

Welcome to
Maggie Valley United Methodist Church
December 10, 2023 Second Sunday of Advent
10:30 am Worship Service

THE GATHERING

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY
PRELUDE

We greet our neighbors in Christ's name
Low, How A Rose E'er Blooming

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**If you have a prayer request or celebration that you would like to share with us, please complete the prayer card and an usher will collect them during the first song.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Now is the time to get ready:

P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord!

L: Now is the time to be changed:

P: Let us repent and seek God's forgiveness.

L: Now is the time to welcome God into our midst:

P: We will worship God in humble expectation.

HYMN OF WORSHIP "Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates" #213

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "The Apostles Creed" #881

PRAISE AND RESPONSE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess that we resist change, even when your Word compels us to reconsider our actions or opinions. We are set in our ways, and prefer to consider the changes others should make. Forgive us. By the power of your Holy Spirit, give us new eyes for seeing, new ears for hearing so that we follow Jesus more faithfully day by day.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, trust that peace and forgiveness are God's gift to you this day through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Receive the renewing power of the Holy Spirit and be at peace with God, with yourselves and with each other. Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE: The Candle of Peace – Ken and Beth Brown

Isaiah 40:1-11

40:1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: We light the candle of Peace with thanksgiving for the comfort we find in God's love.

Congregation: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"
Luke 2:14

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

John Hinton

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

CHORAL AMEN

GLORIA PATRI #71
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE **"Lord I Want To Be A Christian"** #402

OFFERTORY PRAYER
This Sunday in Advent celebrates God's gift of peace. When we look around the world, we see so many places where peace is missing, in neighborhoods and nations, even at times in our church. But because we know the gift of God's peace, we can trust that our gifts will help restore true peace to souls and situations by the power of the Spirit.

OFFERTORY I Need Thee Every Hour- Mark Strayer accompanied by Pavel Wlosok

DOXOLOGY #95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

GOD'S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Mark 1:1-8
MESSAGE **"John the Baptist and The Baptism of Repentance"** *Pastor Mike*

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE

HYMN OF DEDICATION **"Angels from the Realms of Glory"** #220

THE BLESSING
POSTLUDE There's Something About That Name

Cover Text: Luke 1:49

Cover Image: Shutterstock

Scripture quotation is taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 23, 2018: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55.

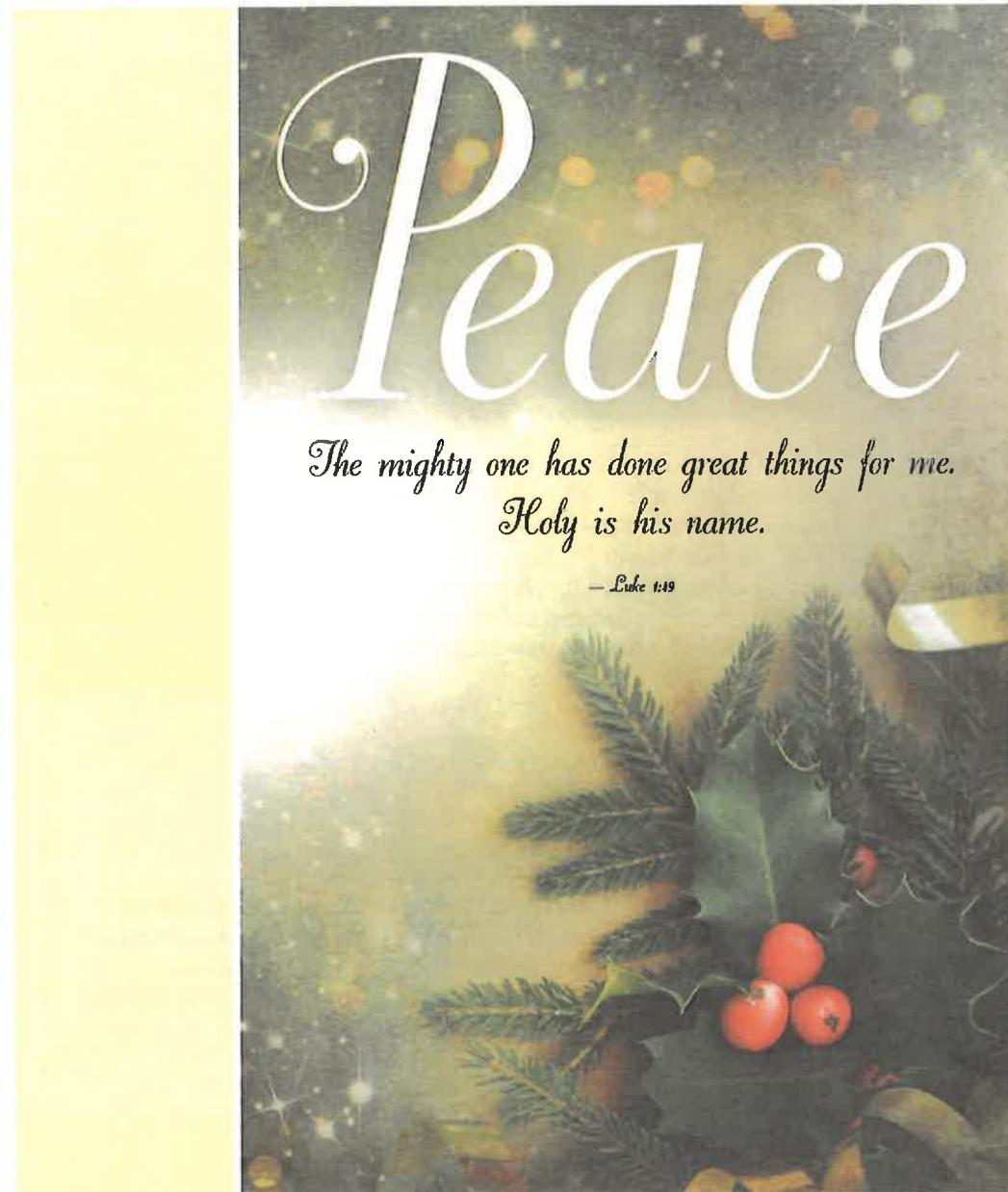
Published by Word Alive!®

L12184

Word Alive!
USA & UK

Dr. Jae Lee

A Moment of Privilege



Upcoming Events

Our Church Food Pantry operates on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am until noon. We are asking that everyone in the congregation **bring BAR SOAP, TOOTHBRUSHES/TOOTHPASTE, SHAMPOO, RAMEN NOODLES, FRUIT GRANOLA BARS, GRITS, INSTANT OATMEAL, CRACKERS, and COOKIES this month.** Personal hygiene items are appreciated also. Thank you for helping! If anyone has winter coats they would like to donate, please bring them to the Food Pantry. **We will be closed on Wednesday, November 22nd.**

I want to give a BIG Thank You to all who helped make the Holiday Boutique such a big success. A special thank you goes out to Sandy Knight, Ruth Smith, Peggy Knight, Lillian Chamberlin, and Carolyn Garrand. They spent long hours of their dedicated time and hard work to make the boutique happen.

The Grace Sunday School Class will meet on Fridays at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

The One Board will meet on Tuesday, December 12th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

All "Love in Action" articles for January are due to Belinda by Thursday, December 14th.

The Men's Group WILL meet on Thursday, December 14th at 5:30 and will have the Men's breakfast on Saturday, December 16th at 8:00am in the fellowship hall. All men are invited.

We will have a wrapping day and fellowship on Saturday, December 16th at 10:00am in the fellowship hall. We will be wrapping gifts for McCracken Nursing Home, Angel Tree, and Pathways. Please join us if you are able.

We will have a Blood Drive on December 12th from 1:30-6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up online or call Belinda to schedule an appointment.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

The Congregational Care Team is bringing back a way to share Christmas cards with other members without purchasing stamps.

1. Write the recipient's name on the card envelope
2. Drop it in the designated red crate using the file folder beginning with the letter of their last name.
3. Check your folder often for mail from your church friends.

The Mailbox will be on a table in the church foyer. Stop by any time the church office is open!

The Church Office will be closed December 25th- January 1st for the Christmas Holidays. The office will reopen at 9:00am on Tuesday, January 2nd. Merry Christmas!

The food pantry and Shepherd's table will be closed December 25th – January 1st. The food pantry will reopen on Wednesday, January 3rd.

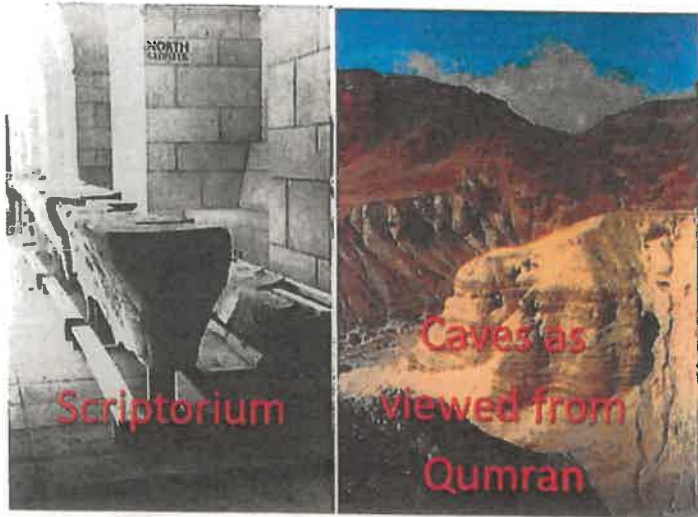
There will not be Bible Study on Thursday mornings the month of December.

50 bags of beef jerky and chap stick are needed for the Haywood Pathways Christmas project. We are doing a goody bag for 50 men and women. Donations have been given to cover the other stuff for the bags. If you can donate, please bring the items to the church. Thank you for your help with this ministry.

Pastor Mike and Sue will begin the 8-week 3rd series of "The Chosen" beginning Wednesday, December 6th at 6pm in the music room. Everyone is invited to attend.

Lectionary Scriptures for Next Week:

Psalms 126; Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28



Scriptorium

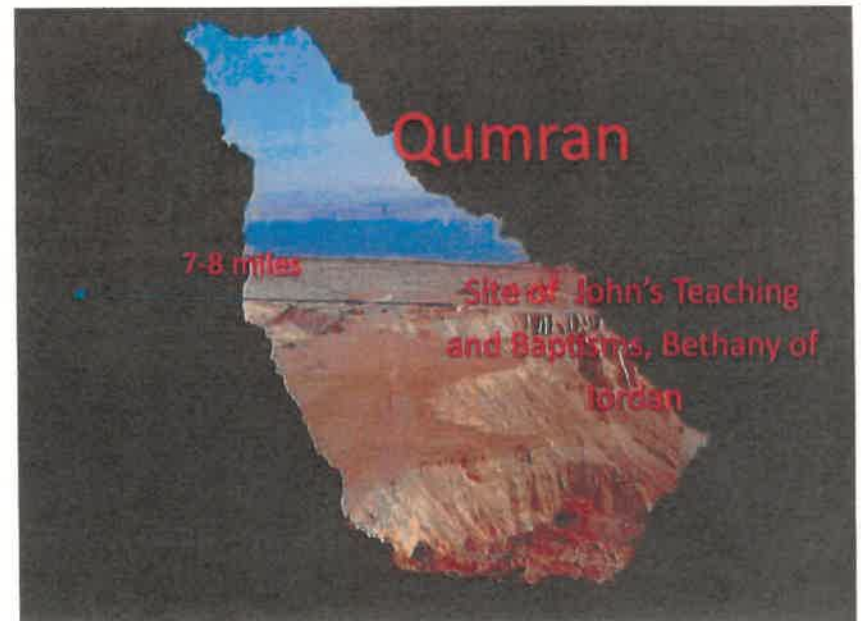
Caves as
viewed from
Qumran



"Prepare the way of the Lord"

Isaiah 38:8-40:28

Excavated mikva at Qumran



Qumran

7-8 miles

Site of John's Teaching
and Baptisms, Bethany of
Jordan