

# First Light

A weekly e-newsletter from  
First United Methodist

November 15, 2024

## Sing Christmas Cantata December 15<sup>th</sup>

Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join us for this year's Christmas Cantata. The cantata will be shared on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m. and again at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.



Hope Publishing writes, *"In this collaboration between two of the most popular sacred music arrangers in the country, Mary McDonald's exuberant, dynamic style blends seamlessly with Joel Raney's rhythmic and beautifully emotional music to provide a unique Christmas event that is sure to become the highlight of the season."*

We hope you'll join us and bring friends and family for this time of sacred worship as we prepare for the Christmas season.

Please note that there will be no 8:15 or 9:30 services that day. There will also be no children's programming that day.

If you haven't already done so, please fill out a 2025 pledge card and drop it in the wooden box in the back of the sanctuary or on the coffee bar in the Living Water Café. These cards assist the Finance Team in preparing the 2025 budget. You can find cards on the Connection Tables.

November 17, 2024

Sermon: "Stories to Tell"

Deuteronomy 4:9  
Deuteronomy 6:1-9



## Reminders:

### -Harvest Home Collection-November 17<sup>th</sup>

We will be collecting non-perishable food items as part of our "Harvest Home" service which will take place on November 17<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to participate, bring your donations to church on November 17<sup>th</sup> and place them in the display in the sanctuary or in the Living Water Café. Food items will be donated to Son Light House.

### -Church-wide Advent Study

We will be exploring Susan Robb's "The Angels of Christmas." There are 6 classes to choose from. Sign up at the Connection Tables or [online here](#). Pay special attention to your class start date and whether weeks are being skipped. Books are a suggested donation of \$5 each and can be picked up from the Connection Tables. Pay your teacher at the first class.

### -Touch-A-Heart - Sign up by November 24<sup>th</sup>

Sign up to receive Touch-A-Heart tags for either children or seniors by November 24<sup>th</sup>. Gifts will then be due back by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### -Faithful Hands Begin New Study Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>

The group will begin their study of "Service: Ministry with Heart and Hands" on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the church lounge. They begin every gathering with Bible Study and then discuss ways they can be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community. Now would be a great time to join the group. Questions? Contact Karen Barraco (570-546-5180 or [kbarraco@windstream.net](mailto:kbarraco@windstream.net)).

### -Faithful Hands Project December 5<sup>th</sup>

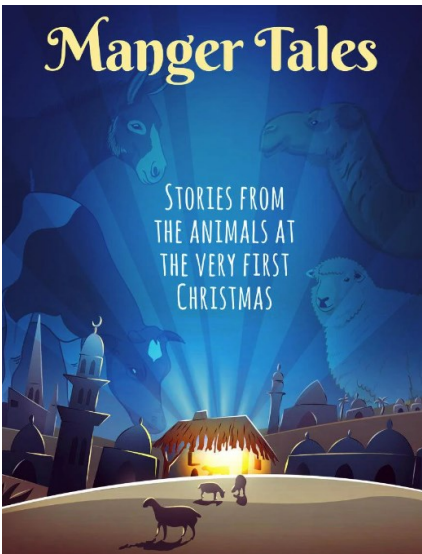
Faithful Hands invites you to join them at 6:30 pm on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Hughesville Fire Hall as they work with Meagan's Box to pack up Christmas gifts for children in our area. Contact Jane Lucas with any questions, 570-546-5777.

### -2025 Disciplines

It is time to order your 2025 *Disciplines* books. Order forms are on both Connections Tables. The books are \$10.00 each and orders are due by November 24<sup>th</sup>. You can put your payment in a special offering envelope, mark it for "Disciplines" and place in the offering plate or turn in to the church office.

### -Toys for Tots

You can place your donations in the collection bin located under the coat rack, outside the Living Water Café. Toys will be collected until December 12<sup>th</sup>.



### JAM Children's Christmas Program December 8<sup>th</sup>

Jesus and Me Children's Ministry invites everyone to come hear the Christmas story from a unique perspective. The program will be in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 pm . We hope you'll come support our kids (and maybe a few sheep and donkeys).

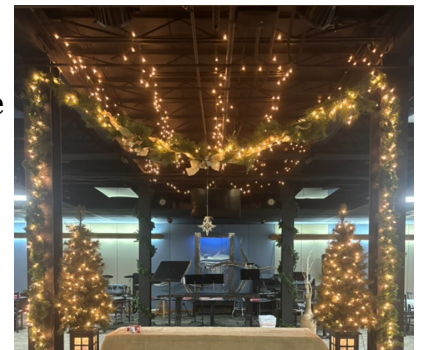
We'll take your turkeys! If you earn a free turkey with your grocery store loyalty points over the holiday season and will not use it, we'll take it for our February Good 'N Plenty dinner. Just bring the frozen turkey to the church and place it in the walk in freezer or hand it over to the office staff and we'll make sure it gets in the freezer.



### Let's Decorate for Christmas!

The Worship Team is looking for help getting the church building ready for Christmas. They will meet on **Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00**

**am** to do the bulk of the decorating. However, to be ready for Monday morning, they plan to stage some of the larger, heavier items on **Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm**. They will especially need a few stronger individuals to get the Christmas trees and other items out of storage and place them in the areas where they will be set up. If we have enough people, we can get this done in very short order.



### Harvest Home Non-perishable Food Collection

**Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Place your donations in the displays in the sanctuary or the Living Water Cafe**