

Our Ministry Staff

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## Wesley United Methodist Church

*"Joining our neighbors and following Jesus on a lifelong adventure to share God's love in new places and empowering ways."*

**Wesley United Methodist Church**  
130 W. Third St.  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815  
(570) 784-1407  
[wesleybloom.com](http://wesleybloom.com)  
[www.facebook.com/wesleybloom](https://www.facebook.com/wesleybloom)

**December 22, 2024**  
**10:30 AM**

# WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of the Advent Season  
December 22, 2024 10:30 A.M.

**Welcome to Wesley Church!**

*We gather in this place as friends and siblings united in Christ. You are loved and welcomed here at Wesley.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

\*OPENING HYMN "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" #203 UMH

\*OPENING PRAYER

**O God, whose will is justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted, let your prophet's urgent voice pierce our hardened hearts and announce the dawn of your kingdom. Before the advent of the One who baptizes with the fire of the Holy Spirit, let our complacency give way to conversion, oppression to justice, and conflict to peace and acceptance of one another in Christ. May we catch glimpses of you already at work in the world, and may we add our own efforts to your labor. We ask this through the One whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

\*HYMN OF MEDITATION "Advent Song" (vs. 1-4) #2090 TFWS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON(S)

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a

Liturgist: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON/MESSAGE

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY & PRESENTATION OF GIFTS  
"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" #95 UMH

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #196 UMH

\*ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

\*The congregation is asked to stand as you are able.

*Altar flowers are given by Julie Millard to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of Terry L. Davis, mother and grandmother.*

## Prayer List

Family of Nelson Kulp  
Tammy Ambrose  
Family of Pat Frances  
Charlotte Stryker  
Carla Fedder  
Seann O'Brien  
Clare Jackson  
Roberta Berger  
Family of Marjorie Laytar  
William Beyers  
Cheryl Beck  
Barbara White  
Marlene Hewlett  
Carole Reeser  
Stone Family  
Cathy Arnaout  
Family of John Babb  
Family of Dave Ford

### Active & Former Military

Pat Backer  
Michael Bejger  
John F. Bodenman  
Steven Cornelison  
Marty Davis & Bold Tigers  
Alex Gunsch  
Ashley Long  
Tayler Murren  
Michael Rich  
Joshua Schaffer

Tom Cooper  
Sally Snyder  
Linda Dennen  
Nancy Swisher & Family  
Robin Payne Buchert  
Cameron Murphy  
Barb Riley  
Family of Kathy Bohl  
Donna Wallace  
Pat Hall  
Mary Jane Parker  
Rick Heddens  
Carol DeGreen  
Kyle Foust  
Glover Family  
Jill Adams  
Family of Fred Bennett

Jason Bejger  
Matt Brewer  
Todd Campbell  
Jason Drumm  
Drue Gerasimoff  
Andrew Hikes  
Gabe Slodysko  
Kayla Baldwin  
Caleb Ross  
Jared Slodysko

## This Week at Wesley

Sun.	12/22	9:15 AM—Sunday School Classes for Adults, Youth, & Children ( <i>Ed. Wing</i> ) 10:30 AM—Advent Worship Service ( <i>Sanctuary</i> ) 2:00 PM—Starlight Ministry ( <i>Coffee Café</i> )
Mon.	12/23	
Tues.	12/24	3:00 PM—Children-led Christmas Eve Service w/ Communion ( <i>Sanctuary</i> ) 7:00 PM—Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols ( <i>Sanctuary</i> )
Wed.	12/25	<i>Merry Christmas!</i> 7:00 PM—Stepping Stones to Recovery, Al-Anon Support Group ( <i>Ed. Wing</i> ) (For more info., e-mail to: <a href="mailto:stepstone2re@gmail.com">stepstone2re@gmail.com</a> )
Thurs.	12/26	6:30 PM—Community Bible Study @ Bill's House Apartments ( <i>375 West St.</i> )
Fri.	12/27	<i>Church Office Closed</i>
Sat.	12/28	10:30 AM-12:30 PM—Community Friendship Meal ( <i>Social Hall</i> )
Sun.	12/29	9:15 AM—Sunday School Classes for Adults, Youth, & Children ( <i>Ed. Wing</i> ) 10:30 AM—Christmas Season Worship Service ( <i>Sanctuary</i> ) 11:30 AM—Fare-well Reception for Cody Mead ( <i>Coffee Café</i> )

## This Week's Staff Office Hours

Staff members are often in the church more than listed below but may sometimes need to miss scheduled hours due to unforeseen circumstances. It's always a good idea to directly contact a staff member to set-up an appointment. Staff contact information can be found on the back of the bulletin.

**\*\*\*Staff office hours during this Christmas week will be limited. Please call and e-mail a staff person to set up an appointment, if necessary. Contact information is on the back of the bulletin.\*\*\***

### Sunday Hospitality Team:

Greeters & Ushers: Men of Wesley (*12/22*)  
Freida Hackett, Kathy Beidler, Gloria Young (*12/29*)

Liturgist: Bob Dunkelberger (*12/22*)  
Letha Stone (*12/29*)

Nursery Attendants: Judy Ryan & Louise Grove (*12/22*)  
*Unstaffed, but Open for Use (12/29)*

## Wesley Ministries & Opportunities to Serve

**Children's Nursery & Grace Garden:** A staffed nursery, located in the hallway between the Murray Ave. & Third Street entry areas, is available during worship for children ages 18 months-6 years old. An infant nursery is available down the hall from the primary nursery. Wesley's "Grace Garden," located in the front of the sanctuary, is also available for younger children during worship with coloring books and other opportunities for God's children to engage in quiet play while still being a part of the worship service. Parents are asked to be present with their children while using the Grace Garden or Wesley's infant nursery room.

**Email and Bulletin Announcements:** If you have announcements you would like included in our Thursday church email blast or an upcoming bulletin, please submit to the church office no later than Noon the Tuesday prior. All submissions sent after Tuesday at Noon will be included in the following week's email and bulletin. To contact the church office, email [office@wesleybloom.com](mailto:office@wesleybloom.com), or call 570-784-1407.

**What's Happening @ Wesley Weekly E-mail:** Every Thursday Wesley Church sends out a weekly e-mail that includes the upcoming bulletin and other important announcements and news about what's happening at Wesley Church. If you'd would like to receive this weekly e-mail, contact Pastor Mark: [mreisinger@susumc.org](mailto:mreisinger@susumc.org).

**Wesley Steering Team:** The primary governing body of Wesley UMC, the Steering Team, meets on a monthly basis. We will next meet on Thursday, January 16, 6:30pm, in the Coffee Cafe. All members of Wesley are invited to attend to hear more about the programs and ministries of Wesley Church. A Zoom option is available. Meeting minutes are provided in the Third Street entry area and via our weekly e-mail blast. Contact Pastor Mark ([mreisinger@susumc.org](mailto:mreisinger@susumc.org)) with any questions.

**PAW Ministry:** The latest edition of Wesley's Prayer AnyWhere online prayer ministry, coordinated by Cynthia Willis, is available on Wesley's Facebook page...check it out! [www.facebook.com/wesleybloomsburg](https://www.facebook.com/wesleybloomsburg)

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** All knitters and crocheters are invited to the next gathering of Wesley's Prayer Shawl Ministry on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 1pm in the Coffee Café. If you know someone who would appreciate the comfort a prayer shawl brings, or for additional information, contact Mollie Harris (570-387-0368) or Janet Lee (570-847-4895). The next gathering will be on Tuesday, January 14, at 1pm.

**Bloomsburg Food Cupboard Collection:** The Bloomsburg Food Cupboard requests specific donations, items that are greatly needed, each month of the year. Please consider picking up a few items to donate, leaving them at Wesley's "Donation Station," just inside the Murray Ave. door or at the designated location in the 3<sup>rd</sup> St. entry area. Specific items being collected in December are pasta side dishes & canned fruit.

**Soup For Veterans:** Wesley is collecting cans of soup to be distributed to military veterans through the Columbia County VA Clinic. Bring your cans of soup each Sunday to the table located in the Third Street entry area.

**"Keep It Flowing" Quarter Collection:** The Women of Wesley are collecting quarters! Each month all money collected will be donated to a different ministry of Wesley UMC. Money collected in December will go toward Wesley's choir ministry. There's a table in the back of the sanctuary where you can drop your change. In November they collected \$56.67 for the Cub Scout & Boy Scout programs that meet at Wesley.

## Wesley Ministries & Opportunities to Serve

**Becoming a Member of Wesley UMC:** If you feel as if it might be time to make a new commitment in your journey of following Jesus and participating in the life of Christ's Church, now is a great time to consider becoming a member of Wesley UMC. If you would like to talk more about what it means to be a member, reach out to Pastor Mark (570-784-1407 or [mreisinger@susumc.org](mailto:mreisinger@susumc.org)).

**Community Friendship Meal:** Wesley is looking for groups to sign up to prepare and serve a meal on Saturday mornings. To schedule a date, simply go to [wesleybloom.com](http://wesleybloom.com), click on Community Friendship Meal from the homepage and scroll down to the calendar. Pick an available date on the calendar and send an email to [bloomfriendshipmeal@gmail.com](mailto:bloomfriendshipmeal@gmail.com) to request the date. Once your date is confirmed, you will receive an information letter to help you get acquainted with what you need to know and do. Thank you for your help!

**Sunday School Classes:** Wesley's regular Sunday School classes meet every Sunday morning at 9:15am. All are invited to attend these times of learning & fellowship. Here's a list of our current Sunday School class offerings, all meeting in Wesley's Education Wing (*Flr. 2R*):  
*Adult "Pilgrimage" Class: Rm. 2R-1, Studying Paul's letters, led by Dennis Frohlich*  
*Youth SS Class (Grades 6-12): Rm. 2R-2C, led by Kelly Stiner & Kathy Beidler*  
*Grades 3-5 Kids SS Class: Rm. 2R-2B, led by Jane Bercher*  
*Grades K-2 Kids SS Class: Rm. 2R-4, led by Kathy Heddens*  
*Preschool SS Class: Rm. 2R-4, led by Bev Wintersteen*

**Offering Envelopes:** The 2025 weekly offering envelopes are now available in the Third Street entry area. Pick-up your box of envelopes Sunday before or after worship. Your continued generosity is appreciated!

**Christmas Eve @ Wesley UMC:** We'll be celebrating two worship services at Wesley on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24. A traditional candlelight service of lessons & carols with full choir will be held at 7pm, and a service led by the children of Wesley will be held at 3pm. All are invited to these special services to celebrate Christ's birth!

**Reception for Cody Mead:** As our Music Director prepares to leave Wesley for the next steps in his educational and professional career, Wesley will host a reception following Cody's final service, Sunday, Dec. 29. Plan to gather in the Coffee Café immediately following worship for light refreshments and an opportunity to thank Cody for his years of ministry at Wesley and wish him well in his next steps.

**Covenant Renewal & Baptismal Renewal Services:** The first two Sundays of 2025 will offer John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service w/ Holy Communion (Jan. 5) and a service of Baptismal Renewal (Jan. 12). These services, at our usual 10:30am time, are together a wonderful way to begin a new year and recommit to following Jesus in a deeper way in the year to come. Please plan to be present, and bring a friend, to share in these special services. If you, or someone you know, have not been baptized and may want to be baptized on Baptismal Renewal Sunday (Jan. 12), please contact Pastor Mark ([mreisinger@susumc.org](mailto:mreisinger@susumc.org)).

**Men of Wesley Bowling & Pizza Party:** The Men of Wesley are once again sponsoring an all-church bowling & pizza party on Sunday, January 26, 1pm-3pm, at Midway Lanes (*1405 Montour Blvd., Danville*). Cost is \$10./bowler, and pre-registration is asked so the MoW know how many lanes to reserve. The registration deadline will be January 12. Pizza will be provided at the bowling alley. All are invited for this time of fun & fellowship!



Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2024

## Scripture Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

*Don't obey God to get things; obey God to get God. —Tim Keller*

Today, we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of LOVE. How does one go about loving God? It's difficult. Maybe, we think, God has put some sensitive souls on earth who become mystics, pastors, theologians, monks, nuns — and they can do all the spiritual heavy lifting for the rest of us.

These dear people don't seem to have any difficulty at all living in an emotional aura of love for God. That's okay, we say, "but it's not my cup of bliss."

Clearly, to love God is not to do any one specific thing for God. God really doesn't need anything done for him, thank you very much. The words of Jesus indicate that loving God is a state of being that encompasses the whole of our existence. We love God with our souls and hearts, that is, the intuitive persons we are, and with our mind and strength, that is, the rational, volitional creatures we are. Still,

- Some say they love God by going to church every Sunday.
- Some say they love God by not breaking the Ten Commandments.
- Some say they love God by reading the Bible every day.
- Some say they love God by praying to God at least once a week.
- Some say they love God by doing a good deed.
- Some say they love God by not swearing.

I don't see it this way. For me, *loving God is not work, but a walk.*

The prophet Micah provides the paradigm here. What does God ask of us? God asks us to walk with God (Micah 6:8).

There it is.

Jesus says we should love (read: walk with) God with our intuitive and rational selves. What happens on a pleasant walk with a friend? Sharing (intuitive) and good conversation (rational). A walk is an intimate experience. To walk with someone is to express solidarity and understanding. It is a mark of friendship and camaraderie. It is a sign of intimacy.

To love God is to walk with God.

—Timothy Merrill

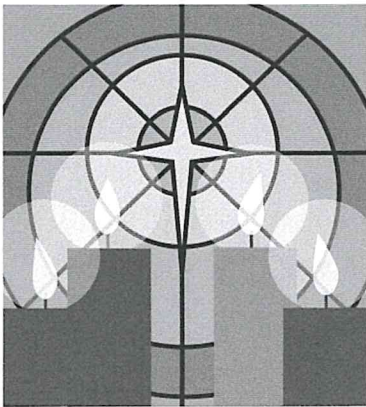
*Prayer: O God, may my love increase as I walk with you. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Daily Bible Readings**

- Sunday:** Ecclesiastes 7
- Monday:** Ecclesiastes 8
- Tuesday:** Ecclesiastes 9
- Wednesday:** Ecclesiastes 10
- Thursday:** Ecclesiastes 11
- Friday:** Ecclesiastes 12
- Saturday:** Song of Solomon 1-2

# ZIG ZAG

Without lifting your pencil from the paper, move from square to square, vertically, horizontally or diagonally, to discover the longest possible name of a country from these letters.



FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

Z	E	D	N
W	T	R	A
I	S	L	P

## PROGRESSIVE WORDS

Can you get from the first word to the last by changing just one letter in each step?

**PANTS**

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**RUSTY**

**JOKER**

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**ROWED**

ANSWERS: Zig Zag—Switzerland; Progressive Words—rants, runs, rusts; poker, power, mower, mowed