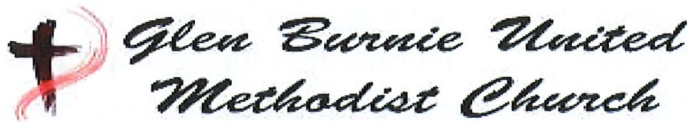


Dec 2024/Jan 2025

The Messenger



Pastor

Rev. Kenneth McDonald

Music Director

Kathi Hiatt

Song Leader

Jeff Thompson

Office Staff

Debi Vaeth

Custodian

Ron Hensley

Sunday Service

9:00 – Contemporary –
Social Room

11:00 a.m.

Traditional-Sanctuary

Communion 1st Sunday

Facebook

Livestreaming
Service 11:00am

YouTube

Taped Service

Radio

11:00 a.m. WFBR
1590AM or
www.1590WFBR.com

Contact Us

5 Second Avenue, SE
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
410-761-4381

office@gbumchurch.org

www.gbumchurch.org



Children's Christmas Program

12/8 at 9:00 am

Jesus Birthday Celebration Dinner

12/8 at 4:56 pm

Christmas Cantata

12/15 at 11:00 am

4th Sunday of Advent

12/22 at 11:00 am

Christmas Eve Services

12/24 at 3:00 pm, 8:00 pm

Lessons and Carols

12/29 at 11:00 am

Christmas 2024 - December is the most difficult time of the year for those of us who have a child who is physically no longer with us. For me Christmas will be flooded with memories of my beloved son. Jordan loved Christmas. He would turn on Christmas music for all to listen to as we put up the Christmas tree and set out the numerous nativity scenes along with Santas and everything that would make our home ready for the big day.

Now my family will try to celebrate this most wonderful time of the year without him. He will be with us in our hearts and memories, but we will not get to hear his laughter or see his face light up like a little boy on Christmas morning.

The Christmas tree that Jordan would put up on the back porch of the Parsonage will not be there this holiday season. I will set it up inside the Parsonage to remind me of the joy Jordan brought to our lives. I will also set up my mother's nativity set. Maybe my mom, who died on Christmas Day 2020, will whisper to me in my sleep, "It's okay Kenny, Jordan is with us in Heaven in the presence of the One whose birth we celebrate." Such a whisper would bring so much light into the darkness of my grief.

Jesus, our Savior, was born into a world filled with sin and darkness. He came not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through faith in Him. His mission was fulfilled through His death and resurrection. It all began, though, on that most holy night when God gave the world His most precious gift, the indescribable gift, of His son Jesus of Nazareth whose birth we celebrate on Christmas.

Everyone has lost a loved one who used to celebrate the joy of the season with them. There is that empty place beside us around the Christmas tree, or next to us in the church pew, or across from us at the table. The empty place reminds us that Christmas is the time of the year to cherish our memories and for us to hold on to our faith in Jesus.

Our faith in His saving grace is all we have to take with us when it becomes our time to enter heaven. With that in mind celebrate our Savior's birth this year with your loved ones as if it were your last time to do so on earth. Listen for the sleigh bells to ring, watch for the lights to appear, join the carolers singing, eat some cookies, drink a little eggnog, go to the church's Christmas services and be of good cheer for Jesus Christ is born today! Our loved ones in heaven are celebrating this good news and so should we here on earth.

The gift of salvation and the promise of eternal life, wrapped up in the baby Jesus born in Bethlehem, are given to you this Christmas. Receive the gift and He will bring light into your darkness, peace into your anguish, hope into your despair, joy into your sorrow and love into the emptiness of your heart.


May Jesus be born in you, anew, this Christmas.

Pastor Ken



Looking Ahead

Dec 3 rd	10:00 a.m.	UM Circles – Social Hall
Dec 3 rd	10:00 a.m.	Deborah Circle – Social Hall
Dec 4 th	10:00 a.m.	Quilting Group (Every Wednesday) – Ward Room
Dec 4 th	6:00 p.m.	Advent Study – Social Hall
Dec 5 th	10:00 a.m.	Advent Study – Social Hall
Dec 8 th	9:00 a.m.	Children’s Christmas Play – Social Hall
Dec 8 th	4:56 p.m.	Jesus Birthday Celebration Dinner
Dec 10 th	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Group – Room #58
Dec 14 th	9:00 a.m.	UM Men’s Breakfast – Social Hall
Dec 15 th	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Cantata – Sanctuary
Dec 22 nd	11:00 a.m.	4 th Sunday of Advent - Sanctuary
Dec 29 th	11:00 a.m.	Lessons and Carols – Sanctuary
Jan 5 th	9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.	Epiphany Services – Social Hall and Sanctuary
Jan 7 th	10:00 a.m.	UM Circles – Social Hall
Jan 7 th	7:00 p.m.	Deborah Circle – Social Hall
Jan 8 th	10:00 a.m.	Quilting Group (Every Wednesday) – Ward Room
Jan 11 th	9:00 a.m.	UM Men’s Breakfast – Social Hall
Jan 14 th	10:00 a.m.	Prayers Shawl Group – Room #58



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2024

A CAMPFIRE CHRISTMAS

by Maddie Nevy

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

9 AM
SOCIAL HALL

The Deborah Circle

The Deborah Circle is starting a new program series based on the book "messy People: Life Lessons from Imperfect Biblical Heroes" by Jennifer Cowart. Any interested ladies are invited to join us on Tuesday, January 7th, at 7:00 PM in the Social Hall. The first lesson is the story of Rahab, from the book of Joshua, Chapter 2 and Chapter 6. For more information contact Tammy Wade, 410-995-1523.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry crochets and knits items for school children, the ailing, and shut ins. This year they have distributed 245 Prayer Shawls and several lap robes. They have made 160 hats so far and will be distributing them soon. If you know of anyone in need or someone having an emotionally tough time, please contact Donna. The group meets every 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Room #58. If you have any questions, please either call the office or Donna Haehl, (410) 969-0541.

Nursing Home Ministry - Volunteers Needed!

Anyone interested in working with our nursing home ministry, please contact Jan Hacker (443-995-9555). The ministry visits Morningside House of Friendship every 3rd Sunday and Sunrise Senior Living every 4th Sunday of the month.

GBUMC Quilters

Our group has been meeting weekly and has expanded our ministry to include making larger quilts for Arundel House of Hope, Board of Child Care, and Disaster Relief. Lap quilts for our Nursing Home ministry continue as well.

If you wish to join or support this ministry, you may do so in the following ways:

- *Your sewing skills (cut and sew squares, sew binding, hand sewing)
- *Help assemble and knot the quilt layers.
- *Donate sturdy fabric, new or clean, gently used queen sized top sheets or blankets.

For more information, contact Jan Hacker, Lois Shaffer or the church office.

Missions News

Glen Burnie UMC Missions Team Adopts Trinity UMC as Sister Church

Glen Burnie, MD The Missions Team at Glen Burnie United Methodist Church has officially adopted Trinity United Methodist Church as a sister church, strengthening the bond between the two congregations. This partnership will focus on supporting Trinity UMC's ministries and fostering a deeper connection through financial support, shared stories and mutual encouragement.

As part of this commitment, Glen Burnie UMC has proposed a \$4,000 budget for Trinity UMC in 2025, aimed at empowering its ministries and outreach efforts. Updates and stories about Trinity UMC's work will be shared with the Glen Burnie community as they unfold, allowing everyone to witness the impact of their support.

This new partnership reflects Glen Burnie UMC's dedication to building relationships and making a difference through collaborative ministry.

The church offers a variety of programs, including traditional worship services, choir participation, children's ministry, adult education, and a food pantry, aiming to meet the spiritual and practical needs of its members and neighbors.

Under the leadership of Pastor Mary G. George, Trinity UMC emphasizes inclusivity and community engagement, striving to be a welcoming place for all who seek spiritual growth and connection.



Spreading Christmas Joy: The Mission Work of Trinity UMC

Cumberland, MD - The Christmas season is a time of love, generosity, and hope—and this year, Trinity UMC of Cumberland, MD is thrilled to share that spirit as a new partner with Glen Burnie UMC. Together, we are working to make this holiday season brighter for families in need in our community.

At Trinity UMC, the excitement is building as they prepare for the season of giving. Their mission? To ensure families not only have a joyful Christmas dinner but also food to stock their cupboards. They are gathering donations of canned fruits, vegetables, boxed food, and other staples. To provide even more support, families will also receive gift cards to purchase fresh dairy products and a turkey or ham for their holiday meal.

This year, they have identified five families to assist. As donations come in, their hope grows that they will be able to reach even more families who are in need. With our help, they can extend this blessing to others in the South Cumberland area, where they primarily serve. Our additional funding could even provide warm coats, shoes, or other necessities for children in these families.

But the joy doesn't stop there! On December 22, 2024, we invite you to a special evening at Trinity UMC. They will share the timeless Christmas story through readings and sing cherished carols together, followed by a hot meal to warm hearts and bring the community closer.

Invitations are going out to children and families who have participated in their Vacation Bible School and other church activities, and fliers are being hung around the community to welcome everyone. They anticipate about 70 people for the dinner and 30 individuals benefiting from Christmas baskets—but with our generosity, these numbers could grow, touching even more lives.



This mission is about more than just food or gifts; it's about sharing the love and hope of Christ with those who need it most. Together, we can ensure every family feels the warmth and joy of Christmas.

Trinity and Centenary UMCs in Cumberland Launch Joint Advent Bible Study: Simply Wait

Cumberland, MD – In a spirit of collaboration and shared faith, Trinity United Methodist Church and Centenary United Methodist Church have come together this Advent season to host a unique Bible study series. The four-week program, titled **Simply Wait**, focuses on fostering stillness and reflection during a time often filled with holiday busyness.



The study encourages participants to embrace the spiritual essence of Advent through simple prayers, the reading of scripture, and meditative responses to a single, thematic word. The first week explored the theme of “Anticipation,” setting the stage for deeper reflection in the coming sessions, which will center on Hope, Patience, and Obedience.

The gathering concludes each week with coffee and fellowship, offering participants an opportunity to connect and strengthen bonds between the two congregations.

This series is a beautiful reminder to pause and reflect on the true meaning of Advent. It’s inspiring to see our churches coming together to create this space for worship and community.”

Simply Wait continues through the Advent season, welcoming all who seek to prepare their hearts for the celebration of Christ’s birth. Trinity and Centenary UMCs are excited to see this joint effort bring their congregations closer together and deepen their shared faith journey.

A Table of Blessings: Sharing God's Love This Thanksgiving!

Glen Burnie, MD - We are overwhelmed with gratitude as nearly 170 church and community members who signed up to share a wonderful Thanksgiving meal on November 27th, thanks to your generous support for our Missions efforts.

We extend a heartfelt thanks to Food Lion and Elaine Ball and her son, Steven for their generous donation of turkeys and to Jeff Thompson and his family for hosting this special gathering with warmth and care. A big thank-you also goes to Paul Shaffer, who managed the shopping, setup, and cleanup for the event, ensuring everything ran smoothly. And of course, we deeply appreciate all the volunteers whose dedication and hard work made this meal a true celebration of joy and togetherness.



A special shoutout goes to Chef Cory Smith, whose exceptional culinary talents transformed the day into a feast to remember. Guests enjoyed a delicious menu featuring Turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potato casserole, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, and a selection of pumpkin and apple pies—all complemented by tea, coffee, and lemonade.

This Thanksgiving meal was a beautiful reflection of the spirit of gratitude, community, and love. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this day so meaningful!

Coins for Christ Ministry Supports Local Homeless Outreach Programs

The Coins for Christ Ministry is making a meaningful impact by supporting the Arundel House of Hope, an organization dedicated to assisting individuals facing homelessness. Through vital programs such as emergency shelter, transitional housing, and daily resource centers, Arundel House of Hope provides a pathway to stability and independence for those in need.



Thanks to the generous contributions of church members and the community, Coins for Christ aims to raise \$5,500 annually to help fund these life-changing initiatives. However, with only a few weeks left in the year, the ministry is \$700 short of its goal—and your support is needed to close the gap!

Every Sunday, loose coins collected in the offering plate go directly to Coins for Christ, turning small contributions into big differences for those served by the Arundel House of Hope. Donations can also be made via check or online; simply note “Coins for Christ” in the memo line.

“Each coin represents hope and the opportunity for someone to rebuild their life,” shared a ministry spokesperson. “Together, we can provide the resources and support needed to empower lives and foster long-term stability.”

To learn more about the Coins for Christ Ministry and its work with the Arundel House of Hope, contact Paul Shaffer or Dick Campbell. Join us in making a lasting impact—every coin counts!

Successful CROP Hunger Walk Raises Over \$6,400 for Local and Global Impact

Glen Burnie, MD – Under the dedicated leadership of Paul Shaffer, this year’s CROP Hunger Walk brought together 21 walkers from four participating churches: Glen Burnie UMC, Linthicum Heights UMC, Messiah UMC, and NCCP. Their collective efforts raised an impressive \$3,431, with an additional \$1,490 contributed online, bringing the total to \$6,411.

Of this total, \$1,602.75 was allocated to the North County Emergency Outreach Network (NCEON), supporting their vital work in addressing food insecurity and emergency needs in the community. The remaining funds will aid global hunger relief through Church World Service programs, emphasizing sustainable solutions to poverty and hunger.



Paul Shaffer expressed gratitude to all participants, donors, and churches for their dedication and generosity. “This effort demonstrates the power of collaboration and compassion in addressing hunger at both local and global levels,” he said.

The CROP Hunger Walk continues to be a testament to the impact communities can make when they come together to serve others. Thank you to everyone who walked, donated, and supported this meaningful cause!

Thank You Volunteers! Over 10,000 Meals Packed

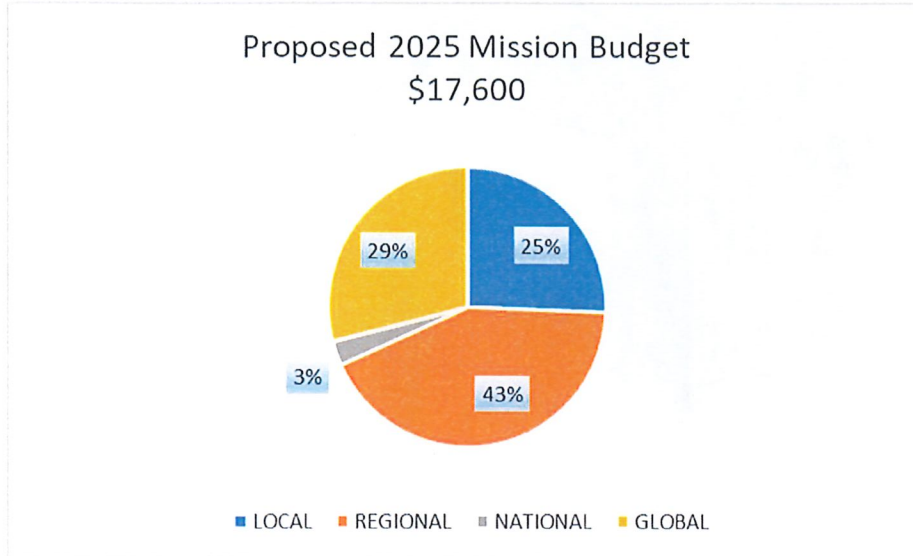
Glen Burnie, MD - We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the amazing volunteers who helped make a difference at the Rise Against Hunger event on Saturday, October 26th. Together, we packed an incredible 10,152 meals! Your dedication and hard work are truly inspiring, and you've played a key role in the fight to end hunger. We look forward to having even more of you join us in the future as we continue this important mission. Let's keep the momentum going!



Building Hope and Community: Mission Projects for 2025

- February 22, 2024, 9 am Society of St. Andrew Potato Project
- Backpack for Kids Summer 2025
- Rise Against Hunger Summer 2025
- Crop Hunger Walk – Fall 2025

Glen Burnie UMC Sets 2025 Mission Budget to Impact Lives Locally and Globally



Glen Burnie, MD - The Glen Burnie UMC Mission Committee has outlined its 2025 budget, addressing diverse needs. **Locally**, support includes the Backpack Ministry, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and Coins for Christ. **Regionally**, funds will aid EVERSTAND (previously Board of Child

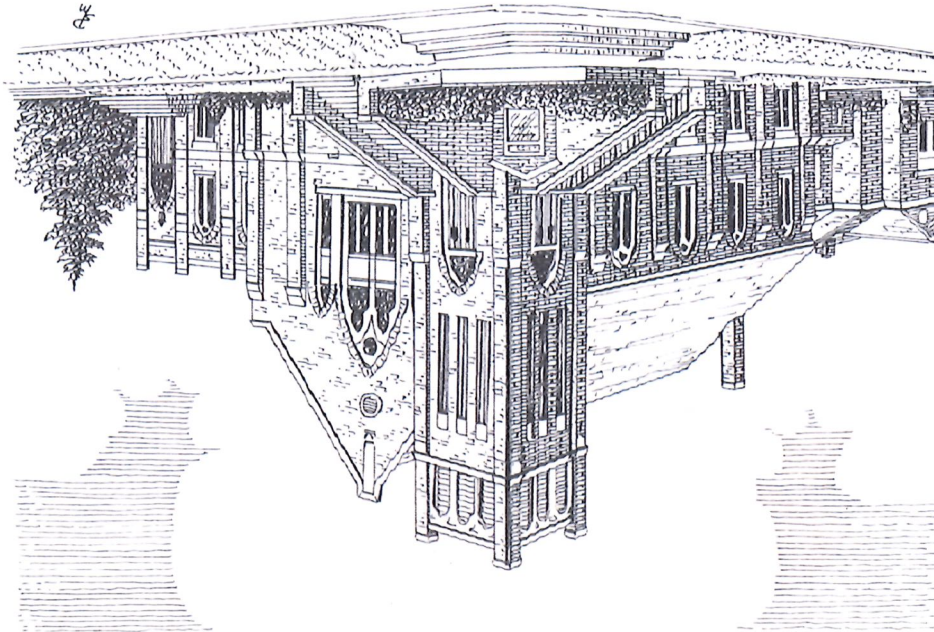
Care) youth programs, Trinity UMC in Cumberland, MD, and the SOSA Potato Drop, alongside Emory Grove UMC's revitalization housing project. **Nationally**, plans include Volunteer in Mission projects and support for the Appalachian Ministry Network. **Globally**, the Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event will continue. This budget reflects a commitment to service at all levels, fostering community, resilience, and hope.

In Loving
Memory

Zelda Tabor

10/31/2024

Glen Burnie United Methodist Church
Glen Burnie, Maryland



*Glen Burnie United
Methodist Church*

The Messenger

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