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JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2022

The Partner

"Christmas Redeems!"

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light..."

— Isaiah 9:2

God chooses Mary from Nazareth, a town that few think is capable of any good. Joseph's cherished fiancé is pregnant out of wedlock. For support, Mary visits a cousin who had been barren. The shepherds are terrified. The Magi need a dancing star to find their way. And after Jesus is born, Mary is told by Simeon that her baby boy will cause the rising and falling of many, and a sword will pierce her heart.

God "sure can pick 'em"! ... as the saying goes. True to how God always calls His faithful into action, God chooses men and women for the first Christmas from a variety of backgrounds and with the full range of emotions ... folks like you and me. God chooses them on purpose, choosing the best men and women for their jobs. God chooses them because He knows they'll be faithful, with hearts open and willing to doing God's will! And God knows that they will all live out their faithfulness so that the resulting story will mirror the same Redeeming Love that the Baby Jesus came to provide. God wanted the first Christmas to Redeem! ... so that we all may be assured that Christmas will always Redeem!

Mary is chosen on purpose, to show how Christmas Redeems. Mary shows that God chooses the most powerfully faithful and obedient servants of His from the most unlikely of places.

Joseph is chosen on purpose, to show how Christmas Redeems. His faithful mercy shown to Mary before he knew her pregnancy was holy, foreshadows both his and her remarkable faith to undertake their extraordinary journey to Jesus' Bethlehem birth!

The shepherds are chosen on purpose, to show how Christmas Redeems. After their understandable terror is calmed and soothed by the angels, they become the excited and bold, authentic and effective first evangelists for the newborn Savior and Prince of Peace!

The Magi are chosen on purpose, to show how Christmas Redeems. While following the star to Bethlehem, King Herod commands them to report back to him about where Jesus is born. However, after they stand in the presence of Jesus, they worship Him, extol Jesus with wonderful gifts, defy Herod, and give their allegiance to one who is not only a King, but the King of Kings!



"Pastor's Letter" continued from p. 1

Simeon is chosen on purpose, to ceremonially bless the newborn Jesus, and to show how Christmas Redeems. Simeon is overjoyed and fulfilled to cast his eyes on God's Messiah, and then is uniquely able to help Mary understand that the Redeeming that Jesus has been born to bring, will come at a cost, as faithful discipleship always does!

Please come worship with us throughout Advent, so that we may celebrate together how Christmas continues to Redeem! The Coming of Jesus Christ into our lives, into our hearts, and into our time and space has the power day by day to heal us, forgive us, restore us, and use us! The Christmas Story we celebrate throughout this blessed season will show us how!

Join us please, in person or in Spirit, for the Sundays of Advent, including Communion on December 4 and a Christmas Pageant on December 11, which will share the Christmas Story from the perspective of our Youth Group! Please join us on Christmas Eve at 7 pm, for Lessons and Carols and Candlelight on this Holiest of nights! Then join us the following morning on Christmas Sunday, when we will enjoy a Birthday Party for Jesus! Throughout Christmastime, our worship will soar with music, story and beauty! It all promises to uplift us, beautifully bless us, and powerfully Redeem us!

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Doug



A SPECIAL SUPPER CLUB CHRISTMAS Saturday, December 10 2:00 pm



On Saturday afternoon, December 10, we will gather once again at 2:00 pm in the Social Hall for a covered dish luncheon. Chicken and drinks will be provided. Bring a dish or dessert to share. Following that we will be treated to a performance by the Christian musical group, Second Chances. If you missed them when they were in concert in our Sanctuary in September, you have another opportunity to hear them. The afternoon will be concluded with a short Caroling Sing-along so that we can still sing a few of our favorite carols.

This should be an exciting afternoon of good food, good music and good fellowship. Plan to join us in the Social Hall on Saturday, December 10 at 2:00. Be sure to let us know by December 5 if you are planning to attend so we have enough seating and refreshments.

Either call or email the church office: 301-733-0391 jwumcmd@yahoo.com

or Barb & Greg Hoover: 301-797-5157 bhoov72@aol.com



Our community benefits each year from the generosity of our John Wesley United Methodist Church Family and Friends. In the next few months there will be several opportunities for us to help fulfill the needs of others. During this holiday season we are not adopting a specific family. Instead we will help local agencies fulfill the wishes/needs of children in our area. I hope each of us will prayerfully consider how we can be a part of this ministry. Therefore, you might wish to make a monetary donation or provide a gift card to someplace such as Walmart, Target, Martins, Aldi, and/or Kohl's are suggestions. Your donations may be placed in the offering plate or given to Sheila. Please make sure you note on your check/envelope that this donation is for the holiday giving ministry. If you prefer your donation be used for a gift or food or whatever is needed, indicate such and your wishes will be honored. *These donations should be received by December 15th*.

LOOKING AHEAD — In January and February there will be the need for local agency closets to be refilled after being depleted to meet holiday needs. The New Year might be a better time for you to share your love with others or maybe you can do something now for Christmas and again in the New Year. You may make a monetary or gift card donation or you might chose to provide an outfit suitable for a child to wear for play or school. Outfits are needed in all sizes from infant through Adult XL. Underwear, socks and shoes are also welcome. School supplies need to be replenished as well. Another agency wishes for games or toys that a child can use to interact with a parent during supervised visitation. You might prefer to prepare a "food" box. An activity you might engage with your family is to place an item in the box each day. Suggestions include:

Day 1 – box of cereal	Day 2 – peanut butter	Day 3 – jelly or jam
Day 4 – boxed potatoes	Day 5 – macaroni and cheese	Day 6 – canned fruit
Day 7 – canned corn	Day 8 – canned tomatoes	Day 9 – canned tuna
Day 10 – dessert mix	Day 11 – jar of applesauce	Day 12 – canned beans
Day 13 – box of crackers	Day 14 – package of rice	Day 15 – package pasta
Day 16 – spaghetti sauce	Day 17 – box of oatmeal packets	Day 18 – tomato soup
Day 19 – vegetable soup	Day 20 – chicken noodle soup	Day 21 – canned fruit
Day 22 – canned peas	Day 23 – mixed vegetables	Day 24 – green beans
Day 25 – pudding cups	Day 26 – bisquick/pancake mix	Day 27 – syrup
Day 28 – canned chicken	Day 29 – cereal bars	Day 30 – canned fruit

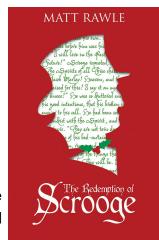
Watch the January Partner for where you may leave your donations in January and February. If you have any questions, please contact Sheila. Your gifts are very much appreciated. Thanks to each and every one for sharing in this ministry.



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WEDNESDAYS HEAVENLY LIVING WORKSHOP

The Heavenly Living Workshop will start its next Wednesday evenings series at 7:00 pm with their four-week Advent study of "The Redemption of Scrooge" by Matt Rawle. Is redemption possible for Ebenezer Scrooge? Pastor and author Matt Rawle believes so as he discovers the teachings of Jesus in the words of the Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol*. Rawle dives deep into the dark, sad, greedy world of Scrooge and discovers a man in dire need of a second chance. Along with Scrooge, we meet the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future and in the process learn about living with and for others in a world blessed by Jesus. Rediscover and reinvigorate your Christian faith this Advent and Christmas season and look at this familiar classic through the lens of faith.



Session #1 — November 30 — "Bah! Humbug!"

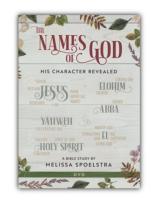
Session #2 — December 7 — "The Remembrance of Christmas Past"

Session #3 — December 14 — "The Life of Christmas Present"

Session #4 — December 21 — "The Hope of Christmas Future"

THURSDAY ZOOM STUDY

We have an opportunity to engage in a Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756) each Thursday from 2:30 pm until 4:00 pm beginning November 10, 2022. Please join us!!!! Our discussion topic is "The Names of God: His Character Revealed" by Melissa Spoelstra. Melissa leads us on an exploration of the many names of our triune God—from El and Elohim to Yahweh and its many combinations to names such as Abba, Jesus, and Holy Spirit...and many others. As we study the names of God, our ideas about God will become more grounded in what His names tell us, and thus more personal, allowing a greater trust in Him to share the details of our lives.



November 10: Session 1. El (Part 1) November 17: Session 2. El (Part 2)

December 1: Session 3. Yahweh (Part 1)
December 8: Session 4. Yahweh (Part 2)

December 15: Session 5. Adonai, Abba, Holy Spirit

December 22: Session 6. Jesus

If you have questions or ideas, contact Linda 301-714-0164 or rsappington@myactv.net. Each person orders their own book and/or workbook from Amazon, Cokesbury, or Christian Book.

CRAFTING SATURDAY FOR 2023 CALENDARS!

Crafting Saturdays are BACK! We will gather Saturday, December 17th at 10:00 am in the Social Hall to decorate 2023 calendars!! Light refreshments will be served, and wonderful fellowship will be shared!

Bring your stickers, stamp pads, papers, markers, and anything that you would like to share, and each of us will decorate a calendar to take home. You can make your calendar as fancy or as simple as you like. There will be lots of supplies to choose from. We will provide simple 8X10 calendars free of charge, but if you want something different, please feel free to bring your own 2023 calendar.

Please RSVP to the Church office if you are coming, so that we have an idea of how many calendars to provide and how many refreshments to serve.

Future meeting ideas include card making, bread baking, scrapbooking, jewelry, Easter egg art, a Paint Night, candle pouring, soap making, painted rocks and more. We are very open to any ideas that you have, and all are welcome. We are excited to be gathering and enjoying each other's company after a long break.





CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
December 11, 2022
at the 10:30 worship service

"A Modern Living Nativity"

All are invited to this modern drama that was written, produced and performed by our children/youth of John Wesley!



A trustee's work is never done. Especially when you have older buildings. Maintenance on an older building can sometimes be rather challenging. We own four buildings... our beloved church building, Rowe Hall in the rear, 131 N. Potomac Street next door, and the parsonage on Hamilton Blvd.

In reflecting on the last 12 months, here are some of the projects we had to tackle (and not all inclusive):

~ Church building at 129 N. Potomac Street ~

- Windows in the Education wing have had necessary glass replacement, caulking and painting of the trim.
- Repairs have been made to the exterior doors by the Nursery, the Social Hall door, and a door in the Narthex that was dragging.
- Both A/C and heating thermostats in the sanctuary are now programmable for minimum air and heat during the week, with desired temperatures on Sunday. (this is also better for the organ) The A/C thermostat has been relocated from the balcony to the main seating level.
- Plaster repairs have been made to the entranceway on the south side of the building, walls in the Wesleyan Room and the Chapel.
- The Chapel itself is getting ready to be the main location for our new music Lesson Ministry program. In addition to plaster repairs to the walls and ceiling, the light fixtures have been upgraded. We are getting new curtains and are currently researching options to add air conditioning.
- Upgrades have been done to the telephone/internet system.
- A new copier will be delivered to the office by the end of the year to not only improve our copying capabilities, but to actually save us money.
- New Audio/Video equipment upgrade to improve live stream of our worship service and to add projection in the front and back of the sanctuary has been up and running since Oct. 23.
- All the hearing devices have been gone over and reprogrammed to be compatible with the new A/V system.
- Some roof repairs were made to the flat roof of the Education wing.
- A down payment has been made in order to schedule our organ for Phase II repairs sometime in 2023, which will include releathering of three more reservoirs.
- And boiler repairs are a constant to be expected during heating season.



~ Rowe Hall, located to the rear of 129 N. Potomac Street ~

We have new tenants in Rowe Hall. Home Sweet Home Foundation is a non-profit organization that works with foster children aging out of the foster care system. They help guide these youth in transitioning into adulthood and independent living. They provide resources and train them in the skills needed to live on their own. We hope to partner with them in this valuable outreach mission. Some repairs were made prior the them moving in:

- A leak in the roof drainage system was repaired, which included repairs to the interior ceiling.
- Metal roof caps were installed on the concrete parapet that was deteriorating on the roof.
- Repairs were made to the floor area right inside the door.
- It's A Blessing To Be A Blessing graciously left their window A/C units so that we may continue to have A/C during the summer months in that building.

~ 131 N. Potomac Street (former parsonage and office) ~

Although there are currently no tenants in 131 N. Potomac Street, there are some possibilities on the horizon. We have also been holding some in-person meetings in the building as there is convenient, free parking out front in the evenings. Note that this building will be 100 in 2023.

- There was some extensive repair work done to the front porch, which included painting of the front door and window trim on that porch area.
- The Bilco door to the basement and back door have been painted.

~ Parsonage on Hamilton Blvd ~

The pastor and his family currently reside in the parsonage.

- There were some miscellaneous plumbing and heating repairs.
- We are scheduled to have some repair work done to the screened in porch.
- Several large tree branches are to be removed.

The NA recovery group, Hope & Gratitude continue to use our basement two nights a week (by being in that area they also help us find our steam pipe leaks before they get ahead of us).

We are still looking to hire a part-time Custodian/Caretaker/Handyman. Should you know of someone who may be interested, send them our way.

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WEDNESDAYS HEAVENLY LIVING WORKSHOP

We have an opportunity to engage in a Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756) each Wednesday from 7:00 pm until 8:15 pm beginning January 11, 2023. Please join us!!!! We will have some e-fellowship beginning each Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm. Our discussion topic is "Jeremiah: Daring to Hope in an Unstable World" by Melissa Spoelstra.

When we look around at today's world, hope usually is not the first word that comes to mind. In many ways we live in an unstable world where marriages fail, bank accounts run low, friendships end, and the everyday

demands of a fast-paced life get us down. In the Book of Jeremiah, we find God calling out to His people with a message of hope—a message that intentional living is possible even in an unstable world. But how do we do this? Where do we start?

Jeremiah offers us hope for living in an uncertain world by teaching us to navigate the challenges and circumstances of our lives. This six-week study examines God's words of instruction to His wayward people through the prophet Jeremiah, and provides six guidelines for intentional living to overcome fear, worry, and doubt as we surrender our wills to God's and put our hope in Him alone. Remember that God is rich in mercy and love and has good plans for us.

January 11: Session 1. Surrender
January 18: Session 2. Idolatry
January 25: Session 3. Listening
February 1: Session 4. Heart Issues

February 8: Session 5. Personal Responsibility February 15: Session 6. The Promised Messiah

THURSDAY ZOOM STUDY

We have an opportunity to engage in a Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756) each Thursday from 2:30 pm until 4:00 pm beginning January 5, 2023. Please join us!!!! Our discussion topic is "The Parables: Understanding What Jesus Meant" by Gary Inrig.

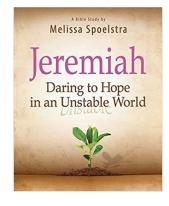
"To read the parables of the Lord Jesus is to see ourselves. They are more than mirrors. They can become windows into the heart and mind of God Himself. As a result, they do far more than reveal who we are. They help us know who God is. They not only expose our condition, but

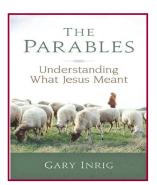
also point to a divine remedy. Self-recognition without divine provision would bring only discouragement. The Lord's parables bring encouragement, because in them we meet ourselves and our God." – Gary Inrig

January 5: Knowing the Father (The Prodigal Son)
January 12: Loving My Neighbor (The Good Samaritan)
January 19: Thanking My Savior (The Two Debtors)

January 26: Forgiving my Brother (The Unforgiving Servant)

If you have questions or ideas, contact Linda Sappington 301-714-0164 or RSappington@
myactv.net. Each person orders their own book and/or workbook from Amazon, Cokesbury, or Christian Book. You can join in even if you choose not to purchase any study material.





Results of Our November 20 Church Conference

We gathered with our District Superintendent, Rev. John Wunderlich, for our annual Church Conference on Sunday, November 20, immediately following worship. We took time together to briefly look back at 2022 and to look ahead to 2023, while we acted on motions brought forward for a vote.

Our Church Conference voted to form a Leadership Team, beginning January 1, 2023, that will fold the functions of our current 5 administrative committees into one unified board, our new Leadership Team. Nine persons were elected to form this new team: Sue Baker, Ryan Chapin, Barb Diefenderfer, Carol Easton, Jim Fritsch, Barbara Hoover, Mary Licht, George Stone, and Richard Willson.

Prior to the election, a tenth member removed their name from nomination, creating a vacancy on the Team. This vacancy will be filled by the nomination and election of another member of our church.

In addition, Sue Baker was re-elected Lay Leader; Sheila Collins was re-elected Financial Secretary; Deb Markell was re-elected Treasurer; and Jenny Suddueth was elected Lay Member to Annual Conference.

The Church Conference also voted in favor of the SPRC's proposed 2023 compensation for the Pastor.

Please consult with the Church Office or the Pastor with any questions or requests for more information.

ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We will have poinsettias in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 18th. If you wish to purchase a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please return the information below via either offering plate, email (jwumcmd@yahoo.com), or call the church office at 301-733-0391 so that it is received no later than **Sunday, December 4, 2022**. The cost is still \$15.00 each.

No. of Poinsettias ordered:						
In Memory/Honor of (circle one):						
Given by:						
Contact phone number:						



1st: Gloria Donat

2nd: James Snurr

4th: Luke Grove

Jack Mesner

5th: Michelle Bolt

Pete Kresge

Tracy Morgan

Histon Tolbert

6th: Ben Guessford

10th: Shayla Morgan

11th: Carol Behan

14th: Martin O'Connor

15th: Evelyn Donley

18th: Owen Mesner

Krista Wagner

Jill Will

19th: Michael Rowan

20th: Wendy Chapin

23rd Tina Snurr

Christopher Stone

24th: Gregory Eckard

Trumer Wagner

25th: Scott Brandt

Marilyn Galley

Pat Hansford

Jonathan Kresge

30th: Bob Bell

Joanna Suddueth



22nd: John & Carole Keyser

26th: Jeremy & Lori Baughman

27th: Donald & Patricia Eckard

Charles & Cheryl Strong

(If your birthday or anniversary is this month and does not appear on this list or appears incorrectly, please call the church office or email us at jwumcmd@yahoo.com and let us know. Thank you!)

We continue to evaluate what might be the best methods to bump up our security around the building. I have recently been in contact with the Hagerstown Mayor, Emily Keller. An excerpt from her email response reads:

Thank you for bringing this to my attention, and all that you and your church do for our community. I recently walked that area with a concerned resident and saw where a lot of those activities were taking place. I have a call with our police chief and will ask if they can step up patrols in that area again. We have 2 officers on bikes now so it should be easy for them to come through. The last thing we want is anyone to feel unsafe so I will make sure this is a priority.

I am currently working with HUD to bring in specialists from across the country to have a homeless summit. My hopes is that I can get local organizations on board with using proven methods that work across the country and bring those methods here to Hagerstown, to help get people off of the street. I am hoping to have this very early next year and include the new Governor and administration so they can hear and see our issues and hopefully provide funding to help.

I'm sorry you are dealing with these issues, but I will try to help all that I can. Thank you again for letting me know. — Emily Keller, Mayor

We love our amazing old building, but it takes a lot of work to keep it updated and safe, and to pay the utility bills. We remind you that we are still using the Building Fund envelopes that come with your weekly offering envelopes.

Thank you for helping to keep our building welcoming. If you see an item of concern, report it. We all need to work to keep our building beautiful and safe.

And thank you to all the members of the Board of Trustees, and also to Buck Shipley, for all your help this past year. A lot of work was required. A lot of work was accomplished.

Take care, stay safe, and God Bless

Barbara Hoover, Chair

George Stone, Susan Saunders, Ken Harnage, Larry Suddueth, Joe White

Attendance & Offering Report

November 6 52 \$2,440.92 November 13 52 2,204.00 November 20 58 1,256.54

Blessings, Sheila & Sherry



A Note from the Financial Secretary

Thank you to everyone who provides financial gifts for the ministries of John Wesley United Methodist Church. This year, Christmas morning, Sunday, December 25th will be the last time FINANCIAL SUPPORT we have the opportunity to place



offerings in the plate at Church to be reflected on your 2022 Giving Statement. Many of our congregants mail their contributions to the church office or give electronically through VANCO. It would be most helpful if any contributions you wish to have reflected on your 2022 Giving Statement are mailed early enough to reach the Church Office by Wednesday, December 28th. If you are giving electronically, please remember that there is a two-day transaction period, so these gifts as well should be made by December 28th so that they will post by December 30th for credit in this calendar year. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me, and again, thank you for your continued financial support of the ministries of John Wesley United Methodist Church.

Wishing you and those you love a blessed Advent and Christmas season,

Sheila Collins, Financial Secretary

MUSIC LESSONS MINISTRY

"Born in You: the Mysticism of Advent"

Saturday, December 17

Cost: Free

Go deeper this Advent with mystical practices that can help you discover the hidden meaning of the season. Join composer and spiritual coach Stephen Pompa as we explore the incarnation of Christ, and how all of us are called to take part in the story of His birth.

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1st: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast

1st: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study

Session 3 - "Names of God"

9:00am, Sunday School for all ages 4th:

4th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship

Deadline to order poinsettias!!

7th: 7:00pm, HLW - Advent Study

8th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study

Session 4 - "Names of God"

8th: 7:00pm, Trustees Team Meeting

10th: 2:00pm, Christmas Supper Club

11th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages

11th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship

11th: 10:30am, Worship with Pageant

14th: 7:00pm, HLW - Advent Study

15th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study

Session 5 - "Names of God"

17th: 2:00pm, Music Lessons Ministry

18th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages

18th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship

19th: Partner deadline

21st: 7:00pm, HLW - Advent Study

22nd: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study

Session 6 - "Names of God"

24th: 7:00pm, Christmas Eve Service

25th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship

Church Office Closed 26th:



PUZZLE PAGE



Share the good news of Jesus' birth in a creative way.



What you need:

- Newspaper
- Bible
- Smooth, clean stones
- Pencil
- Oil paint pens
- Adult help



What you do:

- 1. In a well-ventilated area, cover a work surface with newspaper.
- 2. Read Luke 2:1-20 and choose key people and places to draw.
- 3. In pencil, sketch one drawing on each stone.
- 4. Follow directions on paint pens to fill drawings with color. Let dry.
- 5. Hide stones for younger siblings to find, set out a new stone each day or order them in a row and tell the Nativity story.





Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



Shepherds
Child
Nazareth
Census
Baby
David
Mary
Travel
Town
Register
Born

T	В	W	Υ	Α	Z	K	Ε	S	Н	N	G	D	J	K
Q	0	Υ	Α	Р	R	Α	L	В	F	Р	ı	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	В	Ε	Y	R	М	В	D	М	0	Е	Ε
S	N	0	N	W	G	Α	I	В	Α	С	D	0	Т	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	М	٧	В	R	R	С	Е	0
P	S	С	Ε	N	S	U	S	Н	Υ	U	Υ	F	Р	N
0	T	Р	I	G	T	Q	С	N	T	G	М	U	S	T
0	Α	N	D	В	Ε	С	Н	I	L	D	N	Z	F	Α
Α	T	В	Α	U	R	W	Н	G	F	٧	Α	В	U	M
Т	R	Α	٧	Е	L	J	С	Н	٧	0	Z	G	N	Н
F	В	Q	I	W	D	X	Р	Т	Е	N	Α	0	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	Н	Е	Р	Н	Ε	R	D	S	٧
R	U	٧	Υ	K	N	I	R	Т	K	G	Ε	Υ	T	R
K	٧	Α	Z	X	L	S	Н	Y	Т	Р	Т	J	S	K
L	L	Ε	S	М	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	Н	٧	W	X

"Today in the town of David	a
has been born to you; he is th	e Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11, NIV

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER 2022 PARTNER



TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.

Matthew 1:22, ESV

