

Charge Clarion

December 2025

Pastor Dave's Corner:

“Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, as it is written: ‘The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.’”— 2 Corinthians 8:13–15 (NIV)

As the seasons turn from Thanksgiving to Advent/Christmas to a New Year, we’re invited to reflect with gratitude on God’s generosity and what God has done and look forward to the hope God brings in and through Jesus Christ. Advent, in the early church, was not a countdown to Christmas but a season more like Lent—quiet, introspective, and filled with holy anticipation. As the nights grow longer, we’re invited to slow down, breathe deeply, and remember what matters most: God’s gracious gift of his only Son, Emmanuel, God with us.

That theme of gracious giving reminded me of something that we probably don’t give a second thought about. It doesn’t twinkle or sparkle but shines even brighter, a sign of God’s generosity—our Mission Shares.

Mission Shares (formerly called apportionments) are our United Methodist way of living out the vision Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 8–9. When Paul traveled among the Gentile churches, he encouraged them to support the persecuted believers in Jerusalem who were enduring poverty and famine. Not out of guilt or pressure, but because they belonged to one another, the body of Christ. Their “plenty” would meet another’s need, and someday another’s plenty might meet their needs.

Our Mission Shares are a practical expression of Christian connectionalism. Through Mission Shares, our congregation joins with hundreds of other United Methodist churches across Maryland, D.C., West Virginia, the nation, and the world to do ministry no one church could do alone. Together we:

- support campus ministries shaping the next generation of leaders,
- train pastors and equip lay ministers,
- fund camping ministries at three conference campsites,
- support Africa University and our 10 historically Black colleges,
- provide disaster response and recovery through UMCOR,
- engage in ministries of justice, mercy, and community transformation,
- nurture new faith expressions and congregational revitalization.

This is only a short list. There is so much more. This happens through a model of shared giving grounded in mutual care—Paul’s “fair balance.”

From every dollar in tithes and offerings, about eleven cents supports Mission Shares. Those eleven cents travel farther than we ever could, touching lives across the world. *(See illustration on following page.)*

As Advent dawns, let us reflect on the One who came to us as pure gift. Mission Shares gently remind us of that truth: value is found not in how much we keep, but in how faithfully we share. As the new year begins, may we continue the holy work of sharing what God has given us through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Thank you for the generosity you’ve already shown—and for being part of a church that believes we can do far more together than any of us could do alone.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Dave

WE ARE FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF EVERY DOLLAR WE RECEIVE

For every hundred dollars put in a collection plate or through other means of giving at the local church:

89% Stays with Local Church

11% Goes Toward Mission Shares as follows:



\$4.80 GOES TOWARD BWC MINISTRIES

\$3.10 GOES TOWARD BWC OPERATIONS & FINANCE

\$2.20 SUPPORTS THE GENERAL CHURCH*

*Your \$2.20 that support the General Church goes toward the World Service Fund, Africa University Fund, Black College Fund, General Administration Fund, Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, Ministerial Education Fund and Northeast Jurisdictional Mission Shares.

\$0.85 GOES TOWARD BWC ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNICATIONS

\$0.05 GOES TOWARD BWC DEBT REDUCTION

All Saints Sunday

We remembered the saints who died since All Saints Sunday 2024

Marshall Fleming (PS), Jane Wick (JC) and Shirley Smith (JC)



All Saints altar at Poplar Springs



Jennings Chapel altar for All Saints Sunday



MORGAN'S COFFEE HOUSE

6750 Woodbine Rd – Woodbine, Md. 21797

410-970-485

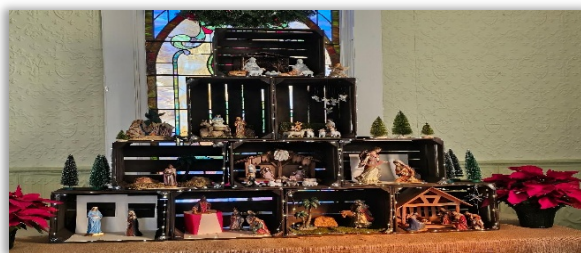
coffeehouse@morganchapel.church

Doors open at 5:30pm & music starts at 7pm
Free Admission ♦ Food for Sale ♦ Donations Encouraged

December 12: Circa Blue – annual holiday show

December 31: Seneca Creek Bluegrass Band

January 16: AJ's Jazz Band



Beginning the first Sunday of Advent, the Poplar Springs sanctuary will have the PUTZ starting to grow. Each week more scenes will be in place. Then, on Sunday, January 4, during the 11:00 worship service we will show each scene and read the scripture that tells about the scene. We hope that you will join us each week to watch the scenes come together. Then on January 4, join us to hear the story of Jesus' birth.

St. Michael's Food Cellar

Jennings Chapel supports the St. Michaels food cellar. Please bring your canned goods to church on the 1st Sunday of the month or take them directly to St. Michael's Catholic Church.

Morgan Chapel Food & Pet Pantry

Poplar Springs supports the Morgan Chapel Food & Pet Pantry. Please bring your canned goods or check to church on the 1st Sunday of the month or take them directly to the back of the Morgan Chapel church, open the door, and leave them in the foyer. **Thanks for Giving!**

Happy Birthday

December

1-Doug Macuch
7-Rosemary Beall
Amanda German
9-Pattie Lamberti
15-Bella Reifsnider
18-Mary Delph
19-Angela Delph
Rebecca Hamilton
27-Sophia German
29-Averie Brooke
Ueltschy
Gunner Floyd
30-Donna Bennett

January

2-Clay Nichols
3-Inge Seiling
7-Marge Cissel
8-Rhonda Newcomer
10-Ann Sansing
18-Mike Musgrove
19-Ollie Bennett
20-Margaret Johnson
Paris Macuch
22-Justin Johnson
30-Keith Bennett
Roy Van Norman
Debbie Wilk



**Community
Choir Christmas
Cantata**
"Shout the Good News"



December 14, 7pm at Liberty Baptist
1200 Madison Street
Lisbon, MD

Jennings Chapel is collecting new,
unwrapped toys now through December 14th.
The collection box is located in the
Fellowship Hall.



The Poplar Springs Christmas Party will be Sunday, December 7th
Join us for a luncheon following worship

**COOKIE WALK TO SUPPORT THE
POPLAR SPRINGS/JENNINGS CHAPEL UMC
YOUTH MISSION FUND**

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21st 3PM @ JENNINGS CHAPEL UMC

Our community will be providing a large assortment of homemade cookies and treats to help you fill your \$20 prepaid box. Cookies will be first come first serve so please make sure to be there by **3pm** to fill your box. Additional boxes will be available to purchase at the door, depending on cookie availability starting at 3:30 - 4pm, for \$25 per box.

If you are able to make and contribute, at least a double batch of homemade cookies/treats to this event, please contact one of the volunteers listed below. We are looking for any specialty homemade cookies or treats that can be placed into a Ziploc snack bag.

Our volunteers listed below will be accepting cash, checks made payable to **Poplar Springs UMC** or electric payment using this QR Code



Shirley Musgrove 240-723-595 or Dawn Watkins 240 372 5737

CR0ZY-FRANKENSTEIN.COM



Merry Christmas

Lectionary

December 2025 & January 2026

December 7, 2025

- Isaiah 11:1-10
- Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
- Romans 15:4-13
- Matthew 3:1-12

Narrative: Ezekiel 37:1-14

December 14, 2025

- Isaiah 35:1-10
- Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55
- James 5:7-10
- Matthew 11:2-11

Narrative: Isaiah 55:1-13

December 21, 2025

- Isaiah 7:10-16
- Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- Romans 1:1-7
- Matthew 1:18-25

Narrative: John 1:1-18

December 28, 2025

- Isaiah 63:7-9
- Psalm 148
- Hebrews 2:10-18
- Matthew 2:13-23

Narrative: John 1:19-34

January 4, 2026

- Jeremiah 31:7-14
- Psalm 147:12-20
- Ephesians 1:3-14
- John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Narrative: John 1:35-51

January 11, 2026

- Isaiah 42:1-9
- Psalm 29
- Acts 10:34-43
- Matthew 3:13-17

Narrative: John 2:1-11

January 18, 2026

- Isaiah 49:1-7
- Psalm 40:1-11
- 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- John 1:29-42

Narrative: John 2:13-25

January 25, 2026

- Isaiah 9:1-4
- Psalm 27:1, 4-9
- 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
- Matthew 4:12-23

Narrative: John 3:1-21



MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR

December 2025

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Cantata rehearsal, 7pm at Liberty Baptist			Poplar choir practice at Mary's, 3 pm Hub Advent bible study 7pm via zoom		A Main Street Christmas – Tree Lighting & Santa Parade in downtown Mt. Airy, 5:30pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Morgan Chapel & St. Michael's food pantry collection Poplar Springs Christmas Luncheon - after Worship	Cantata rehearsal, 7pm at Liberty Baptist	JC Ad Board meeting, 7pm		Poplar choir practice at Mary's, 3 pm Hub Advent bible study 7pm via zoom	Morgan's Coffeehouse Holiday Show 7pm	The Great Lisbon Farmers Feed the Hungry Christmas Parade, 12pm downtown Lisbon
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Community Choir Christmas Cantata, 7pm at Liberty Baptist			Longest Night Service, 7 pm at Howard Chapel- Ridgeville	Poplar choir practice at Mary's, 3 pm. Hub Advent bible study 7pm via zoom		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Cookie Walk, 3pm at Jennings			Christmas Eve Service at Jennings Chapel, 7pm	Christmas Day		
28	29	30	31			
			New Year's Eve Morgan's Coffeehouse NYE Show 7pm			



January 2026

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1	2	3
				New Year's Day		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Morgan Chapel & St. Michael's food pantry collection		Poplar Ad Board meeting, 7pm		Poplar choir practice at Mary's, 3 pm Hub Bible study 7pm via zoom		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		JC Ad Board meeting, 7pm		Poplar choir practice at Mary's, 3 pm. Hub Bible study 7pm via zoom-Philippians	Morgan's Coffeehouse Jazz show 7pm	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day			Poplar choir practice at Mary's, 3 pm Hub Bible study 7pm via zoom-Philippians		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
				Poplar choir practice at Mary's, 3 pm Hub Bible study 7pm via zoom-Phil.		



POPLAR SPRINGS U.M. CHARGE

2601 Jennings Chapel Road

Woodbine Md. 21797