

# MESSENGER

## TOM'S CREEK UMC

VOL 17 ISSUE 12 | DECEMBER 2024

TCUMC mission is to share the love of Jesus Christ with our family, our community, and our world.



Candy Makers of the First Yule Logs of 2024

## Pastor's Pen

### ANOTHER WAY IS ON THE WAY

Sometimes life gets so hard. When it is all upside down and crazy, or when things have gone horribly wrong, at times I have wanted to escape. I've numbed myself or tried to go to sleep and simply forget about it all. I've thought, *"Not thinking about it is probably the best bet. Just ignore how terrible everything has become."* I have also had times where I found myself feeling indifferent to some the dizzying hurt around me. There's so much hurt in our world, and I would so love to have more pleasant things to work on with God. I am not always enthusiastic about serving in this dirty mess. Maybe it is like the age-old practice of foot washing. It is no big thrill because *it really is feet!*

Continued on next page...

Creekers collected 53 Shoeboxes for OCC!!!



DELIVERING 23 MEALS A WEEK!

## Communion Offering

- December - Everstand (UMC Board of Child Care)

## Tom's Creek UMC

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Tom's Creek  
United Methodist Church  
*Come journey with us...*

As much as I would like to clean up our work in the world—as much as I would like to make things pleasant and “safe”—unfortunately Christians carry no inoculation against the hurt and harm around us either.

When I'm down about the workaday way we have to participate here in the nitty-gritty of life, I realize how much we need hope to come here, how desperately we need someone bigger than life. We need an extraterrestrial power to come here and change things--someone to care enough to get in here with us and show us that the hurt and harm and hate can be overcome.

### Is there hope for another way?

Together, every year, Christians gather through Advent to reflect on our need for such a Presence. We look expectantly for that someone to come and "re-right" the world. As the Anglican Bishop N.T. Wright once said, we are waiting on the One who will turn the world "right-wise." This doesn't mean we don't have to ignore what's going on or pretend things are not as bad as they really are while we wait and participate. In fact, maybe it is most honest to forthrightly work with our hearts and hands holding forth this hope with intention: that all the earth awaits its Maker, *and its Maker is on the way!*

When we don't know what to pray this season; when we are stumped by the hurt or find ourselves at a loss for how to proceed in the coming days, I hope you find comfort in remembering the LORD is on the way. Our lack of words can simply be joined with nearly two millennia of Christian brothers and sisters who remind us to "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence." The words of this amazing hymn have been comforting Jesus followers since the fourth century:

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood;  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth  
from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away.*

*At his feet the six-winged seraph,  
cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!*

Now, *there* is some powerful hope  
for this present darkness!

In Jesus' love,  
*Pastor Mike Cantley*

## Oldies & Goodies

Submitted Karen Wivell

The November gathering of the Oldies and Goodies began with Debbie White welcoming everyone and Elza saying grace before the meal. The main dish was delicious subs and all the trimmings.



Joe read two "Thank You" notes from the Oldies, one to Trudy for preparing games for each gathering and one to Donna Shriner for providing the gifts for door prizes each month. Donna was also presented with a gift, a pillow with coverings for each season of the year. These were made by Sharon Ruck. This month's door prize winners were Marshall, Elza, Sandy, Casey, Greta, Karen, MaryEllen and Curtis and Pat. Trudy led two games, "A Walk Down Memory Lane" and a Thanksgiving trivia game. Joe was the winner of both games

**This was Debbie White's last time leading the Oldies. Thank you, Debbie, for all you've done!**

Sandy and Frank will be providing the main dish and leading the next Oldies & Goodies on December 19th.



**Dr. Tracy Radosevic served as guest speaker on November 24th for Christ the King Sunday.**

# 'Tis The Season

## Christmas Happenings at Tom's

The Season of Advent is one of the highlights of the Christian Year. With this season, we launch another cycle of living into the story of Jesus and the church that emerges—of which we are a part. We sometimes think we need to find a new way of telling this story and do something fresh and unique. There is certainly space for that, but tradition and remembering the songs and stories from our beginnings can be a powerful invitation to grow as disciples as we grow closer to Christ. So, we invite our church community to consider the Preparations and the Passion of Advent so that we might embrace the Presence and Promise of the Christ who comes. And through it all, we will gather to worship. So, come, let us adore him.



## Operation Christmas Child

Submitted by Pat Baughman

Once again the Tom's Creek family stepped up and we packed 53 boxes! They were delivered to the drop off center today. We appreciate all our folks who packed boxes so that children can receive shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Local ministry partners distribute your gifts to children in their communities. After receiving shoebox gifts, many boys and girls are invited to enroll in The Greatest Journey, a 12-lesson discipleship program. Through the program, ministry partners are able to establish long-term caring relationships with children and families, sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

1 John 3:18 "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth" By your generosity, you follow this scripture by your love and action. The NOW committee thanks you for all your support you gave to us with this project! May God bless you! and just remember come Christmas morning you made some boys and girls very happy!



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# TRIBUTE AND WELL WISHES TO HOLLY PHILLIPS

## THE CREEKERS WILL MISS YOU!

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Praying for you in your next endeavor. Thank you for the service you have given TCUMC. ~ Mary Springer

Thanks to you and kids for sharing your gifts of love and leading our worship! ~ Bob Hurst

Just a little note letting Holly know we appreciated her talent and guidance as our choir director. We sure will miss her but wish her well in her future endeavors. We love you Holly!  
~ Kathy Amoss

Wishing you and your family many blessings. Thank you for bringing your ministry of music and sharing with our church. You and your family will be missed. ~ Sue Wisner

Holly, it has been wonderful to witness your creative musical gifts. Thank you for the opportunity to praise God together with you through your worship ministry. ~ Carol Hipp

Holly, thank you for all you have done to make our services so meaningful with your gift of music. ~ Pat Baughman

Thank you for using your talents in helping make the Choir special when they sang. ~ Judy Coleman

Thank you Holly for sharing your gift of music. ~ Terry Boller

Holly, we appreciate your hard work for Tom's Creek music ministries. ~ Beverley & George Tuggle.

Dearest Holly, Thank you for your hard work and sharing your amazing talents! I am honored to have worked with you and to call you friend!  
~ Kathy Imirie



Holly, you are such a blessing to the Tom's Creek community. Thank you for sharing your gifts, time, energy, knowledge, faith, and self with this church. Your talents as a music director have been wonderful, but the greater gifts to us are your warm heart and friendship. I wish you well on the next steps of your journey from here!  
~ Olivia Imirie

Holly, thank you so much for all you've done at Tom's Creek. You, Karleigh and Hunter will never be forgotten!  
~ Mike and Karen

You transformed our worship service with your spiritual gift, heart of gold, and amazing voice. Your passion for worship will be sorely missed. ~ Amy Messler



# Creeker Chronicles

## Tom's Creek Happenings

She's here!!! Welcome Sadie Ann Wivell born at 10:41am on November 24, 2024. Sadie weighed 6lbs 9oz and was 20 1/4" long. Congratulations to her long-awaited parents, Kim and Shane Wivell.

Our love, prayers and support continue for the family.



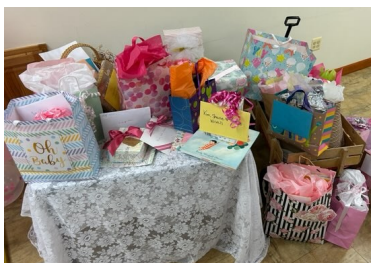
### CELEBRATING KIM AND SHANE'S SOON-TO-BE ARRIVING BABY GIRL

Submitted by Debbie White

Tom's Creek had a baby shower for Shane and Kim Wivell. What a wonderful gift Tom's Creekers shared in celebrating the upcoming birth of their baby girl. The Fellowship Hall was beautifully decorated. As you can imagine, there were pink plates, pink napkins and yes even an arch decorated with pink balloons.

The meal was delicious with servings of fried chicken, broccoli salad, taco salad, apples, mashed potatoes, potato salad, macaroni and cheese, and many more delicious sides too numerous to mention. And, of course, cupcakes with homemade baby candy items!

Kim and Shane settled under the pink arch to start opening their gifts. They were assisted by Erin McGrew who passed packages onto the couple to open. There were many oohs and aahs as the gifts were opened. So many beautiful outfits, with headbands, of course, books, gift cards, diapers, and you could see and hear the graciousness, love and genuine appreciation from Kim and Shane for each gift.



We finished the shower with Kim and Shane expressing their appreciation of Tom's Creek for helping them through the past two years and celebrating their joy for the upcoming event. A special thanks to the organizers, Sandy Negro, Jeanne Schubert, and Judy Coleman.



Several Tom's Creek folks were blessed to attend the Emmitsburg Council of Churches Community Thanksgiving Service. Rev. Joe Herb from Elias Lutheran Church delivered the message. (pictured left)

Pictured (right) is the outgoing Council President, Bill Wivell, and the 2025 Council Officers and clergy attending the service during a prayer for the new officers. Two Creekers are officers. Phyllis Kelly is the Vice President and George Tuggle is the Secretary.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Information regarding these events and more can be found in the church bulletins which are also posted on our website. To receive emails with announcements and prayer requests, please contact the church office or Karen Wivell at [wivellkaren@gmail.com](mailto:wivellkaren@gmail.com).



All Saints Sunday was celebrated on November 3, 2024, at Tom's Creek with Candle Lighting and Greta's Children's Chat (pictured below).

DEC  
8



### Christmas Caroling

Lunch served immediately following Sunday School. Then break into groups and depart for visitation/caroling.

DEC  
19



### Noon in Fellowship Hall

Sign-up information is available in the lobby. All are welcome!!!

DEC  
31



### New Year's Eve Party

6p-10p in Fellowship Hall  
Main dishes and drinks will be provided

## DECEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Sarah Bernardi	12 Brooke Cantley	21 Bo LaGrave
2 Susan Trice	18 Linda Kuhn	21 MaryEllen Shuey
2 Heather Rafferty	19 Rebecca Tuggle	22 Jennifer Harbaugh
4 Whitney Jackson	Landreth	22 Karleigh Phillips
5 Tracey Crabtree	21 Karen Wivell	23 Carol Amoss
5 Bill Hipp	21 Kathy Imirie	28 Sue Wisner

### December 13

*Doug & Jackie Martin*

### December 28

*Joyce & George Bruchey*



## Paid in Full

Submitted by Jackie Troxell

In the Fall of 2015, some church members discussed the feasibility of utilizing some of the church property at the Promised Land for a cemetery. After Conference approval on August 23, 2015, a cemetery proposal was presented to the Tom's Creek Congregation. After many questions and much discussion, a vote was taken with the results of 52 in favor of the proposal and 22 against.

Those leading the discussion verified the fact that someone had volunteered to loan the finances necessary for this project. It was decided to make this available to the community and not just for church members; therefore, the name decided upon was Tom's Creek Community Cemetery.

**The committee is strictly volunteers, and they are as follows:**

President - George Bruchey

Vice President - Tony Myers

Treasurer/Secretary & Salesperson - Jackie Troxell

Advisers - Randy & Kathy Amoss and Joe Coleman

Tony Myers and Randy Amoss are responsible for measuring the precise area where the excavations are to be made and memorials placed.

Special thanks to those who volunteered their services over the years to mow and keep the cemetery looking great. Joe Coleman, Jim Cramer, and most recently, Kathy Keys with Randy and Kathy Amoss substituting when necessary.

To date, 138 lots have been sold with a few hundred yet to sell in Section A.

As of November 18, 2024, the loan has been **PAID IN FULL**.

Special thanks to everyone who has made this possible.