



# MIDWAY MESSENGER

3238 Midway Road, Anderson, SC 29621



Dear Friends,

While the Thanksgiving Holiday has just ended, the malls are all decorated for Christmas. The Ice on Main opened on November 15—a mini-Rockefeller Center ice rink. Christmas music is being played: “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” “Frosty the Snowman,” and “Jingle Bells.”

Even though there are many happy things we associate with Christmas, we know that there are many who face heartache and sickness. A loved one will not be at the Christmas Dinner this year or is dealing with a serious illness. People in Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza have had their lives upended. Hostages are held with an uncertain fate.

Therefore, it is fitting to recall that the Good News of Great Joy came first to lowly shepherds keeping their sheep out in the fields; that our Savior and Lord was born in a stable among the animals because there was no place for him in the inn; that God’s love and presence is not just for the strong and successful, but also for the weak and heavy laden, the out-cast and forgotten.

All the readings for all the various Christmas liturgies proclaim the same mystery of The Incarnation; that in the fullness of time, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. (Jn. 1:14a) God not only creates life and sustains it, he chooses to enter it and become one of us. Whatever the circumstances of our lives right now—grief or joy, struggle or success, doubt or faith, betrayal or love—Jesus lived it all himself, and he longs to live it with us. Let us then open the door to him and know his peace and joy.

*O Little Town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight,*

Peace and joy,  
John McCallum





### Annual Congregational Meeting

The Session has called for our annual Congregational Meeting to be held following Worship on Sunday, December 10. Dr. McCallum will note some of the highlights of 2023 and the 2024 Budget will be presented.

### Advent Service



Lickville Presbyterian Church is hosting an Advent Service on Thursday, December 7, at noon. A light lunch will follow. Also there will be a discussion of the future of FACE-UP. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

### Parish Care Team

The Parish Care Team will meet on Wednesday, December 13, at 1:00 p.m., in the Church Activities Building.



### Midway Christmas Party

Everyone is invited to our Christmas Party on Friday, December 8, at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The cost of the catered meal is \$15.00 per person, and your reservations need to be in by Sunday, December 3.

If you have difficulty driving at night, please call the church office and arrangements will be made for you to be picked up.

You are invited to bring canned and boxed food items, toiletries, and warm clothing (hats, gloves, scarfs, socks, etc.) for the Salvation Army.



Our thanks to Keith and Bob Wentzky for placing the flags in the cemetery for Veteran's Day



### What Stewardship Means to Me by Roz Rozakos

On November 14th Dr. McCallum and I attended the Presbytery Meeting at First Church, Anderson. The last speakers were from the Committee on Stewardship. They asked us to discuss what stewardship means to us with the person seated next to us (who for me was Dr. McCallum).

We covered the most logical answers: giving of our time, talents, and tithes and offerings. Dr. McCallum said it also means taking care of our planet (example: recycling). To me it is also caring for all of God's creatures. Job 12:7 and 10: says, "But ask the animals and they will teach you or the birds of the air and they will tell you. In His hand is the life of every creature."



### Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Service

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Service will be held on Sunday evening, December 24, at 5:00 p.m. The annual Christmas Joy Offering will be received. Bring your family and friends. There will not be a 10:30 a.m. Worship Service that morning.

### Installation/Ordination of Elders

Having approved the examination of our newly elected Elders, the Session has designated Sunday, December 31 as the date for Bob Bone and Elaine Gilmore to be installed, and Kent Saunders to be ordained and installed. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.



### Financial Report as of November 24, 2023

	Budget	Needs	to	Date
\$140,746.83				
Budget Receipts to Date		\$139,451.75		
Spent to Date		\$147,968.60		
Special Offerings		\$ 8,474.12		
Heat & A/C Offerings		\$ 15,279.00		

*"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops." ~Proverbs 3:9*



**SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER**

**Pulpit**

- Dec. 3 Jacky Stamps
- 10 Tom Waddell
- 17 Dee Ashworth
- 24 No Morning Service
- 31 Roz Rozakos

**Head Usher**

- Dec. 3 Marilyn Martin
- 10 Jacky Stamps
- 17 Amy Morris
- 24 No Morning Service
- 31 Keith Wentzky

**Sunday School**

**Secretaries**

- Dec. 3 Amy Morris
- 10 Jacky Stamps
- 17 Sammy Stevenson
- 24 No Morning Service
- 31 Amy Morris



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 5 Kathy Gilmore
- 11 Linda Hawkins
- 19 John Dodwell
- 31 Ryan Morris

# WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS



**Legacy Academy Students @Holiday Fair**



**Legacy Academy Students Studying Outside**



**Thanks to Keith Wentzky for making the view safer to exit from the church office parking lot**



**Stephanie Kern on the USS Eisenhower in the Mediterranean Sea**



**Thanksgiving Congregational Dinner**



**Having lunch with Sarah Cornell & Amos Workman at Presbytery Meeting**

Great thanks to everyone who made our Fall Fundraiser a success...most especially to Kitty Burge who continued to sell some of the items on Anderson Marketplace, raising another \$130, to bring our total to \$1,736. **The item donations:**

Clothing, toiletries, plus many gift cards for the youngsters in district 5's Homeless Kids Program. \$348, clothing; \$140, toiletries; (some were also purchased & delivered for the start of the school year, using leftover fundraised monies from 2022); \$1,000 in clothing and fast-food gift cards.



**The baked goods:**



**Along with the generosity of Ray Keiper and George Mason's wonderful woodworked items:**



**\$70 for gifts for the elderly at Presbyterian Community Home in Clinton:**

**\$196 for Freedom Bags (toiletries and clothing) for two young women being saved from sex trafficking by Blue Dragonfly:**



**\$258 for toys and clothing for our adopted youngster, 7-year-old Eli, at Calvary Home:**

We may be a small congregation, but we're mighty when it comes to Outreach! Once again, many thanks to all who donated items, brought in baked goods, and worked the fair to make this year's fundraiser a success. You helped fill some needs in our community and brought some Christian love and Christmas joy to others. You're a blessing, and I pray that you'll be blessed tenfold in return. In the words of Helen Steiner Rice:

Seldom do we realize the importance of small deeds,  
 or to what degree of greatness unnoticed kindness leads.  
 So please do not sit idly, wishing for some new dimensions  
 where you can put in practice your many good intentions.  
 But at the spot God placed you, begin at once to do  
 little things to brighten up the lives surrounding you.

Thank you, Linda Mylod