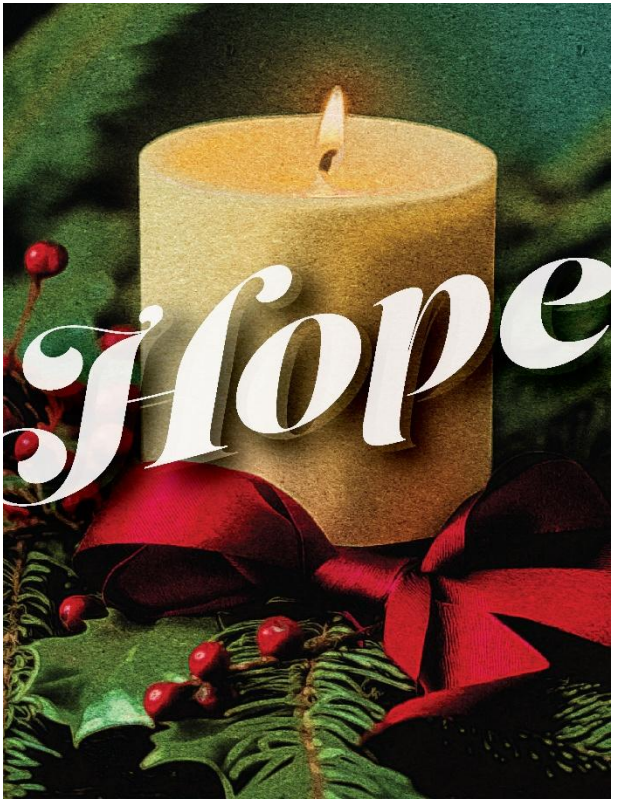
Wesley UMC Vision and Mission Statement

Vision: Embracing Community In Harmony with God
Mission: Respectful Minds, Outreaching Arms,
Loving Each Other, Together with God



Wesley United Methodist Church

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9:30 AM Traditional Worship

November 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent **November 29, 2026**

Welcome Pastor Christine

Prelude ***An Advent Prelude*** Sherry Roscoe
Charles Callahan Flute-Nancy Vaughan
Be still and know that I am God. Let the music draw you into God's presence.

Lighting the Altar Candles Leanne Evans

† Hymn ***Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates,*** vs. 1-3 UMH 213

† Choral Introit Chancel Choir

† Light of Hope A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent Fred Dismore
Responsive Litany
We begin the season of Advent with expectant and believing hearts.
We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.
During Advent we confront the darkness that so often resides within us
We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.
During Advent we confront the doubt that so often resides in us.
We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.
During Advent we confront the division that so often occurs between us.
We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

† Candle Lighting Fred Dismore

† Congregation Sung Response On back page

† Opening Prayer (Unison) Fred Dismore
Gracious God, as we embark upon another Advent journey, we pray that we would be encouraged by hope, strengthened in unity, and inspired through faith. May our ears be open and our hearts ready to receive the gift of hope embodied in the word made flesh. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Savior. Amen.

† Passing the Peace Pastor Christine
(Let us exchange signs of God's reconciliation and love.)
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also, with you.

Anthem ***Hope for the Light*** Chancel Choir
Mary McDonald

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Christine

Announcements Pastor Christine

† Prayer for Illumination (Responsive) Fred Dismore

O EMMANUEL, our King and Lawgiver, the Expected of the nations and their Savior:
Come and save us, O Lord, our God.

Sung Response **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** v.1 & Chorus UMH 211

Old Testament Lesson ***Isaiah 11:1-9*** (CEB) Fred Dismore

† Gospel Lesson ***Matthew 1:18-23***(CEB) Pastor Christine

This is the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Thanks be to God.

† Hymn ***Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*** UMH 196

Sermon ***To Fulfill*** Pastor Christine

Musical Offering ***Salvation is Here*** Josh Bogus
Joel Houston CCLI: 4451327

Offertory Prayer Pastor Christine

Offertory * ***Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*** Sherry Roscoe
Old French Carol/Ellen Jane Lorenz

† Doxology UMH 94

† Hymn ***God Almighty, We Are Waiting*** WS 3047

† Benediction Pastor Christine

Postlude ***March Religieuse*** Sherry Roscoe
Alexandre Guilmant/Based on “Lift Up Your Heads”
G.F. Handel/Arr. Homer Whitford

Extinguishing the Altar Candles Leanne Evans

* You may give also by using the smart phone app, ***Text-to-Give:*** *text Wesley209 to 73256, then click link in message to complete. Or go to the website wesleyumc-dover.com and click online giving.*

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Please join us in Grace Fellowship Hall for Coffee Hour following the Postlude.

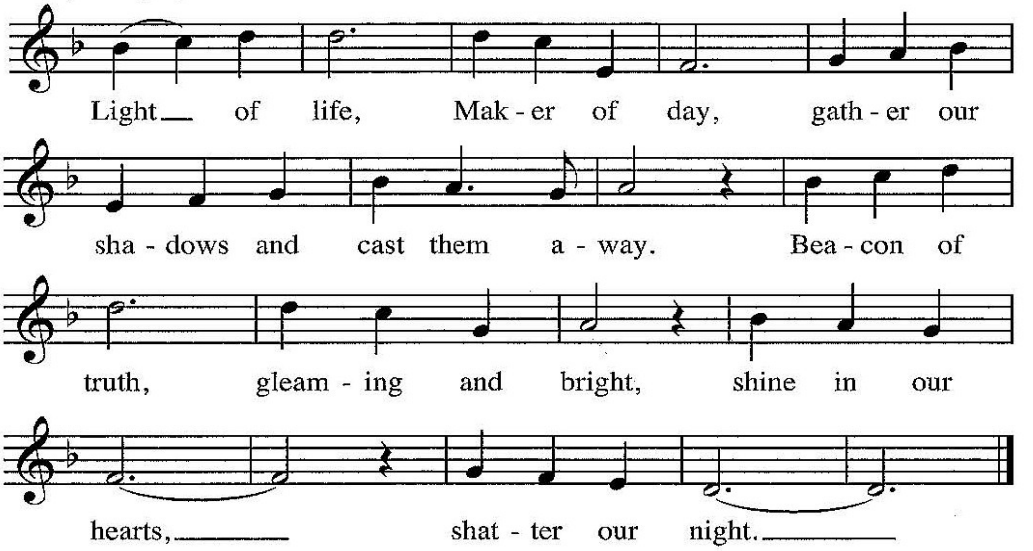
The Altar Flowers are given by John & Michele Dryda to the glory of God in loving memory of their parents, Larry & Wanda Potter, Michael Dryda, Shirley & Henry Malone.

Light of Hope

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:



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Please keep the following people uplifted in prayer… Several unspoken, Bill & Barbara, Bill & Ruby, David & Beatrice, Dennis & Carolyn, Don & Penny, Ed & Iva, Harry & Nicky, Paul & Linda, Ralph & Fran, Ron & Janet, Ted & Yoshie, Terry & Carol, Anson D., Candy G., Donald C., Fred R., Greg G., James F., Jerry C., Jim R., Judi V., Judy B., Linda S., Lou B., Marc S., Nadine B., Pat L., Pat R., Paul H., Richard L., Rick G., Ricky S., Sally B., Steve G., Suzanne P., Tobi H., Todd R., Tom C.

Dover Tree Lighting, Live Nativity & UWF Christmas Café, Thursday December 3rd festivities begin at 5:00 PM inside and outside in front of the Fellowship Hall.

***The Christmas Letters* Advent Study with Pastor Christine -** Beginning Wednesday December 2nd through December 23rd at noon. Please feel free to bring a brown bag lunch, we'll meet in the parlor and spend an hour reading these early Church "Christmas cards".

Search Class Bible Study: *Voices of Advent, The Bible's Insights for a Season* by Dr. Matthew L. Skinner. Join Search Class this Advent season on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am in the parlor as you **"grow in wisdom and understanding"** on your faith journey during this Advent season of preparation and observances for the birth of Christ.

Family Life Advent Dinner December 6 at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Family Life will provide the main course, beverages, and desserts, and entertainment! Bring your family, a side dish to feed 8, and join in the fun.

Blue Christmas service December 19 at 4:00 PM. This is a service of "Hope, Healing, and Comfort"; a calm time together to acknowledge that we feel and remember our losses especially keenly in the midst of holiday celebrations.

Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM. The early service will be comfortable and engaging for families and children especially. The later service will include communion. Both will end with candle lighting.

Calendar

Sunday, November 29, 2026
8:00 am – Worship — St. Paul's Chapel
8:30 am – Search Class — Parlor
9:30 am – Worship — Sanctuary
9:30 am – Sunday School — Grace Fellowship Hall
10:30 am – Fellowship — Grace Fellowship Hall

Monday, November 30, 2026
9 am - 11 am – Clothing Closet
10:00 am – Staff Meeting — Library
6:00 pm – Evening Prayer — ZOOM
6:00 pm – Pickleball — Grace Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 1, 2026
6:00 pm – Evening Prayer — ZOOM
6:30 pm – Church Council Meeting — Parlor
7:00 pm – DCS — Grace Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 2, 2026
12:00 pm – Moving On Advent Study — Parlor
6:00 pm – Evening Prayer — ZOOM
6:00 pm – NA Meeting — Grace Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 3, 2026
Christmas Café & Living Nativity
6:00 pm – Evening Prayer — ZOOM
6:00 pm – Handbell Choir — Bell Room
7:00 pm – Chancel Choir — Choir Room

Friday, December 4, 2026
9 – 11 am – Clothing Closet Referrals — Ed Building
6:00 pm – Evening Prayer — ZOOM
6:30 pm – ACA Meeting — Ed Building

Saturday, December 5, 2026
9:00 am – Noon – Clothing Closet — Ed Building
12 - 1 pm – Community Meal — Grace Fellowship Hall

2026 CHRISTMAS GIVING FORM



"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done." — *Proverbs 19:17*

Many families in our community are facing sudden hardships, from empty pantries to overdue utility bills. At Wesley, our **Pastor's Discretionary Fund** exists to provide immediate, practical relief to our neighbors in crisis.

100% of every gift goes directly toward helping local individuals with urgent needs like prescriptions, utility assistance, rental assistance and assistance at food pantries.

Would you prayerfully consider contributing to the Pastor's Fund this Christmas Season? Every dollar makes a real difference for a neighbor in need.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping us share God's love in tangible ways.

We are asking for all donations to the following fund be received in the church office by **Friday, December 18, 2026.**

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND $_____ Please make check payable to **Wesley UMC**. Please note "Discretionary Fund" on memo line and mail or bring to the church office.

NAME_____

PHONE_____

Please print below the wording you would like in the bulletin. (Example: Joseph Carpenter in loving memory of his parents Mary and Joseph Carpenter Sr.)

_____

_____

_____

_____

The Delaware Choral Society Presents



COME CELEBRATE THE SEASON

SONGS OF GOOD CHEER

A CELEBRATION OF WONDER AND JOY

DECEMBER 6 4 PM

DOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL
ONE PATRICK LYNN DRIVE, DOVER

Tickets are $20 online at delawarechoralsociety.org or at the door or scan the QR code with your phone

This organization is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on DelawareScene.com. This organization is also supported, in part, by a grant from the Kent County Fund for the Arts, a division of the CenDel Foundation, Inc.