



The Circuit Writer

Barts Centenary
United Methodist Church
Littlestown, Pennsylvania 17340

December 2023

Worship In Person Sunday mornings at 10 AM

Contact us at 717-359-5600 or bartscentumc@gmail.com or www.bclittlestown.com.



The Circuit Writer

Barts Centenary United Methodist

December 2023
2023 Issue 12

Advent Greetings BCUMC friends!

Advent is here, and we begin the Christian year anew with a season of waiting. As the days grow darker, we draw closer to the arrival of the Light that turns the world upside down—or right-side up! The journey toward and beyond the manger is one of reversing expectations, encountering what we thought we already knew in brand new ways, and receiving good news in unexpected places. So, with one foot in the prophets and another in the Gospels, we journey together as our spirit waits to welcome the Christ child and carry hope, peace, joy, and love as we live as disciples who anticipate the now-and-not-yet kingdom of God.

We turn to a new page of the calendar and begin once again at the start of the Christian year. Advent is all about arriving to wait. Every year when we return to Advent, we dip our toe into a river that is both familiar and always new. Every year, Advent invites us to notice something new in the midst of our familiar preparations for Christmas. This year, our texts invite us to consider how to wait actively and faithfully. Thus, worship is an opportunity for our congregation to not just think about and pray about waiting but to embody it and practice it. As we live it together in worship we then can live as faithful, active wait-ers out in the world.

Many Blessings to you and yours,

Rev. Tammy Blose



Sermon Series Advent 2023 “Our Spirit Waits”

10AM December 03, 2023 – 1st Sunday of Advent – **Our Shocking Hope**

- Isaiah 64:1-9 *Mark 13:24-37

10AM December 10, 2023 – 2nd Sunday of Advent – **Our Just Peace**

- Isaiah 40:1-11 *Mark 1:1-8

***December 17, 2023** – 3rd Sunday of Advent - **Our Fierce Joy (8AM Trad. 10AM Cont.)**

- Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 *John 1:6-8, 19-28

10AM December 24, 2023 – 4th Sunday of Advent / **Love that Transforms Us**

- 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16. *Luke 1:26-38, 46b-55

6:40 PM Praise Team Prelude & 7pm Traditional Christmas Eve Evening Service

Our Wondrous Light -Isaiah 9:2-7. *Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

10AM December 31, 2023 First Sunday after Christmas Day – **Watchnight**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40 Color: White



December 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 8a-7p Cookie Walk setup	2 8a-1p Cookie Walk
3 9 am Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship with Hanging of the Greens	4 Boy Scouts	5 5:30 pm Hungry for More 7 pm Bible Study	6 ZUMBA Cub Scouts	7 3:30 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:45 pm Praise Team	8 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> <i>Office Closed</i> Scout pack 84 sleepover 6 pm	9
10 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship with Children's Church 4 pm Family Caroling, dinner & a movie	11 Boy Scouts	12 3:30 pm UWF 7 pm Bible Study	13 ZUMBA 3:30 pm GFWC Cub Scouts	14 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:45 pm Praise Team	15 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	16
17 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Contemporary Worship with Children's Church	18 Boy Scouts	19 6 pm Historical Society 7 pm Bible Study	20 ZUMBA Cub Scouts	21 7 pm Blue Christmas service 7 pm Rehearsal for Christmas Eve	22 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	23
24 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship with Children's Church (4 th Sunday of Advent) 6:30 pm Praise Team prelude 7 pm Christmas Eve worship	25 Christmas Day	26 6 pm Cub Scout Leader 7 pm Boy Scout Leader	27 ZUMBA	28	29	30
31 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship with Children's Church						

ADVENT STUDY – ALMOST CHRISTMAS

TUESDAY IN PERSON @ 7PM

NOV. 28, DEC. 5, 12, 19

WEDNESDAY ON ZOOM @ 7PM

NOV. 29, DEC. 6, 13, 20

In John Wesley's famous sermon, "The Almost Christian," he encouraged people to follow Christ wholeheartedly. In *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience*, author and pastor Magrey deVega leads a group of authors in exploring how we can make the same commitment to Christ during Advent and connect our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace



ALMOST CHRISTMAS

A WESLEYAN
ADVENT EXPERIENCE

MAGREY R. DEVEGA · INGRID MCINTYRE
APRIL CASPERSON · MATT RAWLE

ADVENT and CHRISTMAS

Sat. 12/2 - cookie walk 8 AM - 2 PM

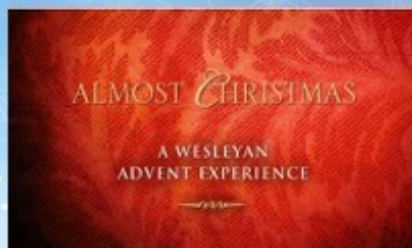
Sun. 12/3 - hanging of the greens during worship
fellowship after worship

Tue. 12/5 - Hungry 4 More 5:30PM

Sun. 12/10 – Church Family Christmas 4-7PM
(carols, lunch, viewing of *"I heard the Bells"*
by sight and sound)

Thu. 12/21 – Blue Christmas Worship Service 7 PM

Sun. 12/24 – Christmas Eve Morning Worship 10 AM
Christmas Eve Evening Worship 7 PM



ADVENT STUDY – ALMOST CHRISTMAS

Tuesday in Person @ 7PM

Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19

Wednesday on ZOOM @ 7PM

Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20

Topics Include:

"Almost" Love, Joy, Hope, Peace

Cookie Walk
Saturday, 12/2
8AM – 2PM

Drop off for cookie donations
Friday, 12/1 5-7 PM

The Longest Night

A Blue Christmas Service

*A Service of Lament and Hope,
of Reaching toward the Light*

Blue Christmas Worship Service

Thursday, 12/21 7PM

The valley Of Harrisburg will host 2 performances of “A Christmas Rose”

At the Sottish Rite Temple

2701 North 3rd

Harrisburg PA

Sunday December 17th at 3 and 7

Dave Wolf has a minor role in the performance



Hanging of the Greens will take place during the service on Sunday, December 3rd. There will be light refreshments following the service.

Christmas Blessing Express



New Hope Ministries Littlestown is serving more and more families. They served 253 families in September. If you are moved to help some of these struggling families for Christmas, you can do so by giving to the Christmas Blessing Express. Pick up your copy of the New Hope Ministries' Christmas Wish List at the side or front entrances to the sanctuary. Unwrapped gifts can be placed in the container at the side entrance of the sanctuary anytime before December 3rd.



Christmas Eve Evening Service – Our Wondrous Light
6:40 PM Praise Team Gathering Music
7pm Traditional Service

*Thank
You*

November 8, 2023

Dear Parish Members,

Thank you for your recent donation to the Senior Center. The funds will help us pay for such general expenses as electricity, telephone, and office supplies.

We truly appreciate your support and interest in our community seniors!
Please stop and visit us—

Sincerely,

Denise Lupp
Board Member

New Worship Schedule beginning in March

**9 AM Sunday School
10 AM Worship**

On Contemporary Worship Sundays
(generally, 4th Sundays)

**8 AM Traditional Worship
9 AM Sunday School
10 AM Contemporary Worship**



United
Women
in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

We are excited that the **COOKIE WALK** is very near. Saturday, December 2 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have a favorite cookie, maybe you can bake some for the sale. Drop off of baked cookies is Friday night from 5 to 7 p.m. Our ladies will be there to plate them for the sale. Please mark your calendars and come in and try some of the varieties we hope to have.

Our December meeting on Tuesday, December 12 at 3:30 p.m. will be our Annual Holiday celebration. If you have a favorite holiday snack bring it to share. We will be hosting our friends from the Local GFWC Women's group. Gloria has arranged for Derek Reed to be our entertainment. All ladies of the Church are invited to join us.

Wishing all a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS**.

The United Women in Faith



CALLING ALL BCUMC WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Can you cover any of the slots that are open in our calendar for the next 3 months? If you can, please contact Beverly in the church office 717-359-5600 or home at 717-359-9522.



Date	Special Dates	Greeters	Counters	Communion	Liturgists-10:00
Dec 3 2023	Advent Begins	B. Herman/G.Updyke	Davis/Carter	Clarke/Updyke	P. Clarke
Dec 10 2023	Advent	J.Bennett/J.Bennett	Bennett/Segessenman		B. Herman
Dec 17 2023	Advent/ PRAISE TEAM	A.Debnam/T.Debnam	Davis/Carter		N/A
Dec 24 2023	Christmas Eve 10 am	B. Carter/ ?	NA		N/A
Dec 24 2023	Christmas Eve 7 pm	?	NA		N/A
Dec 31 2023			Clarke/Updyke		T. Cartwright

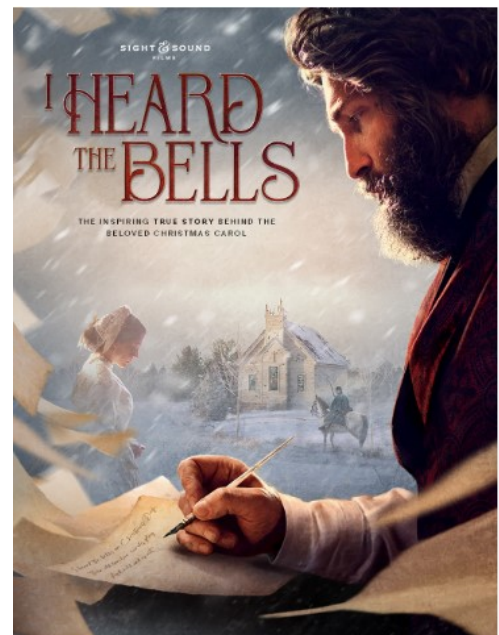
ALL ARE INVITED
TO A
HUNGRY FOR MORE DINNER
DECEMBER 5, 2023
TIME: 5:30
AT
BART'S CENTENARY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
50 EAST KING STREET
LITTLESTOWN PA.
MENU IS PORK CHOPS AND SIDES
AND OF COURSE DESSERT
WE WILL SAVE YOU A SEAT

JOIN US FOR A FAMILY CHRISTMAS

December 10th, 2023

From 4:00 to 7:00

There will be caroling, a light dinner and
the Sight and Sound movie,



Our Church has been blessed by your generous giving in 2023. We have been able to live our Church's vision together - -

LOVE GOD LOVE OTHERS SERVE ALL

Did you know that if you are 70 ½, you can give your RMD as a **Qualified charitable distribution** (QCD). This will lower your adjusted gross income on your tax return and save you on taxes! If you take the standard deduction on your tax return and can't take all your offerings as a deduction, by doing a QCD to our Church you could conceivably give more due to the taxes you are saving!

We all need to review our stewardship...the giving of our time, talent and resources. Just like your home's costs have increased our Church's operating costs have increased also. Your Tithes and offerings to the church are what lets us worship here at **BCUMC** and be a **beacon** to our community –

LOVE GOD LOVE OTHERS SERVE ALL

The first Sunday of December you will be able to pick up your **2024** Offering Envelopes. They will be on the front pew. If you prefer not to use envelopes due to making a QCD, etc. or you would like envelopes and they are not there for you, please see Joanne Bennett. If you can take envelopes to someone who isn't in attendance, please do so. Statements of your 2023 offerings and QCD gifts will be available to you in January 2024.

Only one thing to remember please – **don't use these new envelopes until 2024!**

A gift from BCUMC to you. We invite you to the Christian Streaming
– bible studies for every age as well as programs for kids and teens.
Never any cost to you. Go to:
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/join/BartsCentenaryUMC> and join today!

rightnow MEDIA

WE GOT YOU A PRESENT



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Brent Happel	12/01
Kimberley Frey	12/11
Andrew McCormack	12/13
Joshua Blose	12/17
Anne Hauswald	12/17
Logan Holland	12/17
Madison Eckard	12/18
David Lentzner	12/25
Warren Debnam	12/30



A Prayer Room will be available in the front of the church
(The Overflow Room)

Monday and Wednesday from 9 AM – 1 PM for anyone
who would like some solitary time in a sacred space, also
available before and after worship, and by request (text/call
Pastor at 717-350-1345)

Church Office Open Monday and Wednesday
9 AM – 1 PM.

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50 East King Street

Littlestown, PA 17340

Church Phone/Fax: 717-359-5600

E-mail: bartscentumc@gmail.com

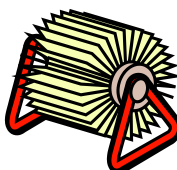
Website: <http://www.bclittlestown.com>

PASTOR TAMMY'S CONTACT INFORMATION:

Pastor Tammy can be reached by phone

at 717-350-1345, in the church office

at 717-359-5600, or by email at tblose@susumc.org.



*The Deadline for the January
newsletter information will be
Wednesday, December 20th.*