

The Communicator Volume XXXVIII Issue 12
FRANCIS ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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FRANCIS ASBURY UMC

PRAISING GOD • GROWING SPIRITUALLY • REACHING NEIGHBORS

THE COMMUNICATOR

Volume XXXVIII Issue 12

DECEMBER 2025

Welcome
to Our Church

Sunday
Worship
at
11 am

IN MINISTRY

Ministers & Missionaries-
ALL MEMBERS

Pastor	Avery White
Lay Leader	Val Grush
Music Director	Jess Mills
Administrator	Danya Sellers
Custodian	Glenda Shook
C&FM Director	Megan Serzan
Nursery	Amy Dayton
Faith C. Nurse	Dora Brown, RN

Each Sunday
this ADVENT, and
on CHRISTMAS EVE,
we are invited to
bring items to
support our



FREE
FOOD
PANTRY
&
MARKET

FREE monthly Food Pantry & Market.

November 30 - Soup

December 7 – Canned fruit

December 14 – Paper towels/toilet paper

December 21 – Toiletries

December 24 – Cereal

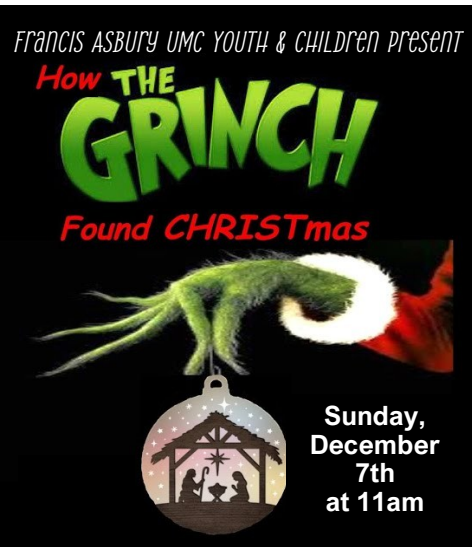
You may leave items on the table in the
Narthex. Monetary donations also accepted.

**Together, we can make this season of waiting
and hope a season of generosity & joy!**

**“The Grinch’s heart grew 3 sizes
that day... and so will yours!”**

On Sunday, December 7 at 11am,
our Youth and Children will bring the story
of **“How the Grinch Found Christmas”**
to life in a special Christmas play.

Afterwards, we’ll gather in the
Fellowship Hall for a festive
Christmas Brunch, where **Santa**
will join us with **treats** for all kids and
youth. The **celebration** continues with
hot cocoa, assembling treat bags to
bless church members during caroling
and a showing of the holiday classic
“How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”



**Come ready for a
day of worship,
laughter & love
and let your heart
grow with the
joy of Christ
this season!**





*Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above.
These gifts come down from the Father,
the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character
there is no change at all (James 1:17).*

What is the best gift you ever received? What made it the best? Was it the person who gave the gift, the thought behind it, the gift itself, or a combination of the three? Gifts are a traditional part of our Christmas celebrations.

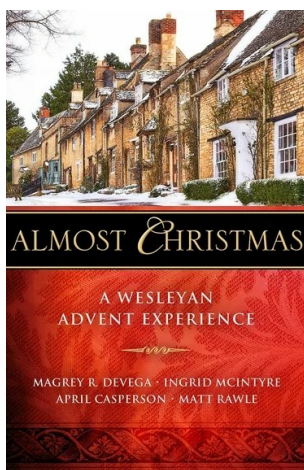
Giving gifts brings us joy and reflects the compassion and generosity God instilled in us.

The greatest gift of all came to the world in a humble way, announced by angels in pastures rather than palaces. This month, we are not only preparing our homes, we are preparing our hearts to receive God's gift of Love. In worship, we will focus on the themes of our Advent wreath – Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. We will consider how these are gifts from God.

On Monday nights, our Advent study will read and discuss the book *Almost Christmas*, which also reflects on these Advent themes. Other gifts of the season will include: the choir cantata, the youth and children's Christmas play, caroling, shared meals and special gatherings. As always, we will live into our FAUMC mission to "Praise God, Grow Spiritually, and Reach Neighbors" rooted in Christ our foundation.

I look forward to worshipping and serving together in this special season.

In Christ's Love, *Pastor Avery*



"Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience" *by Magrey deVega*

**Study on Mondays in Advent-
December 1, 8, 15 & 22 in the Fellowship Hall**

In *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience*, we are invited to move from "almost" to "altogether" Christian living by embracing Advent themes—Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace—with our whole hearts. It's a call to claim God's promises and celebrate an altogether Christmas.

All are welcome! *Facilitated by Pastor Avery.*
Sign-up sheet in the Penley Room.

Francis Asbury UMC Choir Presents **Appalachian Winter**

A Cantata For Christmas



Sunday, December 14 at 11am



**CHRISTMAS SUPPORT
FOR FAMILIES at
ENKA MIDDLE SCHOOL**

*Through Sunday,
December 7, we are
collecting Gift Cards in amounts of
\$25 or less to Walmart, Target,*

*Dollar General,
Dollar Tree,
Food Lion &
Ingles.*



We are also
accepting
monetary donations (marked
"EMS Christmas") to purchase
additional gift cards.

*Please contact Vanessa Champlin
(Missons Coordinator) with questions.*

WORSHIP WITH US!



CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Christmas Eve at 5pm
in the Sanctuary.
ALL ARE WELCOME!!

LADIES

CHRISTMAS GATHERING
 Saturday, December 6th at 5pm
 at the Home of Veronica Crook
 (1114 Perch Fly Ct Biltmore Lake).
 All ladies are invited for **Appetizers**, a **Christmas Devotion**, **Supper** and **Christmas Ornament Exchange**.
 Please bring **a tasty dish** to share and **a wrapped Christmas ornament**. **Tacky Christmas Attire & Christmas PJs welcome!**


FAUMC Christmas Card Delivery Service
 Bring your **Christmas cards** for church family to the Penley Room to be distributed by adorable kids & youth. Cards will be delivered December 21. Donations appreciated.
Children's Ministry Fundraiser.



LESSONS and Carols
Sunday, December 28 at 11am
 in the Sanctuary.
ALL ARE WELCOME!!



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
Blood Drive in the Gym
 725 Asbury Road
Thursday, December 4th from 1:30 - 6 pm
 For an appointment, Call (800) 733-2767, (828) 667-3950 or go to www.RedCrossBlood.org
All who come to give blood will score an exclusive pair of Red Cross x PAC-MAN socks









Christmas Caroling
Sunday, December 14
Carolers are invited for a soup lunch following worship.
Then we'll go spread joy and cheer for all to hear! :)

UNITED METHODIST MEN
3rd Sunday Breakfast Meeting at FAUMC
Sunday, December 21 at 7:30am in the Fellowship Hall. All men invited!

 **FAUMC NURSE MINISTRY**
A Little Advice from Nurse Dora
CARING FOR THE BODY AND SPIRIT DURING ADVENT
 Advent is a beautiful season of waiting --- a time of hope, reflection and quiet preparation for the coming of Christ. Yet for many of us, December can feel anything but quiet. The calendar quickly fills, the to-do list grows, and our bodies and spirits often end up weary by Christmas Eve. As we prepare our hearts for the Savior's birth, we are also called to care for our bodies God has entrusted to us. Scripture reminds us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Nurturing our health ---physical, emotional, and spiritual, allows us to serve others with energy and joy.
Here are a few ways to care for the body and spirit this Advent:
-- Slow down and breathe.
 Take a few minutes each day for stillness --- light a candle, read a short devotion, or simply breathe deeply and invite Christ's peace into your heart. The quiet moments can become sacred pauses amid the noise of the season.
-- Choose nourishment, not just food.
 Holiday treats are part of the celebration, but try to balance them with nourishing meals that include fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and water. Think of each choice as a way to honor the body God gave you.
-- Rest as an act of faith.
 Rest is not laziness. It is a reminder that God is in control. Adequate rest and sleep helps your immune system, mood, and clarity. Make rest part of your Advent discipline.
-- Move with gratitude.
 Whether it's a walk, stretching, or going to the gym, movement keeps your body strong and your spirit lifted. Offer thanks for the ability to move, breathe, and experience God's creation.
-- Nurture community and compassion.
 Caring for your spirit also means connecting with others. Send a card to someone alone, call an old friend, or volunteer in a ministry. Every small act of kindness is a reflection of God's love. As we journey through Advent, may we remember that preparing for Christ's coming is not only about decorating our homes, but it's about making space in our hearts and caring for our bodies that carry His light into the world. May you find peace, health, and renewal as you wait for the joy of Christmas. **Blessings!**
Dora Brown, RN, Faith Community Nurse


Church Staff Openings
FAUMC is hiring a Director of Children & Youth Ministry and a Nursery Attendant.
 Do you know of someone who would be a great addition to our church staff? Encourage them to send a cover letter and resume to faumcopportunities@gmail.com. We offer our heartfelt gratitude to Megan Serzan and Amy Dayton for their many years of ministry at FAUMC, our trust in the FAUMC Staff Parish Relations Committee, who is facilitating these staff transitions, and our sincere prayers for the new individuals we will welcome to our team.

Let's celebrate Megan Serzan & Amy Dayton and their loving care of our youngest participants and our church family with a **reception on Sunday January 11, 2026.**


<div> <div>  Find us on Facebook </div> <div> DECEMBER 2025 </div> <div>  Watch us on  </div> </div>							
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
11/30 Advent 1 7:30 HVUMM at Acton 10 Sunday School 11 Worship 3pm Ladies Advent Tea <i>Guest Speaker Linda Henley</i>	1 3:15-4:15 Gym: <i>Francine Delany NSC</i> 6:30 Almost Christmas Study Begins in the Fellowship Hall	2 11am Sanctuary Reserved: <i>Glover</i> 6:30-7:30 pm Gym: <i>Cub Scouts</i>	3 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Penley Room 6:30pm Choir Practice		4 1:30-6 pm Blood Drive in the Gym 3pm Free Meals Food Truck "Fran" in FAUMC Parking Lot	5 Office Closed	6 5 pm Ladies Christmas Gathering at the Home of Veronica Crook 5 pm Gym: Cub Scouts Pack 74
7 Advent 2 9:30 Kid Dress Rehearsal 10 Sunday School 11 Worship & Holy Communion "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" Play 12 Church Lunch & Santa	8 3:15-4:15 Gym: <i>Francine Delany NSC</i> 6:30 Almost Christmas Study in the Fellowship Hall	9 11:15am Parkinsons CarePartner Group 6:30-7:30 pm Gym: <i>Cub Scouts</i>	10 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Penley Room 6:30pm Choir Practice		11 3pm Free Meals Food Truck "Fran" in FAUMC Parking Lot 5:30-7:30pm Fellowship Hall Reserved: <i>Francine Delany NSC</i>	12 Office Closed	13 Choir Final Cantata Rehearsal 5-9:30pm Gym: <i>Smoky Mountain Dance Club</i>
14 Advent 3 10 Sunday School 11 Worship & Cantata 12 pm Soup lunch for Carolers	15 3:15-4:15 Gym: <i>Francine Delany NSC</i> 6:30 Almost Christmas Study in the Fellowship Hall	16 6:30-7:30 pm Gym: <i>Cub Scouts</i>	17 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall		18 3pm Food Truck 3-5 pm in Gym 	19 Office Closed 	20
21 Advent 4 7:30 UMM Breakfast 10 Sunday School 11 Worship	22 6:30 Almost Christmas Study Concludes in the Fellowship Hall	23	24 Christmas Eve 5 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service in the Sanctuary ALL ARE WELCOME!		25 Christmas Day 	26 Office Closed	27
28 HV ABCCM Sunday 10 Sunday School 11 Lessons & Carols	29	30	31 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall		LAY READERS 7-Glen Champlin 14-Bob Salajka 21-C. Rice 28-Lessons & Carols Service	YOUNG DISCIPLES MOMENT 7-Christmas Play 14-Danya Sellers 21-Megan Serzan 28-Pastor Avery	



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- 1 Glenda Faye Shook
1 Calix Larimer
2 Peggy Milroy
4 Patti Minzer
5 Carol Dintsch
6 William Wilds
10 Lorene Bradford
10 Phil Casey
15 Wilson Serzan
17 Gordon Ponder
17 Grant Provance
26 Bob Massie
29 Carol Salajka

January 2026												
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