



Havertown United Methodist Church  
200 Brookline Blvd.  
Havertown , Pa 19083



## December 2025 Messenger



### LEADERSHIP AND STAFF OF HAVERTOWN UMC.

Pastor: Rev. Jacqueline Tilford cell 410-963-1721 parsonage 610-789-2328

Director of Music: Yukiko (Yuki) Ishida, DMA

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Organist/Pianist: Lilah Knox

Sunday School Director: Brenda Del Rosario ED.D. cell 215-688-8778

Treasurer: James McDonough

Parish Nurse: Deaconess Barbara Drake

Administrative Assistant: Donna Flanagan office 610-789-1700

Custodian: Miriam Gallagher

Hope Food Bank: Sally Kiner



## A Ministry of Presence!

Alyssa Ruch is our director of Pathways Bridges. Havertown UMC has been given a grant of \$1755 to support us in expanding our outreach to others. The Bridges program has offered trainings where testimonies of extraordinarily successful outreach and fresh techniques for storytelling are shared in ways that draw people into meaningful conversations and inspiring experiences.

One of the several trainings we participated in was held with a team of Havertown UMC members over a nearly three-hour Sunday lunch in the lounge. Iliana Matos facilitated a workshop resulting in stories of our awareness of our neighbors who are different from us. We then developed goals that would increase our social media presence to support outreach efforts.

In the midst of being busier than ever, Alyssa challenges us, not only to plan gatherings where we can share our stories to draw people in, but to “simply notice where people are already gathering in our communities. The coffee shop humming with conversation, the school concert, the town parade, the local food pantry, the senior center—all these are sacred spaces where God’s Spirit is already at work.”

Alyssa invites us to join in practicing presence:

- Go where your neighbors already are.
- Listen before you speak.
- Notice moments of connection and kindness.
- Reflect on where you see God moving beyond the church walls.

Sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is *show up*—open-hearted, curious, and ready to see the holy in ordinary places.

May this season be one of slowing down enough to notice, and drawing near enough to love.

Let’s try Alyssa’s suggestion together, and if we dare, bring back a story, a God moment, an insight, a reflection. It will surely matter!

In God’s love,

Pastor Jacqueline



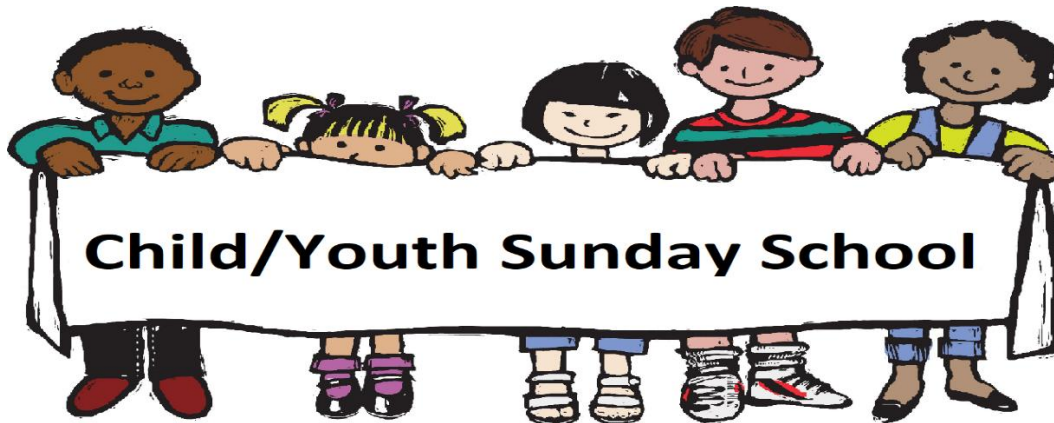
Those Assisting in Worship

December Liturgists:

7 Sally Kiner  
14 Barbara Drake  
21 Edith McDonough  
28 Bev Schmitt

December Communion Steward

14 Cathy Cherwinski



#### SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE:

As we continue our journey of the BOOKS OF THE BIBLE, the camels we're traveling with dug their hooves deep into the sand and urged us to linger in Egypt for a while. Even as we pause, our gifted children and youth are creating Thanksgiving cards for those unable to join us in person, reminding us that God's love travels farther than any desert.

With Advent just around the corner, the students will be practicing for the annual Christmas Eve play "A Journey to Bethlehem", led by Sunday School teachers Bev Schmitt, Joyce Kowalski, Donna Flanagan, Lynne Rudisill, and Brenda Del Rosario

**Spot Light:** Kierra and Cassidy Flemming were part of Catholic Community Choir Shines in their production of Frozen and will also be in the Haverford Dance Studio's production of the Nutcracker in December.

#### *Sharing with others for Christmas!*

Delco Helping Hands is collecting scarves, hats, mittens, gloves, and socks for children and adults in need. Please place them in the box in the Narthex under our giving tree.





## Worship Services

### **December 7- Second Sunday of Advent/ Cantata –**

**"Touched by a Child, Touched by a King,"**

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

11:00 am Worship **Cantata – "Touched by a Child, Touched by a King,"**

### **December 14 – Third Sunday of Advent/Communion**

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

11:00 am Worship Isaiah 7:10-16 "The Prophet's Sweet Dreams of Jesus"

### **December 16 – Blue Christmas Service at St. Luke's UMC**

6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 pm Service

### **December 21 – Fourth Sunday after of Advent/After Church Fellowship**

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

11:00 am Worship Isaiah 35:1-10 "American Dreams of Jesus"

### **December 24 – Christmas Eve**

4:00pm Family Service "A Journey to Bethlehem"

7:30 pm Candlelight Service Isaiah 9:2-7 "Daydreams and Night Visions"

### **December 28 – First Sunday after Christmas**

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

11:00 am Worship Philippians 3:12-21 "New Year, New You! Pressing on in 2026"  
Tony Tilford preaching

### **We Love Our Online Worshipers**

We are so blessed to have worshipers join in on zoom. Some of the service music will be sent via email for your convenience. If you would like to receive a copy of the United Methodist hymnal as well as the Faith We Sing hymnal, let us know. We will deliver or mail hymnals upon request.





IN OUR

# Thoughts and Prayers



Mark Brogan	Beth Cavanaugh	Don Consul
Brenda Del Rosario	Laura Dietrich	Jackie Engler
Pat Evans	Paul Eves	Bob Flanagan
Michael Flanagan	Carol Grafton	Audrey Hewitt
Stacy Kusko	Keith Loflin	Tanya Long
Stephen Pols	Sue Makara	Linda McAlpin
Barbara Murphy	Geraldine Oakes	Judy Rejent
Denise Snyder		
Brian(needs double lung transplant)		
Mr. Choe (Dr. Chris Hannum's father-in-law)		
Don Metzger's(co-worker who had a stroke)		
Richard & Shirley Miller(Donna's Aunt & Uncle)		
Mike Downes (Donna's Brother in law)		
Bob Consul and Family		

### *What United Methodists Affirm*

Check out the social principles.

Borrow a copy from the table in the Sanctuary or in the office.

### *The Friday Study Group on zoom with Ann Eves*

*All are welcome!*

Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting

Meeting ID: 773 445 3422

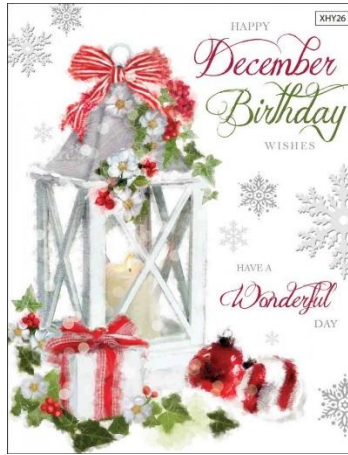
One tap mobile +16465588656,  
7734453422# US (New York)

### **December 2025 study:**

#### **A Child is Born by Amy-Jill Levine**

A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories

Author Amy-Jill Levine brings her expert knowledge of Scripture and careful consideration of the Christian story to show readers how Scripture's earlier birth stories anticipate the story of Jesus's birth in this 4 session video study.

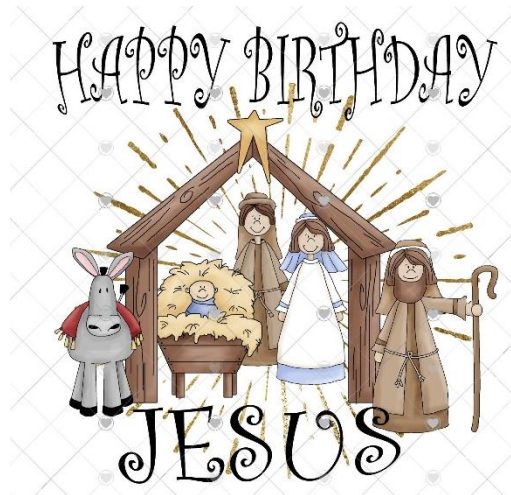


Happy Birthday to those with a Birthday in December!

Phoenix Hoyle	12/01
David Kowalski	12/04
Karen Karosas	12/07
Eva Kowalski	12/09
Eric Jacobs	12/17
Tom Osborne	12/17
Olivia Martin	12/18
Bob White	12/21
Ron Brunner	12/22
Sean McDonough	12/26
Bob Flanagan	12/30
Kathy Reisch	12/30

Birthday Blessings to you all.

If we've missed your birthday or it is not the correct date,  
Please call or email the church office.



Join us at the 4 pm Family Christmas Eve Service for “A Journey to Bethlehem”  
and at 7:30 pm for the Candlelight Service “Day Dreams and Night Visions”.



## HOPE FOOD BANK, from Coordinator Sally Kiner:

Hi friends!

We will have volunteers at the Hope Food Bank on all Saturdays thru Dec.20<sup>th</sup> 10-11:30 am to collect food donations.

Our WISH LIST continues to target these items:

canned fruit

peanut butter

jelly (no glass jars)

mac and cheese

canned meat (chicken preferred, but tuna is okay)

hearty soup (such as Progresso or Chunky)

beef stew

Cooking Oil

Laundry Detergent

hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, etc.)

feminine pads and tampons

adult pull-ups (L, XL, and XXL)

\*Generic brands are A-OK with us.

\*Please donate regular sized items. Try to avoid extra-large or family sized items.

\*We are well stocked with diapers right now.

\*As always, we will accept any in-date food and hygiene items you wish to donate.

\*Monetary donations are always appreciated.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, as I will gladly assist you.

Thank you for helping us support folks in food-compromised situations. You are the blessing that enables us to provide our clients with the help they need.

Sally Kiner, Director  
Hope Food Bank



### Jumble:

Thanks to all who helped at the Jumble which raised money for the church. You set up for 3 hours, staffed for 4 hours, and packed up the leftovers in 2 hours and then drove some to Good Will, while others were designated for United Methodist Neighborhood Services or the next Jumble. We decided to take some of the collectibles to a consignment shop to try to get money for what was more valuable than folks were willing to pay. The bake table raised \$150, which we decided to donate to the church. The amount deposited in the bank was \$1391, and a few people will still be paying for what they took home. Thanks also to all who donated items for sale. We will have added more than \$1400 to help with our church ministries, which includes the upkeep of our buildings.

### Advent and Christmas Celebrations:

- Enjoying the Havertown Choristers on Nov. 24 at 8 pm at Haverford High School, in place of a zoom meeting. The music of the season prepares our hearts.
- Advent lunch on Nov. 30 with crafts, bringing toys & packing cookies for at-home folks and families served by the Hope Food Bank. Toys for children of all ages served by Methodist Home for Children should be brought unwrapped.
- Sat. Dec. 6 at 9:30 am, decorating the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.
- Tues. Dec. 9 at 12:30 Women's Christmas lunch with games, crafts, and singing.
- Sat. Dec. 13 at 1:00 Children's Christmas Party Crafts, Story, Special Visitor "Santa".
- Mon. Dec. 22 at 7:30 on zoom, devotions and sharing Christmas traditions.



### Holiday Eating

The holiday season presents challenges for healthy eating. Special meals for family and friends, buffet meals, and home-baked cookies and pies tempt us to eat more than usual and to splurge on treats. We need to make plans for how we will cope. Suggestions are to take small servings of everything you like, to avoid taking seconds, to be sure your plate has as many vegetables as protein and starches, and to select the one dessert you like the most. Of course, if you have medical issues, you need to keep any nutritional limitations in mind. Enjoying the holiday season is important but so is staying healthy throughout it.

### Vaccines

Predictions are being made for a bad flu season while previous federal recommendations for flu shots are being removed. Most doctors are still saying that everyone over 6 months of age should get a flu shot. If in doubt, please talk to your doctor about the vaccines you need.





### Our Tanzanian Missionaries



Back home after receiving medical care in the U.S. for a stroke, pictured here are Rev Mutwale Wa Mushidi and Kabaka Alphonsine standing next to Roland Fernandes, General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries. Deaconess Barb Drake is the chair of the Board of Global Ministries of our Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church.

### Missionary support

We provide \$1000 per year to support the salaries and work of Rev. Mutwale Wa Mushidi and his wife Kabaka Alphonsine who have been serving in Tanzania since 1992. He starts churches and trains pastors while she directs two pre-schools and coordinates the work with women who are being trained how to sew dresses and make purses and bags to help support their families. Mutwale had a stroke earlier this year and he had rehab in Lancaster, PA, where one of his daughters is a pastor. He is now recovered and back at work in Tanzania.

### St. Joseph's Family Hope Center

As you know, the shelter for homeless families with children had to close in June due to eviction from the rented shelter space. The Board of Directors will meet on December 10 to discuss the future. Some of the Board members want to shift our mission to preventing homelessness by raising money to provide rental assistance, while other board members want to end the ministry. Please be praying for the Board to discern God's guidance.

### Hope Food Bank

We give thanks for the leadership of Sally Kiner. She reported to the Leadership Team that amazing amounts of food have been donated, 45 families were served in November, and 15 new people are interested in volunteering to help distribute food. She will let us know about needed items such as laundry detergent and cooking oil.

### Journey of Hope and Wholeness and Bridges Pathway

To better understand how racism is still affecting our community, we have a collection of many books for our reading program. The books are on the table in the back of the sanctuary with a guide for recording our learnings as we read the books. Everyone is asked to read at least one of the books which range from children's books to historical novels to the experiences of the authors.

To better understand how we can use storytelling to connect with people in the community, everyone is invited to share stories about your families, pets, travels, or experiences. We have a notebook on the table in the sanctuary where you can put your stories and read the ones written by others. There are 22 stories in the notebook right now. We want to collect 50. After they are gathered, we will categorize them and talk about how they can help us connect with the

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**Mark your calendars**

### **Advent Bible Study & Luncheons Thursday 12 p.m.**

**The Voices of Advent by Matthew Skinner**

Thursdays Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> , Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> , Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>

**December 7** 11 am Christmas Cantata -"Touched by a Child, Touched by a King,"

### **December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Services**

**4:00 pm Family Service "A Journey to Bethlehem"**

**7:30 pm Candlelight service "Day Dreams and Night Visions"**

### **God Moment - December 28<sup>th</sup>**

Natalia LaCroix, born in the United States, is of Ukrainian descent. Her mother was born in Ukraine and her dad in Poland.

She has been a single mother for the past 15 years. She says it has been a difficult journey but through it all she has learned to trust in God and has seen the most miraculous ways God has provided and journeyed alongside her and her three children.

Natalia has a passion for music having played violin and piano since she was five years old. She has sung and played in worship settings, school orchestras, weddings, jazz bands and rock bands. She has a strong belief in Jesus Christ and in the power of healing through Christ's blood. Music has been a great source of healing that God has allowed while sharing his love. Natalia brings her musical gifts and a God Moment during worship.

### **Retreat at St. Raphaela's April 18,2026**

Mark your calendars for an all-church retreat on Saturday April 18th.

The theme is "Possibility." Necia Evonda Bailey-Tyree will assist in leading the retreat.

**Annual Conference** in Wildwood New Jersey May 19, 20, 21, Welcome to Sandy Young and Donna Flanagan joining Bunnie Bryant, Mary Hankins, and Barbara Drake representing Havertown UMC.

## **Lenten Services**

**Ash Wednesday** February 18, 7 pm Havertown UMC

**Healing Circle** Thursday February 26, 6:30 pm Dinner 7 pm service Ardmore UMC

**Maundy Thursday** April 2, Ardmore UMC 7 pm

**Good Friday** April 3, St. Luke UMC Bryn Mawr 12:00 pm

### **\*LOVE OR HATE - Bunnie Bryant**

We have a choice.  
(Same option each time)—  
To love or to hate.  
Hate takes time and energy,  
An ever immeasurable amount of each.  
Hate also hurts.  
It brings pain to the hater—  
As it often is meted out evenly  
Between shooter and target.  
Hate eats away—erodes—  
It destroys lungs,  
Upsets digestion,  
Even breaks our teeth at times.  
Love is untroubled by facing enemies.  
The word itself is more pleasant to say—  
Rolling swiftly through the lips toward another.  
The expressions of hate  
Inhale a sharpness, a sourness, to the mouth.  
Hate harasses  
And, out of embarrassment,  
Often hurries to run away.  
Love, however, lingers  
To surround the soul with divine satisfaction.  
It raises each spirit  
And helps guide the future,  
Even as it stays firm in the moment.  
Love asks forgiveness for all  
And, in the exchange,  
Billows itself into a bubble of kindness  
That bursts open  
To sprinkle itself abroad,  
Into a canopy of healing.  
We applaud its record  
As Love wins again—  
Every time.

\*This poem was inspired by the November 9th sermon "Forgiveness 101"

# December

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				12 pm The Voices of Advent Lunch & Study  6pm Creative Women	<b>2pm Bible Study Zoom w/Ann</b>	<b>9:30am Decorate the Sanctuary</b> 9:30 -10:45 am Overeaters Anonymous <b>10 -11:30 am food collection Hope food Bank</b>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>11 am Christmas Cantata</b>	7pm Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting	12:30 pm Ladies Christmas Lunch MYF room 7pm Trustee Meeting MYF room		12 pm The Voices of Advent Lunch & Study  6pm Creative Women	<b>2pm Bible Study Zoom w/Ann</b>	9:30 -10:45 am Overeaters Anonymous <b>10 -11:30 am food collection Hope food Bank 1-3 pm Children's Christmas Party</b>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	7:30pm Leadership Team zoom	Blue Christmas St. Luke's UMC 6 pm dinner 7pm Service		12 pm The Voices of Advent Lunch & Study 6pm Creative Women	<b>2pm Bible Study Zoom w/Ann</b>	9:30 -10:45 am Overeaters Anonymous <b>10 -11:30 am food collection Hope food Bank</b>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>After Church Fellowship</b>	7:30 pm United Women in Faith zoom		<b>Christmas Eve 4pm Family Service 7:30pm Candlelight Service</b>	Office closed 		9:30 -10:45 am Overeaters Anonymous
28	29	30	31			
			New Years Eve			