

## Week of January 3 - 10, 2021

Sunday, January 3	11:00 a.m. - <b>Online Worship - Pastor William's Welcoming!</b> 3:00 p.m. - Methodist Youth Fellowship – <i>Zoom meeting</i>
Monday, January 4	7:00 p.m. - <b>Stephen Ministers Meeting</b>
Tuesday, January 5	6:18 p.m. - Prayer Group - <i>Postponed</i> - <b>Please join us in prayer at home!</b>
Wednesday, January 6	9:30 a.m. - Ladies' Bible Study - <i>Postponed</i> 6:30 p.m. - Disciple Light Class – <i>Zoom meeting</i>
Sunday, January 10	8:00 a.m. - Men's Study 9:00 a.m. - Adult Bible Study (video conference, please contact Dave Van Arsdale for access information at <a href="mailto:dvanar@yahoo.com">dvanar@yahoo.com</a> ) 11:00 a.m. - <b>Online Worship Service</b> 3:00 p.m. - Methodist Youth Fellowship – <i>Zoom meeting</i>

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Our worship services will be offered exclusively online until further notice due to concerns with COVID-19 and the safety of our congregation. Likewise, all meetings will be limited to no more than 10 people with masks and observing safe distancing. Check with your group's leader or call the church office if you have questions.*

## A Warm Welcome to Pastor William!

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### St. Pauly's Shed has Reopened!!

**After being closed due to Covid-19 restrictions, St. Pauly's Shed has reopened and they will be regularly picking up donated items.** The clothing collected is sent to people all over the world. It helps our environment by keeping the clothing out of our landfills and helps those in need. The shed is for clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes, and stuffed toys only. **No rags, fabric scraps, pillows, toys, or household goods, please.** Tax-deductible sheets are located on the shed. Please put your donations in a bag and tie it. Many thanks to all of you who utilize St. Pauly's Shed.

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### Share a Word of Encouragement...

Do you have something in your heart you'd like to share that would encourage others? Your words may be a source of comfort and strength to those who read them. If you would like to participate, please share a short meditation, connecting it to scripture, and end with a short prayer. **Please send your meditations to Sue at [savanarsdale@yahoo.com](mailto:savanarsdale@yahoo.com).** The Word of Encouragement email is sent on Wednesdays, and it is also posted on Facebook. Thank you for sharing!

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### Help...Hope...Healing...



Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who receive special training to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation and community experiencing challenges in life – grief, loneliness, hospitalization, disability, job loss, and many other life difficulties. To receive care or learn more, please contact Sue Van Arsdale or Rev. Mark Vale.

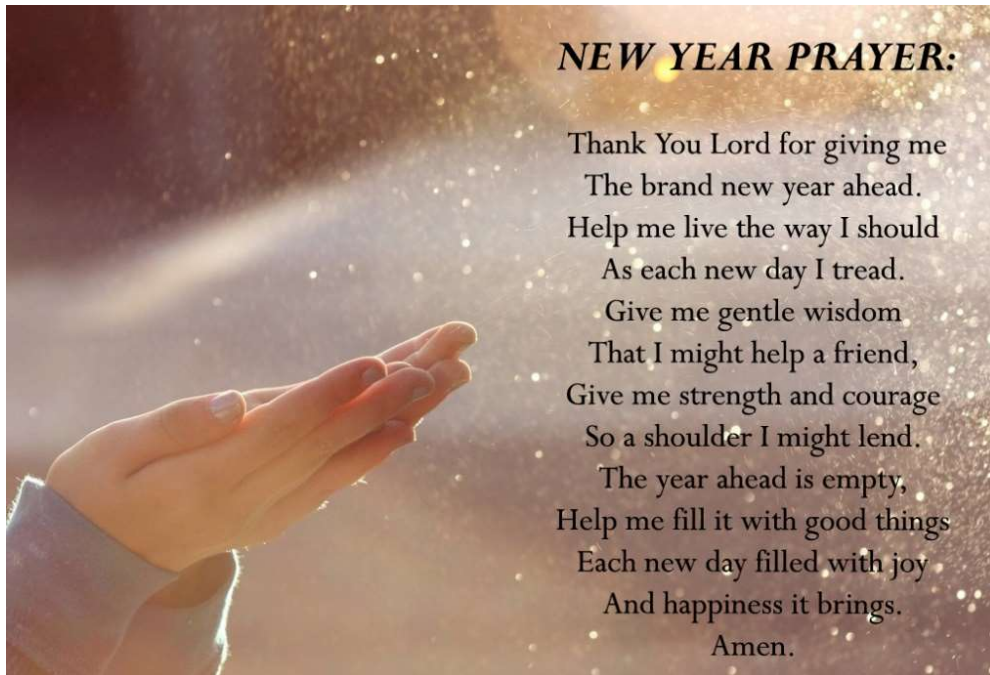
## Share a Special Moment

You are invited and encouraged to share your gifts during worship (currently worship will be online/recorded). During the Special Moment (5 minutes or less), you can share a song, a reflection, a poem, a story, a testimony, a liturgical dance, or whatever God puts in your heart. **You may call the church office with questions or to sign up.**

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## Church Offering Envelopes

If you are needing offering envelopes, please let Linda in the church office know by either sending an email ([laporteumc@laportechurch.org](mailto:laporteumc@laportechurch.org)) or by calling (440-458-5717) and envelopes will be produced for you. Thanks!  
Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 9am – 2pm; Fridays: 9am - Noon



### ***NEW YEAR PRAYER:***

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.

## WORSHIP GUIDE

Sunday January 3rd, 2021

NOTICE: PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE ON THE ITEMS MARKED WITH AN \*

### GATHERING

*We invite you to give your full and undivided attention to the presence of God as revealed through Scripture, music, prayers, and the presence of each other.*

### WELCOMING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*Adagio, G.F. Handel*

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

O Come all ye faithful, Come and behold him, born the King of angels  
Yea Lord we greet thee, Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing,  
All gather to glorify and worship You.

#### \* OPENING PRAYER

#### \* HYMN

*The First Noel*

245 UMH

1 The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

5 Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
full reverently upon the knee,  
and offered there, in his presence,  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]

2 They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
(Refrain)

3 And by the light of that same star  
three Wise Men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

**SERVICE OF WELCOMING PASTOR WILLIAM BAKER** (see attachment)

**HYMN**

***Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (Sing twice) 349 UMH***

1. O soul, are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There's light for a look at the Savior,  
And life more abundant and free!

Refrain:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.

2. Thro' death into life everlasting,  
He passed, and we follow Him there;  
O'er us sin no more hath dominion--  
For more than conqu'rors we are!

3. His Word shall not fail you--He promised;  
Believe Him, and all will be well:  
Then go to a world that is dying,  
His perfect salvation to tell!

**PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER**

**\* OFFERTORY**

**\*Doxology UMH 95**

**\* SERMON TEXT                   Matthew 2:1-12 NIV**

**The Magi Visit the Messiah**

**2** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**MESSAGE:                           All are Drawn to the Light**

**HYMN***We Three Kings*

254 UMH

1 We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

3 Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

5 Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

**BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE***Echo Alleluia, Henry Purcell*