

# THE JOURNEY

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**Rev. Mike Bealla**  
Senior Pastor

## “Almost Christmas”

What a rich history we have as United Methodists! When John and Charles Wesley began their spirited movement which later became the church we know today, it was through Charles's hymns that influenced many to grow in faith. Without heavy theological books explaining the deepest of Christian teaching, Charles “taught” the followers the basic and profound theological beliefs through the lyrics of his hymns. Setting those hymn texts to the common music of the day, early Methodists were learning about God in a way uniquely Methodist!

One of Charles's beloved hymns, which is now well known throughout the Christian Church, is one that helps us begin the Advent season. It explains who Jesus is and what his coming means to us each Advent season:

*Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a  
child and yet a King, Born to  
reign in us forever, now thy gra-  
cious kingdom bring. By thine  
own eternal spirit rule in all our  
hearts alone; By thine all suffi-  
cient merit, raise us to thy glori-  
ous throne.*

[Charles Wesley, 1744](#)

The words of this hymn remind us that Jesus' coming into the world was not a “once and done proposition” only for the people of Jesus' day, but rather this text reminds us in our day that God is always coming to us in unexpected yet promised ways.

Perhaps this Advent, consider taking some time to reflect upon what it has meant, and continues to mean that God has broken into our world in order to show us a way of life that will, when practiced, change the world into the Kingdom of God. It reminds us that his coming is powerfully individual in nature, yet even more important for the community of all God's children... not just those who claim God as Father, but even those yet to recognize God's presence in their lives. For those, God has called us to be the church and illuminate the way of Jesus to all persons in all places and times!

I give thanks to God for all of you every day, but even more so when we sing together our prayer each Advent... “Come, thou long expected Jesus, born

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

to set thy people free!" May the richness of God's amazing entry into our world through a helpless baby in an awkward crib, to an unlikely family who found no place to rest except a cattle stall, be with you and powerfully bless you in this wonderful time of the year!

Grace and Peace be yours!

*Rev. Mike Bealla*



## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

**Tuesday, December 24th**

Christmas Eve Service will begin at 7:00 pm with a variety of special music setting the scene for the actual worship which will begin at 7:30 pm. Please plan to arrive early to be assured of a seat!

## **OFFICES CLOSED**

Closed Wednesday - Thursday, December 25th/26th  
Closed Wednesday, January 1st



**Join us for Advent Bible Study**

**Every Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 PM and evening at 7:00 PM until December 17th**

Meet us in the church library as we will be exploring the scripture lessons which will be used the following Sunday. It's a good opportunity to prepare for the coming of our Lord.



## Christmas Inside and Out

*Sing we now of Christmas. Noël, sing we here!*

*Hear our grateful praises, to the babe so dear.*

If you have eyes to see and ears to hear, you must know that the Christmas Season has begun in earnest! Many people celebrate Christmas, Christians and non-Christians alike. What is it about Christmas that is so appealing? Maybe it's the glitter, lights, and parties. Or, perhaps, the giving and receiving of gifts. If not that, it could be simply that the holiday gives us permission to set aside a day to spend with friends or family and take time off from our responsibilities. All of those things are part of the Christmas celebration, but you don't have to be Christian to appreciate any of them. So, is there anything about Christmas that makes it a Christian holiday, a Holy day, when you get right down to it?

Whether you celebrate Christmas as a holiday or a Holy day depends on whether you approach it with your physical presence (hands, arms, legs and feet doing all of the preparatory work) or your heart (caring about and for your family and friends) or your soul (preparing your spirit through prayer, fasting, scripture reading and singing carols).

This year, as you plan how to spend quality time with family and friends, don't forget to plan enough quality time with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Notice the nights growing longer. Look at the stars and imagine how small we are compared to the magnitude of the universe. Take time to linger over Isaiah 11 or Matthew 1-2. Be amazed by the quiet of snowfall and the beauty of a sunrise. Anticipate the coming of the Prince of Peace.

*Sing we Noël, the King is born, Noël!*

*Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noël!*

*Joyeux Noël!*

*Cathy B. Wilcox*

Deacon Intern



**A special “thank you” to Alishia Allegrucci, LCSW of Change of Heart Counseling and Consultation Services, Inc. in Tunkhannock for the generous donation of Thanksgiving food baskets to the Elm Park community. We appreciate her kindness for a second year!**



Have you tried our online giving platform yet? As part of our 2020 Communications plan we setup online giving for Elm Park. During the last 7 or 8 months it has been well received and continues to grow. If you would like to try it for your self go to [www.elmparkumchurch.org/givenow](http://www.elmparkumchurch.org/givenow) or download the GivePlus app from either itunes or the google play store and search for Elm Park United Methodist Church. Both of these options let you automatedly give weekly, monthly, or semi monthly and you have the choice from paying with your credit or debit card, or from the bank directly.

Wesley Bealla

Director of Communications and I.T.



Check out our monthly printed and emailed Newsletter "The Journey"!



### Elmparkumchurch.org

Our primary source for information, news and events. There's resources, staff information, and photos!



Announcements, reminders, and news sent via email from Rev. Mike.



Connecting you with news and announcements through social media.



[Facebook.com/elmparkscanton](https://www.facebook.com/elmparkscanton)

The Elm Park Journey, Live Streaming, Services, and Informational Videos.

[Tinyurl.com/epumcvideos](http://Tinyurl.com/epumcvideos)  
[Videos.Elmparkumchurch.org](http://Videos.Elmparkumchurch.org)



**Communications.Elmparkumchurch.org**

# THE ELM PARK JOURNEY

## Latest Episodes

You are always invited to watch our bi-weekly Web-Series entitled "The Elm Park Journey." Each episode features our Lay Leader, Diana Howe, as she interviews guests from our church about events, programs, ministries, groups, and leaders from our church.

In the latest episode, Diana interviewed our deacon intern, Cathy Wilcox about our semi New Covenant Group here at the church.

In an upcoming episode, Diana will be interviewing Rev. Mike Bealla and our Director of Music George Simmons about Christmas Eve in two separate episodes.

If you have any ideas for future episodes for "The Elm Park Journey" contact Diana Howe, Rev. Mike Bealla, Wesley Bealla or email [media@elmparkumchurch.org](mailto:media@elmparkumchurch.org).

## ADVENT &amp; CHRISTMAS DECORATING



## TREES - GREENS

During early December the trees, bundles of greens, and wreaths will be delivered so that they are ready for the Hanging of the Greens event on December 1. If you would like to donate a tree, a wreath or a bundle of greens, or just a small amount toward these things,

please fill out **this form**.

The in-memory/in-honor-of list for the trees and greens will appear with the poinsettia list as an insert with the Sunday, December 22 Bulletin.

## POINSETTIA GARDEN

Our annual Poinsettia Garden will be displayed on Sunday, December 22. Some people may wish to give more than the minimum cost of a poinsettia plant. We appreciate these gifts for they cover additional expenses and also provide resources to cover the cost of other altar needs during the year.

If you would like to donate a poinsettia, please fill out **this form**.

Following the Sanctuary Service on December 22, you may take your flowers or leave them to be distributed to persons who are ill or confined to home or nursing home. Any additional plants will continue to decorate the Sanctuary during the Christmas season.

**Deadline: Sunday, December 18.**



Please return this form with your request

## TREES AND GREENS

1 large tree for the Recital Hall- (TBA) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1-7.5 foot tree for Sanctuary (\$75) \$ Sponsored  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1-7.5 foot tree for Sanctuary (\$75) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1-8 foot tree for Chapel (\$80) \$ Sponsored  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1-7.5 foot tree for Sanctuary (\$75) \$ Sponsored  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1-7.5 foot tree for Sanctuary (\$75) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1-7.5 foot tree for Sanctuary (\$75) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1-7.5 foot tree for Sanctuary (\$75) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1-6 foot tree for the dining rm. (\$60) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1-6 foot tree for the lobby (\$60) \$ Sponsored  
 \_\_\_\_\_ bundles of greens (\$30 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation for the above items, bows for wreaths and swags and set up costs \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Trees and Greens Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**In memory/honor of:**

**Given by (please identify)**

## POINSETTIAS

**In memory of:**

Poinsettia plant 1 Please print—limit 2 names per plant

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00

Poinsettia plant 2 Please print—limit 2 names per plant

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00

**In honor of:**

Poinsettia plant 3 Please print—limit 2 names per plant

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00

**Poinsettia Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Given by: (please identify)**

Please print

\*I/we will:

\_\_\_\_\_ pick up the plant(s) after the service on December 23.

\_\_\_\_\_ leave the plant(s) for distribution as indicated above.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to *Elm Park United Methodist Church*

Amount enclosed (Check/cash) \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## Elm Park United Methodist Church 2020 Leadership for Mission and Ministry

Rev. 10/20/19

### ADMINISTRATION

Lay Leader	Diana Howe
Lay Members	Leigh Redmon Joseph Sadowski
Alt Lay Member	Ralph Cooper

### Church Council

Chairperson	Bill Miller
Vice Chair	John Warring
Secretary	Meghan Sucheski
Treasurer	Andrea Mulrine
Business Mgr.	Marie Priblo
Finance Chair	John McDonald
SPRC Chair	John Warring
Trustee Chair	J. Conrad Bosley
Lay Leader	Diana Howe
Lay Members	Leigh Redmon Joseph Sadowski
UMW President	Louise Jones
Youth Members	Ben Warring Chole Tucker

### Ministry Team Leaders

Education Team	Cheryl McDonald
Cong. Care Team	Sarah Cooper
Mission Team Chair	John McDonald
Worship Team	Diana Howe
Communication	Wesley Bealla
Archives & History	Ed Rogers
Church and Society	Dottie Bosley

### At-Large Members

Butch Baron	Rick Bivens
Cathy Hunt	Charles Lupole
Betsy Miller	
Dawn Redmon	
Andrew Sucheski	

### Committee on Finance

Chair	John McDonald
Treasurer	Andrea Mulrine
Business Manager	Marie Priblo
Church Council Chr	Bill Miller
Trustee Chair	J. Conrad Bosley
Lay Member	Leigh Redmon

### Finance Committee Members at Large

Carole Anderson	Ralph Cooper
Don Fisch	

### Counting Team Members

Carole Anderson	Steve Mansour
Bill Miller	Roy Pauli
Diana Howe	

### Auditors External Accounting Firm

### Staff- Parish Relations Committee

Chair	John Warring
Class of 2020	Butch Baron Martha Butler Leigh Redmon (Lay Member)
Class of 2021	Elizabeth Swartz Camden Miller (Youth) Diana Howe (LL)

Class of 2022	Connie Dempsey J. Conrad Bosley Andrew Snyder
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### Board of Trustees

Solicitor	Ray Ferrario
Class of 2020	Janet Muse-Burke, Sect. Don Fisch Joan Pilosi
Class of 2021	Ed Rogers Andrea Mulrine Bill Pabst
Class of 2022	Joseph Sadowski Brian Grassi J. Conrad Bosley



**Ministry Team Members****Archives and History**

Ed Rogers (Chair)	John Luczak
Leigh Redmon	Joe Sadowski

**Communications Team**

Wesley Bealla (Chair)	
Coen Miller	Julie Miller (Facebook)
Andrew Sucheski (web)	Meghan Sucheski
Ed Rogers	

**Education Team**

Team Leader	Cheryl McDonald
Superintendent	Jill Brogan
Wesley Choir Dir	Janet Muse-Burke
VBS	Karen Sadowski
	Helen Evans
	Joan Pilosi
Camping Co-ords	Sarah Cooper
	Sarah Manzi
Library Staff	Karen Sadowski
	Renee Aston
	Martha Butler
	Michelle Georgetti
	Diana Howe

**Scholarship Committee**

Cheryl McDonald	Business Manager
Pastor	Trustee Rep

**Mission Team**

John McDonald	(Chair)
Safety Net Reps	
Breadbasket Coordinator	Donna Mang
Sierra Leone Partnership	Leigh Redmon

**At Large Members**

Jill Brogan	Martha Butler
Sarah Cooper	Mary Gordon
Cathy Hunt	Jill Luczak
Julie Miller	
Karen Sadowski	

**Disaster Response Team**

Pastor (Chair)	J. Conrad Bosley
Diana Howe	John Luczak
Bill Miller	Larry Mulrine

**Worship Team**

Co-Chairs	Pastor
Lay Leader	Diana Howe
Lay Readers Coordinator	Joseph Sadowski
Receptionist Coordinator	Marcy Jesse
Ushers Team Leaders	
Chapel	Mary Gordon
Sanctuary	John Luczak
	Leigh Redmon
	Bill Thompson
	Butch Baron
Greeters	
Chapel	Mary Gordon
Sanctuary	Joan Pilosi
Refreshment Hour	Karen Sadowski
AV Team Leader	Wesley Bealla
Baby Fold Coordinator	Betty Lee
Acolytes	Sarah Cooper

Communion Stewards	Diana Howe
	Julie Miller

**Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations)**

Chair	Pastor
Co-Chair	Lay Leader
Class of 2020	Ray Ferrario
	Brian Grassi
	Sarah Cooper
Class of 2021	Jamie Pabst
	Tina O'Malley
	TBA
Class of 2022	Dottie Bosley
	TBA
	TBA



*Warm Coats from Warm Hearts*

## COAT DRIVE

### Coat Drive Thanks

A most sincere thank you to all who helped in any way with our Coat Drive! Thank you to all who donated clothing items. We received the most ever! Thanks to those who promoted our event on social media or by word of mouth both to request clothing and to get the word out to those who could benefit from the give-away. Thanks to those who lugged bags up to third floor then down again, to those who helped sort, size and display our goods during set-up, answered the buzzer to welcome our shoppers, brought treats, helped shoppers find correct sizes, folded and restocked piles of clothing, tallied items chosen by our visitors, bagged goods, helped our guests carry their treasures to their cars, helped shift left over items from the dining room to our multipurpose room in preparation for Consecration Sunday, or bagged items to pass on to other helping agencies. You made a difference.

We had 46 amazing volunteers from Elm Park, the University of Scranton and Marywood Colleges! We were able to give 767 winter coats and 3047 other items during our event and like with the loaves and fishes, we took up 39 more bags and 8 boxes of left over items to share with four other agencies. We gave to Friends of the Poor, the United Neighborhood Center on Olive Street, Safety Net and Keystone Mission.

Your shared items went to some homeless people, to some with huge families, to those who were sick, to those with walkers and wheelchairs, to those new to the area from warm climates who needed northeast PA appropriate garb, to two who had lost everything in a flood and to many who just needed a hand up.

Thank you for reaching out. May God bless you richly for all you do to help others.

### DECEMBER ALTAR FLOWER



**Altar Flowers**

**December 1st** - In memory of Paula Sandrowicz Cinsinski by Linda Ladd

**December 8th** - In memory of Sherian by Charles Lupole

**December 15th** - In honor of all the the volunteers of Peace Meal and New Consecration Sunday by Conrad Bosley

**December 22nd** - Open

**December 29th** - Open

**OPEN DATES FOR ALTAR FLOWERS: January 5 and 19.** Please call Marie Priblo at 570-342-8263 Ext. 10 if you are interested in any of these available dates. Thank you.



## DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

### CHAPEL READERS

01 Ray Ferrario  
08 Brian McChesney  
15 Jennifer Prothero  
22 R Pearson  
29 Cindy Fisch

### SANCTUARY READERS

01 Jill Luczak  
08 Leigh Redmon  
15 Cheryl McDonald  
22 Joan Pilosi  
29 Rick Bevins

### ACOLYTES

03 TBA  
17 TBA  
17 TBA  
27 TBA  
29 TBA

### RECEPTIONIST

01 Andrew Sucheski  
08 Elizabeth Swartz  
15 Renee Aston  
22 Lacey Stanton  
29 Tina Kohanski

### CHAPEL GREEETERS/USHERS

01 Karen/Joe Sadowski  
08 Charlie Lupole/Mary Gordon  
15 Bob/Sue Crane  
22 Don/Cindy Fisch  
29 Prothero Family

### SANCTUARY GREETERS

01 Rick Bevins/Joan Pilosi  
08 Volunteers  
15 Tina Kohanski/Volunteer  
22 Jill Eidenberg/Sean Eidenberg  
24 Jill Luczak/Cathy Hunt/Joan Pilosi/Butch Barron  
29 Larry/Andrea Mulrine

### HOSPITALITY HOST/HOSTESSES

01 Warring Family  
08 Eileen Grassi  
15 Pabst Family  
22 Karen Sadowski  
29 Renee Aston

### SANCTUARY USHERS

01 Bill Miller, Jane Miller, Sarah Cooper, Leigh Redmon, Joan Pilosi, Rick Bevins, Volunteer  
08 Elm Park Youth  
15 Leigh Redmon, Dawn Redmon, Tina Kohanski, Harold Hiller, Butch Barron, Donna Barron  
22 Barbara Peters, Elizabeth Caliano, Jill Eidenberg, Sean Eidenberg, Meghan Eidenberg  
24 Cindy Fisch, Don Fisch, John McDonald, Cheryl McDonald, Bill Miller, Betsy Miller, Jane Miller, Jill Luczak, Joan Pilosi, Brian Grassi, Eileen Grassi, Dawn Redmon, Sarah Cooper, Harold Hiller, Butch Barron, Donna Barron, Scott Sadowski  
29 Leigh Redmon, Cathy Hunt, Larry Mulrine, Andrea Mulrine, Rick Bevins



**Signs we will never use!**  
**Sponsored by**  
**Betsy Miller**





02 Ashley Brier  
 02 Lily Harvey  
 02 Gregory Powell  
 03 Tina Bevan  
 03 Nicole Napolitano  
 03 Chloe Tucker  
 05 Brenda Kille  
 05 Lee Yeomans  
 06 Emily Okon  
 06 Grace Shoener  
 07 Kimberly Kowalski  
 07 Tara Stevens  
 08 Jeffrey Adomiak  
 08 Brian Baum-Lynch  
 08 Arthur Conrad  
 08 Jalyn Lowe  
 08 Barbara Rogers  
 09 Celestine Conrad  
 09 Mary Gordon  
 10 David Carl  
 10 Sheldon Roberts  
 12 Matthew Howe  
 12 Bonnie Rinaldi  
 13 Renee Aston  
 13 Janet Muse-Burke  
 13 Alana Salimini  
 14 Ryan Barrett  
 15 Paula Bugno  
 16 Annaliesa Daubenhauser  
 16 Andrew Howe  
 16 Julie Miller  
 16 Ruth Mills  
 17 Douglas Hoffman

17 Carol Kunz  
 18 Jacqueline Baum  
 18 Robert Dee III  
 18 Anna Hall  
 18 Wendy Mercer  
 18 Ann Marie Moss  
 19 Clara Brock  
 19 Michael Kinney  
 19 Kenneth Reese  
 20 Adele Biko  
 20 Ava Biko  
 21 Asher Carl  
 22 William Napolitano Jr.  
 22 Coulter Rogers  
 24 Jill Brogan  
 24 Jean Warring  
 25 Carole Carroll  
 26 Robin Cogswell  
 26 Alan Dakin  
 26 William Housley  
 26 Elizabeth Swartz  
 28 Ryan Luczak  
 28 Michelle Mendicino  
 29 Beverly de Barros  
 29 James Greenwood III  
 29 Dianne Musgrave  
 29 EllaJay Parfitt  
 29 Karen Sadowski  
 30 Carmen Sakosky  
 30 Anthony Allen  
 30 Ronald Smith  
 31 Donna Barron  
 31 Louis Cortazar Jr.  
 31 Nicholas Harron  
 31 Joseph Lees

## Patient Trust

**Above all, trust in the slow work of God We are quite naturally impatient in everything To reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something Unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress That it is made by passing through Some stages of instability— And that it may take a very long time.**

**And so I think it is with you. Your ideas mature gradually—let them grow. Let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them on, As though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances Acting on your own good will) Will make of you tomorrow.**

**Only God could say what this new spirit Gradually forming within you will be. Give Our Lord the benefit of believing That his hand is leading you. And accept the anxiety of feeling yourself In suspense and incomplete.**

**By:**

**Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ**

**This is a snapshot of Events & Activities scheduled for the month of December. A full schedule is available on our website. Should you like to schedule an activity or have questions, please contact Marie Priblo at 570-342-8263.**

### Weekly Events for December

Monday	1:00 PM	Staff Meeting (L)
Tuesday	1:00 PM	Advent Bible Study (L)
	7:00 PM	Advent Bible Study (L)
Wednesday	10:00 AM	Bread Basket (MPR 1)
	7:30 PM	Choir Practice (CR)
Thursday	5:15 PM	Covenant Discipleship (L)
Friday	12:00 PM	Prayer Group (L)
Sunday	8:30 AM	Worship in Chapel
	9:00 AM	Sunday School
	9:30 AM	Fellowship
	10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Prayer & Praise Service



Thursday, 12/5	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Church Council (L)
Saturday, 12/14	4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Peace Meal (D)
Tuesday, 12/24	7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service (Sanc)



#### **Rev. Mike Bealla - Senior Pastor**

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**Email:** dwalker@elparkumchurch.org

#### **Marie Priblo Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper**

**Phone:** (570) 342-8263 Ext. 10

**Email:** mpriblo@elparkumchurch.org  
office@elparkumchurch.org

#### **Mike Hefferon Director of Maintenance**

**Phone:** (570) 342-8263 Ext. 18

**Email:** mhefferon@elparkumchurch.org  
maintenance@elparkumchurch.org

#### **Steve Ruane Maintenance**

#### **Wesley Bealla Director of Communications and I.T.**

**Phone:** (570) 342-8263 Ext. 12

**Email:** wbealla@elparkumchurch.org  
media@elparkumchurch.org

#### **George Simmons - Director of Music**

**Phone:** (570) 342-8263

**Email:** gsimmons@elparkumchurch.org



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**Advent Bible Study**



### **Worship Times**

8:30 AM Chapel Service

9:00 AM—10:00 AM Fellowship time

10:00 AM Sanctuary Service

11:30 AM Prayer and Praise Service