

# Ferndale UMC

Ferndale United Methodist Church

December 2018

*Let's keep Advent... together.*



*Large enough to serve,  
Small enough to care*

117 Ferndale Road  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061  
(410) 761-2880

[www.ferndaleumc.org](http://www.ferndaleumc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/  
FerndaleUMC](https://www.facebook.com/FerndaleUMC)

**PASTOR:**

Laura Norvell

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:**

Alina Antonenko

**LAY LEADER:**

**TRUSTEE CHAIR:**

Milton Murray

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

Sundays  
8:00 am Café Church  
10:30 am Main Service

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

The mission of Ferndale United Methodist Church is to welcome visitors, worship God together and spread God's Word through teaching and example. We accept the leadership of Christ in our lives.

**Reflections from Pastor Laura**

I have a confession.

I am a Martha Stewart in recovery. I may also be a biblical Martha (you know, sister of Mary and Lazarus) in recovery.

For years, I cultivated the perfect fantasy holiday season, beginning with a neighborhood Halloween party, continuing through multi-day Thanksgiving feasts, and moving right on through the perfectly decorated, gifted and toasted Christmas and New Year holidays.

Every Christmas letter was packed full of the latest family news – and by news I mean accomplishments. We had the witty writing style down, the rotation of kids' storylines every three years, and it always fit perfectly on one double-sided 8.5 x 11 with the tiniest margins. The family photo was flawless. And it was in the mail with an appropriate Christmas stamp by December 10 each year.

Keeping that up is expensive. And I'm not just talking about it being financially draining. It was soul-taxing. Creating my idea of goodness and perfection was exhausting. And it was a little bit like being on a hamster wheel. I spent a lot of time chasing goodness, chasing perfection, chasing affirmation, chasing love because I thought all of those appearances mattered.

And I never found the love, acceptance or happiness that I was chasing in that season.

About 12 years ago, I had some major life shifts. And in the process, I sought a different kind of meaning during the holidays. Since that time, I've made a practice of "keeping Advent." As the days grow short and the darkness creeps in, I move through the four weeks of advent watching to see what God is doing, watching to see what is about to be born in the world.

Advent is four blissful weeks of watching and waiting with expectation for the world to be changed as God enters in. That shouldn't feel like a hamster wheel.

I keep Advent by intentionally choosing quiet and stillness when I can. I keep Advent by finding a set of Advent readings or practices to keep as part of my daily prayer time. I keep Advent by seeking to be fully present in whatever activity I am doing – not thinking about the next thing on the checklist, the next activity on the calendar. In a time of year when schools and families and even churches are putting more and more out there for us to do and be and consume, keeping Advent means making space to watch and to wait for what God is doing in the world.

...Because what God is doing in the world is so much bigger than anything I can do or create.

Let's keep Advent together as a church. Amen?

Pastor Laura

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# Christmas Season

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*It's that time of year again! There is a lot going on at FUMC and we would like everyone to be apart of it!*

*Poinsettia/TLC Fund: ends December 2*

*Ferndale Tree Lighting: December 4 @ 6:00 pm*

*Potluck: December 16 @ 12 pm*

*Advent Workshop: December 16 @ 12 pm*

*Longest Night: December 21 @ 7 pm*

*Caroling: December 23 @ 5:30 pm*

*Christmas Eve Services: December 24 @ 7 pm and 11 pm*

*Christmas cards for the congregation at FUMC. There will be a wooden box near the door to the Sanctuary that is in alphabetical order. When bringing in cards, please sort them by last name and place in the appropriate spot in the box. If anyone would be kind enough to pass out cards or remind someone that they have cards, would be greatly appreciated!*

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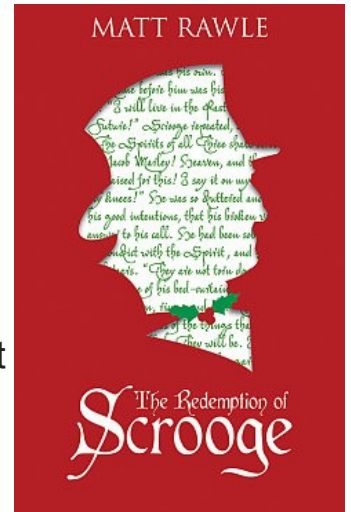
# Sermon Series

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New Sermon Series begins December 2!

"Marley was dead."

Not exactly a cheery start to the holiday season! This year for Advent, we'll be exploring the connections between Charles Dickens' classic story A Christmas Carol and the stories we tell about Advent and Christmas. Over four weeks, we'll look at what made Ebenezer Scrooge the man that he was at the beginning of the story, and we'll explore how the ghosts of past, present and future help him see another way of loving what God loves and valuing what God values. We'll think about what this might have to do with our lives today. And hopefully, we'll prepare ourselves for the amazing gift of God's light in Jesus being born into the world.



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# Finance Team

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## Offering Envelopes



Hi everyone, it is that time of the year when the giving envelopes are ordered and distributed. We want to give you a heads up that some of you with higher numbers will be getting new numbers this year. Due to increasing costs and the need to cut back on unused excess boxes of envelopes ordered we had to make this decision. If you have any questions or concerns please contact any member of the Finance team. Thanks for your understanding as we are working hard to be good stewards of your tithing.

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# 2nd Sunday Potluck

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Join us for our monthly 2nd Sunday potluck that will be held on  
the 3rd Sunday!!!! December 16th

ALL

are welcome to join for fun, food and fellowship, starting after the  
10:30 am service in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring a smile, a friend and/or side dish or desserts to share.

This months 2nd Sunday Potluck will be on:  
led by The Choir!

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## CONNECT CARDS

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Hopefully everyone has noticed the new “members”,  
“friends”, “guest” cards in the pews. Please fill these  
out with new or updated information, prayers, etc.  
Please place in the collection plate or the small white  
box just as you come in the front doors.

Thank you!

# Getting Involved!



December 8th:

Join Laundromat Love to help the homeless on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 9:00 am at the Glen Burnie laundromat on B&A Blvd., just south of Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Please consider volunteering for this outreach. It only takes 2 – 2.5 hours of your time one Saturday a month. Quarters needed to help in this ministry. A jar is in the back of Sanctuary. Snacks, sweets, bagged lunches, hot coffee or water always needed. Please see Diana Gumas for more information.

## PANTRY NEEDS!

Our food pantry is very low on items to give to families in need. Please consider purchasing one or more of the following items when doing your weekly shopping:

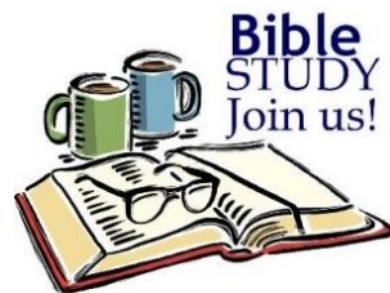
Spaghetti Noodles, Peanut Butter, Jelly/Jam, Canned Soup, Canned Pasta, Shelf Stable Milk, Mac & Cheese, Rice, Beef Stew, Boxed Dinners, Cereal, Cup of Noodles/Ramen, Items may be dropped off in back of Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall kitchen. Please Contact Hope Reyes or Alice Neary for more info.

THANK YOU!



## Bible Study

Tuesday @ 1:30 pm in the Ethel Schmidt Room



Ferndaleumc.org & FUMC's Facebook page need YOUR info & events! What does your group need to share about God's work at Ferndale UMC?

Please forward to:

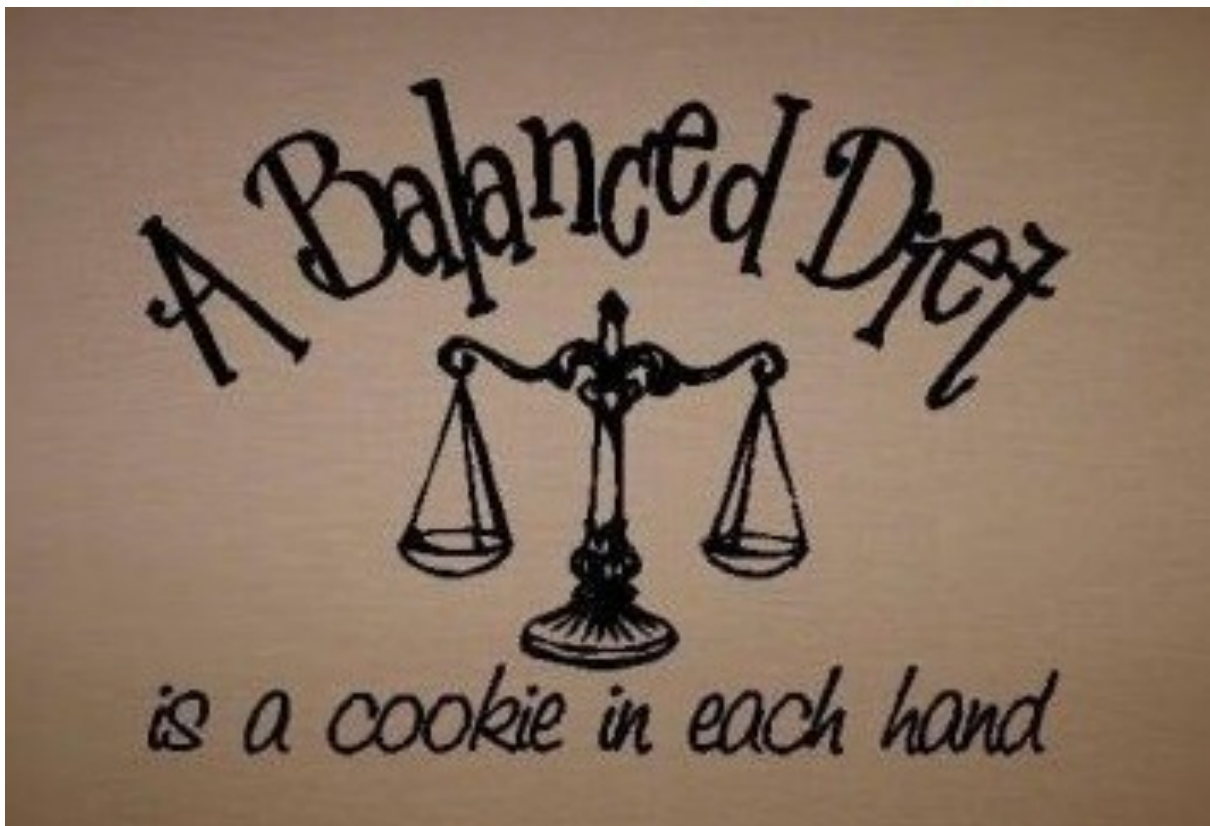
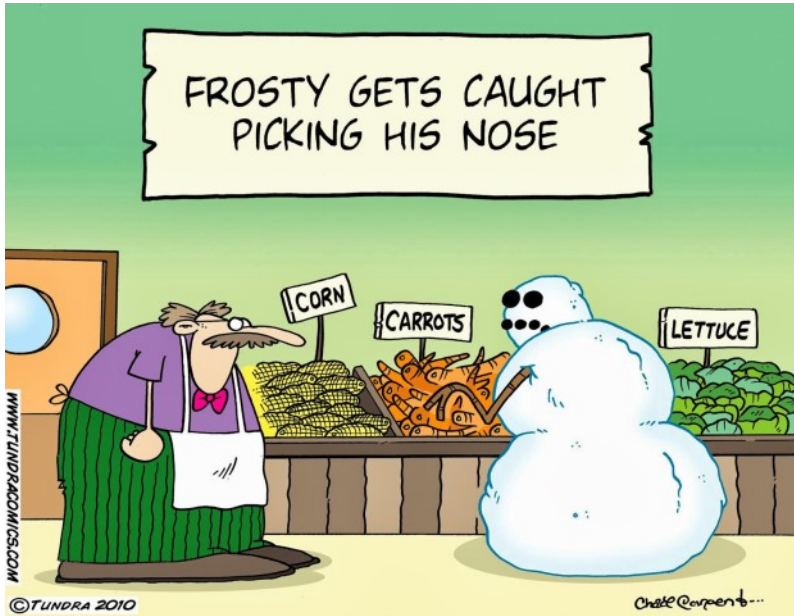
Michele @ Ferndaleumcsecretary@gmail.com or

Pastor Laura @ pastorlnorvell@gmail.com



# God Has Brought Me Laughter

Genesis 21:6



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*"May He give you the desire of your heart  
and make all of your plans succeed"*

*Psalm 20:4*

## *December 2018*

*2nd: Joey Tyler*

*Joe Webster*

*3rd: Dottie Merson*

*13th: Lelah Baxter*

*Gail Taylor*

*18th: Kylie Houck*

*19th: Autumn Mihm*

*22nd: Kayla Mihm*

*26th: Bobby Gray*

*31st: Harleigh Lewis*





# 2018 DECEMBER

CALENDAR YEAR / MONTH

SUNDAY  
FIRST DAY OF WEEK



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
Café Church @ 8am Sunday School @ 9:15am Sunday Service @ 10:30am	T.O.P.S. @ 6pm Narcotics Anonymous @ 7:30pm	Bible Study @ 1:30pm Tree Lighting @ 6 pm Church Council Mtg @ 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous @ 7:30pm	B read of Life @ 10am Narcotics Anonymous @ 7:30 pm	Boy Scouts @ 7pm		Laundromat Love @ 9am
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30	31	01	02	03	04	05
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