will be **no nursery, Sunday School or coffee hour**.

A **Morning Prayer Service** is being planned for January 1, 2017 at 11:00 a.m with **no nursery, Sunday School or coffee hour**.

# North Berkeley County Loaves and Fishes Needs You

Our Christmas Eve Offering will benefit **Northern Berkeley County Loaves and Fishes** located at Hedgesville United Methodist church. Hedgesville Loaves and Fishes is made up of volunteers who help



Reach out to those in need

distribute food to the poor and people who are struggling through hard times, whether it is from illness or a loss of job. The Hedgesville United Methodist Church has provided space for a pantry to store and distribute food

on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. the only exceptions are November and December which we distribute on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday due to the holidays. All of the food comes from the generosity of the churches in our community and personal donations. Normally it feeds 60-70 adults and 40-45 children each month. Your assistance with food and cash donations is always greatly appreciated. Food donations may be dropped off at Hedgesville United Methodist Monday through Thursday from 9:00 - 1:00. Please call 754-8793 to be certain someone will be there to assist you.

## A NOTE OF



Thank you all for the wonderful fellowship, cards and gifts you shared with me on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. I am humbled and profoundly grateful for your generosity and support.

With great affection,

Pastor Debra

## Good News of Great Joy!

In this season when we celebrate the child born in Bethlehem, we also realize that the birth of Jesus ushered in a new realm of God's love at work in the world. This love causes us to recognize the image of God imbedded in all humankind. It compels us to reach out with charity, justice, and grace. We seek to honor every child of God. This, too, is how we celebrate the child born on that first Christmas day.

Presbyterians can respond to that love at Christmas by giving generously to the **Christmas Joy Offering**. The offering helps students at racial ethnic schools and colleges develop their gifts and find their calling to serve God through serving their community. At the same time, the Offering helps families of both active and retired church workers to meet unexpected needs. As we celebrate Jesus' love in our lives this Christmas, our gifts bear joyful witness to the power of that boundless love that changes lives.

### What Is the Christmas Joy Offering?

For more than 70 years, Presbyterians have given generously at Christmas to support the unmet needs of families who have devoted their lives to the mission of the PC(USA). Today this Offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides critical assistance to Presbyterian church workers and their families, and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges, which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling. The Offering dates back to the 1930s, when the former Presbyterian Church in the United States began an offering to supplement inadequate retirement income and provide supplemental medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families.

Although its roots trace back many years, this special offering remains just as essential today. Equally important to the financial help provided is the spiritual benefit received. Again and again, the individuals and families helped by the Offering say that as crucial as the financial assistance is, what really sustains them is the knowledge that the church is standing with them in their time of need.

**We will collect the Joy Offering on December 18.**

## Children's Program

Our preschool and elementary school children will present a **Nativity Pageant** during worship on December 18. It is always fun to watch our children recreate the Christmas story and remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas.



### Acolytes for December

December 4	Nat Hylton
December 11	Alex Fleagle
December 18	Kadence Blaine
December 25	Beth Fleagle

### Madeline MacNeil & Sam Rizzetta

**Sunday, December 4, 2016**

**3:00 p.m.**

Concerts in the Community will host Madeline McNeil and Sam Rizzetta at FWPC on December 4.

Sam Rizzetta is a musician and instrument maker whose many design innovations have helped to define the contemporary hammered dulcimer.

Madeline MacNeil is a best-selling author of mountain and hammered dulcimers books and has recorded numerous CDs throughout the years.

Ticket are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students K-12. Doors open at 2:15 p.m. For questions, call Kate Lewis Brown at 304-754-5039.

