



# **WEDNESDAY DINNER**

**No Dinner on**

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
and  
Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

---



## ***Lectionary Readings for this Week***

To encourage your personal study and growth,  
here is the list of Lectionary Scripture Readings for  
**December 21, 2025, Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;**  
**Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1:18-25**

**Sermon Notes: December 21, 2025**

**Title: “The Simple Faith of Mary & Joseph”**

**Speaker: Pastor Kurt Busiek**

**Scripture: Luke 1:26-38**

"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.... 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her."



## **“He is Here”**

Refrain:

Christ has come, heavens righteous Son;  
now on earth to dwell Emmanuel, our Savior God with us.  
Angels sing to the baby King.  
Let the voice of all creation rise and praise the Child of God.  
He is here.

Let all men rejoice, lifting heart and voice;  
Christ is born to us this great day.  
Heaven and earth proclaim  
Christ has come, heaven’s righteous Son;  
now on earth to dwell, Emmanuel,  
Our Savior God with us.

Angels sing to the baby King.  
Let the voice of all creation rise and praise the Child of God.  
He is Here.

God to man has come through his blessed Son.  
His great kingdom Christ now will reign  
Let the world proclaim.

Refrain

He is here! He is Here! He is here!

## **“Glory to God”**

Glory to God, glory to God in the highest,  
and peace on earth,  
good-will towards all.

## **“Hallelujah Chorus”**

Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth, Hallelujah.  
The kingdom of this world is become  
the kingdom our Lord and of His Christ, and of His Christ:  
and He shall reign forever and forever.  
King of Kings and Lord of Lords.  
And He shall reign forever and ever.

# Cancer Prayer Concerns

EBC encourages mailing a card of support to anyone with an address listed below. A simple message can boost mental resilience, provide comfort, and increase overall well-being and quality of life during a difficult journey. Cards are available in the narthex and can be dropped off in the church office for postage and mailing after they are signed and addressed.

**Jeannette Bauer**, Eileen Mayer's sister, is battling advanced stage 4 breast cancer. [10770 109<sup>th</sup> St. N Largo, FL 33778] (1/26/25)

**Sara LeMasters Buck**, a friend of Robbi Leonard, is struggling with complications from oral cancer.

[1302 Myrtle St. Parkersburg, WV 26101] (4/13)

**Tara Cox**, Karen's daughter-in-law, on-going chemo. (4/20)

**David Cronin**, friend of Gail Samolitis is fighting a stage 4 brain tumor. [135 Morningside Ave. Parkersburg, WV 26101] (8/24)

**Wandalene Drake**, Leslie Sim's mom/ Lyndall Jones' sister, began a year of immunotherapy in December 2025 with the goal of keeping her aggressive renal cancer from returning. [4732 US Hwy 33E Glenville, WV 26351]

**Eric, Evelyn, & Nancy**, family of Judy Florence, are receiving treatment for cancer. (10/12)

**Michele Farnsworth**, cousin of Keith Mayer, is dealing with cancer throughout his body. [19546 Dyson Way Valler Lee, MD 20692] (9/21)

**Frank Gephardt**, Donna Marcinko's niece's husband, ongoing chemo. (7/6)

**Nancy Johnson**, Buck Johnson's sister-in-law, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer; on-going chemo; she is recovering from emergency colon surgery. [503 N. Dry Run Rd. Williamstown, WV 26187] (9/14)

**Adam Johnston** is battling kidney cancer. [512 Paddock Green Dr. Parkersburg, WV 26104] (7/27)

**Pastor Tom Lancaster**, friend of Gail Samolitis, is recovering after cancer surgery, on-going treatment.

[P.O. Box 28167 Chattanooga, TN 37424] (9/14)

**Susie Lattea**, cousin of Robbie Leonard, was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. [1402 8<sup>th</sup> St. Vienna, WV 26105] (10/12)

**Ethel Mason** got a good cancer report that her cancer is in remission. [1601 Spring St. Parkersburg, WV 26101] (5/18)

**Phil Morris** has completed prostate cancer treatments. He got a good follow up report from his oncologist on 12/2. He feels blessed and is thankful for the prayers. [2807 Soyer St. Parkersburg, WV 260101]

**Bonnie Nestor** is doing on-going chemo. [4906 6th Ave. Vienna, WV 26105]

**Brian Samples**, Josh Titlow's uncle, ongoing cancer treatment. [4702 Spring Hill Ave. South Charleston, WV 25309] (4/20)

**Kayvonne Settle**, cousin of Kim Matheny, is battling pancreatic cancer. [150 Camelot Rd. Unit 2, Belpre, OH 45714] (7/6)

**Lil Underwood**, Amber Busiek's mother, is recovering from surgery to remove cancer from her spine; on-going chemo.

[324 Casey Lane Washington, WV 26181] (10/12)

**Dianna Wagoner** is dealing with cancer on her other kidney. Doctors will watch the situation until 3/26.

[1508 36<sup>th</sup> St. Parkersburg, WV 26104] (12/29/24)





# Let all that you do be done in love

— 1 Cor 16:14

MMBB



## Send In Your Gift

### Mail

Send a check with the name of your church to:

American Baptist Churches USA/  
Mission Resource Development  
PO Box 851  
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

### Online

- 1 Go to [abc-usa.org](http://abc-usa.org) and click on the "GIVE ONLINE" button at the top right.
- 2 For "Fund," select, "Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering."
- 3 Provide your church name in the "Comment" box.

## A Legacy of Love: Honoring Those Who've Served

Following God's call often comes with sacrifice. Many retired ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses have served faithfully, yet often lack the resources to fully prepare for life's later seasons. Health challenges, the loss of a spouse, or isolation.

These are the people who have poured into our lives. Pastors who prayed with us, missionaries who served where we could not. Their dedication helped shape the American Baptist Churches USA into the vibrant, faithful community it is today.

Your offering is more than a donation, it's a heartfelt expression of love and gratitude. It allows us to provide emergency assistance and a "Thank You" check to those who have devoted 15 or more years of their lives to God's service.

Thanks to your generosity, in 2024 we raised \$932,122, resulting in 3,331 checks sent to retired ministers, missionaries, and widowed spouses.

**These gifts meet real needs and offer comfort in life's most vulnerable moments:**

*"I am so humbled and thankful for your generosity. I was so surprised when I checked my account and saw your kindness displayed. I will remember my family in Christ and the love you've shown."*

— Retiree from Ohio

*"Thank you for the RMMO gift. An unexpected and generous blessing. Thank you for all you do in Jesus's name."*

— Retiree from California

*"Thank you so very much for the Thank You check from MMBB. What a lovely gift—just when my laptop was on its last legs. It couldn't have come at a better time. Thank you! Our affiliation during these 40-plus years has meant more to me than you could imagine."*

— Retiree from Virginia

**Each time a check is received, it's more than financial support, it's a reminder that they are still part of a loving church family that sees them, remembers them, and honors their service.**



# Christmas



**MID-OHIO VALLEY**

## **Christmas Day Dinner**

**December 25 • Noon to 1:30 p.m.**

**Doors Open at 11:45**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**1341 Juliana Street • Parkersburg**

**At the Rear Entrance**

*Dine inside, Pick up your free meals at curbside,  
or, arrange meal **Delivery** (homebound only).*

**Want to help? Here's how:**

Donate cookies & pies ★ Prep food ★ Package Meals

Deliver meals ★ Clean up ★ Make a Cash Donation

**Contact us by Wednesday, December 17**  
**to volunteer or to request meal delivery:**

**Online: [www.fpcpborgwv.org](http://www.fpcpborgwv.org)**

**Call: 304-422-5426    Email: [office@fpcpborgwv.org](mailto:office@fpcpborgwv.org)**

**DO YOU HAVE ANY SMART  
PHONES YOU ARE NOT  
USING ANYMORE.  
DONATE THEM TO THE  
EBC A/V MINISTRY.  
WE CAN PUT THEM TO  
GOOD USE.**



**Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:**

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment

near you! **800-324-9458**

**Thursday, Jan. 22**

and use code: **HABC001**

**9am-4:30pm**

**Emmanuel Baptist Church**

**Fellowship Hall**







The  
Marriage  
Course

## **Best “Dinner Date” Series for Couples**

Invest in your relationship in 2026 at The Marriage Course or The Pre-Marriage Course! This international series of “Dinner Theater” dates is based on excellent, general psychological and Biblical principles designed to strengthen relationships whether you have been married a long time, recently married or just considering marriage. The In-person dinner-date series occurs in a lovely, intimate restaurant setting with “couples only” – no group – conversations. On-site childcare can be arranged.

**The Marriage Course is 7 consecutive Fridays, Jan 23 – Mar 6**

**In-person: 6:00pm – 8:00pm**

Couples enjoy superb meals at their own "table-for-two" in a relaxed setting while they privately discuss the excellent videos.

Limited Tables, so reserve soon!

Hosts: Keith & Eileen Mayer

Cost per couple: \$75\* (\$20 for materials, \$55 for 14 meals/dessert)

**Online: 7:45pm – 9:45pm**

The Online Course is same excellent material delivered to your own home.

Couples are encouraged to create an intimate environment to privately discuss the videos.

Hosts: Brian & Christa Raitz

Cost per couple: \$25\* for materials.

**The Pre-Marriage Course is 5 consecutive Fridays, Feb 6 – Mar 6**

**In-person: 6:00pm – 8:00pm**

Held just like The Marriage Course but in a different dining area.

Hosts: Joe and Sarah Stephens

Cost per couple: \$60\* (\$20 for materials, \$40 for 10 meals/dessert).

More info or to sign up? Check out [www.themarriagecourse.org](http://www.themarriagecourse.org) or contact host church (Emmanuel Baptist Church: Parkersburg) at 304.485.5171 or Keith and Eileen Mayer at [keithandeileen1221@gmail.com](mailto:keithandeileen1221@gmail.com).

We took this excellent series many years ago ... hosting since!

\*Cost waivers available



West Virginia  
Baptist Convention



training  
Annual Event



**SAVE  
—THE—  
DATE**

**Saturday, February 7, 2025**  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

*Join us for a day of workshops with more than 200 others from your WVBC family!*

**Registration Deadline: January 24, 2026**

**If you plan to attend, please let Blaine Hess know or call the church office to possibly coordinate traveling together in the church van or bus.**

**REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX**

**Make checks payable and mail to:**

**WV Baptist Convention**

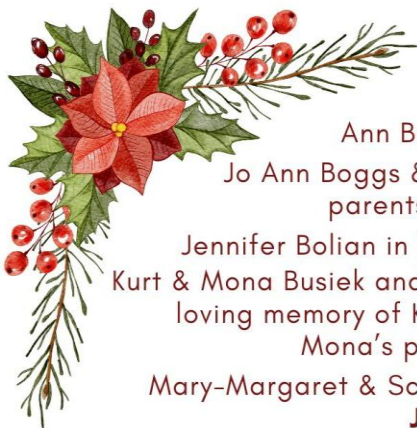
**P.O. Box 1019**

**Parkersburg, WV 26102**

**or register online at:**

**[www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org)**





### Poinsettias Given By:

Ann Beck, in loving memory of **Jim Beck**

Jo Ann Boggs & Sharon Beall, in loving memory of their parents, **Harold & Euna Lee Singleton**

Jennifer Bolian in honor of her son, **Samuel Schoenhut**

Kurt & Mona Busiek and family, in honor of **Dr. Erwin Busiek**, in loving memory of Kurt's mother, **Dorothy Busiek**, and Mona's parents, **Wadi & Pat Abdo**

Mary-Margaret & Scott Buchwald, in loving memory of **John Buchwald**

Delbert & Sue Casto to the **Glory of God**

Shirley Davis, in loving memory of **Frank Davis & Aileen Wortman**

Margie Edwards, in loving memory of **Terry Edwards**

The Enoch Family, in loving memory of **Clarence Enoch, Jr.**

The Gaydac Family, in loving memory of **Carol "Gigi" Gaydac**

Jane Graham, in loving memory of **R.V. "Buddy" Graham**

Don & Julie Grimm, in loving memory of their parents, **Everett & Betty Grimm** and **Ron & Marie Frady**, in honor of their grandchildren, **Landin, Gabi, Adelynn, Jaxon, & Noah**

Jerry Hamilton, in loving memory of **Sherry Hamilton**

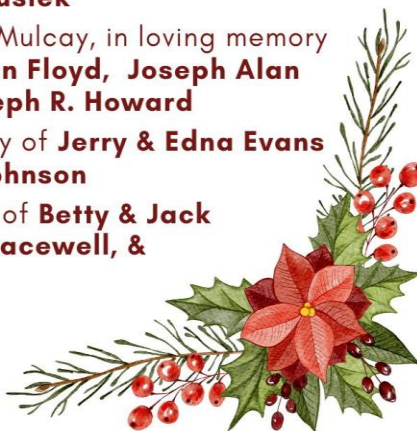
Blaine & Radonna Hess, in loving memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Earl Hess**, **Rev. Dr. Haymond Plaugher**, and **Rev. Dr. Gerald Morgan**, in honor of **Dr. Kurt Busiek**

Darlene Howard, John & Leslie Howard Mulcay, in loving memory of **Willa Howard, June Howard, Brian Floyd, Joseph Alan Howard, Carol Mulcay, Joseph R. Howard**

Buck & Melissa Johnson, in loving memory of **Jerry & Edna Evans** and **Ralph & Leotia Johnson**

Lee & Jessica Johnson, in loving memory of **Betty & Jack Johnson, Russel Varner, Jackie Tracewell, & Tim "Gramps" Bauer**

Barbara Kirsch, in loving memory of **Mark Scoly & Jack Kirsch**



### Poinsettias Given by:

Brian & Dee Lallemon in loving memory of Brian's Dad, **Clarence Lallemon**

Bob & Judy Langkamer, in loving memory of **Bob & Marion Meek** and **Jim & Doris Langkamer**

Kathy Leavitt, in loving memory of her **parents & Grandmother Leavitt**

Jewel Lusk, in loving memory of **Raymond Lusk & Neva Lusk**

Mary Maslon, in loving memory of husband, **Tom Malson** and in honor of **Tim & Gail Samolitis**

Charles Matthews, in loving memory of **Betty Matthews**

Keith & Eileen Mayer, in loving memory of our **December wedding 12 years ago** adorned with poinsettias

Carol Morgan to the **Glory of God**

Jim & Jean Nordeck, Don & Brenda Dougherty, and Lynda Farley in loving memory of **Julie Marie Carpenter, George & Sondra Simpson** and **George Farley**

Randy Nutter, in loving memory of **Ronald & Jackie Nutter, Jack & Hazel Nutter**, and **Harold & Hazel Gerber**

Judy Prater, in honor of **Pastor Kurt & Mona Busiek** and **my Emmanuel family**

Jim & Carolyn Ross, in loving memory of **Ed & Corrine Ross** and **Ernest & Helen Wiggins**

Lori Schramm & Gary Turner, in loving memory of **Dr. Gerald Morgan & Carrie Mae Turner**, in honor of **Carole Morgan**

Joe & Sarah Stephens, in loving memory of **Bertha Stone** and **Dave & Nancy Stephens**

John & Sharalyn Terosky, in loving memory of **Joyce Spontak** and **John & Kathy Terosky**

Rodney & Pam Wharton, in honor of their grandsons, **Sebastian & Elias Huffman**

Brenda Wheeler, in loving memory of **my loved ones in Heaven**, in honor of my daughter & son-in-law, **Whitney & Russell Richards**







# Advent

Fourth Sunday of Advent:  
**The Gift of JOY**

Leader: In a world where we often seek personal happiness, Advent beckons us to a deeper expression of our faith in Christ.

**People: For the Lord our God is with us, both now and forevermore.**

Leader: Advent beckons us to remember God's unconditional love, even when we stumble.

**People: For the Lord our God is with us, both now and forevermore.**

Leader: Advent beckons us to remember we always have hope, even when it seems as if our world is caving in around us.

**People: For the Lord our God is with us, both now and forevermore.**



## Candle Lighting Service

This morning we light four candles. The **first candle** reminds us of the hope that God's light never ceases to shine. The **second candle** reminds us of the matchless love God has for us. The **third candle** reminds us that in a world of discord, we hear again the calming words of our Savior, "Peace, be still." The **fourth candle** reminds us that our joy abides in God who gently whispers to each human heart, "Come follow me, for I have come that you might have life and have it to the fullest measure!"

### CLOSING PRAYER

Gracious God, in a world where the message is "be happy", we are reminded that only you grant us the gift of true joy. This morning let us hear again with joyful hearts and proclaim with elated voices the wonderful refrain of your coming. "The Lord, our God, is with us both now and forevermore."

We pray this in the name of Christ, our Savior. Amen



### Light of Hope

*A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent*

Words and Music by  
JOEL RANEY

