



The Dingmans Ferry
United Methodist Church
THE BRIDGE
Newsletter

January/
February
2025

Happy New Year!

From the Pastor's Pen... 

In the season of the new year, I always think of Jacob, who struggled with himself and wrestled with God before crossing the Jabbok River. I think his story in Genesis 32 shows us the resistance against change or growth.

As we step into the new year, many of us find ourselves reflecting on the changes we desire and the growth we aspire to achieve. However, change and growth would be difficult, and one main reason for difficulty is resistance - an unconscious desire to hold on to what feels stable and familiar. We may feel like stability in resistance, but it may be a deceptive trap that leads to stagnation.

True growth requires us to confront this resistance and step out of our comfort zones, and meet God and let God "wrestle" with us for the transformative work. How can we overcome this resistance?

First, we must have unwavering certainty in God's guidance. The future may be uncertain to us, but it is never uncertain to God. Trusting in God wisdom and love allows us to move forward, even when the path ahead is unclear.

Second, we need to be open to new ideas, new people, and new experiences. It does not mean abandoning our core beliefs; it means welcoming the new ideas, new people, new experiences to our current missions and ministries, so that we may expect God's continuous blessings to grow our missions and ministries.

Third, we must let go of our desire to control every outcome. Control may feel like safety, but it often limits the opportunities for God to surprise us with God's blessings. It is how we acknowledge God's works among us.

Finally, we need to keep in mind that "growing pains" is worthwhile for us to be faithful disciples together. Each challenge we face and overcome strengthens our faith and brings us closer to the image of Christ.

As we embark on this journey together, let us encourage one another to step into the dynamic life that God calls us to live. May this new year be one where we embrace change, grow in faith, and experience the joy of trusting God's perfect plan.

Servant of God and God's people, Sung

Bible Study will resume on **Tuesday
January 7th** at 10AM and
Wednesday January 8th at 6:30PM



Hey Youth!

(Middle School & High School Students)



you are invited to
Dingmans Ferry UMC
(115 Myck Road)



every first Sunday of the month 5-6:30PM
movies, games, activities, food, stories, friends, & God!



DINGMANS FERRY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER MEETING
AT 8:30PM ON FACEBOOK



We invite you to share your prayer concerns and joys with us.

Faith is not meant to be lived alone. This is why God has called us to be in community. We take your prayer request very seriously and will pray with and for you. Requests can be announced in church or kept private.

Where do you find joys in the midst of this crisis?

Where do you see God at work during this time?

If you have any prayer concerns and/or joys that you would like Pastor Sung to lift up during Sunday Worship Service, please submit them by noon on Friday so they can be included in Sunday's service.



The Little Church In The Woods Presents



Soup Bowl



Sunday

**Tell
A
Friend!**

January 12th

**Tell
Two
Friends!**

10AM to 12:30PM

**Beef & Bean Chili, Manhattan Clam Chowder
Cheesy Potato, Chicken Noodle**

\$3./bowl w/ bread eat-in

\$8./quart take out

Freeze Some Chili For Super Bowl Sunday!!!!



Dingmans Ferry United Methodist Church

is on Myck Road off Park Road... behind Childs Park. Call with any questions, 570-828-2288.

Cookie Walk Thanks

This year's Cookie Walk was a great success
thanks to our wonderful DFUMC bakers.
We raised over \$700!

All the funds go to the church budget,
which helps us meet our expenses and support our many ministries.

Our thanks go to our amazing DFUMC bakers who made the fantastic cookies
and to our buyers from the church and community who support this fundraiser.
We hope to have even more cookies next year!

Lastly, MANY THANKS to our wonderful crew
who helped setup and work the Cookie Walk:
Hope Blauvelt, Eleanor Hutter, Mary Balton, Linda Rutledge, Scott and Elise Knaap, Olivia
Harrington, Jill Mann, Sunday School Children.
Together we bake and serve in the name of the Lord!

Want to Help?

If you, your business, or perhaps a few of you,
would love to sponsor the London Broil Community Dinners,
please contact the church office.

The dinners are FREE to the community.
Our Flyers, street signs and announcements will feature
your names unless you prefer to remain anonymous.

The cost for sponsorship is \$400.
Checks should be made out to "DFUMC"
and "London Broil Sponsor" should be noted on the memo line.

Thank you!!

-DFUMC Mission Committee

WE WILL PAINT WITH
Spring Blossoms

COFFEE - AND - CANVAS

\$45

per person

continental breakfast included

To make a reservation
Call 570-828-2288
by Feb. 17th

at Dingmans Ferry
United Methodist Church

FEB. 23RD AT NOON



A decorative graphic featuring a black cross centered at the top. Below the cross, two symmetrical, stylized green leaves with black outlines are positioned on either side. From these leaves, black, swirling vine-like lines extend downwards and outwards, creating a symmetrical, ornate design. The entire graphic is set against a plain white background.

Friends · Family · Neighbors · Co-workers



Let us get to know our new members:
Mandy Librizzi and Ed Moraga

Mandy Librizzi and Eduardo Moraga moved to Dingmans Ferry in July 2016 with their 5 children, Michael, Eduardo, Maximus, Alexander, Isabelle and their dog, Bailey-boos.

Ed is a plumber/HVAC tech in NJ, while Mandy works as administrative support locally. Their son Michael works for a tree company in

NY as a groundman and is learning to operate the bucket. Their son Eduardo works at a NJ retail store while attending trade school to follow in his father's footsteps. Their son Maximus is currently in Arizona, completing AIT training for the Army National Guard. Alexander is a sophomore at DVHS, and Isabelle is a 6th grader at DDMS.

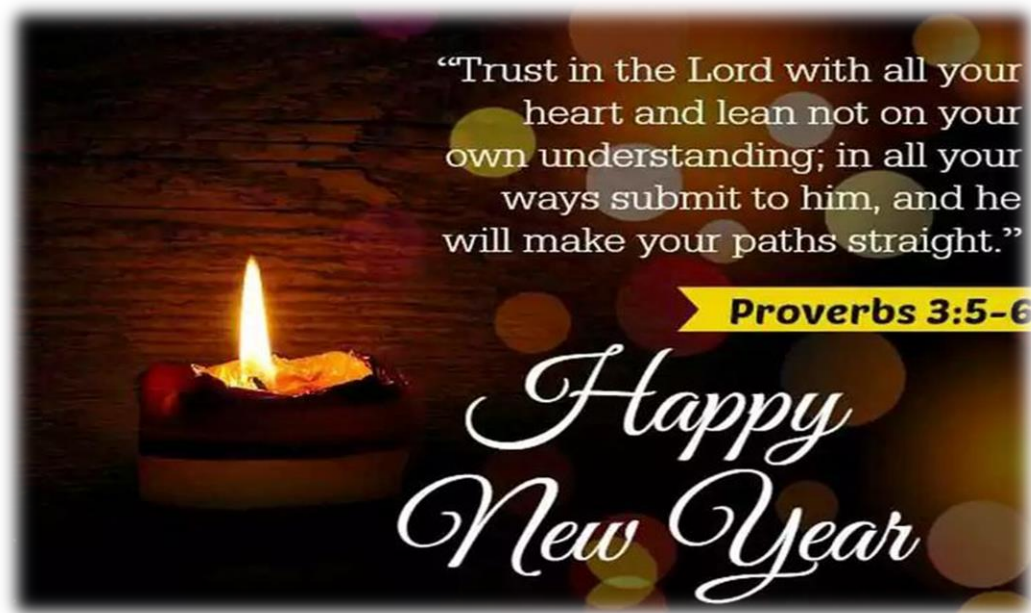
With such a large family, interests vary, but they all can agree that they love sitting around a campfire and sharing the beauty of the great outdoors. Although they have attended our church noncommittally over the course of the years, Mandy and Ed have both volunteered when needed at numerous family events, clothing giveaways, and fundraisers.

Mandy has even joined as a cast member in our last three dinner theatre shows. Mandy & Ed officially became members on December 8, 2024, after their daughter, Isabelle, attended church avidly with another family for over a year.

After a job change opened Mandy's availability on Sunday mornings, and life slowed down a bit for the couple, they found the time to attend with Isabelle.

"We just knew it was the place we wanted to be. Everyone accepted our daughter as part of the 'church family' and for us to hear from members how much they love and adore her; how could we not want to be a part of it. Our favorite part of church is children's time. Growing up Catholic, we had never witnessed the type of engagement that Pastor Sung has with the children, getting quite literally on the ground with them at their level and making sure they understand the message. It fills our hearts with joy every week."





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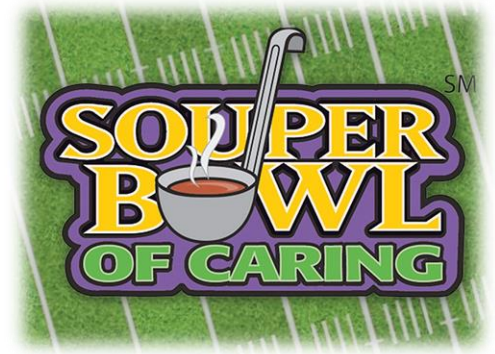
**If you haven't done so  
already.....  
Please take your 2025  
Offering Envelopes.**  
(They are in alphabetical order  
on the table in the sanctuary.)

**If you do not see your  
envelopes,  
please see Pastor Sung  
or call the church office any  
morning during the week.  
(570)-828-2288**



## **“Souper Bowl of Caring”**

On February 9, 2025, we will again participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. In 1990, a Presbyterian youth group envisioned getting people to do something about hunger on the day of the Super Bowl. That first year they joined with 22 churches in their area and raised about \$5000. In the years since, churches and some schools in every state have raised over \$170 million in cash and food items which help agencies in each community.



In January we will have the opportunity to bring food items for the food pantry. Watch for a list of items needed in the bulletin. On February 9, we will collect dollars in the soup pots for the Pastor's Outreach Fund. Let's help keep alive the vision of that youth group.

## **“A Voice for Hungry Children”**

For fifty years Bread for the World has been in the ministry of speaking up to members of Congress about the needs of hungry people and how the decisions of Congress affect them. Bread for the World's initiative for 2025, "Nourish the Future," is focused on children and hunger. The measure would include improvements in the delivery of WIC, expansion of the Child Tax Credit, and ways to help college students who face hunger.

In early February, Bread for the World is launching this initiative at their offices in Washington D.C. Members of Congress are being invited. Bread for the World wants people from every state to attend virtually. BFW in Pennsylvania is hoping for 200 participants. Watch for an insert in the bulletin in January about how you can be a part of the launch and a voice for hungry children.

Elaine Cooper, Mission Committee Chair

# **Finance Report for 2024**

**January through December 21st**

**Total Income \$272,320.42**

**Total Offering \$96,850.59 (Included above)**

**Total Pledges \$60,549.25 (Included above)**

**Total Expense \$272,063.37**

*We have made 100% contribution to Shared Ministry!!*





PLEASE SIGN UP

PLEASE SIGN UP  
- FOR -  
**COFFEE  
HOUR**

We need volunteers  
1) to bring goodies to share  
2) to clean up in the kitchen

## January & February Birthdays

### January

1/5: Hailee Campanile  
1/5: Susan Dennison  
1/9: Darlene Mihiel  
1/10: Caroline Marie Riccardi  
1/14: Joe Luciano  
1/15: Pastor Wayne Jones  
1/20: Allyson Solch  
1/20: Carol Birtner  
1/21: Linda Schierloh  
1/21: Rob Balton  
1/21: Gary Stevenson  
1/26: Tess Balton  
1/29: Roselie Grace Riccardi

### February

2/5: Chris Bradley  
2/7: Laurie Clyde  
2/11: Grace Fedorsin  
2/16: Larry Kautz  
2/18: Kate Vivaldo  
2/22: Molly Garerra  
2/23: Jared Odynsky  
2/26: Steven Wollman  
2/27: Colleen Anderson  
2/28: Hope Blauvelt

## GROVE ROOM PROPOSAL

Jerry Schierloh has made a Proposal to the Ad Board of our Church that the Grove Room, adjacent to the Church entrance vestibule, be converted into a Lending Library of Spiritual Books and References.

The proposed Library collection will begin with a significant Collection of Binders of Small Ministry sessions conducted in the Prayer Grove and Church Sanctuary but will further invite Spiritual Books and References from those who would be willing to donate them to the Library. The proposal includes some modification of the small room to make it suitable for such a Collection. There will also, of course, be an established procedure for those checking out and returning references, since this will be a Lending Library. This project will be initiated slowly to see if there's sufficient interest and participation to warrant making it a permanent feature of our Church Ministry options. Jerry invites comments and suggestions from anyone who shares an interest in this Proposal.



## Lectionary Readings of January and February

➤ January 5, 2025 – Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:7–14

Psalm: Psalm 147:12–20

Epistle: Ephesians 1:3–14

Gospel: John 1:[1–9], 10–18

➤ January 6, 2025 – Epiphany of the Lord

Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1–6

Psalm: Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14

Epistle: Ephesians 3:1–12

Gospel: Matthew 2:1–12

➤ January 12, 2025 – Baptism of the Lord (First Sunday after the Epiphany)

Old Testament: Genesis 1:1–5

Psalm: Psalm 29

Epistle: Acts 19:1–7

Gospel: Mark 1:4–11

➤ January 19, 2025 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 3:1–10 [11–20]

Psalm: Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12–20

Gospel: John 1:43–51

➤ January 26, 2025 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Old Testament: Jonah 3:1–5, 10

Psalm: Psalm 62:5–12

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 7:29–31

Gospel: Mark 1:14–20

➤ February 2, 2025 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 18:15–20

Psalm: Psalm 111

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Gospel: Mark 1:21–28

➤ February 9, 2025 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:21–31

Psalm: Psalm 147:1–11, 20c

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:16–23

Gospel: Mark 1:29–39

➤ February 16, 2025 – Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Old Testament: 2 Kings 5:1–14

Psalm: Psalm 30

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:24–27

Gospel: Mark 1:40–45

➤ February 23, 2025 – Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Old Testament: Isaiah 43:18–25

Psalm: Psalm 41

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:18–22

Gospel: Mark 2:1–12



## **ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

Ad Board meetings are usually held bi-monthly.  
The next Ad Board Meeting: **January 27th at 7PM**

### Ad Board Members 2025

|                                                    |                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Pastor: Sungduk Kim                                | Finance Counters - Gary Stevenson/Sally Pohlman |
| Ad Council Chairperson - Donna Frable              | Trustee Chairperson - Scott Knapp               |
| Ad Council Secretary - Linda Rutledge              | Worship Chairperson - Destiny & Nicole          |
| Lay Leader - Carol Birtner                         | Sunday School - Olivia Harrington               |
| Alt. Lay Member - Linda Schierloh                  | Missions Chairperson - Elaine Cooper            |
| SPRC Chairperson - Carol Magazino                  | UMW - Jill Mann                                 |
| Finance Chairperson - Mary Balton                  | UMM - Seth Natter                               |
| Church Treasurer - Susan Dennison & Darlene Mihiel | Communications- Tom Hahn, Linda Rutledge        |
| Recording Secretary - David Cowan                  |                                                 |

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### **The Next SPRC Meeting is TBA**

Those serving on the SPRC for 2025 are:  
Carol Magazino, Susan Ridyard, Olivia Harrington,  
Jill Mann, Sally Pohlman, Linda Rutledge, and Carol Birtner.

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## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Our talents, possessions, and time are all gifts from God. Our offerings and gifts are our return to God through DFUMC. Your weekly and monthly offerings are our most important source of funds to support our ministries and missions.

The following persons are serving on the Finance Committee for 2025:  
Pastor Sung, Carol Birtner, Mary Balton, Donna Frable,  
Susan Dennison, Darlene Mihiel, and Dave Cowan.

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Those serving as Trustees for 2025 are:  
Rob Balton, Seth Natter, John Magazino, David Ridyard, Billy Freeland,  
Paul Wojcik, and Scott Knapp.



**DINGMANS FERRY**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
for more info. call 570-828-2288



## Nursing Home Ministry

*Please Join Us!*

During the month we get together with the nursing home residents of Milford Rehab Center, DV Personal Care Center, and DV Rehab Center for the communion service with hymn singing and scripture reading.

Our monthly visits give us the great honor and opportunity to visit and serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

### Our Schedule for

#### **DV Personal Care 2pm**

January 12th

February 9th

#### **DV Rehab Center 2pm**

January

February

#### **Milford Rehab Center 2pm**

February 2nd

June 10th

We invite you to please join us!  
If you have any questions....  
Talk to Jill Mann or Pastor Sung



## WOODCARVERS & Sewing, Crocheting & Etc.

Our Woodcarving, Sewing & Etc. group meets on Wednesday's from 9am- Noon in the Fellowship Hall.

If you've never done either before, don't let that stop you! We can teach you enough to get you started.

Come & Join us!!

It's Lots of FUN!

Talk to Gary Stevenson or  
Carol Birtner if you want  
more information.





# Gather TriState Gather25

This is **Gather** <sup>TM</sup> (25)

Every Believer. Every Continent.

Together across 25 hours

Feb 28, 2025 8:00pm - Mar 1, 2025 9:00pm EST

Gather25 is an unprecedented 25-hour global broadcast event telling the inspiring stories of the global Church, by the global Church. But it won't be a gathering of the global Church without you.

For 25 hours, Gather25 is inviting believers across the world to pray, repent, worship, and discover how the love of Jesus is transforming the world through everyday people.

This is an invitation to join with fellow believers in the TriState area to participate together from one single location - This is our moment in history to come together, be inspired by the stories of how God is moving across the earth, and be excited to share Jesus everywhere!

For more information  
and to register for the  
event scan the QR code:

