



THURMONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Rev. Dr. Kenneth J. Fizer, Jr.
cell 301-991-7839
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Sunday Worship Times:
Traditional - 9am
Adult Sunday School - 9-10am
Contemporary - 10:30am

Thurmont United Methodist Church
13880 Long Road
Thurmont, MD 21788
Office - Monday-Thursday, 9-1pm
301-271-4511

Email: Office@ThurmontChurch.org
Website: ThurmontChurch.org
Instagram: Thurmont UMC
YouTube/Facebook: ThurmontUnitedMethodistChurch

Our Mission Statement
“To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”

Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 24th
Family Contemporary 5:30pm



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Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 24th
Traditional 7:00pm



Merry Christmas



DECEMBER 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 CC Mtg 7pm CC Bldg Catoctin HS, Safe & Sane Mtg, 6:15-8:15pm SH PK Bible Study 7pm, SH	3 9am Fellowship & Bible Study/Moser Home 9:30am Women's Life Grp/Annette SH Karate, 4, 5, 6:30pm SH	4	5 Lana 9-1pm Sanctuary
6 9:00 Trad. Service 9-10am Adult, SS 10:30 Cont. Service Live Stream Xmas Eve Practice Youth, Nancy Fizer 5-6pm Youth Grp 4-8pm, SH	7 CC Xmas Open House 6-7:30pm 	8	9	10 9am Fellowship & Bible Study/Moser Home 9:30am Women's Life Grp/Annette SH Karate, 4, 5, 6:30pm SH	11	12 Lana 9-1pm Sanctuary
13 9:00 Trad. Service 9-10am Adult, SS 10:30 Cont. Service Live Stream Xmas Eve Practice Youth, Nancy Fizer 5-6pm Youth Grp 6-7:30pm, SH	14 Missions Mtg 2pm, SH Council Mtg 7pm, Classrm 1 Crafts, 6:30pm, SH	15	16	17 9am Fellowship & Bible Study/Moser Home 9:30am Women's Life Grp/Annette SH Karate, 4, 5, 6:30pm SH	18	19 Lana 9-1pm Sanctuary
20 9:00 Trad. Service 9-10am Adult, SS 10:30 Cont. Service Live Stream Xmas Eve Practice Youth, Nancy Fizer 5-6pm Youth Grp 6-8pm, SH	21  1st Day of Winter	22	23	24  Xmas Eve Services 5:30pm Contemporary 7:00pm Traditional	25 	26 Lana 9-1pm Sanctuary
27 9:00 Trad. Service 9-10am Adult, SS 10:30 Cont. Service Live Stream Youth Grp 6-7:30pm, SH	28	29	30	31 		
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A Word from Pastor Ken



Dear Thurmont UMC Family & Friends,

Over 2,000 years ago the Virgin Mary gave birth to the baby Jesus who was fully human and fully Divine.

St. John writes, “In the beginning was the one who is call the Word. The Word was with God and was truly God. From the very beginning the Word was with God And with this Word God created all things. Nothing was made without the Word. Everything that was created received its life from Him, and His life gave light to everyone. The light keeps shining in the dark and the darkness has never put it out ... The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw His true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. From Him all the kindness and all the truth of God have come down to us.”

The gift of Christmas is God’s gift of light and life, kindness and truth. Without this in our Advent/Christmas celebration, our rituals, our caroling and decorating are merely surface elements to make us feel good in the depth of winter’s cold chilly air. And it is only when we see this image of a Divine child lying in a manger through the eyes of the Cross and the power of the Resurrection, do we understand the full meaning of all the decorating and preparation and caroling and gift giving.

So go ahead, put up the Christmas tree! Put up the decorations! Light the candles! Sing the carols! But when you look into the manger, will you see only an infant child or your Lord and Savior? How you prepare for His coming and how you see His coming will determine whether or not Christmas turns into a one day party of self-gratification or a way of life.

When the Word becoming flesh in Jesus the Christ becomes a way of life then we understand the real meaning of Christmas.

I hope you will spend your Christmas Eve worshipping our Lord & Savior at Thurmont UMC on December 24th at our 5:30pm Family Worship Celebration with contemporary music. Our 7:00pm Traditional Candlelight Celebration with special musical guests.

A Merry & Blessed Christmas to you and yours and a new year filled with hope!
Pastor Ken

A Word From Your Lay Leader

December 2020

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” – which means, “ God with us.”

The last part of this scripture passage is a prophecy from God through the prophet Isaiah given over 700 years before Christ’s birth. God had been promising a Messiah throughout the Old Testament. Even in the first books of the Bible there are Messianic references. God loved his people so much that He had to come up with a perfect plan to bring them back into good standing with Him and close the division that sin had brought between man and God. What a privilege it is for us to be living in an age when the Messiah has already been revealed in Jesus Christ, God’s one and only son, who gave up his place in heaven to come to earth as a baby 2000 year ago. He lived a life without sin and then went to the cross as the perfect sacrifice, the lamb without blemish, to pay the price for our sins in order to fulfill the plan of salvation that God had set up to redeem man from his sinful state. This, I believe, was the first Christmas present, given by God to man. The greatest gift of all is there for the taking if you will only accept what Jesus has done for you. This is what Christmas is all about.

Sometimes in the hustle, bustle and business of the season and amidst all the commercialism that comes with Christmas nowadays, we seem to forget what it’s all about. We lose sight of the significance of that day 2000 years ago. This Christmas season as we are busy with all the holiday things we do (i.e shopping, baking, preparing food, running the kids here and there for Christmas shows, church programs, or just staying home due to the pandemic) and those around us are also busy, let us remember to stop and look and point others to that manger scene of so many years ago where God’s Glorious plan of Salvation began. And let us never forget that “Man will live forever more because of Christmas day”!

God Bless,
Tim Olsen
Have a Merry Christmas



*Christmas Eve 2020 at Thurmont United Methodist Church
Family Contemporary Celebration at 5:30pm*



Our praise team will lead the worship experience with modern carols and special music. We will hear the blessed story, focus on our children and youth light candles.



Traditional Christmas Eve Celebration at 7:00pm.

This celebration will include lessons, carols and candle lighting. Music will be led by Lana Sorenson Emery and Rocky Birely as well as several other guest musicians.



SECRET SISTERS

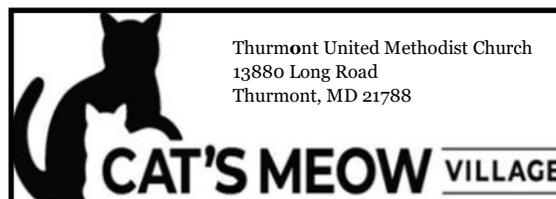
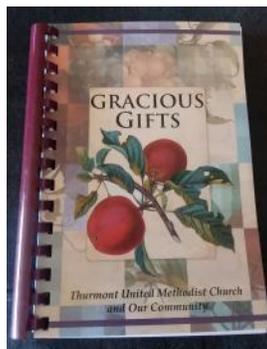
If you're interested in signing up for Secret Sisters, please fill out a blue colored form found in the Social Hall and return it to Shirley Greene by the end of the year. New Sisters will be assigned for next year and you will be notified who your Secret Sister is by the middle of January.

What is Secret Sisters you ask? You fill out a form with information about you and you will receive a form about your Secret Sister. You will pray for your Sister throughout the year. You will also leave her small gifts or cards monthly as a reminder that you are praying for her. You will give her a larger gift for her birthday and at the end of the year you will give her a gift and reveal who you are.

Gifts are left on the table in the Social Hall. Return form to Shirley Greene or leave them in the Missions mailbox in Social Hall. Any questions, see Shirley Greene.

COOKBOOKS ARE HERE!

Be sure to pick up your copy of our new cookbook. They are only \$12 and make wonderful Christmas gifts. We also have plenty of Cat's Meows left for \$20. If you decide to purchase them together we will give them to you for the low price of only \$30. That's a \$2 savings. Please see Shirley Greene for questions or to purchase.



TUMC CHURCH DIRECTORY

Our new church directory is progressing slowly! We still need your input! If you have not already confirmed and updated your personal information in our draft directories please do so at your earliest convenience. The draft books are located at the parking lot entrance of the church.

If you do not feel comfortable entering the church please call the church office @301-271-4511, or email at office@thurmontchurch.org or contact Adrienne Kurtz, @443-340-5517, ajkurtz@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.



TUMC and Lifetouch will be scheduling dates and times this Spring to take photos of each family to accompany your personal listing.

Our goal is to have our new Church Directory completed when Lifetouch returns to pre-COVID-19 operations.

How will you serve the church next year? Consider and commit to one or more of our goals for 2021.

Thurmont United Methodist Church 2021 Visioning Goals For Church Growth

<input type="checkbox"/>	1.	Do a mass mailing to local community
<input type="checkbox"/>	2.	Expand advertising in local media of upcoming church activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	3.	Reach out to inactive members to discuss returning to the church
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.	All members handout Church Brochures, visitor and invitation cards
<input type="checkbox"/>	5.	Start new nurture groups e.g. young parents, newlyweds, Men's Bible breakfast, new Christians, provide childcare for parent's night out
<input type="checkbox"/>	6.	Start a Young Adult Fellowship (Ages 18 - 25)
<input type="checkbox"/>	7.	Start a monthly Adult Camp Weekend Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	8.	Fully support youth group and add a youth parent meeting during youth events
<input type="checkbox"/>	9.	Start an Elementary School Youth Group (Grades 2 - 5)
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.	Provide CPR and First Aid Classes for Youth Activity Leaders
<input type="checkbox"/>	11.	Hold a Vacation Bible School
<input type="checkbox"/>	12.	Hold a congregational Church Retreat
<input type="checkbox"/>	13.	Continue Tae Kwon Do Classes at the church
<input type="checkbox"/>	14.	Put on Gospel Music Concerts/Hymn Sings
<input type="checkbox"/>	15.	Put on a Colorfest/Church Bizarre Event
<input type="checkbox"/>	16.	Hold a Community Picnic - Food Truck Festival
<input type="checkbox"/>	17.	Put on a Harvest Festival/Trunk or Treat Event for Church Family/Expand in 2021
<input type="checkbox"/>	18.	Build a float for the Thurmont Parades
<input type="checkbox"/>	19.	Hold a Christmas Children's Pageant
<input type="checkbox"/>	20.	Provide a spiritual devotion book for Advent and Lent
<input type="checkbox"/>	21.	Hold an annual Bus Charter to Sight and Sound
<input type="checkbox"/>	22.	Continue the prayer shawl ministry and include prayer bear ministry
<input type="checkbox"/>	23.	Give prayed over coins to first responders in the community
<input type="checkbox"/>	24.	Offer an open invitation to the President to attend a church service
<input type="checkbox"/>	25.	Continue to offer handyman services to elderly/disabled members
<input type="checkbox"/>	26.	Start an Adult Choir, Handbell Choir and Youth Choir

DECEMBER CRAFTS NIGHT

Monday, December 14th

6:30pm, Social Hall



Come to the Social Hall on Monday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 and you will find us making gnomes for our Christmas decorations. You will need to bring some supplies. You will need 1 pound of rice per regular size gnome, 1 fuzzy sock (see his fuzzy gray nose and her fuzzy white nose?) 1 regular knit sock (no holes or really worn spots), hot glue gun (I have a couple that I will bring but more is better) and any decorations for the hat.



I have plenty of fleece for the hats (tell me ahead of time if you have a color preference), balls for the nose, stuffing and white fur for beard (I only have white fur). I used women's socks for the regular sized ones. The larger one is a men's sock. It took 2 lbs. of rice to fill it. Be sure to sign up on sheet in Social Hall and check out the sample I left on the table. If you have any questions, please see Shirley Greene. I look forward to seeing you there.

And you wondered what to do with all those orphan socks in the laundry room.



DECEMBER SCHEDULE YOUTH GROUP

We have two extended youth Group times on
December 6th and December 20th

**DECEMBER 6TH: 4-8PM SERVICE
PROJECT AT CHURCH**

DECEMBER 13TH: 6-7:30PM

**DECEMBER 20TH: 6-8PM
CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES(MORE
DETAILS TO COME)**

DECEMBER 27TH: 6-7:30PM

The kids participating in the
Christmas Eve service will be
working with Nancy Fizer
December 6,13,20th from
5pm-6pm before youth group

TAEKWONDO



Come join Pastor Ken Fizer
5th Degree Black Belt!



WHERE:

Thurmont United Methodist Church
13880 Long Road
Thurmont, MD. 21788

WHEN:

Every Thursday
4:00-5:00 PM: Grades 3-5
5:00-6:00 PM: Grades 6-12
6:30-8:00 PM: Adult/Family Class

FEE:

Monthly Donation



CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Pastor Ken Fizer: (301) 991-7839



Fun. Fitness. Friendships.

COVID-19 guidelines will be observed, masks and social distancing practiced.

MISSIONS



THANKFUL



Photo: Arena District in Columbus, Ohio.

As we turn into the fall season, the word THANKFUL comes to mind. It may not be the most popular word being used right now but I can't help but think of how THANKFUL I am to be a part of this ministry.

We have added many new faces to The Project family in 2020; despite all of the many challenges, there is so much to be THANKFUL for. We have a new location to gather, new partnerships, new volunteers, and many new teens, most of whom have recently given their lives to Jesus! I am so THANKFUL for these young men, as they overcome so much on a daily basis.

Most of all, I'm THANKFUL for you. Without you, none of this would be possible. Through your prayers and financial support, you give our teens a lot to be THANKFUL for too! So I want to say thank you for all that you do. God is so good; let's remember how much we all have to be THANKFUL for!

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire." – Hebrews 12:28-29 NIV

Corey Campbell, OFP Leader

You can support Our Father's Project at no extra cost when you shop at smile.amazon.com. Select Our Fathers Project as your charity, and Amazon will donate a percentage of your eligible purchases.

The IRS recognizes Our Fathers Project as a 501©(3) nonprofit charitable organization. our donations are tax-deductible.

TUMC COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET

The time has come to host the Clothes Closet Christmas Open House. We want to thank everyone who has helped by donating toys, money, or from supporting our Krispy Kreme Fundraiser. We now need your help the night of.



Monday December 7th at 6:00pm we will be open to the public. We need many volunteers to make this happen. Many have offered to help. Tanya Jensen is contacting our volunteers to find out if you are available and to assign where you will be helping, and what time to come. If you would like to help and have not heard from Tanya please contact her or Denise Bentley.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our Krispy Kreme fundraiser! We sold 49 certificates totaling \$441. The Clothes Closet profited \$220.50! This money has helped us buy some new toys to put out for the night, as well as help us be able to give gift cards to the families that come to buy household supplies they might need.



This past month the Clothes Closet helped a fire family, thanks to the people who donated some of the items they needed. We donated some items to the baby shower, and we donated a box of pill bottles to Samaritan's Purse.

TUMC COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET

The Clothes Closet has a few changes to our normal hours for the month of December.

- Open to public December 7th. @ 6:00pm.
- Closed to public on the 3rd Tuesday morning and 4th Monday night.
- Open to church members on Sunday's by appt only. Contact Denise ahead of time to guarantee being open, or grab Denise or Jessica Bentley Sunday morning and see if it can be opened.
- There will be no sorting the morning of December 7th. The Christmas decorations will be set up in our normal sorting area.
- There will also be no sorting in the morning on Monday, December 28th.



CLOTHES CLOSET HOURS

CHURCH FAMILY: EVERY SUNDAY, 9:30am - Noon

1st & 4th MONDAY - 6:00 - 7:30pm

3rd TUESDAY - 10:00 - 11:30am

Emergency needs, please call the church office

Monday - Thursday 9am-1pm, 301-271-4511

SMALL GROUPS

TUMC have many groups to choose from if you are looking at deepening your relationships with your church family and with God, but do you see a need for a group that isn't already covered? Do you have an idea for starting a group geared toward a specific age group or life situation (parenting, aging, health, stay-at-home moms, etc.?) If so, talk to Pastor Ken.

These groups fellowship together and pray with each other every week.

Adult Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings 9-10am, Adult Classroom 1, downstairs. Call C. J. Cordell at 301-606-1446.

Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings 6-7:30pm, church pavilion. Call Doug Mongold at 240-397-4447 or Jennifer Mullenex 301-471-5055.

The Olsen Life Group meets on Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm individual devotionals on different subjects and how they pertain to our daily lives. Call Tim Olsen at 301-271-2576. (suspended for now)

Bible Study with Pastor Ken meets on Wednesdays 7-8:30pm in social hall, call Pastor Ken, 301-991-7839. Currently studying Pauline letters, ends this month.

Fellowship & Bible Study meets on Thursdays, 9am, Dorothy Moser's home, @301-271-9104.

The Women's Life Group meets on Thursdays, 9:30am in social hall, call Annette @301-271-6931. Currently studying "Experiencing God's Presence", by Sarah Young.



Tax Statement Reminder

Tithes and gifts must be received on or before **Sunday, December 20th** in order to be included on your **2020 Donation Statement**. **Enjoy the blessings of giving.... and receive tax credit (as allowed by tax laws)**. If you have a change of address, please note new address with donation.

**PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS,
MILITARY, AND FIRST RESPONDERS**

COLLEGE STUDENTS - Whether they are away from home or commuting, please keep our college students in your prayers. Knowing they have someone praying for them can make all the difference.

Lauren Ames	Alex Bennett	Elizabeth Burch	Carly Crone
Sarah Fizer	Hannah Hartness	Joshua Head	Kerra Irons
Hannah Johnson	Morgan Koch	Caleb McCleaf	Josh McCleaf
Meagan Mongold	Sydney Willard	Madison Williams	Isabel Rozo

MILITARY - Please keep all our Military in your prayers. Whether they are home or away, active or retired, they still need our prayers. They have served our country well and we will remember them in prayer.

Steven Clarke, PFC son of Charles and Tammy Clarke. Steven is state side, awaiting assignment.

Recruit Noel Romero, son of Daniel and Melissa Romero, address:
Lima Co. 3rd RTBN Platoon 3066
Box 16340
Parris Island, SC 29905-6340

Shirley Green's daughter SSC Lindsey Campbell and her husband SSG Michael Campbell both Army National Guard.

**ALL MEDICAL PERSONNEL, FIRST RESPONDERS, POLICE,
FIREFIGHTERS, & RESEARCHERS** - Continued prayers of faith and healing for our country and development of a vaccine to control this deadly virus. Also, prayers for all that have died and will be missed at the Thanksgiving table this year due to COVID-19.

Please notify the church office with any updates.

GOOD NEWS CLUB OF THURMONT

The Good News Club of Thurmont is still meeting but not in the school building. We meet every Tuesday, at 6:00 to 7:00 pm at the First Baptist Church on Sunny Way. We have been having about 10 to 12 children attending. The Northwest Division of Child Evangelism Fellowship, which sponsors our club, also offers an on-line program called "Home Edition". Children can register to view a session of a regular club meeting produced by volunteers at various clubs in our area. If interested, contact Jan Jones (301-471-9898) or janjones0626@gmail.com for more information on how to connect with this program. Of course, we invite all children, age 4 through 5th grade, to visit us on Tuesday to enjoy an in-person session. We will be celebrating Jesus' birthday with a Birthday Party on Tuesday, Dec. 15 at our regular meeting. Come join us!!



Christmas Card Exchange

Please bundle your Christmas cards with rubber bands and include a donation for the building fund as you feel led. Our Christmas Box will be in the narthex beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Cards will be sorted by Ladies Life Group and ready for pick up in the Social Hall on Sunday, December 13th.

Merry Christmas



December



Peyton	Davis	12/1
Doris	Stoner	12/1
David	Flohr	12/2
Chayney	Barnhart	12/3
Jean	Rippeon	12/4
Dennis	Iferd	12/10
Tanya	Jensen	12/12
David	Willard	12/12
Terry	Dawson	12/14
Thelma	Kennedy	12/17
Hannah	Johnson	12/17
Annbell	Fouchee	12/17
Helen	Fraley	12/19
Jim	Richards	12/19
Carrie	Hummer	12/23
John	Knill	12/23
Darlene	Clem	12/24
Joann	Wetzel	12/24
Anastasia	Trivette	12/26
Jessie	Rolko	12/31
Amos	Loughry	12/31



