



# Tidings

A Newsletter of Yardley United Methodist Church

Volume 25, Issue 6

Yardley, Pennsylvania

Christmas 2024



## *Advent and Christmas at Yardley United Methodist Church*

*1st week of Advent: HOPE Dec 1  
"Hope is at the Heart of Christmas"*

*2nd week of Advent: PEACE Dec 8  
"Find Peace in the Heart of Christmas"*

*3rd week of Advent: JOY Dec 15  
"The Heart of Christmas Brings Joy  
in all Circumstances"*

*4th week of Advent: LOVE Dec 22  
"The Heart of Christmas is Love"*

*Christmas Eve Dec 24 7:00 pm  
"Jesus is the Heart of Christmas"  
Lessons and Carols*

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



**YUMC Advent night is December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm - Everyone is invited!**

We will begin with a Potluck supper, bring a main or a side dish to share. Holiday theme games and assembling bags for our homebound friends will follow after dinner.

Come celebrate the start of Advent with your church family!



**Dec 13 6:30 pm**  
Christine Griffin's House  
1536 Makefield Rd  
Yardley Pa 19067

**BRING A  
WRAPPED  
ORNAMENT TO  
EXCHANGE**

All women are invited to an **Ornament Exchange** on Friday, December 13 at 6:30 pm at Christine Griffin's home. Please bring a wrapped ornament to exchange. If you don't want to leave with an ornament, you don't have to bring one—just enjoy the fellowship! Christine's address is 1536 Makefield Rd, Yardley. Rsvp at [www.yardleyumc.org/events](http://www.yardleyumc.org/events) or call the church office.

Tidings is published by  
Yardley United  
Methodist Church  
300 Langhorne Road  
Yardley, PA 19067  
Phone: 215-493-3345  
office@yardleyumc.org

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

Beloved Siblings of Christ,

As we gathered to celebrate our church's 190th anniversary this Thanksgiving weekend, I was filled with immense gratitude for the rich history and persevering faith that have shaped our beloved community. We have much to be thankful for, from the countless lives touched by our ministries to the unwavering support that has allowed us to thrive for nearly two centuries.

### **Celebrating Our Past, Embracing Our Future**

Our anniversary celebration was not just about commemorating our past but also about looking ahead to the future God has planned for us. As we embark on this journey, let us remember the words of Psalm 27, which guided our recent Administrative Council meeting:

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

These words remind us that even amidst uncertainty and change, we can always find strength and guidance in Jesus Christ.

### **A Season of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love – The Heart of Christmas**

As we enter the Advent season, we are invited to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ. This year's Advent theme, "The Heart of Christmas," reminds us that the true meaning of Christmas lies in the love of God, manifested through the birth of Jesus. Each week of Advent, we will focus on a different aspect of this love: hope, peace, joy, and love. We will light candles to symbolize these virtues and reflect on their significance in our lives through scripture readings, sermons, and songs.

### **Join Us for Our Advent and Christmas Eve Services**

I invite you to join us for our weekly Advent services, where we will delve deeper into the meaning of this holy season. Our Christmas Eve service (7:00 pm) will be a special time of worship and celebration, featuring traditional carols, scripture readings, candle lighting and a message of hope.

### **Updates and Highlights from Our Administrative Council**

Our recent Administrative Council meeting was a time of fruitful discussion and decision-making. Here are some key updates and highlights:

- **Financial Stewardship:** We discussed the importance of financial stewardship, especially in light of current economic challenges. We are grateful for the generosity of our congregation in responding to the special appeal and encourage everyone to consider how they can contribute to the ongoing mission and ministry of our church for the coming year.
- **Staff Appreciation:** We expressed our deep appreciation for our dedicated staff and their tireless efforts in serving our community. We are committed to supporting them and ensuring their well-being.
- **Building Maintenance:** We discussed ongoing building maintenance needs, including the recent repair of our fire suppression system. We are grateful to our Trustees for their diligent oversight of our facilities.
- **Mission and Outreach:** We celebrated the success of our recent Socktober drive, which collected over 420 pairs of socks for those in need. We are also excited about our upcoming Angel Tree program, which will provide gifts for children in our community.

### **Looking Ahead to 2025**

As we approach the new year, we are filled with anticipation for what God has in store for Yardley UMC. We will be working on developing our 2025 budget, planning new programs and initiatives, and continuing to grow together as a community of faith.

### **Thank You for Being a Part of Our Journey**

I am deeply grateful for each and every one of you and for the vital role you play in our church community. Your presence, your prayers, and your support make a real difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

May the spirit of Advent fill your hearts with hope, peace, joy, and love. I look forward to celebrating this special season with you.

Your Brother In Christ,  
*Pastor Lee Corpier*



## Birthdays in December

04 David Hunt  
07 Julianna Griffin  
08 Emilie Croggon  
14 David Green  
14 Christopher Moody  
15 Kim Laba  
17 Greg Van Aken  
19 Stephen Griffin  
19 William Binder IV  
20 Latajia Cox

23 Peg Boysen  
24 Eve Moody  
27 Reagan Ward  
31 Thomas Lefebvre

## Birthdays in January

04 Ted Pirog  
06 Annelise Zygmunt  
07 Ashlee Smith  
07 Andrew O'Keeffe  
07 Peter O'Keeffe  
10 Dick Jensen  
11 Marian Sitko  
13 Emily Zygmunt  
22 Hazel Costain

23 Ian Croggon  
27 Kristen Marco  
27 Chase Marco  
28 Chris Ortolf  
29 Maureen Kyle



## 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 15, 2024. 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 52 pounds of food was delivered to a grateful Penndel Food Pantry. Since 2016, YUMC has delivered 17,222 pounds of food to the food pantry and our mini pantry. 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.)

## Christmas Dedications

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/Memory of: (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ Paid herewith:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

and/or:

Ministries of Yardley UMC Amount:\$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Ways to Give



Cash or Check in the Plate  
Or Check by Mail:  
300 Yardley-Langhorne Rd  
Yardley, PA 19067



Giving QR



[www.yardleyumc.org/give](http://www.yardleyumc.org/give)



## Our Building contributes to our Mission of reaching out into the community

By Nancy Scurlock

Did you know that we have more groups using our building than at any time in the past? The Trustees have made it part of their mission to support community outreach through allowing the use of our building. Here is a current list of those who meet at YUMC: Adult Children of Alcoholics (3 different meetings), Alcoholics Anonymous (4 different meetings), Cantus Novus, Chair Yoga, Support Group (2 different meetings), Creative Parenting (2 different days), Tai Chi and Boy Scouts. Occasional uses include Red Cross Blood Drive (2-3 times per year), weddings, birthday parties and concerts and recitals. That's a whole lot of good our building provides to our community!

The groups who use our building make regular donations to the church out of appreciation for the space that we provide. **Additionally**, in 2023, they gave a total of \$2,450 in **extra giving** towards our capital campaign. So far this year, we have **extra gifts** for our special appeal given and promised totaling more than \$2,000.

The support groups regularly and sincerely tell us that the use of the building is very important and appreciated by them...in fact, sometimes life-saving. The letter that was sent to the congregation asking for special giving was also shared with all of the groups. Several checks were received along with notes of gratitude:

From a member of AA: *"I want to thank the Yardley Methodist Church for providing AA the use of their rooms. You help me bring God back into my life. Without your help I would be lost..."*

From a member of a Support Group: *"YUMC has served as a steadfast welcoming host for our group to meet and support one another since we first started meeting in 1994! We are very grateful for this."*

From a member of AA: *"...Allow us to express our gratitude for providing meeting space to Alcoholics Anonymous...We sincerely hope you will be able to continue to maintain your church as a safe and welcoming place..."*



### Save the Date

April 26th, 2025, at 3 pm

Thirty seats have been booked.

COST: Adult \$84.55; Child (under 12) \$42.00

RSVP with interest to:

cgriffin1126@gmail.com

**Mark your calendars for April 26, 2025 at 3 pm** to go to Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster. We will see Noah, an excellent show for all ages. We will have sign ups soon; meanwhile, please email your interest to Christine at cgriffin1126@gmail.com and sign up at [www.yardleyumc.org/events](http://www.yardleyumc.org/events)



The Prayer Shawl group is starting back up and will meet the first Monday of every month from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Contact Christine Griffin for more information.





**Advent is a time set aside to pause, reflect and prepare for Jesus. Join us as we go through Advent in reflection and action! Our Family Advent Challenge Devotional booklet is a great tool!**

Each week you'll have a reflection/discussion question, a video about the focus for the week and a list of challenges you can take on throughout the week. You can work through this as an individual, as a family or with a group of friends.

No matter how you decide to use this guide, we suggest you schedule intentional time each week to go through each reflection. Making a plan will help you make this a priority during this busy season.

You can pick up your copy of our Advent Family Challenge at the church, download it from [yumcyouth.org/Advent](http://yumcyouth.org/Advent) or use the webpage each week.

It is our hope that this process gives you a meaningful Advent which leads to a deeper relationship with God and a better connection with the world around you. Have a wonderful advent!

I will be praying for you! If you have any questions or issues, please reach out!

Journeying with you,  
Denise [Denise@yardleyumc.org](mailto:Denise@yardleyumc.org)



### **Join us for the Cookie Walk**

on Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 am.  
This is a fundraiser for the youth.  
Donations of cookies would be most appreciated.

*Scenes from Wednesday night. The students have a great time, learn about God and are well-fed by our enthusiastic volunteers! Thank you to all the adults who volunteer their time to Youth Group & God Squad. We couldn't pull it off without all of you!*





## 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: Jan 31-Feb 2, 2025

Where: Grove Hall Retreat Center, Ocean Grove, NJ [www.oceangrove.org/grove-hall](http://www.oceangrove.org/grove-hall)

Who: YUMC Women and Friends

Questions: Denise Harris



**Thank you, thank you, thank you. Socktober was a huge success.** 411 pairs of new socks were delivered to the Falls Township Police Department for their Project DASH which connects with different service organizations to help the homeless in Bucks County. Project Dash works with

Advocates for the Homeless and Those in Need, Reach Out Foundation, Valley Youth House Street Outreach, Buck's County Family Services Association's Street Medicines, Buck's County Opportunity Council Street Outreach, and Penndel Mental Health. The Youth and the YUMC congregation want to thank you again for all your support of this program.



### ***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 15th. 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.





## We welcomed Clipper Erickson and Risë Kagan-Erickson as our new musical team at YUMC on Nov 17th !!

*By Nancy Froysland Hoerl, SPRC Chair*

WELCOME and BLESSINGS as you lead us in worship through music.

Clipper has been a church musician for over 20 years. He made his debut at age 19 in Los Angeles as soloist with the Young Musicians Foundation Orchestra, followed by studies at The Juilliard School. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from Indiana University, 1982, Master of Music from Yale 1986 and his Doctor of Musical Arts from Temple in 2014. Erickson's release on Navona Records, *My Cup Runneth Over – The Complete Piano Works of R. Nathaniel Dett*, was honored by Gramophone UK in 2016 as a critic's choice and best album of the year. He has also recorded piano music by Laurie Altman and will be in Switzerland celebrating a new CD release in December with the composer.

Committed to encouraging the love of music in future generations of musicians, Clipper is a faculty member of Westminster Conservatory in Princeton and Temple University in Philadelphia.

Risë is a handbell specialist. She has a BA in Music Therapy from Montclair State, 1973, and a Choral Conducting Certificate from Kassel, Germany, 2004. She has been attending seminars in Handbell Artistry since 1995. Since returning to the US in 2007, Risë has been involved in Music Ministry at various local churches in and around Bucks County, singing, directing vocal choirs and handbell ensembles, including starting and directing a bell choir at Ascension Lutheran Church in Washington Crossing. You may remember her from our shared Ash Wednesday services at Newtown UMC. She will be directing our handbell choir and adult choirs.

We look forward to many years of praising God with music together. November 17th also happened to be their wedding Anniversary – a good day to celebrate God's work in our lives.



*Left to right: Nancy Froysland Hoerl, Risë Kagan-Erickson and Clipper Erickson*



**Do you love Christmas music?** If you enjoy getting into the spirit with songs from the holidays, you'll certainly love "A Christmas Tale", a concert of both sacred and secular music to be performed by

Bucks County Women's Chorus here in our sanctuary on Saturday, December 14 at 3 pm. The 75-minute concert will include treasured carols, traditional favorites, and even a few surprises. There is no admission charge. A free-will offering we be collected at intermission and presented to a local charity. Hope to see you there! [www.buckscountywomenschorus.com](http://www.buckscountywomenschorus.com)

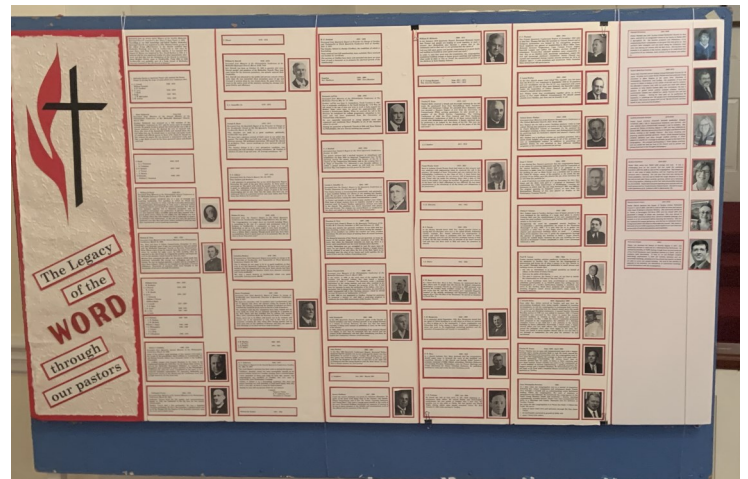


**Everyone is invited to a Holiday Recital on December 15th at 2:00 pm.** The program will feature the students of Nick Mynyk. Seven students are 2024 PA State Gold Medalists. Performers will include Braedon Owen, Sierra, Logan, and Everest Kim all of whom have shared their wonderful talents in Worship at YUMC. The program will include music for strings and piano by Mozart, Elgar, Vivaldi, Beethoven and Rachmaninoff. Please come and support very talented local youth. The recital is free and open to the public.





On Sunday, November 24, 2024, YUMC celebrated its 190th anniversary with an impressive historical display. Thank you Dennis Laba for all the work you put into this celebration!



## Our First Newsletter

By Nancy Scurlock

Of particular interest to me in the 190th anniversary display as the editor of *Tidings*, was an original copy of the first Yardley Methodist Church newsletter, *Church Paper*, circa 1942.

Included in the issue is an editorial encouraging folks to attend church every Sunday, news about Church Sunday School, a November calendar of events, an article about The Woman's Society of Christian Service, an article about the choir which was practicing for the Christmas cantata "Peace on Earth," Methodist Youth Fellowship, and more.

The editor of this first issue was the Rev. F. Lewis Walley. He writes, "Many churches are missing one of the best opportunities for keeping people informed of the activities of the church, for recruiting new members, and for securing publicity... Thus this humble effort comes to you with the well wishes of our church, and a hope and prayer that much may be accomplished to the advancement of the Kingdom through it's publication... What will be the results to warrant the continued publication of this paper? Herein much depends upon you. However, this periodical will have the tendency to bind our members closer together in Christian fellowship, and to make them feel that they are a part of the church..."

Hmmm, not much as changed regarding the newsletter in more than 80 years. My aim as newsletter editor is still much the same! But, I'm glad that I produce the newsletter with a modern computer instead of a manual typewriter!





## 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](mailto:denise@yardleyumc.org)

**Not sure of dates for events?** Check out the calendar on our website at [www.yardleyumcyouth.org](http://www.yardleyumcyouth.org)

**Need to sign up for an event?** You can go to the youth website at [www.yardleyumcyouth.org](http://www.yardleyumcyouth.org) and click on events, or use the QR code.



**YUMC Youth  
Events Page**



### CHRISTMAS LOCK IN Dec 14, 6 pm

We will meet at the church at 6pm for a night of dinner, games, discussion and baking!

The purpose of this night is to build memories and help our youth know the church is a place they can be themselves. We will participate in a mission, organizing bags for local patients receiving treatment for cancer. We will stay over (and sleep) at the church so everyone should bring sleeping bag/air mattress, etc.



### COOKIE WALK

**Dec 15, 10:30 am**

Everyone is invited to participate in the Cookie Walk. Youth can raise money off the cost of their Ski Trip or Mission Trip by baking 2 dozen cookies and/or being present at 10:30am to help lead the sale. We will make cookies during the lock-in to sell!

### CONFIRMATION

Youth in 8th-9th grade: Are you interested in taking your faith journey to another level? Would you like to learn more about the Methodist Church?

Sign Up for Confirmation Class! Beginning January 21st– May we will meet once a month for lesson and discussion. Each Confirmand will receive a mentor and will meet with their mentor 5 times for a guided discussion. If we can get the group together, we will go to Gretna Glen for Confirmation Camp. Confirmation Sunday will be June 8th.

This process is a valuable step in a young person's faith journey because being confirmed in a church means having a connection with the larger church that goes beyond a weekly meeting.

For more information, please talk to Pastor Lee or Denise By January 8th.





## **YUMC Advent night - Everyone is invited! Sat, December 7th 5pm**

We will begin with a Potluck supper, bring a main or a side dish to share. Holiday theme games and assembling bags for our home-bound friends will follow after dinner.

Come celebrate the start of Advent together!

## **WINTER MYCALLING! 1/17-18**

Friday night we will come to the church for worship and a service project. We will sleep at the church and get up in the morning for breakfast then leave for a day of serving others in service projects.

We will have service projects for youth & adults. (Adults aren't expected to stay over at the church)

Service projects will include organizing a clothing closet, working in a food pantry and giving meals to those in need. This weekend is a great time to come together in a common goal to serve others and learn more about ourselves. It's also a great place to earn service project hours!

Cost is \$50 pp, sign up by 1/6/25.



## **YOUTH & FAMILIES SKI TRIP Feb14-16**

We will meet at YUMC Friday evening, head to our rental home, get settled, have some time together then rest!

On Saturday morning we will have breakfast, pack lunch and head to Shawnee Mountain for a day of skiing, snow boarding or tubing. Then we will head back to the house for dinner and games. On Sunday morning we will have our own worship service and head home! Families are invited to come! Youth are invited to come without their parents too. Friends are welcome!

Get a packet outside of the youth room, in the lobby or on the website. Sign Up by January 19th!



Join us on Wednesday nights!





*Pub Theology meets once per month. All are welcome!*



*Scenes from  
Wednesday nights!*



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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## 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 25 & Jan 1.)

**Young Adults** meet each Wed, 9:30 pm

7 Advent Night & Pot Luck Dinner, 5 pm

13 Women's Ornament Exchange

14 Bucks Co Women's Chorus, 3 pm

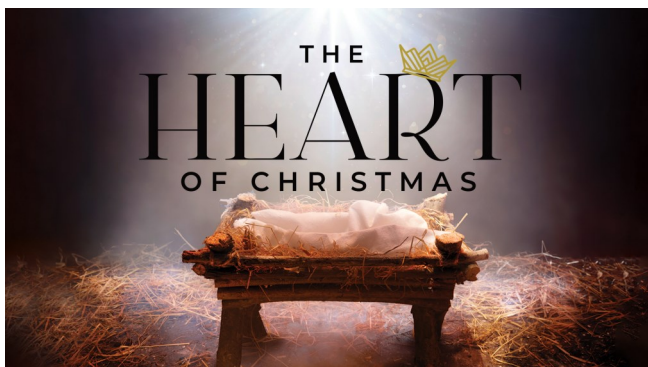
14 Youth Christmas Lock in, 6 pm

15 Cookie Walk, 10:30 am

15 Recital, 2 pm

24 Christmas Eve

7:00 pm In-Person & Facebook Live



## December 2024

Save the date: Women's Book Study Jan 10  
Winter MyCalling! Jan 17-18  
Women's Retreat Jan 31-Feb 2  
Youth & Family Ski Trip Feb 14-16