



THE MESSENGER

The Newsletter of Manor Memorial United Methodist Church
December 2025/January 2026

A Message from Your Pastor

Many of you send me wonderful stories via e-mail that are both useful, and inspiring. Unfortunately, I do not always get to share them with our church family. So, instead of writing an article this month, I would like to share one of my stories with you! Please enjoy and have a most happy and blessed Christmas and New Year.

Stephen

She was six years old when I first met her on the beach near where I live. I drive to this beach, a distance of three or four miles, whenever the world begins to close in on me. She was building a sandcastle or something and looked up, her eyes as blue as the sea. "Hello," she said. I answered with a nod, not really in the mood to bother with a small child. "I'm building," she said. "I see that. What is it?" I asked, not caring. "Oh, I don't know, I just like the feel of sand." That sounds good, I thought, and slipped off my shoes. A sandpiper glided by. "That's a joy," the child said. "It's a what?" "It's a joy. My mama says sandpipers come to bring us joy." The bird went gliding down the beach. "Good-bye joy," I muttered to myself, "hello pain," and turned to walk on. I was depressed; my life seemed completely out of balance. "What's your name?" She wouldn't give up. "Robert," I answered. "I'm Robert Peterson." "Mine's Wendy. I'm six." "Hi, Wendy." She giggled. "You're funny," she said. In spite of my gloom I laughed too and walked on. Her musical giggle followed me. "Come again, Mr. P," she called. "We'll have another happy day."



The days and weeks that followed belong to others: a group of unruly Boy Scouts, PTA meetings, an ailing mother. The sun was shining one morning as I took my hands out of the dishwasher. "I need a sandpiper," I said to myself, gathering up my coat. The ever-changing balm of the seashore awaited me. The breeze was chilly, but I strode along, trying to recapture the serenity I needed. I had forgotten the child and was startled when she appeared. "Hello, Mr. P," she said. "Do you want to play?" "What do you have in mind?" I asked, with a twinge of annoyance. "I don't know, you say." "How about charades?" I asked sarcastically. The tinkling laughter burst forth again. "I don't know what that is." "Then let's just walk." Looking at her I

noticed the delicate fairness of her face. "Where do you live?" I asked. "Over there." She pointed toward a row of summer cottages. Strange, I thought, in winter. "Where do you go to school?" "I don't go to school. Mommy says we're on vacation." She chattered little girl talk as we strolled up the beach, but my mind was on other things. When I left for home, Wendy said it had been a happy day. Feeling surprisingly better, I smiled at her and agreed.

Three weeks later, I rushed to my beach in a state of near panic. I was in no mood to even greet Wendy. I thought I saw her mother on the porch and felt like demanding she keep her child at home. "Look, if you don't mind," I said crossly when Wendy caught up with me, "I'd rather be alone today." She seemed unusually pale and out of breath. "Why?" she asked. I turned to her and shouted, "Because my mother died!" and thought, my God, why was I saying this to a little child? "Oh," she said quietly, "then this is a bad day." "Yes," I said, "and yesterday and the day before and-oh, go away!" "Did it hurt?" she inquired. "Did what hurt?" I was exasperated with her, with myself. "When she died?" "Of course it hurt!!!!" I snapped, misunderstanding, wrapped up in myself. I strode off.

A month or so after that, when I next went to the beach, she wasn't there. Feeling guilty, ashamed and admitting to myself I missed her, I went up to the cottage after my walk and knocked at the door. A drawn looking young woman with honey-colored hair opened the door. "Hello," I said. "I'm Robert Peterson. I missed your little girl today and wondered where she was." "Oh yes, Mr. Peterson, please come in. Wendy spoke of you so much. I'm afraid I allowed her to bother you. If she was a nuisance, please, accept my apologies." "Not at all-she's a delightful child," I said, suddenly realizing that I meant it. "Where is she?" "Wendy died last week, Mr. Peterson. She had leukemia. Maybe she didn't tell you." Struck dumb, I groped for a chair. My breath caught. "She loved this beach; so when she asked to come, we couldn't say no. She seemed so much better here and had a lot of what she called happy days. But the last few weeks, she declined rapidly," her voice faltered. "She left something for you. If only I can find it. Could you wait a moment while I look?" I nodded stupidly, my mind racing for something, anything, to say to this lovely young woman. She handed me a smeared envelope, with "Mr. P" printed in bold, childish letters. Inside was a drawing with bright crayon hues-a yellow beach, a blue sea, and a brown bird. Underneath was carefully printed: "A SANDPIPER TO BRING YOU JOY." Tears welled up in my eyes, and a heart that had almost forgotten to love opened wide. I took Wendy's mother in my arms. "I'm so sorry, I'm sorry, I'm so sorry," I muttered over and over, and we wept together.

(Continued)

The precious little picture is framed now and hangs in my study. Six words, one for each year of her life, speak to me of harmony, courage, undemanding love. A gift from a child with sea-blue eyes and hair the color of sand-who taught me the gift of love.

This true story serves as a reminder to all of us that we need to take time to enjoy living and life and each other. "The price of hating other human beings is loving oneself less." Life is so complicated, the hustle and bustle of everyday traumas can make us lose focus about what is truly, important or what is only a monetary setback or crisis.



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2025

December 7, Second Sunday in Advent

Holy Communion

Sermon: "Harmony"

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13

Hymns: UMH p. 230, "O Little Town of Bethlehem", (1, 2, 4)

p. 221, "In the Bleak Midwinter", (1, 3, 4)

December 14, Third Sunday in Advent

Sermon: "Do Not Grumble"

Scripture: James 5:7-10

Hymns: UMH p. 234, "O Come, All Ye Faithful", (1, 2, 3)

p. 220, "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (1, 2, 4), p. 245, "The First Noel", (1, 2, 3)

December 21, Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sermon: "Like This!"

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Hymns: UMH p. 216, "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming",

p. 219, "What Child Is This", p. 251, "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

December 24, Christmas Eve, 7 & 11pm

Sermon: "Don't Stop"

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Hymns: UMH p. 240, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing",

p. 217, "Away in a Manger", p. 246, "Joy to the World", (1, 2, 4)

December 28, First Sunday after Christmas

Sermon: "Hide!"

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23

Hymns: UMH p. 227, "The Friendly Beasts",

P. 238, "Angels We Have Heard on High", p. 249, "There's A Song in the Air"

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2026

January 4, Epiphany of the Lord

Holy Communion

Sermon: "How Many Magi?"

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Hymns: UMH p. 245, "The First Noel",

p. 254, "We Three Kings", (1, 2, 5)

January 11, Baptism of the Lord

Reaffirmation of Our Baptism

Sermon: "Baptized People"

Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17

Hymns: UMH p. 145, "Morning Has Broken",

p. 347, "Spirit Song", p. 261, "Lord of the Dance"

January 18, Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon: "What Are You Looking For?"

Scripture: John 1:29-42

Hymns: UMH p. 98, "To God be the Glory",

p. 405, "Seek Ye First", p. 419, "I Am Thine, O Lord"

January 25, Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon: "Who Do You Follow?"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

**Hymns: UMH p. 338, "Where He Leads Me",
p. 576, "Rise Up, O Men of God", p. 593, "Here I Am, Lord"**



MERCY OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mercy and Outreach continue to help those in need. Our current projects have been to contribute candy for our Halloween here at Manor. We filled 10 Christmas shoeboxes. We have added to our Emergency food bags mission by making Emergency mini food bags to keep in our cars to give out to those in need as we travel. We are preparing for our Turner sandwiches fundraiser for Superbowl Sunday. There will be order forms available on January 4 to order Turner sandwiches: country ham, roast beef or grilled tenderloin. Each comes with chips and a cookie for \$7. Order deadline is Sunday, February 1. Pick up is Sunday, February 8, after each church service.



Tom Schaeffer, President

Monday – December 8th: As the calendar year comes to a close, the UMM will be providing a free dinner for Church members at the Wood Grill Restaurant in Harrisonburg at 6pm. Please come to enjoy a delicious meal and Christian fellowship.

Monday – January 5th: UMM/UWF Monthly Meeting, 6pm Farrow Hall

Saturday – January 24th: Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, 8-10am in Farrow Hall, free will offering.



2026 United Women in Faith Officers

President: Donna Myers

Vice President: Lana Cox

Secretary: Clara Chambliss

Treasurer: Debbie Creech

Greetings from your new president! The United Women in Faith meet on the first Monday of the month at 6pm for a joint meal with the United Methodist Men. The ladies prepare the meal every other month. Then at 7pm, we have a separate meeting. We welcome all ladies to join us. Instead of our regular meeting on December 8, the UMM have invited everyone for an evening meal at 6pm at Wood Grill Buffet to thank the church for their support during the past year. In January the ladies will provide the meal. Stay tuned for more details.

On February 8, the UWF are joining the Mercy and Outreach Committee to provide a delicious “Souper Bowl” lunch. We will offer a variety of soups in 12 oz. containers for the price of \$5 each. Soup will be available following worship in Farrow Hall. No preorders are required. Get your appetites ready for a hearty “Souper Bowl” meal.

The mission of United Women in Faith is to connect and nurture women so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities. This is achieved through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education. The organization’s purpose is to turn faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth. Join us to learn, work, pray, plan, and of course laugh together. Bring your mission ideas and goals for the new year. I look forward to seeing familiar and new faces as we become the hands and feet of Jesus serving others.

Donna Myers

President



Worship Helpers Schedule:

Liturgists: December: Monty Cox
January: Dee White & Meg Farmer

Ushers: December: Dave White

Greeters: December: George Kagey

Counters: December 7: Linda Burgdorf & Becky Schaeffer
December 14: Jim Douglas & Clark Myers
December 21: Donna Myers & Cherryl Hassler
December 28: Dee White & Linda Burgdorf
January 4: Elizabeth Sawyer & Linda Burgdorf
January 11: Elizabeth Sawyer & Linda Burgdorf
January 18: Elizabeth Sawyer & Linda Burgdorf
January 25: Janet Kagey & Bonnie Good



Newsletter December 2025/ January 2026

LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY MANOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



On Thursday, November 20th, our Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry had an incredible distribution day! 100 families for a total of 229 individuals were given access to nourishing food and encouragement during difficult times.

None of this would be possible without our tireless volunteers, our church and all of our community supporters. This month, we would like to thank our **New Market Rotary friends** for their donation of 75 Food Lion Gift Cards! This kindhearted and compassionate gift to our patrons has been a long-time tradition. In addition to our monthly menu distribution, each family will receive a \$20.00 gift card to help them round out their Thanksgiving. A real Thanksgiving blessing! Thank you to all and may God Bless You!

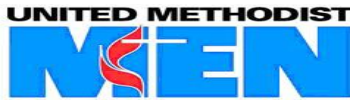




SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	3 Holiday Concert: 5pm	4	5 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	6 New Market Parade: 5pm
7 Worship Services: 8:45am & 11am	8 All are invited to Wood Grill: 6pm	9 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	10 Choir Practice: 5:30pm	11	12 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	13
14 Worship Services: 8:45am & 11am	15	16 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	17 Choir Practice: 5:30pm	18 Food Pantry, 1-4:30pm	19 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	20
21 Worship Services: 8:45am & 11am	22	23 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	24 Candlelight & Communion: 7pm, 11pm	25 CHRISTMAS, Church office closed	26 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	27
28 Worship Services: 8:45am & 11am	29	30 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	31			



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Worship Services: 8:45am & 11am	5 UMM/ UWF Meeting, 6pm	6 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	7 Choir Practice: 5:30pm	8	9 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	10
11 Worship Services: 8:45am & 11am	12	13 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	14 Choir Practice: 5:30pm	15 Food Pantry: 1-4:30pm	16 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	17
18 Worship Services: 8:45am & 11am	19	20 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	21 Choir Practice: 5:30pm	22	23 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	24 UMM Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, 8-10am
25 Worship Services: 8:45am & 11am	26	27 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	28 Choir Practice: 5:30pm	29	30 AA Meeting, 6-9pm	31



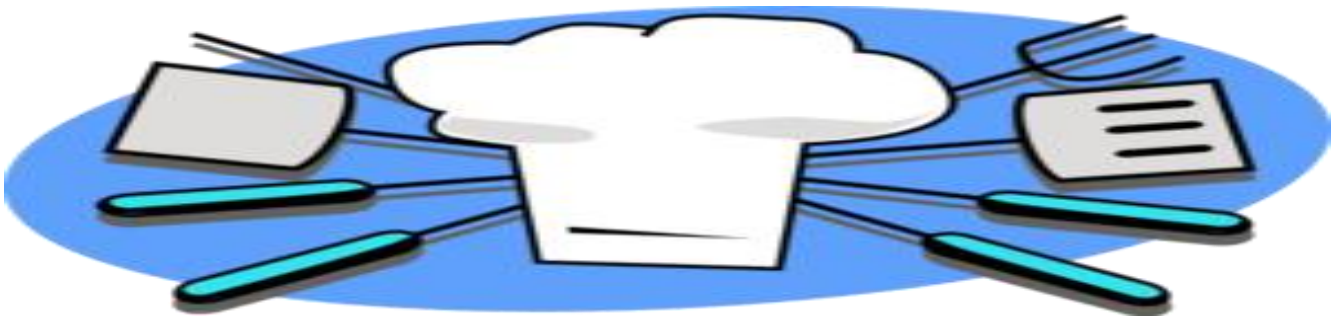
The United Methodist Men meet the first Monday of each month at 6pm in Farrow Hall.

2026 United Methodist Men's Officers

President: Tom Schaeffer
Vice President: Monty Cox
Secretary: Jay Munnikhuysen
Treasurer: Doug Loman
Board: Les Warr, Jim Douglas, Virgil Trent

2026 CHICKEN BBQ SCHEDULE

APRIL 25
MAY 23
JUNE 27
JULY 25
AUGUST 22
SEPTEMBER 26



United
Women
in Faith

2026 United Women in Faith Officers

President: Donna Myers
Vice President: Lana Cox
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Treasurer: Debbie Creech



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December Birthdays

Karey Rexroad, 2
Elizabeth Sawyer, 2
Linda Smith, 3
Nate Farmer, 4
Jackie Spicer, 8
Susan Grandfield, 15
Anna Lamma, 23
Priscilla Trent, 23
Evan Estep, 27
Debra Ogborn, 28
Jen Finfrock, 30

January Birthdays

Zachariah Kagey, 6
Fred Jenkins, 7
John Moomaw 11
Shirley Fuller, 14
Frank Ogborn, 14
Larry Bompiani, 16
Rick Hassler, 16
Roger Smith, 16
Ron Humphries, 19
Paul Loman, 19
Tim Loman, 19
Caroll Douglas, 22
Jonathan Shirley, 22
Earl Hinkle, 26
Juanita Durrett, 30
Jo Lynn Veney, 30



Visit, Call or Send a Note...

Pat Brumback
Shenandoah Place
50 Burkholder Lane
New Market, VA 22844

Nancy Cotton
Shenandoah Place
Burkholder Lane
New Market, VA 22844

Vivian Myers
Shenandoah Place
50 Burkholder Lane
New Market, VA 22844

Imogene Poland
VMRC
1316 Woodland Park Circle
Harrisonburg, VA 22802



**Food Pantry Coordinator –
Carol Driver**

**Thank you for your financial
donations to our food pantry!**



WELCOME TO MMUMC!

"An Incredible Journey - GPS Available Here"

Manor Memorial United Methodist Church

9320 North Congress Street

New Market, VA 22844

540-740-8959

manormemorial@gmail.com

StephenCreech@vaumc.org

www.manormemorialumc.org

Sunday Worship: 8:45am & 11am

Sunday School: 9:45am

Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month

Ministers...All Members of Manor Memorial

Pastor...Stephen Creech

Lay Leader...Rick Hassler

Governing Board...Doug Loman

Accompanist...Enzo Abarquez

Administrative Assistant...Elizabeth Sawyer

Director of Music Ministries...Gillian Saunders

Director of Youth Ministries...Gillian Saunders

Bishop of the Virginia Conference...Sue Haupt-Johnson

Superintendent of the Shenandoah River District...Kyungsuk Cho

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am-3pm



We recognize that the church was commissioned to proclaim the Good News of God in Jesus Christ in the "Great Commission" of Matthew 28:19-20.

And, we further recognize the responsibilities in Matthew 25:31-46 of caring for all God's children.

We understand and accept this mission as our reason for being and we believe this mission to be the charge of every member of Manor Memorial United Methodist Church.