



Tidings

A Newsletter of Yardley United Methodist Church

Volume 24, Issue 6

Yardley, Pennsylvania

Christmas 2023



Celebrate the true gifts of Christmas:

HOPE

LOVE

JOY

PEACE



Celebrate the true Gifts of Christmas this season: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace

It's the most wonderful time of the year—or so the old song goes. Yet, we must admit that it doesn't always feel that way. We can all rattle off a list of why we feel a twinge of stress or sadness mixed with happiness or excitement when the carols start playing in every public setting. Hectic schedules, materialism, and reminders of personal wounds are just a few reasons.

Whether you're the person who is ready to relax and savor the season because you did all your shopping and preparations months ago (not likely) or the person who dreads the busyness, responsibilities, or loneliness that steal your joy this time of year (much more likely), the Christmas season offers a unique opportunity to experience God's love and grace in the midst of real life. Christmas can still truly give us a taste of the most wonderful time in world history.

Jesus—the Messiah, the Savior—came as the light into our world's darkness and stress and pain. That world then, like our world and lives now, needs the light to illuminate, clarify, guide, and heal. Christ's coming brings His ultimate light of hope, peace, joy, and all-consuming love. Those are the true gifts of Christmas. And He is worth celebrating.

Join us for our Advent series as we celebrate how Jesus's birth changed everything and brings us hope, love, joy, and peace even today!

Sundays in December at 9:30 AM
(including Christmas Eve morning at 9:30 AM)
Christmas Eve at 5 PM
Zoom Worship at 7 PM

(Services live-streamed on our Facebook & YouTube pages)
Check out Yardleyumc.org for more information and all the details.

All women are invited to an **Ornament Exchange** on Friday, December 8 at 6:30 pm at Christine Griffin's home. Please bring a wrapped ornament to exchange. Christine's address is 1536 Makefield Rd, Yardley. Rsvp at www.yardleyumc.org/events or call the church office.



Music Ministry Sponsored Events:

On December 10th at 12:30 pm, we will go **Christmas Caroling** in downtown Yardley. Meet at YUMC at 12:30 pm on the 10th. All are invited!

YUMC Music Ministry will host the winners of the PA State Dorothy Sutton Performance Festival in a **Holiday Recital on December 17th at 1:00 pm**. Come to hear some of the State's most gifted young musicians. There is no charge for admission. All welcome!

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Pastor: Rev. Lee Corpier
Phone: 267-393-4230
pastorlee@yardleyumc.org
Sunday Morning Worship
9:30 am in Sanctuary & on
Facebook Live
11:00 am Zoom followed by
fellowship



It's Christmas Time!!!

As the cold chill of winter quickly sets in, we find ourselves in the heart of the holiday season, a time filled with warmth, joy, and anticipation. Many of us take it in stride as soon as Thanksgiving (or, in the case of retailers, Halloween) and feel like time speeds up exponentially in the next few weeks. Contrasting the business of the season, Advent counters as a time of preparation and waiting leading up to the celebration of Christmas. **The Gifts of Christmas - Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace** - are not just words but profound truths that illuminate our lives.

Hope is the first gift of Christmas. As we light the first candle on the Advent wreath, we are reminded of the hope brought by the birth of Jesus Christ. In a world often filled with uncertainty and despair, the Christmas story offers a beacon of hope, a promise of a better future. It's a reminder that no matter how dark the night, the dawn light will bring light and new possibilities.

Next comes Love, the second gift of Christmas. The Christmas story is a testament to God's love for humanity. It's a love so profound that He sent His only Son to earth, born in a humble manger. This love is reflected in the acts of kindness and generosity that abound during this season. As we exchange gifts with loved ones, let's remember to extend our love to our neighbors in need, embodying the true Spirit of Christ-mas.

The third gift of Christmas is Joy. There's a unique joy that fills the air at Christmas time. It's in the laughter of children unwrapping presents, the melodious carols echoing in the streets, and the beautiful decorations that transform our homes and towns. This joy transcends belief and differences, uniting us in a shared celebration of life.

Finally, Christmas brings the gift of Peace. Amid the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, Christmas offers a moment of calm reflection. It's a time to set aside our differences, forgive, and seek reconciliation. The message of peace on earth is a powerful reminder of our shared humanity and the potential for harmony.

As we journey through Advent and celebrate Christmas, let's embrace these gifts. Let's kindle hope in our hearts, extend love to all, spread joy, and strive for peace. These are the true Gifts of Christmas, found centrally in Christ, and they are ours to share with others.

As we move into a new year, consider how we might recommit ourselves to Christ and fully express the gifts that Christ has given us through the new year.

Have a Merry and Joyful Christmas, Friends!

Pastor Lee





Birthdays in December

04 David Hunt	20 Latajia Cox
06 Linda Rowley	23 Peg Boysen
07 Julianna Griffin	24 Eve Moody
08 Emilie Croggon	27 Reagan Ward
14 David Green	28 Megan Kyle
14 Christopher Moody	31 Thomas Lefebvre
15 Kim Laba	
17 Greg Van Aken	
19 Stephen Griffin	
19 William Binder IV	

Birthdays in January

03 Nellie Rooney	21 Kim Hart
04 Ted Pirog	22 Hazel Costain
06 Annelise Zygmunt	23 Ian Croggon
07 Ashlee Smith	27 Kristen Marco
07 Andrew O'Keeffe	27 Chase Marco
07 Peter O'Keeffe	28 Chris Ortolf
10 Dick Jensen	29 Maureen Kyle
11 Marian Sitko	
13 Emily Zygmunt	



Dedications may be made in two ways for Christmas

Members and friends are invited to order poinsettias for decorating the church and the altar for Christmas in memory or honor of a loved one. The plants may be taken home by the donors after the service on Christmas Eve. To order, please use the form below and place it, along with your payment, in the offering plate, or deliver it to the church office by December 12, 2023. The price is \$11.00 per plant.

As an alternative to Christmas flowers, a gift may be given to the ministries of Yardley United Methodist Church ministry in memory or honor of a loved one. Your loved ones will be listed along with the poinsettia donations in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Please use the form below.



The Food Drive Continues for Penndel Food Pantry. Last month 81 pounds of food was delivered to a grateful Penndel Food Pantry. Since 2016, YUMC has delivered 16,725 pounds of food to the food pantry. Even though the country is beginning to get back to normal, many people will still be facing food insecurities. So do not worry about purple bags or when to drop the food off, just bring it with you any time and place it in the shopping cart in the lobby of the church. (If the church is not open when you bring your donations, you may leave them at the top of the ramp.)

****Update**** YUMC partners with our friends in the local community. An Alzheimer's care center, Floral Creek, collects food for our mini pantry at their monthly events. And, Polo Run, the apartment complex, is currently holding a food drive for our monthly donations to the Penndel food pantry.

Christmas Dedications

Given by: _____

In Honor/Memory of: (circle one) _____

Number of plants: _____ Paid herewith:

\$ _____

and/or:

Ministries of Yardley UMC Amount:\$ _____



Commitment Sunday was December 3rd...it's not too late to get your pledge card in.

This year's Stewardship Campaign was held during the month of November, with Commitment Day celebrated on December 3rd. Our theme is "Making A Difference...Together." It celebrates all that we have been able to accomplish this year. We look forward to 2024 and continuing in ministry that emphasizes working together in committees and small groups to fulfill our purpose as a congregation to Welcome, Worship, Learn, Grow and Serve each other and our larger community.

Your past and present gifts of time, talent and financial support have made all of what we do as a congregation possible, and we are grateful! Please continue to support YUMC's ministry into 2024 and beyond, with your gifts to this year's Stewardship Campaign. If you were not able to be present your pledge card on Dec. 3rd, your pledges and contributions may be given to the church on Sundays, on-line or by mail (Yardley UMC, 300 Langhorne Rd, Yardley, PA 19067). Your financial and personal support of YUMC's ministries is what makes all of what we do possible. Please be as generous as you are able.

With your contributions of time, talent, and skills, as well as your financial gifts, you can help continue the programs YUMC offers programs that touch the church community, the local community, and the world community. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS! Together, we can "Make A (Bigger) Difference!"**

D.S. Foster Visits YUMC

By Joyce Lee

Our D.S., The Reverend Dr. Andrew S. Foster III came to YUMC on November 28th (and will come back for a second meeting on Dec. 16, 10 am to noon) to address three areas of concern that exist at many churches. It was a bone-chilling cold night, around 30 degrees outside, and very cold inside, too, since we had just learned, that day, that our furnace has failed, but it was truly a night of "Making A Difference...Together!"



D.S. Foster addressed the three areas of concern previously raised by SPRC and asked for input from the participants. Areas of concern addressed were:

Communication:

1. The importance of clear, honest and respectful communication with others.
2. The need to "listen" carefully and fully to what is being communicated, both verbally and non-verbally
3. When communicating with others, make sure they understand what you mean to convey. Ask them what they understood you to say/mean.
4. Remember the three "L's": "Listen, Learn, Love"

Conflict:

1. Develop good communication skills + good "listening" skills (listed above) to greatly reduce misunderstandings.
2. Look within yourself for ways you might be creating or contributing to conflict, between yourself and another person, between you and pastor or other staff persons or members of the congregation.
3. Respond to others in caring and compassionate ways. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

Congregational Life/Involvement in Ministry:

1. What's important to you that's not being done or done well enough? Then, you step in and do it!
2. Concerned with low attendance? Invite someone to come with you. "Sheep Make Sheep."
3. Advertise worship services and programs, both internally and externally.
4. Be a vibrant congregation! People are attracted to an active, cheerful, outward-looking congregation. Visitors can detect vibrancy as soon as they enter the sanctuary: a welcoming greeting at the door, engagement before, during and after the worship service, contribute to "Joys and Concerns", to "Sharing The Faith" segments in the worship service.
5. Provide opportunities for fellowship: sharing in Small Groups, working in groups after church in Fellowship Hall or in the narthex on mission/outreach projects, each member taking on at least one task or responsibility within the total ministry program of the church.

Article continued on next page

DS Foster visits YUMC continued from p. 4

By meeting's end, D.S. Foster had educated us, counseled us, and stimulated us to begin to take action steps toward improving how we relate to each other and how we carry out ministry at YUMC. It will take ALL OF US...Pastor, Staff, Committee Members, Group Leaders, and Congregants ...to contribute a portion of our time, talent and skills, prayers, finances, our witnessing, our sense of vibrancy and a spirit of determination in order to survive and thrive as a needed and respected institution and a Witness to God's Love and Goodness in this local community.

***We encourage you to attend part two of DS Foster's meetings when he comes back on **Saturday, December 16** from 10 am to 12 noon. Save the date!



The Angel Tree is back!

We are so gifted here at YUMC that we are looking for ways to share our many blessings. The Angel Tree is one way to help those less fortunate during this holiday season. All the gifts will be donated to Buck County Housing Group. It is simple to donate, you just purchase a \$25 gift card from Target, Walmart, or buy a Visa card and drop it off at the church or mail it to the church by December 17th. If you would like to send a check or make a monetary donation to this mission, please write Angel Tree in the memo section. If you have any questions, please contact Janice Laba.



**Women's Retreat
Jan 26-28, 2024**

A Women's Fellowship Opportunity for RENEWAL

With the new year, we will renew our focus on growing in relationships with one another and with God.

When: January 26-28, 2024

Where: Grove Hall Retreat Center, Ocean Grove, NJ www.oceangrove.org/grove-hall

Who: YUMC Women and Friends

Cost: \$135 per person double, \$270 per person, single

RSVP: www.yardleyumc.org/events or contact the church office by January 10, or use the QR code.

Questions: Denise Harris



Angels for Seniors

Thank you for being an angel to a person living in ProMedica Senior Care. Please purchase a small gift for a senior who will be alone for the holidays. Sweatshirts, socks, Sudoku, or crossword puzzles are a few suggestions. Please drop off the gifts on or before December 17th. A gift and a prayer will remind them they are not truly alone.

winter MyCalling!

A Weekend of Service for youth & adults!

JANUARY 12-13TH

1/12 7pm Meet at YUMC for a night of worship, games and new people!

10pm Stay over at the church (If you choose)

1.1/13 8am Breakfast and head out to serve

3pm Return to share

COST \$50 pp Sign Up by January 6th!




Thank you Yardley United Methodist Church for donating towards the purchase of 30 blankets through Church World Service. Thirty people will be warmer this winter due to your generosity and prayers. We are doing good things at YUMC, let's keep it going.

Save the date!



Adults in MISSION

Jan 13

Winter MyCalling! January 12-13th

7pm Meet at YUMC for a night of worship, games and new people! Stay over at the church (Sleep) and get up Saturday morning ready to serve others!

Our projects include working at a home for kids and visiting people in Alzheimer's care facilities.

Friends welcome to join in. It'll be a weekend of serving, learning & fun together!



You're Invited: On Sunday, December 10 at 3 pm, join the 90-voice Bucks County Women's Chorus in the YUMC sanctuary for an afternoon of holiday choral music. The program will include well-known sacred melodies as well as popular secular tunes of the Christmas season. Admission to the 90-minute concert is free; a free-will offering will benefit The Christmas Gala, a local non-profit organization that caters to the needs of low-income seniors in Bucks County and beyond.



The Bell Choir plays in worship under the direction of our new Music Director.



Photo a day

During advent, Rethink church is bringing back their photo a day. Each day has a word attached to it.

You are invited to take some time to pause & reflect on this word.

What does it mean to you? What comes to mind when you think of this word?

What could God be saying to you through this word? What would you like to tell God today?

If you can, take a picture of something that represents the word. You can keep it to yourself or share with others on social media.

If you share, please use:

#rethinkchurch

#yumcadvent

That way we can see your photo.

YUMC YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry at Yardley UMC exists to share God's love with teenagers, equip them to experience the work of ministry, honor the Lord and enjoy one another.

Do you have questions? Need someone to talk to? See Denise or any youth leader. Or, email denise@yardleyumc.org

Not sure of dates for events? Check out the calendar on our website at www.yardleyumcyouth.org

Need to sign up for an event? You can go to the youth website at www.yardleyumcyouth.org and click on events.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER & GAME NIGHT

A Night of friends,
food, serving and fun!

DECEMBER 15, 2023
5:30PM-11:30PM

We will go caroling,
then head to a house for appetizers,
then a house for dinner,
then a house for dessert.
We will end at YUMC for
a game night.
Friends welcome!

sign up by
December 6th!



Progressive Dinner & Game Night—Friday December 15th

Come for a night of Friends, Amazing food, Serving others and Holiday celebration!

This is a crazy fun night for all.
Friends are welcome!

Dress in your Christmas Sweaters because the Youth with "Most Christmas Spirit" will win a prize.

Sign Up by December 6th!

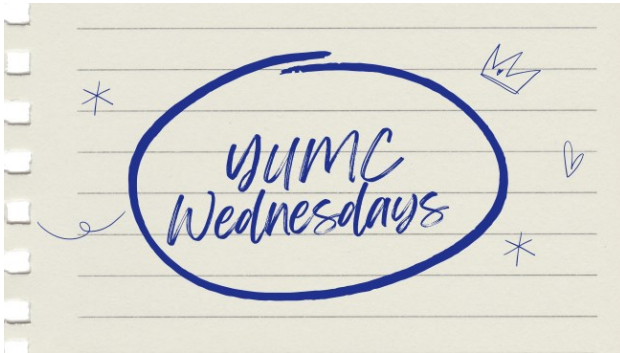
What do we do at a Progressive Dinner? Here's our Schedule:

5:30pm: Meet at church
6:00pm: Leave to bring Christmas Cheer to others!
7:00pm: Meet at appetizer house
8:00pm: Meet at Main Dish House
9:00pm: Meet at dessert house
10:00pm: Church for games
11:30pm: End of the night!

We are also looking for amazing people to open their homes and feed us! You can sign up to be an appetizer house, main dish or dessert house! If you are interested in hosting this group, follow the sign up link or talk to Denise!



Youth and God Squad mission work



Here's what the next few weeks look like for Wednesdays:

Youth & God Squad meet 12/6, 12/13.
We will take a Christmas & New Year Break and NOT meet 12/20, 12/27, 1/3.
Back to regular schedule 1/10

9:30-11:30pm

Young Adults meet on Zoom! Log on when you can, leave when you must!
We will catch up, play a game and hold discussions. 12/20 at 8:30pm is our Secret Santa Gift Exchange!



All High Schoolers & College Kids are invited to Mil-Lee's in Yardley Sundays 12:30-1:30pm.

The purpose of our time is to talk about our understanding of the world, faith and our own current joys and struggles.

We are creating time to be real together. Come, however you are and let's share together! Friends are welcome to join!

We will meet December 10 & 17, January 7, 14, 21

winter Mycalling!

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Service for youth
& adults!

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COST \$50 pp Sign Up by January 6th!



Tidings of
Yardley United Methodist Church
300 Langhorne Road
Yardley, Pennsylvania 19067



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2023

Upcoming Events

December

Worship each Sunday at 9:30 am for In-Person and Facebook Live and 11 am for Zoom

Youth Group & God Squad meet each Wed, 5:30 pm
(No Youth Group or God Squad on Dec 20, 27 & Jan 3)

Young Adults meet each Wed, 9:30 pm

- 8 Women's Ornament Exchange
- 10 Trustees meeting on Zoom, 12:15 pm
- 10 Bucks Co Women's Chorus, 3 pm
- 10 Christmas Caroling in Yardley, 12:30 pm at YUMC
- 12 Finance meeting, 7:30 pm
- 15 Youth Progressive Dinner & Game Night, 5:30 pm
- 16 Congregational Meeting
- 17 Recital, 1 pm
- 18
- 24 Christmas Eve
 - 9:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary & Facebook
 - 11:00 am Worship on Zoom
 - 5:00 pm In-Person & Facebook Live,
 - 7:00 pm on Zoom

Save the date: Winter MyCalling! Jan 12-13