

Live Nativity and Bethlehem Village: Today, December 7th from 3 pm-5 pm. Celebrate Jesus' birthday with us as we journey through Bethlehem. Free for all! There will be live animals, music, crafts, refreshments, and more!

Blue Christmas Service: A service of comfort and hope for those who find the holiday season a difficult time of year. Offered by the Woodbridge Collaborative, this service is hosted at Cokesbury UMC. December 20th at 4:00 pm.

Tell The World Jesus Is Born: A Christmas Cantata Service featuring Good Shepherd Choirs. December 21st at 10:00 am online and in person during the regular worship service.

Christmas Caroling at the Neabsco Boardwalk: Good Shepherd UMC, led by the choirs, will be caroling for the community at Neabsco Boardwalk on December 21st at 5pm. Come, sing along, and bring a friend!

Christmas Eve at Good Shepherd: Join us at 5:00 pm on December 24th, for an engaging intergenerational service.

Woodbridge Collaborative Christmas Eve Worship: Christmas Eve Service at Bethel UMC (13506 Minnieville Rd, Woodbridge, VA 22192) at 11 pm - Arrive by 10:30 pm to enjoy a pre-service Handbell Concert.

Watch Night Service: December 31st at 11 pm, join us in a service of reflection and covenant as we close 2025 and begin 2026 together.

ADVENT

*They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the
knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.*

Isaiah 11: 9

WEEK TWO

Good Shepherd in Ministry

Monthly Prayer for our Church

*Join us by including this in your daily prayer time
and at all church gatherings.*

Creator God, as we journey through this season of Advent, may we prepare our hearts to receive Christ anew. We await to encounter the story once again of how, through Him, you came to dwell among us. Stir in us hope that does not fade and peace that steadies our being. By your Spirit, shape our lives with compassion, justice, and joy so that your concerns and desires for this weary world become ours. Empower us to be light and beacons of your hope and love. In the name of Christ, our Emmanuel, Amen.

Stack Chairs After Worship. For those able, please stay a few minutes after worship and help stack chairs around the sanctuary walls in preparation for the Live Nativity this afternoon.

Reset Chairs on Tuesday @ 11 am! In preparation for Keith McInturff's memorial service we need help resetting chairs in the sanctuary. Please join us on December 9th @ 11 am.

Serve as a Lay Reader in 2026. Join our rotation of Scripture readers for worship by indicating your willingness on your Connect Card. All ages are welcome!

Commitment Update

Thank you for your ongoing support of our shared ministry and mission through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We are grateful to the 52 households who shared commitments in these areas for 2026. Because your financial commitments help us plan for the year, we want to share:

- 49 households have collectively committed \$386,400 which is 69% of our approved 2026 budget.
- This is an increase of \$32,728 compared to last year

We know not everyone has had a chance to submit their annual Commitment Cards. It's not too late! Commitment Cards are available outside the sanctuary doors or from the church office. They can be placed in the offering bag or returned to the office. We extend our appreciation to all, not only those who have made commitments, for your continued support of the vital ministry of Good Shepherd.

Read Through the Bible in a Year

Pastor Lisa invites you to join her in reading the Bible in 2026. You can do this on your own or join her for an informal weekly online group discussion with a brief video reflection. Weekly time TBD, and you will be free to join as you are able throughout the year. Additionally, an optional companion book will be available. Express your interest via the Connection Card or email Pastor Lisa at lisabarbery@vaumc.org.

Add to the GSUMC Family Christmas tree. We would love it if you could add an ornament from your home to our tree next to the glass table by the exit. These ornaments may be taken home after the season or donated for next year.

Advent Devotionals are available on the glass table by the exit doors. There is no cost. If you prefer a PDF or daily email with the devotions, go to: <https://endhunger.org/advent/>



Mission and Giving Opportunities During The Season of Advent

As we enter the season of preparing our hearts and minds for the “advent” of Jesus Christ, GSUMC has several mission and giving opportunities that you can participate in through prayers, service, and gifts. Please consider supporting one or more of these during this season:

- **TBD: Assist at “Toy Market” at Neabsco Elementary.** Parents of under-resourced families will have the opportunity to “shop” among the toys we and others collect, choosing the gifts they give to their children. To volunteer to assist, contact: Janae Tschudi-Evatt.
- **Nov. 17th – Dec. 14th: GSUMC Staff Christmas Gift** - You’re invited to make a financial contribution to our annual staff gift by Dec. 14th and/or share prayers, cards, and gifts with our staff to show appreciation for what they have meant to us during the year. To contribute to the gift fund, designate your cash or check to “Staff Christmas Gift” and place it in the offering bags, or choose “Staff Christmas Gift” when giving online. Contact: Anthony “Shep” Shepard.
- **By December 29th: Christmas Offering** - Our annual Christmas Offering will support our Pastors’ Benevolence Fund (formerly known as the Pastors’ Discretionary Fund), which provides emergency assistance to individuals within our church family and the broader community. Over the past year, this assistance has included rent, utilities, medical bills, funeral costs, meals after surgery, and more... To contribute, designate your cash or check to “Pastors’ Benevolence Fund” and place it in the offering bags, or choose “Pastors’ Benevolence Fund” when giving online.
- **Continuous: ACTS Food Donation** - Place non-perishables in the baskets located near Room 1 (to the side of the Gathering Space). Contact: Tom Smith .
- **Yearly Giving - by Dec. 29th** - In this season of giving, please continue to remember your regular giving to the church’s General Fund in order for us to end the year strong, supporting our vital ministries further as we seek to be a beacon of Christ’s love in the world.