

# The Valley Voice

Our Mission:  
*to Make Disciples of Jesus*

[MtJacksonUMC.org](http://MtJacksonUMC.org)

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church

December 2022

## Baked Potato Bar Raised \$575 for Hurricane Relief

After worship last month, 35 people gathered into the Social Hall to feast on baked potatoes with all kinds of tasty toppings. The purpose was not only for food and fellowship, but also to raise funds for hurricane relief in Florida. The great loss of life, of homes, and businesses, created a long-term crisis.

World Central Kitchen, Founded in 2010 by chef José Andrés, is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization devoted to providing meals in the wake of natural disasters. They are positioned in Florida to feed the multitudes. The Baked Potato Bar raised \$575. to support that effort. Thanks to all participants for their generous contributions.



## Sweet Melodies Concert

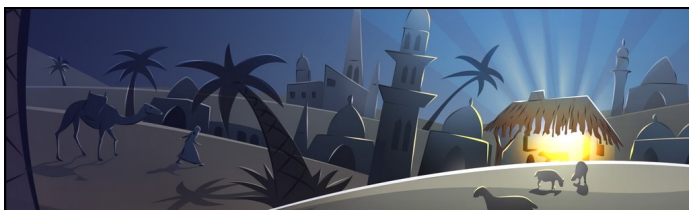
Keeping Christ in Christmas

**Thursday, Dec. 1st, 7 pm**  
**Curtain Call Coffeehouse Café**  
5966 Main St. Mt. Jackson

Enjoy an evening filled with songs of Christmas, jazz, gospel, and pop music. Relax with good friends in a warm café ambience. Delicious beverages and desserts available for purchase.

Vocalist: Cindy Crosby





## From the Pastor...

Bethlehem was buzzing with activity. The locals were busy getting ready for the crowds coming to register for the census. By the time that Mary and Joseph arrived, there was no vacancies at Motel 6 even though they left the light on. The wait time at the Cracker Barrel was so long, a full-bearded man said he was clean shaven when he first arrived. People were caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season and never noticed the Son of God being born right in their midst. The only ones who did notice were shepherds outside of town. They were the ones whom God sent a multitude of angels to light up the dark sky with joyful praise, announcing the birth of a long awaited Savior.

Many today still get caught up in the busyness of Christmas that they miss the most significant event in all human history. A door opened up in Heaven and God came through it in flesh and blood. The invisible God became visible. The One who created the world became a creation. There are so many aspects of this event that far exceed what the mind can comprehend. That should lead us to a joy-filled wonder. And what inspires that wonder even more than the *how* of his incarnation, is the *why*. Why did a holy God go to that extreme to rescue such an unholy humanity? Why did God allow man to beat, whip, & crucify him? The answer is an unrelenting, unconditional, unimaginable love. Let Christmas captivate your heart with that gift. Experience the wonder of Christmas!

**The Valley Voice** is a monthly newsletter of Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church. All articles or photos for the next issue should be submitted to Pastor Lee by the 20th of each month. Email it to [leecrosby@vaumc.org](mailto:leecrosby@vaumc.org). Use the same address to be put on our email list.



## Christmas Party Dec. 9th at 6:30 pm

Celebrate together at our church-wide Christmas Party. The United Methodist Men have revived an annual event after a few COVID cancelations. The meal will be catered by *Rutz's Catering*, and the entertainment is the *Good Time Gospel Quartet*. Come ready for a great evening.



**by Jennifer Hackenbracht**

The United Methodist Women will hold their annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 4th at 5:00 pm in the social hall. We invite ALL women to join us for this covered dish dinner. Please bring a \$10-15 gift to exchange. There is no regular UMW meeting in December.

### Christmas Baskets

The UMW will also assemble and deliver baskets of goodies to the community on December 17th, starting at 9:00 am. Any donations of individually packaged items such as applesauce, fruit, pudding, cookies, crackers, fresh fruit, etc. are appreciated. Items may be placed in the social hall.





## 8 Blessings of Studying the Bible

### 1. God Consciousness

Regular Bible study shapes our lives with a constant reminder of God's presence with us.

### 2. Self-Awareness

Through the Bible, God blesses us with a mirror to give us an accurate knowledge of ourselves and our need for his grace.

### 3. Knowledge of God's Purpose

The Bible gives us a clear picture of what it looks like to have our lives shaped not by what we want, but by what God wants for us.

### 4. Personal Transformation

The study of God's Word molds us into someone radically new, different, and more like Jesus.

### 5. Gospel Worldview

We can make theological conclusions influenced by a secular worldview. But Bible study corrects our perspective to better understand the world.

### 6. Street-Level Guidance

When we study the Bible, we access God's wisdom that can help us navigate decisions in our daily lives.

### 7. Commitment to Ministry

The Bible reminds and defines how we participate in a ministry lifestyle for which we have been called.

### 8. A Deeper Love for Jesus

The Bible is a single story about Jesus. Studying it results in a deeper love for him and a more vibrant celebration of his grace.



12/01 Dent, Terri  
12/02 Edwards, Darwin  
12/02 Rexrode, Karey  
12/04 Wolfe, Donna  
12/16 Hepler, Tracey  
12/19 Good, JW  
12/19 Hepler, Connie  
12/20 Byram, Katie  
12/29 Hepler, Brian



## Financial Report by Faye Cochran

October 2022

General Fund Income \$10,102.44  
Expenses \$9,584.00  
Difference \$518.44

### Designated Giving

Health & Welfare \$70.00  
Building Fund \$60.00  
Food Pantry \$10.00  
Scholarship Fund \$10.00



*The Senses of Christmas*

Dec. 04—The **S**mill of Christmas  
Dec. 11—The **T**ouch of Christmas  
Dec. 18—The **S**ight of Christmas  
Dec. 24—The **T**aste of Christmas  
(Candlelight Christmas Eve) 5 pm

Experience the Wonder