

THE SLATE

The Monthly Newsletter of
Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church
Cardiff, Maryland

December 2024

From the Pastor's Desk.

It may seem strange, given this is the December Newsletter, but I would like to write briefly about Easter and its relationship to Advent. You may think that maybe I have gone off the rails; after all Advent relates to Christmas, not Easter. Christmas, and the massive thing it has become culturally, has become the central event of the Christian year. It certainly is a time to celebrate. We celebrate the birth of our savior. But I think we are also celebrating much more. Whatever may have been worrying us as the school year began begins to ebb. The kids may be back into a routine. Even when it comes to gift giving, which is never easy, at least we may begin to recognize what people in our lives need as we connect with them more deeply. So, you will never see, or hear, me fighting over Christmas. I love it, in all its guises, and I love celebrating it in church.

It is important to note that if, as N.T. Wright says, you removed the Christmas story from the Bible (and I am not suggesting we do), you would lose one chapter in Matthew and two in Luke. If you removed Easter, you wouldn't have a New Testament. Advent is surely a time of waiting. With purple liturgical colors on full display, we know that as the color suggests, we are somewhere in between darkness and light.

Advent belongs to the Old Testament as we await the birth of the one who will save us all. But while we wait for the spontaneous inbreaking of grace into the world in Jesus, we should not be afraid to take time and remember the fact that the grace experienced in the birth, life, ministry, words, death, and resurrection is always reflected in the church; not simply when it celebrates the miracle of Christmas, but when it experiences God's justice rolling down over us. That justice, brought to us in Jesus, is what we seek and is what begins at Christmas time. It is the time we celebrate the ushering in of God's kingdom. This happens in small ways as well as large. It happens in the building of relationships, the integration of grief into our lives, the budding signs of hope in a broken world, giving a gift. These small, local experiences are just as capable of telling the world about our savior as any wide scale program or policy can do.

A Christmas birth leads us to Bethlehem. It leads to a cross, and an empty grave. It leads us to one another and new ways of living in grace, peace, and love. Have a wonderful Advent season! Have a merry Christmas!

Do not forget what Jesus came to do, remember that Jesus came for you!

Pastor Carroll





Slate Ridge Worship

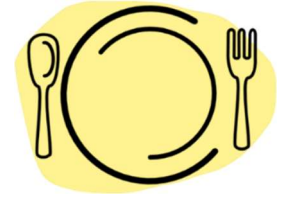
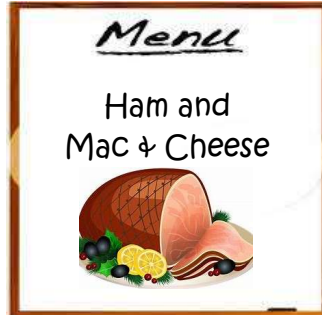
Worship services are now being live-streamed via You Tube (The channel is: Slate Ridge Church). The service which includes a Children’s Message begins at 11:00am and there is a Fellowship time prior to the service, beginning at 10:30am. Teachers are available to teach youngsters during “Kids Church.” The service is posted weekly to the SlateRidgeChurch.org website and Slate Ridge’s Facebook page.

Greeters/Ushers for December

Dave & Debbie Stewart, John Johnson

Closers for December

- Dec 1 - Bill Scarborough
- Dec 8 - Steve Hess
- Dec 15 - David Stewart
- Dec 22 - Brian Amos
- Dec 29 - Steve Hess



CLEAN PLATE
Wed, December 11
 From 5:00 to 7:00 pm.
 1st Wed of the month
 Next Clean Plate -
January 8th/Date Change

Calendar Items

- Greens Sale, December 7 (8am-3pm) and December-8 (9am-3pm)
- Congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, December 15th.
- Local Vietnam Era War Veterans will receive the US DOD Vietnam War Commemoration pin in the worship service on Sunday, December 15th. Interested Vietnam Veterans should RSVP to the the church to ensure enough pins are available.
- The Session will meet Wednesday, December 18, at 7pm.
- Harkins Funeral Home’s Annual Candlelighting (Memorial) Service, Sunday, December 22, 2pm.
- Slate Ridge Annual Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 7pm.

Deacons News

- Janet Whiteford will be sending cards in December; reach out to her if you think of someone who needs a reminder of God’s love for them.
- If a member of our church family, or of the local community may need a meal or two (because of hospitalization and recovery following surgery, etc.), the Deacons Contact person for meal support is Janet Nicholson. Janet’s contact info: 410-937-7753.



Tenth Annual Slate Ridge Christmas Greens and Decorations Sale

We will be holding our tenth annual Christmas Greens and Decorations Sale in the Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, December 7, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm** and **Sunday, December 8, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. This event is our primary fundraiser for the year. A huge selection of large wreaths, including very large wreaths by Jessica Geczy and lovely magnolia wreaths by Dave Barringer, greens, swags, fresh floral arrangements and shell wreaths will be available. Delicious homemade baked goods, fudge, and jellies will be offered for sale; we will also feature a table of “flea” Christmas items and will happily accept any donations for it. Organizers include Pat Kefauver, chairperson and Mary Gerlach, senior advisor. Many thanks in advance to Missy Kefauver for her very much appreciated assistance throughout the week’s prep and the weekend sale, and to Luianne Potter for organizing and managing the Bake Table.

The Sanctuary

The Sanctuary and the beautiful Poinsettia tree will be fully decorated for the Delta Christmas Fair and our Slate Ridge 2024 Greens and Decorations sale, December 7-8. Please make time in your schedule to see the beauty of our Sanctuary and the wonder of our Poinsettia Tree and stop into the Winter Wonderland of Greens downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.



Clean Plate Date Changes

January's Clean Plate will also be on the Second Wednesday of the month (**January 8**). From there on, it is anticipated that Clean Plate will resume on the first Wednesday of each month.

Praying for

- Our country.
- Hurricane recovery in the southeastern USA. Prayers for all affected, and prayers for those going south to help in any way.
- Shootings, violence at local area schools and everywhere. Prayers for students, teachers, parents. everywhere.
- Nelson Lewis, continuing prayers for his recovery.
- Cindy Seibel will have chemo infusions as part of her after-surgery plan. The doctors are thinking positively. Prayers from this church family.
- Cindy's son, PFC Aiden Seibel has a hand injury.
- Pam Birely Moore's friend, Mike Bastendorf, needs a liver transplant.
- Pam Moore's daughter, Julie Kurek, is recovering from surgery.
- Janet's sister, Beverly Hannah, will undergo surgery on December 5.
- Tracy Knox, Terri Robinson's sister-in-law, is on the lung transplant list.
- Ruth Tarbert is living at Hart Heritage on Grier Nursery Rd.
- Phyllis's brother-in-law, John Faith, is battling congestive heart failure and is currently in rehab.
- Anna Deaver remains in a coma and is settled in at Sterling Care, Bel Air. Prayers for Anna and family.
- Sandy Scarborough, constant pain.
- Bill's friend, Opher and family, prayers for safety and protection.
- Sheryl Shubert, stage 2 breast cancer; Terri Cornwell, stage 2 breast cancer; Jen, cancer; Natalie, cancer; Scott Shubert, thyroid cancer; Louise Geczy, breast cancer; Davy Jones, chemo treatments, prayers requested; Sonya, blood clot complications delaying surgery.
- Mark, Alzheimer's; Danielle; Worley Umbarger, Lyme; Jake Standiford, 12-year-old, seriously burned; Eric, seizures.



With Sympathy and Prayers

- Phyllis's friend, Bob, for whom we've been praying, passed away after battling a rare disease; prayers for Phyllis's friend Jeanne.
- Jim (and the late Jeanne) Galbreath's son, John, passed away; prayers for Jim.

Please pray for our military

- *PFC Aidan Seibel, U.S. Army, Ft. Riley, KS*
- *Cpl Daniel J. Riale - Marines, Camp Pendleton*
- *Army Spec. Chandler Schmidt, Ft. Polk, LA*



Bible Study “The Chosen”

Each Thursday, (Unless announced in advance), we continue to watch one episode of “The Chosen” and then discuss what we have learned. Time is 10:00am, in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited. Bring your friends. **No Bible Study on December 12.**

Per Capita 2025

The Per Capita for 2025 remains at \$38.00 per member which goes to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. The Session Finance Committee elects to pay the Per Capita on all our active members. We thank all who contribute their portion.



Prayer Chain

If you are in need of prayer, or if you would like to participate in our Prayer Chain, please contact Linda in the Church Office. Linda will initiate the prayer chain with our prayer partners.

Christmas Joy Offering, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. This campaign begins on December 1st and ends on December 22nd.



November Flowers

Flowers on the organ were given by Pat Kefauver in loving memory of Tom Ford.



The Newton Noel Christmas Light Show.

Christmas lights synchronized to Christmas Music! 2111 Telegraph Road, Pylesville, MD. The nightly shows begin on Saturday, November 30 and end on New Year’s Eve. Delays or cancellations will be posted to the Newton Noel Facebook page.



December Birthdays!

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 John Sliger | 16 Nicholas Panos |
| 3 Emily Grace Bredehoft | 17 Jacob Virden |
| 4 William Heaps | 18 Margaret Tarbert |
| 6 Joann Sliger | 21 Doris Grimm |
| 13 Dorcas McGuigan | 23 Sandy Scarborough |
| 13 Kyle Six | 27 Robert Heaps |
| 14 Joyce Myers | 28 Scott Kefauver |
| 15 Jane Lovelidge | 30 Chris Hunt |
| 16 Brooke Stafford | |

December Anniversaries!

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 10 Bob & Ann Lloyd |
| 19 Doug & Kristen Stokes |
| 24 Leslie & Janet Whiteford |
| 28 Keith & Hydee Streett |



Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church Income and Expenses (Oct 2024)

	2024	2023
Income	\$ 6,570.06	\$ 7,635.00
Expense	<u>8,195.39</u>	<u>6,979.56</u>
Net Income	\$-1,625.33	\$ 655.44

Homecoming 2024

Homecoming 2024 was a wonderful service; socializing with friends, watching the Powerpoint presentations of our 50-year members' photos and a delicious luncheon afterward. Hope you will plan to come next year!

Celebrating 50-Years (plus!)



Front row: from left to right: Luianne Potter, Joyce Myers, Lisa Jackson, Mary Gerlach, Patti Gibney, Phyllis Fenwick, Patricia Kefauver, Mary Beth VanHart, Barbara Johnson, Jerry and Ann Booze. Back row: Roberta Jackson, John Johnson, Bill Scarborough and Marian Koegel.

North Harford Dance

No dance in Hyde Hall from December 23 and begins again on January 6.



Shared by Pastor Carroll



Members Attaining 50-years: Luianne Potter, Lisa Jackson, Phyllis Fenwick, Ann & Jerry Booze



Inclement Weather

If there's power, a notification will be put on Facebook, and the Slate Ridge website. You will receive a robocall from "717-456-7075" if you requested one. And, as always, use your best judgment in regard to driving in winter road conditions.



Remembering to be Thankful for All Things!!

It's that time of year again when we gather to enjoy the company of family and friends around a plentiful table. We gather and /hopefully during that time we talk about all we are thankful for. All the things God has given us. ..our food, family, health, friends, freedoms. ...and the list goes on and on...but do we remember to be thankful for the things our loving God has caused us to lose?

I'm grateful that because of His forgiveness for me, I am no longer able to be unforgiving to others; because of my faith in Him, I am no longer able to be fearful; because I find strength in Him, I am no longer weak! I'm sure there are many more things that you can add to my list... I urge you to try... but most important of all is **THAT BECAUSE HE DIED FOR ME, I AM NO LONGER CONDEMNED!** Please join me this Thanksgiving to remember to be thankful for the things God has allowed us to get rid of!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



Slate Ridge Recognition of Vietnam Era Veterans, December 15 in Worship Service

Vietnam War Veterans attending this service will be honored by the United States Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration Partner Program. Rev. Dr. Thaddeus Siegel, a representative of this program will be at the service to bestow the United States Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration specially minted Vietnam Veteran Lapel pin to all veterans who served in any branch anywhere in the world, between Nov. 1955 and May 1975. For more information, please contact Pastor Fitzgerald or go to the United States Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration website: <https://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>

Living U.S. veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin. We make no distinction between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period. All were called to serve, none could self-determine where they were stationed, and all were seen in the same way by a country that could not separate the war from the warrior, as we do today.

The recognition ceremony will take place during our regularly scheduled church service, which begins at 11:00am. (If a veteran is not able to attend, family members may receive the pin for their loved one.)

Please RSVP to Slate Ridge Church so we can ensure that pins are available for everyone.

Month of December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Pastor C. Fitzgerald 1st Sunday of Advent Worship Service with Communion and Children's Message & Kids Church 11:00am	2 Dance	3 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Dance	4	5 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor in the Office 9:30-2:30 Bible Study 10:00 Dance	6 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	7 AA mtg 4:30 pm. Greens Sale 8am-3pm 
8 Pastor C. Fitzgerald 2 nd Sunday of Advent Worship Service with Children's Message & Kids Church 11:00am Greens Sale 8am-3pm 	9 Dance	10 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Dance	11  Clean Plate 5-7:00pm	12 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor in the office-to be determined No Bible study Dance	13 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	14 AA mtg 4:30 pm.
15 Pastor C. Fitzgerald 3 rd Sunday of Advent Worship Service with Children's Message & Kids Church 11:00am Vietnam Vet Recognition In Worship Service	16 Dance	17 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Dance	18 Session 7:00pm	19 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor in the Office 9:30-2:30 Bible Study 10:00 Dance	20 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	21 AA mtg 4:30 pm.
22 Pastor C. Fitzgerald 4 th Sunday of Advent Worship Service with Children's Message & Kids Church 11:00am Harkins Candle Lighting Service, here, 2pm 	23 No Dance	24 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm No Dance Christmas Eve Service, 7pm 	25 Christmas Day 	26 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor & Bible Study - TBD No Dance	27 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	28 AA mtg 4:30 pm.
29 Pastor C. Fitzgerald Worship Service with Children's Message & Kids Church 11:00am	30 No Dance	31 No Dance 	Jan 1 Clean Plate changed to Jan 8	2 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor & Bible Study- TBD No Dance	3 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	4 Fellowship Hall in use AA mtg 4:30 pm.

Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church
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Visit our YouTube channel: to Livestream or visit later:
www.youtube.com/slateridgechurch
 Visit our Facebook page!
www.facebook.com/slateridgechurch