

MAYO CONNECTION

December 2025 EDITION

MAYO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**Jesus is the Reason
For the Season**

REVEREND AMANDA McMURTREY, PASTOR

1005 Old Turkey Point Rd.

Edgewater, MD 21037

Office Hours: Mon – Thurs. 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Phone: 410-798-6110

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Greetings Beloved Siblings in Christ,

As the seasons continue to unfold here along the rivers and shorelines of Edgewater, I find myself reflecting on how God is quietly shaping us through both the routines we barely notice and the moments that take our breath away. Some seasons bring celebration, others bring holy struggle, and many bring slow, quiet transformation that only becomes clear when we look back and say — *“Oh, God was doing something there.”*

Lately, I’ve been praying about where we are as a church family — the gifts we offer, the people God continues to send, the ministries that bring life, and the places where we still long for growth. I truly believe Mayo UMC stands in a sacred “in-between” moment: grateful for where we’ve been, but also sensing that God is preparing us for what comes next. And as we learn from scripture, God rarely calls people to remain unchanged. Instead, God whispers, *“Follow me — and trust that I will lead you.”*

As we enter the holy season of Advent, this sense of “in-between” may feel especially fitting. Advent invites us to wait, to watch, and to prepare — not with passive stillness, but with hopeful anticipation. It is a season when we acknowledge both the ache and the promise: that Christ has come, Christ is coming, and Christ will come again. Just like the people of Israel waiting for the Messiah, we too are called to look beyond what *is* and imagine what *may yet be*.

In the weeks ahead, we will light candles that speak to the deep longings of the human spirit — **hope, peace, joy, and love** — not as sentimental decorations, but as declarations of faith. Each candle reminds us that God’s light does not wait for perfect conditions; it shines *into* the imperfect, the uncertain, the unfinished. And beloved, God is shining here.

My prayer this Advent is that we will slow down enough to notice God’s presence, listen deeply enough to hear God’s whisper, and open our hearts wide enough to receive Christ anew. May we show up not simply to observe the season, but to *practice* it — with generosity in our giving, tenderness in our relationships, courage in our prayers, and expectancy in our worship.

Let us walk these weeks together with hope-filled hearts, open hands, and a willingness to look for God in both familiar places and unexpected ones. This is a season of light, and we are a people beloved by the One who never stops coming near.

**Grace, peace, and love,
Pastor Amanda**

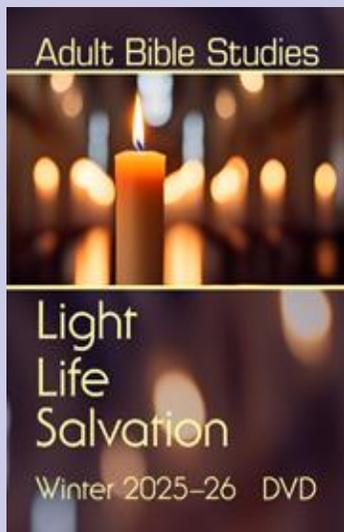
Ladies Luncheon

Wednesday, December 3rd @ Noon



Cooper's Tavern
173 Mitchell's Chance Rd
Edgewater MD

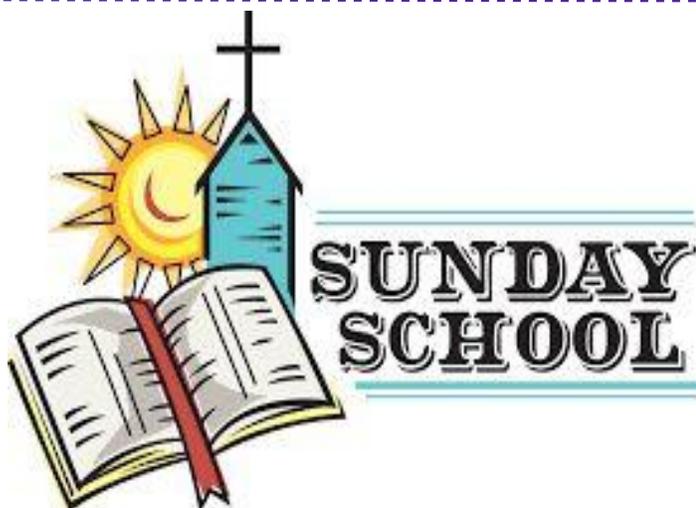
Contact Cheryl by noon
Tuesday, Dec 2nd
to let her know you're coming
Call or text 301.752.1386



**BIBLE STUDY
CONTINUES!**

Tuesday, 6 pm

In-person or via Zoom
Light
Life
Salvation



Children and Youth
Sunday School meet
During the
9:15 am
Or 10:15 am
Church Service

Dear Disciples of Christ,

During Advent, we spend much of our time preparing — preparing our homes, preparing our worship spaces, preparing our hearts — and sometimes we forget that God is also preparing *us*. The story of Christ's birth is not only about a Savior arriving; it is also about ordinary people offering what they had, trusting God to multiply it in ways they could not yet see. Consider the Nativity scene with Mary and Joseph, angels, wisemen, shepherds, and an innkeeper, none of them knew the full impact of their gifts, but each gift mattered deeply in God's story.

This Advent, we invite you to reflect not only on what you *have*, but on what God may be calling you to *offer*. Stewardship is more than money; it is time, skills, compassion, prayer, presence, and encouragement. Sometimes, the most meaningful offering is not the most impressive one — it's simply the faithful one. As you prepare for Christmas, consider asking:

- * Where might God be preparing me to give more generously?
- * What gifts am I already holding that could be used for God's glory?
- * How might my giving — in any form — bring hope, peace, joy, or love to someone else?

Just as a manger became a cradle fit for a King, our simple offerings, surrendered with love, can become part of God's ongoing miracle.

Blessings,
Mayo UMC Finance Team



Growing Going Glowing Stewardship Monthly Challenge:

Choose one spiritual practice or act that reflects generosity and pray that God will bless it beyond what you can imagine.

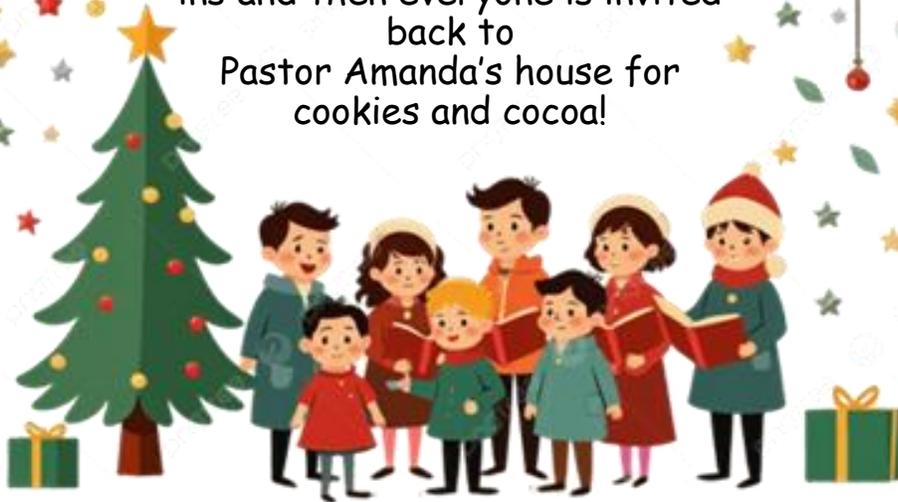


The Church office
Will be closed
December 25th
Through
January 2nd

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 14th
4:30 pm

Meet at the church parking lot at 4:30 pm. We will carol to some of our seniors and shut-ins and then everyone is invited back to Pastor Amanda's house for cookies and cocoa!



Wed. December 24th 4:00 pm

**FAMILY FRIENDLY
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

4:00 PM

*Interactive service
of 30 minutes for
children 10 and
under.*



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

7:00 PM

*Traditional Service with
Candlelight and Carols*

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Service**



Remember our shut-ins:

Note New Address

Doris Haschert
3344 West Washington St.
Springfield, IL 62711

Doris Hennen
8 Lee Airpark Dr. #327
Edgewater, MD 21037

Katherine Neate
Brightview-Annapolis
1935 Generals Highway #2
Annapolis, MD 21401

Please let our shut-ins know we are thinking of them.

If you have someone you would like to be included here please email the office (mayoumcmd@gmail.com) or call the church (410.798.6110).



Remember to wish
Doris Hennen
a Happy #102 Birthday
December 20th



The Turkey Point Singers

The latest recording by our Turkey Point Singers has dropped, and can be heard on all the music streaming services. Simply search "Turkey Point Singers, 'A Million Smiles.'" This is the song that TPS sang to Pastor Amanda just before Pastor's sabbatical leave. There is also a lyric video on YouTube, which you can access here: <https://youtu.be/8IWb9l89nPw>.

On or about October 28, a new Christmas song, sung by Archer will drop. Search "Archer Alexander, 'Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad.'" This is a follow-up to the other Christmas songs Archer recorded in '22 and '23. "Dear Ol' Jolly Ol' Santa Claus," and "The Ballad of Murgatroyd Moose." "Murgatroyd" was recorded with TPS. The lyric video for "Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad" can be found here: <https://youtu.be/YEAANIbfpNM> Stay tuned!

The Turkey Point Singers ensemble is in the process of recording an album of children's songs, which will include "Jack-O Lantern Family" and "Gobble, Gobble." Guess what that's about.

Blessings to you all from The Turkey Point Singers, and... "May a Million Smiles Light Your Way."

The Bulletin

The Bulletin is a monthly resource designed especially for local churches to share important and meaningful information about faith and vitality as it is being lived out in the Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences.

Here's the link:

<https://www.pdcbbc.org/the-bulletin.html>



- * Select your "Angel"
- * Go Shopping
 - * Return your unwrapped gift by Sunday December 7th.



December 28th
One Service @9:15 am
No Sunday School

January 4th 2026
One Service @9:15 am
No Sunday School



First Sunday Worship

At Brightview-South River
December 7 @ 2:00 PM

Join Pastor Amanda and Doug
for a time of worship, hymns,
and fellowship with the residents
of Brightview Senior Living

Brightview-South River
8 Lee Airpark Drive
Edgewater MD 21037

Deadline REMINDER

Submissions are due by Dec. 17th to be included in the January 2026 issue of:
Mayo Connection.

Email to mayoumcmd@gmail.com or call the church office at 410.798.6110

Dec-25

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Bible Study 6:00 PM In Person or via Zoom	3 Ladies Luncheon 12 Noon Coopers Tavern 176 Mitchells Chance Rd Edgewater MD	4	5	6
2 Advent 9:15-One Worship Service Fellowship Hour Sunday School during Service	8	9 Bible Study 6:00 PM In Person or via Zoom	10	11	12 Church Office Closed	13
Brightview -South River @ 2 PM						
3 Advent Ad Council 8:15 Worship 10:15 in sanctuary with Sunday School during Service	15	16 Bible Study 6:00 PM In Person or via Zoom	17	18	19 Church Office Closed	20
4:30 pm Caroling						
4 Advent 21 8:15 Worship 10:15 in sanctuary with Sunday School during Service Fellowship Hour following	22	23 No Bible Study	24 Christmas Eve Services 4:00 PM Family Friendly 7:00 PM Traditional Candle/Carols	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	23 Church Office Closed	27
28 9:15 Worship in the Sanctuary No Sunday School	29 Church Office Closed	30 No Bible Study Church Office Closed	31 Church Office Closed			
Consider taking part						
The Angel Tree is ready: Select your angel*Go Shopping*Return your unwrapped gift by December 7th						