



From the Office of the Pastor

Let me begin this newsletter with a note of gratitude for your thoughts, prayers, well wishes, cards and gifts for Debbie and I this Christmas. We are grateful for your support, and we cherish your love.

A little over a week from the time that I am writing this, our year will change from 2022 to 2023.



There are many ideas that we take for granted. The concept and convention of the New Year is one of them. The New Year date is so widely accepted in our culture that most of us do not spend any time thinking about it. The truth is that although it is an accepted international convention to mark time in such a way, that the New Year always starts on January 1st and that the calendar year is split into twelve months, it is just a convention. Other things being equal, our calendar could just as easily have started on what we know as March 28, July 11, or any other day of the year.

The day that we know as “January 1st” has a special significance in the Christian tradition. Since we traditionally celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve (December 24), New Year’s Day falls eight days from Christmas Eve.

In the book of Genesis 17:11-12 God made a covenant with Abraham, “*You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised*”

In the book of Leviticus 12:3 we learn, “*On the eighth day [after birth] the [newborn] boy is to be circumcised.*”

In the book of Luke 2:21 we read, “*On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus [see Luke 1:31], the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.*”

As an infant, Jesus (through the action of his parents) obeyed the command of the Law of Moses and was circumcised. By this act he began his submission to the Law of God, which he would keep in letter and spirit (Matthew 5:17) until he was crucified thirty-three years later.

During circumcision Jesus shed the first drop of his blood; thirty-three years later, on the Cross, he would shed all of his blood to establish the new covenant, and to redeem all of us into a new relationship with God. In Jesus’ birth, God gave us a glimpse of

possibilities and God's dreams and hopes for us. In Jesus' first act of obedience, God gave us an indication that when we are with God, all things are possible.

Celebration of the New Year is a time to reflect on where we have been and think about where we may be going. It is a time when the past and the future seem to be held simultaneously in a single, encompassing perspective.

As we shed an old habit and learn to write 2023 instead of 2022, I want to challenge all of us to be aware of the creative and visionary source within us that is rooted in the creative power of God. Our connection to God and to each other can be a source of potential and transformation, new birth, and new beginnings, available to each of us individually and to our community each moment of our lives. That connection to God makes each moment the beginning of the rest of our lives.

I pray that 2023 will be a year of growth and spiritual maturity for our faith and our congregation. Let us all be diligent and purposeful about bringing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world in every way open to us, personally and communally.

May God Bless our St. Georges' United Methodist church; my prayer is that God's Spirit among us is a catalyst of positive change and growth in 2023.



Sunday, January 8: Holy day of the Epiphany

Sunday, February 19: Blessing of the Ashes during our regular service. These ashes will be used in the Ash Wednesday service.

Wednesday, February 22: Ash Wednesday; Lent begins. I need to contact Pastor John to confirm everything, but we talked about having a joint worship service with distribution of ashes at EverSpring. I will keep you posted.

Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday; Beginning of the Holy Week.

Thursday, April 6: Soup and bread meal in our fellowship hall, followed by Maundy Thursday service in the Sanctuary.

Friday, April 7: Good Friday service.

Sunday, April 9: Easter: Sunrise service will begin at 6:15 a.m. (sunrise is at 6:19), followed by breakfast and fellowship downstairs. At 10 a.m. we will gather in the sanctuary for our Easter Celebration.

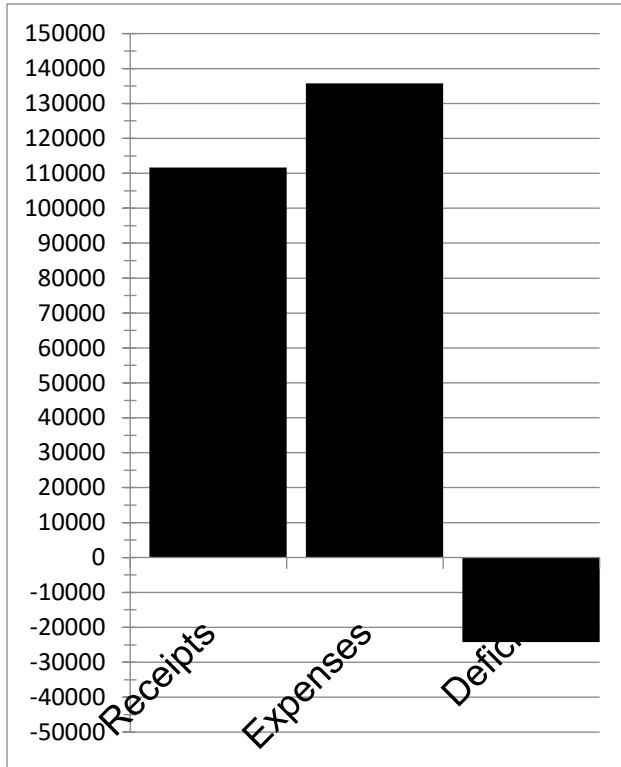
Philos,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Asher".

Pastor Asher

God is my conscience; Jesus lives in my heart!

Our Financial Position as of End of November 2022



YTD receipts for the Operating Budget at the end of November were \$111,614; expenditures were \$135,729. As of the end of November 2022, expenditures exceeded receipts, resulting in a deficit of \$24,178.

In addition to plate receipts, the church received \$37,259 in income from rental properties.

Receipts vs. Expenses A/O November 30, 2022



Donna Goes Walkabout.....

We have come to the end of a very busy time of year and I pray that you took time to enjoy each moment. There were numerous church activities throughout last month like the Women's Society Christmas Dinner and Prayer Pal reveal dinner party, the field trip to see the Christmas Spectacular at the American Musical Theater (26 of us enjoyed this fantastic show), many participating in the Advent Bible study, participating in the



Seaman Center Christmas At Sea program, reaching out and helping two adopt a families, the kids Christmas Pageant went great, Christmas caroling, and as I write this, we look forward to a wonderful Christmas Eve service and Christmas Day service.

As I enter into a brand new year (can you believe it! 2023!) its time once again to look to the new year and see what kind of great adventures I can consider getting myself into. Let's see...I've heard Charleston, South Carolina is a fascinating city to see, I've been itching to take a cross country road trip again, I haven't been to Williamsburg in I can't remember how long but I remember I really enjoyed it, and I have a friend near Toronto, Canada that has been inviting me for a visit. How blessed am I that I have these kinds of options available to me. Aren't we all blessed with the opportunities that God blesses us with. I pray that each of you will consider the adventures you can experience in the new year. And when I say adventure, I mean anything you've been wanting to do or haven't done in a long time. With God, all things are possible! Big things. Little things. And everything in between! Travel mercies from God will get us through!



The Ministry and Worship Teams have been meeting and planning the church activity calendar for the coming year so look out for inspirational Bible studies, game nights, wonderful community outreach, after service pot lucks each quarter and so much more.

Stay warm this month and know that whatever comes your way, God is by your side. Have a great month and I'll see you on Sunday morning.

Donna



New Year Prayer

Loving and Gracious God!

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our faith, our health, our family, and our friends.

Help us to release our grudges, our anger, and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day with joy in the most God-conscious ways. Grant us the ability to serve you by serving the world in which we live.

Grant us the ability to lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth, and from wrong to right. Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

We pray your blessing on our endeavors. May our days be filled with health, peace, prosperity, and love.

In Jesus name we pray. AMEN

Adopt A Family

We were blessed again this year to be able to help two families in the area who were struggling with life. The congregation was as generous as always and a car load of gifts was delivered to each family in time for the holiday.



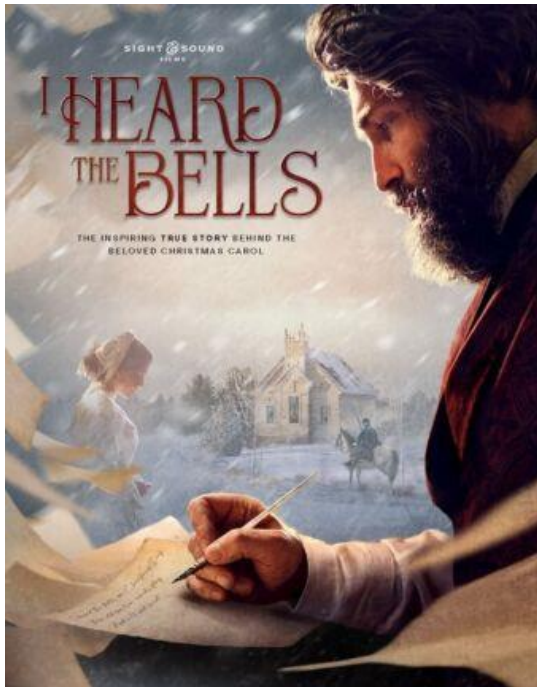
The Women's Society Christmas Dinner

After a year of prayers and cards exchanged, many in the church gathered on Dec 8 for a wonderful dinner, some terrific fellowship and the exchanging of gifts revealing the secret prayer pals.



Kids Pageant Pics





You've heard the song hundreds of times. You've heard the name Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. But did you know that there is a movie out that tells the story of how Longfellow was inspired to write the poem that became the lyrics for the song. Sight & Sound Films (Yes, that same Sight & Sound in Lancaster, PA) is the power behind this movie and they have done a wonderful job of telling this story. If you have the chance, check out this movie. I think you'll like it. And remember to watch ALL the credits because at the end, there is a Behind the Scenes trailer that is worth the wait.

Christmas Bells

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

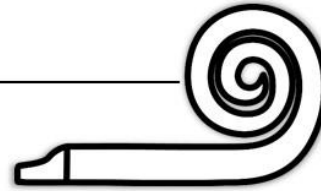
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Young Disciples Page

Happy New Year!



Today is _____



I am _____ years old.

This year I want to learn _____



I want to try _____

I want to go _____

I don't want to _____



This will be a good year because _____

© Mrs. Thompson's Treasures

Young (but a little older) Disciples Page



1. What is your happiest memory from this past year? _____

2. What's the best part about being your age? _____

3. Describe yourself in just one word: _____.
4. What advice would you give your parents? _____

5. If you could be any animal, which one would you be and why? _____

6. Describe the funniest thing you saw this past year. _____

7. Who is your favorite person in the whole wide world and why? _____

8. What was the nicest thing you did for someone this past year? _____

9. What do you think you will be doing 10 years from now? _____

10. What is the grossest thing you can think of? _____
11. If you knew you would die a year from now, what 3 things would you want to do first? _____

12. What is your number one goal for next year? _____

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Young Disciples Activities



New Year's Eve Word Search

O	N	N	T	Y	R	A	U	N	A	J	I
U	H	W	H	T	R	K	X	T	H	V	D
D	L	O	T	L	R	D	N	U	M	M	K
A	R	D	H	W	E	L	B	E	W	Y	V
O	A	T	G	Q	S	W	I	N	B	U	N
M	D	N	I	R	O	B	F	H	Q	R	O
A	N	U	N	P	L	O	H	D	Y	Z	I
E	E	O	D	P	U	U	U	H	E	T	T
M	L	C	I	A	T	T	M	M	A	C	A
I	A	L	M	R	I	U	E	C	R	Y	R
T	C	J	T	T	O	N	V	K	X	H	B
C	R	K	T	Y	N	K	B	G	F	W	E
L	K	A	X	C	G	F	S	G	P	E	L
O	T	S	H	E	Y	S	K	E	Q	A	E
C	I	H	O	U	R	G	L	A	S	S	C
K	B	F	Y	Z	B	W	T	S	R	I	F



CALENDAR
CLOCK
MIDNIGHT
COUNTDOWN
RESOLUTION
PARTY

JANUARY
HOURLASS
FIRST
YEAR
TIME
CELEBRATION



How to Reach our Bishop and District Superintendent

Our Bishop



Rev. Latrelle Easterling

Peninsula-Delaware Conference

**Bishop Felton Edwin May
Resource Center**

139 N. State Street,
Dover, DE 19901

Website: www.pen-del.org

Phone: 302-674-2626

Toll Free: 1-877-736-3351

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference
office is open:

Monday thru Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Our District Superintendent



Rev. Joseph Archie

Delaware District Office

900 N Washington St
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

Website: delawaredistrictumc.org

Phone: 302-655-8873

e-mail:

delawaredistrictumc@gmail.com

The District Office is open:

Monday thru Thursday
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



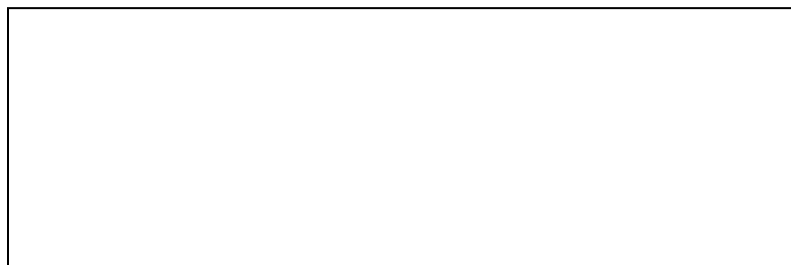
Our Pastor: Rev Asher F. Tunik

Email: pastorasher@gmail.com

Cell Phone / Voice Mail / Text: 443-350-5077

I am in the Church office on Friday mornings and by appointment. Rest of the week I work from my home office and can be reached via phone or e-mail/text.

St Georges United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 145
St. Georges, DE 19733



Dates to Remember

Jan 1.....Happy New Year!

Jan 12.....Women's Society meeting 7pm

Jan 29.....5th Sunday Pot Luck after service