



# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*The Community Church Serving Northeast Philadelphia*

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## THE STAFF

**JANUARY, 2025**

### **R\*E\*F\*L\*E\*C\*T\*I\*O\*N\*S**

**"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 3:17**

It is quite common for people to make resolutions on New Year's Day, hoping to improve the quality of their lives. For example, some might vow to overcome a bad habit, lose weight, concentrate on exercising more, or improve on finances. I often wondered about the origin of this practice. In an article on History.com entitled: *The History of New Year's Resolutions*, I discovered that "The ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to make New Year's resolutions, some 4,000 years ago." These resolutions were made during celebrations which "began in Mid-March, when the crops were planted." These yearly celebrations were "a massive 12-day religious festival known as Akitu," a time when "the Babylonians crowned a new king or reaffirmed their loyalty to the reigning king. They also made promises to the gods to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed. If the Babylonians kept to their word, their (pagan) gods would bestow favor on them for the coming year. If not, they would fall out of the gods' favor—a place no one wanted to be."

The article explains that around 46 B.C., the Roman emperor Julius Caesar "established January 1 as the beginning of the new year." January was "named for Janus, the two-faced god whose spirit inhabited doorways and arches. Believing that Janus symbolically looked backwards into the previous year and ahead into the future, the Romans offered sacrifices to the deity and made promises of good conduct for the coming year."

John Wesley, known as the "*Father of Methodism*," initially introduced *Covenant Renewal Services* in 1755, which were initially held at various times throughout the year, and towards the end of his life transitioned to the Sunday closest to January 1st. According to an article written by Jonathan Powers, found in Seedbed.com entitled: *John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service (For Today)*, "This renewal service was a time for the Methodists to gather annually in a time of self-examination, reflection, and dedication," as they renewed their covenant with God. They were also referred to as Watch Night Services. The enthusiasm of the parishioners is described in an entry dated January 1, 1775, from John Wesley's journal: "It was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences...I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desired to return thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of His graces, healing all their backslidings." Rather than focusing on the typical resolutions that people often concentrate on for the new year, I think John Wesley's Covenant Prayer might be an excellent starting point in 2025 for all of us! ~ *Paula Direso, Editor*

"I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

## PROSE and POETRY



### God is Here, There and Everywhere Contributed by Aken V. Wariebi

When the road seems dark with no road to recognize, God is there by our side

Protecting us, for us to survive, when the clouds hide, the moment we've been waiting for.

And when we are wet with tears from crying days and nights, He is there holding onto our lives.

When we think of giving up, but hold on, only to try one more time,

And give in with hesitation slowly, moving from ourselves, He is there and giving totally to us.

And with that, His presence is everywhere, it seems to be quite alright, if we choose to believe.

So, when the joy in our lives is multiplied, and pieces of happiness keep dropping from us before our very eyes, let's remember that God is here, there and everywhere!

Be reassured whether a holiday, or another regular day, be still and know in all we do and say, how our actions and reactions represent us.

Once we stay alive, we'll see how life portrays reflections of Him, for He'll be right there to walk with us always, since He is there forever and a day, until now and throughout eternity.

©Aken V. Wariebi - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/inspirewithlove>

Website: <https://outskirtspress.com/icanworks2>

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors  
**The people of the United Methodist Church**

**JANUARY, 2025**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	2  7:00 - Chancel Choir Practice	3	4 9:00 - UM Men's Breakfast  12:00 - AA Meeting Wood Hall
5 9:00 - Praise Service 10:30 - Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 - Children's Sunday School 6:30 - Cadette Girl Scouts Troop 9744	6	7  7:30 - Al-Anon/Alateen	8  1:00 - Bible Study  6:30 - Daisy & Brownies Troop 920	9  7:00 - Chancel Choir Practice	10	11  12:00 - AA Meeting Wood Hall
12 9:00 - Praise Service with Holy Communion 10:30 - Traditional Worship 10:30 - Children's Sunday School 6:30 - Cadette Girl Scouts Troop 9744	13	14  7:30 - Al-Anon/Alateen	15 <b>STAFF ARTICLES DUE!</b>  1:00 - Bible Study  6:30 - Daisy & Brownies Troop 920	16  7:00 - Chancel Choir Practice	17	18  12:00 - AA Meeting Wood Hall
19 9:00 - Praise Service 10:30 - Traditional Worship 10:30 - Children's S.S. 6:30 - Cadette Girl Scouts Troop 9744	20	21 12:00 - Ruth Circle  7:30 - Al-Anon/Alateen	22  1:00 - Bible Study  6:30 - Daisy & Brownies Troop 920	23  7:00 - Chancel Choir Practice	24	25  12:00 - AA Meeting Wood Hall
26 9:00 - Praise Service with Holy Communion 10:30 - Traditional Worship 10:30 - Children's Sunday School 6:30 - Cadette Girl Scouts Troop 9744	27	28 6:30 - Lydia Circle  7:30 - Al-Anon/Alateen	29  1:00 - Bible Study  6:30 - Daisy & Brownies Troop 920	30  7:00 - Chancel Choir Practice	31	

## DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A



Please refer to our website (listed below) for updated cancellations and information, and share this notice with other members.

Are you the head of a committee or work group? Are you planning a church event? Would you like information about your committee, group, or event placed on the church website to be available to all members, neighbors, and the world? If so, please e-mail this information to our e-mail address which is as follows:

[webservant@umcgoodshepherd.org](mailto:webservant@umcgoodshepherd.org).

Our church website address is:

[www.umcgoodshepherd.org](http://www.umcgoodshepherd.org).



### EDITOR'S CORNER

Thank you for your monthly contributions to *The Staff*. In order to enter and edit your articles for each month's edition, PLEASE

submit your information by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month by emailing your articles to: [secretary@umcgoodshepherd.org](mailto:secretary@umcgoodshepherd.org). You may also leave a phone message on: 215-632-1929.

If your articles are not received on time, they may not be included in *The Staff*.

If you have not received an emailed copy of *The Staff*, please notify the administrative secretary at the email address listed above.

### PRAYER CHAIN



To put a **JOY OR CONCERN** on the prayer chain, or if you would like to become one of the prayer team members, please email Joyce

Cartwright at: [dotgojoy1590@aol.com](mailto:dotgojoy1590@aol.com). For those who are not computer savvy, Betty McLaughlin handles the telephone requests and notifications, so feel free to leave a message at 215-947-3317

## SUNDAY SERVICES

9:00 AM Praise Worship Service  
10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service

Holy Communion will be served at the 9:00 AM Praise Service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.

Holy Communion will be served at the 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.

The 10:30 AM Sunday service will be offered online via Zoom, by logging onto the Facebook page via the church website, or via Facebook: @goodshepherdumcphila.

We pray that you will come out and experience a warm welcome and a sweet spirit of fellowship.



Good Shepherd Children's Sunday School  
10:30 AM

If you would like to volunteer to serve as a Teacher or an Aide, please contact: Walt Dziuk at 215-637-7898, or email: [waltdziuk@gmail.com](mailto:waltdziuk@gmail.com).

## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY



We meet weekly at 1:00 PM in the choir room. We look forward to studying God's Word, which brings us closer together and enriches our lives. We hope you will consider joining us.



**CHANCEL CHOIR** meets on Thursdays at 7:00 PM. Please consider joining us! Singing can boost your self-confidence, improve your mental and physical health, and is a great opportunity to make new friends as we bring God's word to life through music.

## READING AND RELIGION

Contributed by: **Phyllis Brock**

### Our Missing Hearts

By Celeste Ng



Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner lives a quiet life with his father, who was a former linguist and now shelves books in a university library. His mother, Margaret, a Chinese American poet, left without a trace when Bird was nine years old. He doesn't know what happened to her—only that her books have been banned and he's angry that she cared more about her work than about him.

Then one day Bird receives a mysterious letter containing only a drawing, and now he wants to find his mother. His journey takes him back to the many folktales she told him as a child. Through the ranks of an underground network of librarians, and finally to New York City, he will learn the truth about what happened to his mother and what the future holds for them both.

This book is part of the Women of Faith reading program and counts toward the Social Action credit.

### BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Our ever-popular **Breakfast with Santa**, held on December 14<sup>th</sup>, was a huge success again this year! Many compliments went out to our chefs who prepared light and fluffy pancakes, bacon and sausage, all cooked to perfection! Children eagerly awaited their opportunity to whisper their Christmas wishes in Santa's ear, while their parents took photos of the occasion. Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked so diligently to make this a successful fundraiser.

### LIVE NATIVITY

We had an excellent turnout for our Live Nativity held on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Visitors enjoyed petting the animals, the hot cocoa and cookies that were served, as well as the narration of *The Christmas Story*. Volunteers dressed as Mary, Joseph, the Wise Men, and the shepherd gave a realistic touch to this special event that celebrated the birth of Jesus. Many thanks to all those who volunteered their time and effort to make this event possible.

## UNITED METHODIST MEN'S BREAKFAST



Our next Men's Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, January 4th, at 9:00 AM**. Mark your calendar and please join us for fellowship, and a delicious meal, prepared by our gracious hostess, Pat Sommers.

### RUTH CIRCLE



We will be meeting on **Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, at 12:00 PM**. For any questions, contact Mary Beth Ciesielski at: 215-341-7828. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month. We hope you will consider joining us!

**LYDIA CIRCLE**, our circle for today's working



women will meet again on **Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM**. We usually meet every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. If you'd like to join this circle, or have any questions, please contact Jeannette Cartwright at: 215-676-3856 or 215-539-7716.

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



We will not be meeting in January, 2024. Our next meeting will take place on **Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM**, so don't forget to mark your calendar!

**WORSHIP MEETING:** The next meeting will take place on **Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM**.

The Worship Committee has requested the following: Kindly send all **Announcements** to Danielle Parker by 5.00 p.m. the previous day (Saturday) to her email: [hidefalls@verizon.net](mailto:hidefalls@verizon.net) or text her at: 215-480-3398.

Also please send all **Joys and Concerns** to either Jeannette Cartwright or Joyce Cartwright by 5.00 p.m. on Saturday. Jeannette Cartwright's email: [bonanzafive@verizon.net](mailto:bonanzafive@verizon.net) and her cell number is: 215-539-7716. Joyce Cartwright's email: [dotgojoy1590@aol.com](mailto:dotgojoy1590@aol.com), and her (home) telephone number is: 215-676-3856.

**TRUSTEES** will be meeting again on **Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM.**

### **MISSION MOMENTS**

Plans are underway for our Confirmation candidates to participate in the ministry of feeding the homeless at Arch Street UMC on **February 2, 2025.** We will be taking health kits to Arch Street UMC that day, and will be assembling them at Good Shepherd on **Saturday, February 1, 2025, at 10:00 AM.** We are asking for donations for the following items to be dropped off in the Narthex for the health kits:

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Combs
- Tissues
- Bars of Soap or Liquid Soap
- Hygiene items for women

## **Happy Birthday**

### **JANUARY**

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - Amelia Sango    | 9 - Robert P. Gurtcheff |
| 10 - Mousa Dassama  | 11 - Joshua Calhoun     |
| 17 - Dwayne Hallman | 17 - Maurice Samuels    |
| 18 - Krisvyl John   | 24 - Taylor Posey       |
| 30 - Joyce Booth    | 31 - Douglas Caristo    |
| 31 - Dorothy Meaney |                         |



### **JANUARY**

15<sup>th</sup> - Rob & Eileen Sattelmeyer



If you would like to include your name on the **STAFF BIRTHDAY or ANNIVERSARY LIST**, please include your name and the day and month you were born, or your names and anniversary date and send an email to: [secretary@umcgoodshepherd.org](mailto:secretary@umcgoodshepherd.org).

## **C\*O\*L\*L\*E\*C\*T\*I\*O\*N\*S**

Do you know we collect the following items?

1. Eyeglasses – Delivered to the Lion’s Club.
  2. Non-perishable food for our food bank.
- There are collection baskets for these items in the Narthex.

### **We are currently collecting the following**

**Christian books:** Upper Room, Daily Bread, and Response Magazine, and other Christian periodicals. Please put them in the wicker baskets in the Narthex.

### **We are recycling aluminum cans.** (Soda or cat



food cans, or any aluminum cans. If a magnet sticks to a can, then it’s not aluminum. Please note: canned vegetables and soups are not aluminum).

There are blue buckets that say “cans only” next to our trash cans. You can drop your cans off in the buckets, or Rosemarie Gross can stop by your home and pick them up from you. She will take them to the recycle center and cash them in, and the money will go to Good Shepherd. Please contact: Rosemarie Gross at: 215-868-5304.

## **2025 Church Programs**

### **Sunday Worship Services**

**09.00 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

### **Sunday School for Children**

**10.30 a.m.**

### **United Women in Faith**

**Second Mondays 07.00 p.m.**

### **Ruth Circle**

**Third Tuesdays 12.00 p.m.**

### **Bible Study**

**Wednesdays 01.00 p.m.**

### **Lydia Circle**

**Fourth Tuesdays 06.30 p.m.**

### **United Methodist Men’s Breakfast**

**First Saturdays 09.00 a.m.**

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

**Wednesday, March 05, 07.00 p.m.**

**Lenten Dinners and Programs**  
**Wednesdays in Lent 06.30 p.m.**

**Maundy Thursday Service**  
**Thursday, April 17, 07.00 p.m.**

**Good Friday Service**  
**Friday, April 18, 07.00 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday Service**  
**Sunday, April 20, 10.30 a.m.**

**Advent Dinners and Program**  
**Wednesdays in Advent 06.30 p.m.**

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**  
**Wednesday, December 24, 07.00 p.m.**

**IN THE  
SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY:**



**Thank you for all you do to keep us safe!**

*Daniel Bader, VI*  
*Nolan Bader*  
*Evan Kuehl*  
*Reilly Kuehl*  
*Michael McLaughlin*  
*Ryan Sutch*