



# THE GOOD NEWS

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St. Marys UMC

Northern District

West Virginia Conference

Northeastern Jurisdiction

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian Love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

The first verse of this beloved hymn reminds us that the tie that binds us together is not only blest but is a little foretaste of what it will be like in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus instructs us to love each other and expected that it would be the one quality that set his followers apart from the rest of the world.

As we begin a new year, it is a good time to remember that we are given to one another. God has so made us that we need mutual support and fellowship, and the nature of the Christian faith is that it thrives best within a community of believers. That's why we gather for worship, for study, to share meals and to do the business of the church. It is holy work.

Perhaps you, like me, find the changing of the calendar year a good time to examine our lives and rethink our direction. We often call these New Year's resolutions. Mine seem to change little year to year: eat better, exercise more, more intentional daily prayer, nurture relationships, and grow in love and grace.

But as important as those resolutions for the future are, are there things you need to finish from 2023? Is there someone you need to forgive? Is there someone to whom you want to make amends? Is there a relationship that needs repaired?

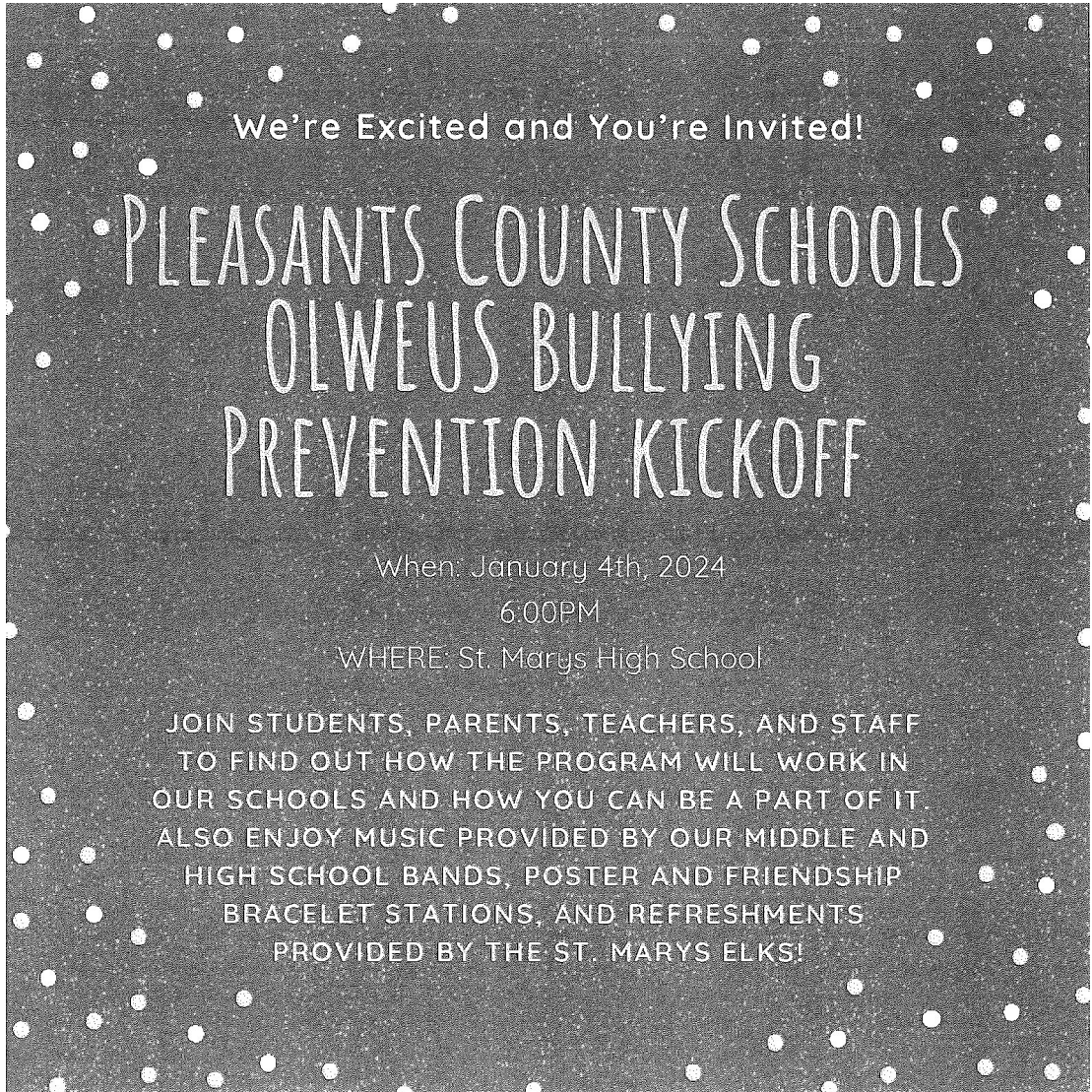
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Whatever it is that is unfinished, maybe this is the day to see to it, so that you might meaningfully close the door of the old year and freely embrace the new one that God has graciously given us.

May the Peace of Christ be your today and all through the New Year!

Blessings & Love,  
*Clare*



# MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

We have been given an opportunity as a church to help a man who will be released from St. Marys Correctional Center at the end of January. According to the prison Chaplain, he has little support and has some basic needs he could use help with. They include clothing, food, towels and toiletries. He is in his early 30's, so please keep that in mind as you are donating. We would like to provide him with 4 or 5 outfits, as well as some shoes. All donated items will be given to the prison Chaplain, Ben Adams, who will deliver them. You can place your donations in the clear plastic tubs around the church. Deadline for donations is January 8<sup>th</sup>. Please see Clare with any questions.



## **His sizes are:**

Pants: 36" 32"

Large sweatshirt

Large socks (white or black long socks)

Shoe: 10

Large underwear

Large t-shirt

**Note:** Pants could be sweatpants or anything like that. Large sizes would be recommended. Food should be items that require very little preparation.

In the Spirit of Christmas, the Finance Team and Church Council approved for the entirety of the Christmas Eve offering to go to missions. This year, the offering went to Dig Deep Water and designated for the Appalachian Water project. Dig Deep is a nonprofit organization that works with community support to make sure those in underserved communities have access to clean water and sanitation. The Appalachian Water project is currently working in McDowell County, WV and is supported by our United Methodist Annual Conference. Our confirmation class identified Dig Deep as a way we can give the thirsty something to drink as we are directed in Matthew 25. You can learn more at their web site: [digdeep.org](http://digdeep.org).

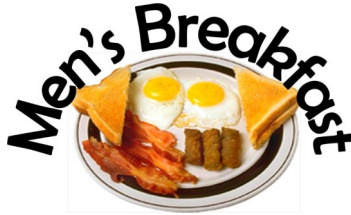
Thank you to all who gave. You can still give until Tuesday morning, January 2nd.



## United Methodist Men

Meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday morning for breakfast  
at 8 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

All men are welcome



**Next Breakfast meeting - January 21<sup>st</sup> at 8 AM**

*The UMM still has lots of apple butter for sale*

*The price is \$6 per pint. Thank you!*



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## **2024 DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **CHURCH COUNCIL - 6 PM**

January 9 - March 12 - May 14 - July 9 - September 10 - November 12

### **TRUSTEES - 5 PM**

January 14 - March 10 - May 19 - July 14 - September 8 - November 10

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE - 6 PM**

TBA

### **LAY LEADERSHIP & NOMINATIONS - 6 PM**

June 18 - July 17

### **SPRC - 6 PM**

February 7 - April 16 - July 16 - November 13



## United Women In Faith News

### **JANUARY**

Program Planning Meeting: January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM  
Finance Meeting to follow

Kindness Circle will meet January 15th at the parsonage

### **FEBRUARY**

Leadership Team - Monday February 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM  
General Meeting & Circles - Monday February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM  
Program: **TBA**

- February 14      ASH Wednesday
- March 23      UWF Birthday - Day of Giving  
Celebrate with Great Joy



*The UMW still has bags of nuts available for sale. They're on a table across from Clare's Office. The price is \$14 per bag.*

# United Women in Faith - Circles 2024

## Grace Circle

Bailey, Wilma  
Braun, Diane  
**Campbell, Liz - Spiritual Leader**  
Carpenter-Eddy, Liz  
Davis, Donna  
**Ennis, Melissa - Cards**  
Himmeger, Gretchen  
Mankins, Beth  
**Mayfield, Dodie - Treasurer**  
McLaughlin, Louise  
Morgan, Sue  
Nichols, Sandra  
Nutter, Judy  
**Park, Mary Frances - Co-Leader**  
Scadden, Angie  
Smith, Sheila  
**Stutzman, Beverly - Leader**  
White, Margaret

## Honored

Collins, Janet  
Dennis, Audra "Babe"  
Hupp, Sharon  
Neely, Evelyn

## Peace Circle

Blauser, Ruth  
Boley, Donna  
**Carder, Carol - Co-Leader**  
Carl, Barbara  
Conaway, Carla  
**Conaway, Karen - Cards**  
Conaway, Linda  
Hamilton, Pam  
Ingram, Becky  
**Lewis, Mae - Treasurer**  
**Little, Eleanor - Spiritual Leader**  
Mays, Pat  
McGee, Sharon  
Nichols, Tammi  
Powell, JoAnn  
Rouse, Suzanne  
Simonton, Sue  
**Thomas, Debbie - Leader**  
**Wilson, Karen - Cards**

## Honored

Poling, Ginger  
Roden, Judy  
Troisi, Thomasine

## Kindness Circle

Ashley, Alyson  
Barnhart, Lori  
Bennett, Whitney  
**Carder, Melissa -Leader**  
Carpenter, Kristi  
Cronin, Addie  
Evans, Suzanne  
Fetty, Joette  
Hadley, Mindy  
Hooper, Mary  
Hupp, Jennifer  
Jones, Kristi  
Lewis, Dianna  
Wells, Helen  
Westfall, Leslie

# Pleasants County Neighbor Network's 2024 Gala

## Mardi Gras Masquerade

Gala Tickets  
make a great  
Christmas Gift!



*Cocktail attire optional*

Saturday, February 3rd  
6:00 PM @ St. Marys Marina

*Dinner ~ Dessert ~ Live & Silent Auctions*

*Entertainment ~ Dancing ~ Games and more*

*\$45 each or 2 for \$80 / VIP Tables of 8 for \$400*

**Tickets available online at**  
**[www.pleasantscountyneighbornetwork.org](http://www.pleasantscountyneighbornetwork.org)**  
**or at 411 2nd Street, St. Marys**

# St. Marys United Methodist Church

## Leaders – 2024

### Members of the Church Council

Pastor	Rev. Clare J. Sulgit	684-7256	claresulgit@aol.com
Church Council Chairperson	Diane Braun	684-1842	tdbraun@suddenlink.net
Lay Leader	Keith White	684-3827	<a href="mailto:markei22@yahoo.com">markei22@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Randy Nutter	684-7581	randynutter@gmail.com
Financial Secretary	Gary Loughner	305-0386	galoughner@gmail.com
Lay Member to A. Conf.	Beverly Stutzman	684-1136	bsoct11@windstream.net
Alt Lay member to AC	Pat Mays	665-3464	pmays@frontiernet.net
Sec. to Charge Conference	Karen Conaway	684-2496	conaways@suddenlink.net
SS Superintendent	Andy Hickman	684-0901	wahick@suddenlink.net
Church Council Secretary	Carla Conaway	684-9308	carlaconaway00@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Louise McLaughlin	684-3202	
Chairperson – SPRC	Melissa Carder	684-3250	cardermj@hotmail.com
Finance Chairperson	Gary Loughner	684-7231	gloughner@suddenlink.net
Trustees Chairperson	Al Thacker	684-7598	althacker@ymail.com
UMW President	Liz Loughner	305-0292	eloughner@yahoo.com
UMM President	Bill Carder	684-3250	carderwml@yahoo.com
Youth Leaders	Randy & Judy Nutter	684-7581	randynutter@gmail.com
District Conf. Delegates	Beverly Stutzman	665-1136	bsoct11@windstream.net
	& Pat Mays	684-3464	pmays@frontiernet.net
Church Business Admin.	Lillian Blouir	305-3289	lrbloir@gmail.com

### Church Council Members at Large

2024	2025	2026
Pam Hamilton	Linda Birkhimer	Pat Mays
Mike McGee	David Conaway	Robbie Evans
Sheila Hickman	Diane Braun	

Finance Committee

2024	2025	2026
Al Thacker	Melissa Ennis	John Fitzpatrick
Sherie Poling	Carol McFadden	Gary Loughner, Chair

Keith White, Lay Leader

Rev. Clare J. Sulgit

Diane Braun, Church Council Chair

Melissa Carder, SPRC Chair

Randy Nutter, Treasurer

Gary Loughner, Financial Secretary

Lillian Blouir, Church Business Adm.

Al Thacker, Trustee President

Beverly Stutzman, Annual Conf. Delegate

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

2024	2025	2026
Gretchen Himmeger	Mark Barnhart	Karen Conaway
		Karen Wilson

Rev. Clare J. Sulgit, Chairperson

Board of Trustees

2024	2025	2026
Mae Lewis	Al Thacker	Leslie Westfall
Tim Ambrose	Doug Poling	Andy Hickman
Liz Campbell	Wayne Birkhimer	Vernon (Louie) Lewis

Rev. Clare J. Sulgit

Youth Coordinator

Judy Nutter
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Child Protection Coordinator

Dianna Lewis
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## GIVING

### TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED

December 3	\$6,598.00
December 10	\$2,845.00
December 17	\$11,437.00
December 24	\$2,725.00

## ATTENDANCE

### IN PERSON

### ONLINE

December 3	66	153
December 10	72	130
December 17	76	125
December 24	98	91
December 24 PM	78	163

### INFORMATION FROM THE FINANCE TEAM:

Through your giving this year, we are above our budget requirements for the year, we have paid 100% of our Annual Conference Apportionment share and have given \$8,300.00 to selected mission projects. With your continued support, we expect to end 2023 in excellent financial condition. Not many churches in the conference have been as fortunate to share God's love as our church.

We have put great effort into developing the 2024 budget which was approved at our recent charge conference. The 2024 budget of \$197,050.00 is an 8% increase from the 2023 budget. This increase is necessary to support increases in conference apportionments, pastor health insurance costs, and rising insurance and utility costs. And this budget reflects as accurately as possible our projected expenses for 2024. We are presenting this information in hope that you will consider this budget increase as you prepare your personal plan for 2024 charitable giving.

Some contributors have found it beneficial for varied reasons to tithe by making considerable donations to the church only a few times during the year, rather than making traditional regular periodic donations. In some situations, such as IRA minimum distributions, there is a significant tax advantage to this type of charitable giving. Tithes of large amounts will be distributed uniformly according to instructions of the donor, so that we may continue to support mission projects, and maintain our General Fund to operate the church. If you have an interest in this form of giving, and would like additional information, contact your financial advisor, Pastor Clare or Gary Loughner.

Thanks again for your financial support to share God's love in our community through our church.

## Neighbor Network Highlights for the Month of November

Total Donations: 174

Total Customers: 906

Total Families receiving services: 131

(Gabriel Project - 15, total of 22 children)

(food - 310 individuals)

(utility assistance - 4)

Total Thrift Store Transactions: \$11,290.64

Total Donations to NN: \$16,756.19

Total Expenses: \$11,759.19

Number of Volunteers this month: 30+

**Volunteers are  
always needed,  
please call the store  
at 304-684-3990 if  
you can help.**

### **NEIGHBOR NETWORK FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

Our Neighbor Network partners with Mountaineer Food Bank for a monthly food giveaway. It is held at the Marina beginning around 10:30 AM. Volunteers are always need and ask to be at the Marina by 9:45 AM. You may also know someone who would benefit from the distribution. Pleasants County residents only please.

*Our next giveaways are January 12<sup>th</sup>, February 9<sup>th</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup>, June 14<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup>, September 13<sup>th</sup>, October 11<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup>, December 13<sup>th</sup>*

**Did you know that our weekly radio broadcast airs on Sunday mornings at 9 AM on 93.9 FM. Our weekly worship video posts at 10:30 AM on our 2 Facebook pages and on YouTube. These are outreach ministries the church supports through its budget. Please share this information!**

# Birthdays

## JANUARY

Eleanor Little	1/8
Marshall Norman	1/12
Joe Fleegle	1/13
Morgan Poling	1/13
David Fetty	1/15
Natalie Ferrell	1/16
Liz Carpenter-Eddy	1/16
Reece Westfall	1/16
John Lanham	1/22
Patricia Moore	1/23
Thomas Thacker	1/23
Judy Nutter	1/25
Angela Scadden	1/26
Ty Flower	1.27
Chris Lewis	1/29
Darla Carpenter	1/29
Treasa Davies	1/29

## FEBRUARY

Debbie Thomas	2/1
Donna Barksdale	2/2
Sharon McGee	2/4
Andrew Simonton	2/5
Steve Pickens	2/7
Maya Morrison	2/9
Frank Ennis	2/9
Andrea Watson	2/10
Charmel Radcliff	2/11
Drew Wells	2/12
Asa Nichols	2/12
Mildred Harden	2/13
Katee McVey	2/14
Samantha Eisenman	2/14
Nancy Main	2/15
Kacie Estep	2/16
Tim Ambrose	2/18
Tammy Poling	2/19
John Davies	2/20
Maureen Maiden	2/20
Betsy Metz	2/20
James Poling	2/20
Karen Carpenter	2/21
Brian Westfall	2/21
Joe Conaway	2/22
Melissa Carder	2/22
Martha Sams	2/25

## MEETINGS

### JANUARY

- 9 Church Council - 6 PM  
14 Trustees - 5 PM

### FEBRUARY

- 7 SPRC - 6 PM

### EVERY MONTH

- First Mon. - UWF - 6 PM  
Third Sun. - UMM - 8 AM

### OTHER GROUPS MEETING AT OUR CHURCH

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon. Habitat for Humanity 6 PM  
& Middle Island Ramblers 4-H 7 PM  
Every Tuesday Boy Scouts 7 PM  
Every Thursday AA / Al-Anon 8 PM



Do we have your birthday listed?  
Please call Lillian at 304-684-3018  
if we do not have it!

## PRAYERS FOR:

Betty Moorhead  
Ginger Poling  
Suellen Simonton  
Caroline Hill  
Shirley Seaboy  
Carolyn Ashkar  
Avery Clickenger  
Joe & Thomasine Troisi  
Benny & Ruth Wagner  
Philip Starks

Dwight Davis  
Maddie Collins  
Dave Taylor  
JD Williamson  
Evelyn Neely  
Duane Larsen  
Dwayne Barnes  
Martha Poling  
Dan McSpadden  
Sheila Scadden

Jennifer Furr  
Webb Carpenter  
Greg Hill  
Mary Brewer  
Eleanor Pierce  
Kohner Loughner  
Adam Mallett  
Debbie Bailey  
Matthew Beard  
Martha Hoyt

Janet Nutter Matheny  
Carol McSpadden  
Mike McGee  
Mary Alice Shafer  
Jim West  
Cheryl West  
Ruth Blauser



*Enjoy all the warmth, happiness and goodness that the holidays bring.*

*Wishing everyone at St. Marys United Methodist Church a very blessed Christmas and New Year!*

*Love Always,  
Ron, Kathy McHenry & Family*



*I've been a little out of it. Was in the hospital with a blood clot in my leg for a few days. Still walk with a cane or a walker, but doing much better!*

*Wishing all my church brothers and sisters a Merry Christmas and a year filled with worldly peace.*

*Sincerely,  
Deloris Davis*

Clare will be out of town January 2<sup>nd</sup> - January 10<sup>th</sup>. If you need assistance during this time, please contact Keith White at 304-684-3827.

Many thanks to Keith for being available during this time.

Mark Radcliff will do recordings for One Call Now. Thank you Mark.

## **IN RECOGNITION FROM PLEASANTS COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY.....**

At our last Board meeting, we took time to reflect on what a blessing George Little has been to our community. For those of us in Pleasants County Habitat, he was a leader who was part of the original group of individuals who had a shared vision to build homes for those people who normally would not be able to buy a home. He believed in a hand-up.

As president, he worked diligently through 8 home builds between 2001 and 2023, helping to finish the most recent home in May of this year. George helped to bring people together to reach a common goal. Build completion was often a time of relief and joy. These builds were not without their frustration but they helped to put a roof over a child's head, provided running water and a bathroom as well as heat in the winter.

We have a wonderful memories of George guiding those construction projects with his knowledge and expertise. He was a strong fundraiser for the builds, cooking chili, ham and baked steak dinners, cutting pies, auctioning off many a donated item, and helping to build sets for the Pleasants County Players

All of this was part of his commitment of his Christian Faith. The St. Marys United Methodist Church has been a strong supporter of our local Habitat affiliate over the years. Our thanks to the many members of the congregation that have helped us in so many ways to make that early vision a reality.

We look forward to the future in honoring George's belief that all monies raised in Pleasants County remain in Pleasants County for the benefit of this community.

We would like to honor George's commitment and recognize Eleanor's support with a small token of our appreciation for, literally, the hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of hours of effort they have given back to the Pleasants County community through the church, Habitat, Amvets and many other organizations.

For a man we have respected and admired, Pleasants County Habitat honors George with a \$1k donation to St. Marys United Methodist Church.

*Thank You*

## **Ash Wednesday Service**

**Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:00 pm.**

A decorative border of snowflakes surrounds the central text. The border consists of a top row of 16 snowflakes, a bottom row of 16 snowflakes, and two vertical columns of 8 snowflakes each on the left and right sides.

### **When Snow Falls**

Just a reminder about our

#### **Church Inclement weather policy:**

When the weather is bad on Sundays in St. Marys, Clare will be at church if at all possible. However, please only travel to church if you can **SAFELY!** The Trustees will make sure the parking lot and sidewalks are passable. A message will be sent by the One-Call Now system if we need to announce cancellations during the week such as United Women in Faith, Choir practice, etc...

## Outreach Ministry Opportunities

- Neighbor Network food pantry needs:  
Boxed Mac. & Cheese, small pkgs. of Hamburger & Hot Dogs, Soup Beans, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Syrup, Soup, Instant Potatoes, Crackers, Pork & Beans, Canned Milk, Complete Pancake Mix, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, oil for cooking
- Size 5 diapers for Neighbor Network

**St. Marys UMC**  
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(304) 684-3018  
[www.smwvumc.com](http://www.smwvumc.com)  
[smumcwg@outlook.com](mailto:smumcwg@outlook.com)



## UPCOMING DATES

**January 1 Church Office closed**

*January 2 Boy Scouts Planning Mtg. at 5:30 PM  
Boy Scouts Troop Meeting at 7 PM*

**January 2 Clare on Vacation (1/2 - 1/10)**

*January 3 Choir at 7 PM*

**January 8 Habitat for Humanity at 6 PM  
4-H at 7 PM**

*January 9 Church Council at 6 PM  
Boy Scouts at 7 PM*

**January 10 Choir at 7 PM**

*January 12 NN Food Distribution (Marina) at 9:45 AM*

**January 14 Trustees at 5 PM**

*January 16 Parish Meeting at 9 AM  
Ministerial Association at 10 AM*

**January 17 Choir at 7 PM**

*January 21 UMM Breakfast Meeting at 8 AM*

**January 24 Choir at 7 PM**

*January 31 Choir at 7 PM*