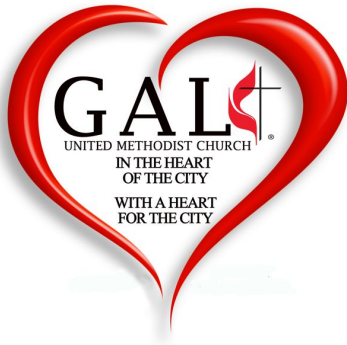


Galt UMC This Week

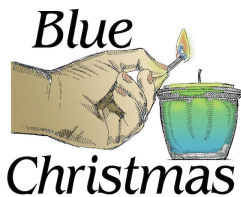


Galt UMC is a warm welcoming family who worship, pray, learn, and love one another by serving our community so that everyone can encounter the Risen Lord and experience transformation through God's Grace.



December 26, 2022

Let's Talk – A Word from Pastor Mary Maaga mjzmaaga@yahoo.com 530-417-6584



Isn't this week between Christmas and New Year's rather strange? Some years I get the "blues" and feel a sense of loss after the build up to Christmas; other years I feel relief not to be so busy; still other years I feel peace and deep spiritual satisfaction. This week is an in between time, to be sure, what some would call a "liminal" time. For our Blue Christmas Service, Colleen Hurley shared a poem and a wonderful reflection on "liminal" times and spaces. I am including both here in their entirety. 38 people attended our Blue Christmas service, including half a dozen from the community. Many of those people have been in touch with me to say that the service touched them deeply. I will plan to have this same service on the longest night next year, in case you missed it this year.

Happy New Year, Pastor Mary



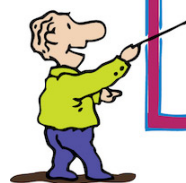
**EPIPHANY
Sunday**

January 8th



If you're looking ahead, you will see that a wonderful thing has happened! New Year's Day is on a Sunday this year! That means that we will start the year together with a "Wesley Covenant Renewal" and Holy Communion. Can you imagine a more blessed way to welcome 2023?

We will remember the Gifts of the Magi as our Advent-Christmas journey arrives at Bethlehem where the star has stopped. *O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.* We welcome back Betty Metzger at the piano. Prayer for Epiphany: "O God, by a star in the east You revealed to all peoples Him whose name is Emmanuel. Enable us who know Your presence with us so to proclaim His unsearchable riches that all may come to His light and bow before the brightness of His rising, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen."



Contact us:

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e-mail at: galtumc@gmail.com
In-person worship: 10am Sunday
Contribute online: galtumc.org

NEWS & Notes



Church Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday 9am – 1pm

The Church Office is open this coming week, however Pastor Mary is taking several renewal days in a row and will not return to the office until Saturday, December 31st. She is in town, so if you have an emergency, she welcomes you to reach out to her

Heifer International Special
Christmas Offering



Heifer International's mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth. For more than 75 years, Heifer has provided livestock and environmentally sound agricultural training to improve the lives of those who struggle daily for reliable sources of food and income. Heifer currently works in 21 countries, including the United States, to help families and communities become self-reliant by providing a range of livestock, trees, seeds, training, water conservation techniques, and the protection of local ecosystems and biodiversity.

You can contribute to the Heifer Project, now known as Heifer International, by writing a check to Galt UMC and putting Heifer in the notation, or you can take a colorful envelope as you enter the Sanctuary and put cash in it. On Christmas Eve whatever is given toward the offering will go to Heifer International as well. We will continue to take special offerings for Heifer through Epiphany Sunday, January 8th. We will vote on the animals we want to send on Sunday, January 15th.



Wednesday, December 28, 8am – 11:30am Sunshine Food Pantry prepares food boxes for delivery to seniors



January 2023!

Quilt Club resumes on Mondays at 11am starting January 2

Bible Study (in person) resumes on Tuesdays at 11am starting January 3 – this includes our friends from Bruceville Point Senior Living

Bible Study (ZOOM) resumes on Sundays at 4pm starting January 8 – if you would like a link please let Pastor Mary know



Thursday, January 5, 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Denny's Restaurant on C Street.

Lunch Bunch

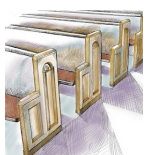
Hospitality Host



January 1
Anne Albrecht

January 8
Chu Family

GREETERS  SCHEDULE



Were YOU Here?

Blue Christmas Service - - 38
 Christmas Eve - - 48
 Christmas Morning - - 28

January 1
Ed & Freddie
Delgado

January 8
John & Cindy
Borgording

January



- 1 Gail Parrish
- 1 JP Krachunis
- 5 Betty Price
- 6 John Houck
- 7 Faye Gaines
- 7 Bob Munoz
- 8 Tina Barlet
- 12 Tanya Diego
- 12 Mark Wickland
- 13 Sandie Benadum
- 13 Marina Bruns
- 17 Abigail Curlee
- 21 Suzie Wickland
- 15 Jim & Gail Parrish



PHILLIP'S FLOCK

By Doc Goodwin



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Doc Goodwin (Phillip's Flock)
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Bloopers that Gnash the Teeth

At a service club luncheon, the president looked around in vain for a pastor to pray before the meal. He asked the vice-president to say the blessing.

The vice-president began his prayer: "There being no pastor present, let us thank God...."

God's Kids Say & Do the Funniest Things

"Thanks for the electric guitar you gave me for Christmas," Little Bobby said to his uncle when he saw him after the holidays. "It's the best present I ever got."

"That's great," said his uncle. "Have you learned how to play it yet?"

"Oh, I don't play it," little Bobby said. "My mom gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day, and my dad gives me five dollars a week not to play it at night."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill and Jeff Keane



"I don't think Dr. Cuthbertson's kids eat apples, 'cause it would keep their Daddy away."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Bill & Jeff Keane
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This is Our Longest Night

The daylight dims as the suns sinks low.
 One lonely star pierces heaven's height.
 A chilling wind has begun to blow:
 This is our longest night.
 A thousand questions, a thousand signs;
 A thousand wrongs trample truth and rights.
 With weary hearts, we avert our eyes;
 This is our longest night.
 One hope holds fast when all hope seems dead.
 We keep our watch for returning light,
 With trust that hangs by the slimmest thread;
 This is our longest night.
 The final rays of the sun now gone,
 More stars appear, shining clear and bright.
 Life's deepest darkness precedes new dawn;
 This is our longest night.

—By Mary Louise Bringle



Chuck asks star are you following this Christmas?

To watch Chuck's video: [Click Here](#)

Some Words on Waiting

Most mornings, I get up early, and go out into the backyard with my dog. This time of year, its dark, being well before dawn. Last week, I got bundled up, and headed out the door. I was surprised to find that very dense fog had descended. It was very dark, and cold. But though it was dark, strangely, the fog made everything look a little bit white at the same time- very surreal.

All the familiar things in the yard looked foreign and blurry and strange. It was hard to see where to step- I couldn't see the path. It felt foreboding and lonely. I thought of going inside because it was uncomfortable here.

But, I decided to stay there for a while.

As I took some breaths and settled into it, I realized how utterly quiet and still it was. Usually, there is noise at my house, even in the middle of the night (industrial Park, freeway, people moving about). But right then, because of the fog, it was peaceful, and still-kind of otherworldly.

It felt like liminal space is a space between spaces, physical space or time — a threshold between what was and what is next. It's the space that we are in when we are waiting-neither where we were, or where we will be.

We all wait a lot.

Sometimes waiting is joyful. Think of children waiting for Santa, or waiting to hear for the key in the lock as a loved one comes in. I had 9 months of joyous waiting for my beloved Sam to be born. Most of the time, though, waiting is hard-we don't like it. We're undone by the process of un-knowing, pressure to be elsewhere, doing something else. We hurry to get to the next thing, to be better, to do better. We don't like the liminal space of waiting.

There is the everyday annoying waiting, like the check out line, being on hold on the phone, etc. But there is also a deeper waiting that we do sometimes - waiting that often accompanies difficult times in our lives.

We've all been through almost 3 years of hard waiting during the pandemic. We've waited to be able to go out, to be with loved ones, waited for loved ones or ourselves to get well, for things 'back to normal'. I'm STILL waiting for that!

Many of us have been waiting around health concerns. I recently had Covid. I uncomfortably waited to feel better, and for the test to say 'negative'. Others of us have been waiting to find out if treatments have worked, some are waiting for recovery.

Others are waiting through grief. We're waiting to feel relief from the pain and loss, waiting to feel OK again. And there is hard waiting at the end of life. In my work as an end of life doula, I sit with people waiting to die. And I sit with people going through the most agonizing waiting, listening fo that last breath of a loved one.

In times like these, we wait ...we wait.

We wait for the light.

We wait for relief.

We wait for God to show up.

Although there is much pressure to move out of the waiting in these situations, to hurry to feel better - consider these questions:

What growth, what mystery might we encounter if we have the courage to stay in the stillness, in the dark for a bit? What might happen if we settle into the liminal space, like the foggy night - being neither where we were before, nor striving to be where we will go, and just listen to the quiet, and just being present.

Might you hear your own heart beating, connect to your own soul's wisdom?

Might you hear Spirit whispering to you? Might you feel that God is holding you through the dark? The waiting, liminal space is a good place to just sit, in the presence, and in the quiet- it is a holy space.

By Colleen Hurley



January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Happy New Year</p> <p>Worship 10:00 Holy Communion</p> <p>Bruceville Worship 1:30pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Quilt Club 11:00am</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Bible Study in person 11:00am</p> <p>Building Committee 6:30pm</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Lunch Bunch 11:30am at Denny's Restaurant on C Street</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Caring and Sharing 11:00-12:30pm</p> <p>AA group meets at 8:00am Nor anon meets at 9:15am</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Worship 10:00</p> <p>Bruceville Worship 1:30pm</p> <p>Bible Study on ZOOM 4:00pm-5:00</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Quilt Club 11:00am</p> <p>SPRC Committee ZOOM only 5:30pm</p> <p>AA group meets at 7:00pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Trustees Meet 5:30pm</p> <p>Bible Study in person 11:00am</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Set-up for Sunshine Pantry 8:30-10:30am</p> <p>NA group meets at 6:00pm AA group meets at 6:00pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Sunshine Pantry distribution 7:30-10:00am</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>14</p> <p>AA group meets at 8:00am Nor anon meets at 9:15am</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Lord's Lambs worship 10:00am</p> <p>Bruceville Worship 1:30pm</p> <p>Bible Study on ZOOM 4:00-5:00pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Quilt Club 11:00am</p> <p>AA group meets at 7:00pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Bible Study in person 11:00am</p> <p>Building Committee 6:30pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>NA group meets at 6:00pm AA group meets at 6:00pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Finance Committee in-person & ZOOM 9:30am</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Women's meeting 10:00am place TBA</p> <p>AA group meets at 8:00am Nor anon meets at 9:15am</p>
<p>22</p> <p>In person worship 10:00am</p> <p>Bruceville Worship 1:30pm</p> <p>Bible Study on ZOOM 4:00-5:00pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Quilt Club 11:00am</p> <p>AA group meets at 7:00pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Bible Study in person 11:00am</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Set-up for Sunshine Pantry 8:30-10:30am</p> <p>NA group meets at 6:00pm AA group meets at 6:00pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Sunshine Pantry distribution 7:30-10:00am</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>28</p> <p>AA group meets at 8:00am Nor anon meets at 9:15am</p>
<p>29</p> <p>In person worship 10:00am</p> <p>Potluck following worship</p> <p>Bruceville Worship 1:30pm</p> <p>Bible Study on ZOOM 4:00-5:00pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Quilt Club 11:00am</p> <p>Church Council 5:30pm in person and on ZOOM</p> <p>AA group meets at 7:00pm</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Bible Study in person 11:00am</p> <p>Building Committee 6:30pm</p>		<p>For more info on any activity, please contact Pastor Mary at 530-417-6584 mjzmaage@yahoo.com</p> <p>For Bible Study link on Sundays, please contact Pastor Mary</p>		

Galt United Methodist Church

Mary Maaga, Pastor
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Morning Worship
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