

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS



**GLASSBORO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GUMWRAPPER**

December 2018/ January 2019

How far is it to Christmas?



How far is it to Christmas day?
The journey's just as long
As taking time to listen
To a joyful angel song.
It's just as far as one can go
In doing a loving deed
That helps someone feel better
Or that meets their special need.
For Christmas is a journey
That the heart makes every year.
It starts right with your family
And those you hold so dear.
It travels on to strangers,
Round the world to everyone
With the message that God loves us
And that's why he's sent his Son!

—Peggy Ferrell

The symbolism of the Advent wreath

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as the birth of Jesus approaches. The circular form of the wreath symbolizes eternity or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World who brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). We light a new candle on each of the four Sundays of Advent. As the light grows, so does our anticipation and joy.



For many denominations, each of the four weekly candles is purple, the traditional color of royalty. For the third Sunday, some denominations use a pink candle to symbolize joy. The other three candles are purple and represent hope, peace and love, respectively. In the center of the wreath is a large white candle — the Christ candle — which we light on Christmas Eve. White represents the purity of Jesus.

At home, many families observe regular devotional times around the wreath. The practice builds family memories and develops Christmas customs that are likely to pass from generation to generation.





As you come to the end of this year, take some time to look back—and also to look ahead. Ask Me to help you review the highlights of this year: hard times as well as good times. Try to see me in these memories, for I have been close beside you— every step of the way.

When you were clinging to Me for help in the midst of tough times, I comforted you with My loving Presence. I was also richly present in circumstances that filled you with great Joy. I was with you on the mountain peaks, in the valleys, and everywhere in between.

Your future stretches out before you all the way into eternity. I am the Companion who will never leave you, the Guide who knows every step of the way ahead. The Joy that awaits you in paradise is inexpressible and full of Glory! As you prepare to step into a new year, let heaven’s Light shine upon you and brighten the path just before you.

Read Isaiah 41:13; Psalm 16:11 NKJV; Psalm 48:14; 1 Peter 1:8-9 NASB -By Sarah Young, Jesus Always

Small packages, big things!

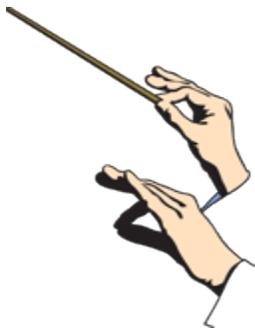
Remember that candy commercial declaring, “Big things come in small packages”? The prophet’s message to tiny Bethlehem is similar: “Though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel” (Micah 5:2, NIV).



We’ve all felt too small for a certain role: too little to play with the big kids ... too skinny to make the football team ... short on the skills needed for a choice assignment. Perhaps we fear our gift of money is too little to make a difference, or the small amount of time we can volunteer isn’t even worth it.

But God brings big things out of “small packages.” From a newborn baby — merely six to eight pounds of helplessness — God brought salvation for the whole world. Rest assured, he’ll do big things through you, too.

Breathless anticipation



In *Whistling in the Dark* (HarperOne), Frederick Buechner compares Advent to the moments right before a symphony conductor raises the baton to begin a much-anticipated performance. “You hold your breath to listen,” he writes. “You are aware of the beating of your heart. The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.”

During December, silence can seem elusive, Buechner admits. But “if you concentrate just for an instant, far off in the deeps somewhere you can feel the beating of your heart. For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world holding its breath.”



The Samaritan Center needs gently children and adults. Please see Ingres Simpson



used coats for for details.



Poinsettias are available now to order. Please use the form in the bulletin or order online at www.glassboromethodist.org using your debit, credit, or checking account. Please order your flowers by December 9. Memorials are due to the church office by December 16.

Please stop by **the Card Ministry Table** in the narthex to sign this week's cards. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." (Romans 12:15) A word of encouragement goes a long way to comfort those who are sick or grieving, celebrate a joyous occasion, and share God's love. A greeting card allows you to show that you care even when you are not present physically.



HOAGIE TICKETS The UMW is offering Heritage's Hoagie tickets outside the Memorial Room after each service every Sunday. Tickets are \$6.50 each, which includes hoagie and beverage of choice. To buy tickets, contact Joan Aveni or Audeen Conklin.

The **Evening UMW** is collecting items for the Santa Shop at the Stocking Party. The Santa Shop is a place children pick out Christmas gifts for their parents or other adults in their homes. We are looking for the following: new costume jewelry, boxed Christmas cards, new toiletries, and men's items such as tools, flashlights, small ice scrapers, tape measures, sports logo items such as Eagles, Flyers, 76ers, Phillies, etc. Items may be dropped off in the narthex in the Christmas box. Thank you so much for your support!



Our Website has a New Look

In November, when you went to glassboromethodist.org, you were surprised at what you saw. The website had undergone an update and I hope that you found it informative and easy to use. The change was precipitated by the need to increase security and adapt better to mobile devices. It's also good to simply freshen the look.

Nancy Walters, FUMC Webmaster

Visit Us ONLINE



Make sure to stop by Grounded, our new coffee house. Grab a quick cup and have some great conversations. Thank you to the Moving Forward Campaign and the members of our church as we explore new ways to fellowship together.

**Saturday,
December
8th**
First United
Methodist
Church, Glassboro
60 State St.

5:00pm

Wear your favorite
PJ's - Pizza will
be provided

**Community
Movie
Night**

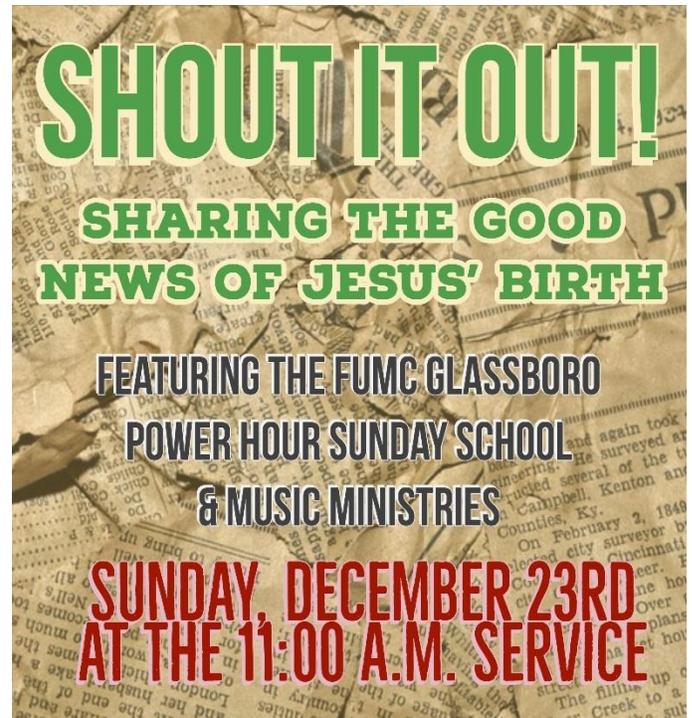
**THE
STAR**
THE STORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS



SHOUT IT OUT!
**SHARING THE GOOD
NEWS OF JESUS' BIRTH**

**FEATURING THE FUMC GLASSBORO
POWER HOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL
& MUSIC MINISTRIES**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23RD
AT THE 11:00 A.M. SERVICE**





Our Stocking Party is
December 15 at 8:00AM

Help is needed. Please see
Pat Heritage for more
information.



A Noel Celebration

Sounds and Stories of Christmas
Presented by the FUMC Glassboro
Chancel Choir & Impact Drama Ministry
Sunday, December 16th 4:00 PM

Confirmation 2019

Class begins Jan 27 @5pm

Open to all youth 6th grade and up.
See Pastor John to register.



