

Hilltopper

Harrisonburg District

December 2016



Prayers
Presence
Gifts
Service
Witness

Chrismons and Chrismon Patterns

(from Wanda Harding)



Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birthday. They are often used on [Christmas Trees](#) in Churches and Christians

homes.

Special points of interest:

- Chrismon Patterns
- UMW Update
- Church Council News
- Nurse's Health Corner
- Anniversaries & Birthdays

They were first made by Frances Kipps Spencer at the [Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia](#), USA. She also thought of the word, Chrismon, which is a combination of Christ and monogram (meaning symbol). The idea quickly spread to other churches. It is traditional that Christian groups can make their own Chrismons with their favourite symbols on.

Chrismons are traditionally colored white and gold. White is the liturgical (or Church) color for Christmas and symbolizes that Jesus was pure and perfect. Gold symbolizes His Majesty and Glory.

Below are some symbols that are common Chrismons and what they represent to Christians.



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United Methodist Women

(from Wanda Harding)

UMW met on Monday, November 21, 2016 at 7 pm. Although few in numbers we shared a wonderful meeting on leading together with scriptures from I Corinthians 12: 4-7 and Ephesians 4: 1-16 which coincides with the UMW theme for 2017 of "A Call To Community". Our local unit gave to various missions in 2016 almost \$4,000 and after a very successful Fall Bazaar gave an addition \$1000 to various local missions. Our unit was recently recognized at the District Annual Meeting as a Gold Living Into Our Purpose and Six Star unit (an outstanding achievement for our church).

After discussion ladies recommended use of paper goods for our upcoming annual church Christmas dinner At 5:30 pm on December 11th so everyone will be available to participate and enjoy the music program which is planned to begin at 6:30 pm following the covered-dish dinner. During the winter months, our ladies as well as other members of church are encouraged to read the books located in the Wesley classroom for our Reading Program.



In addition to the monetary gifts for various local missions, we recommended our church sponsor a clothing drive for the District Mission Central (clothing corner) located at the Cedar Grove UMC focusing on children's socks and underwear. We will provide basket in the Narthex for December 4th and December 11th with plans to get these delivered to Mission Central prior to Christmas.

Our next scheduled meeting is March 20, 2017 at 7 pm.

Our new tree has been purchased with funds donated in memory of Ethel White. Hopefully there will be many good years and memories of using this tree as we celebrate Advent and Christmas.



Church Council

Met on November 17th with 14 present. Congratulations our line of credit for the parsonage renovations has been paid in full. Our music concert in October resulted in a love offering to All God's Children's Camp of \$1090. Our end of year mission giving will be to support WRE, SACRA and Valley Mission. A box for donations of children's socks and underwear will be collected for District Mission Central (clothes closet).

Our annual Christmas dinner sponsored by the UMW and UMM will be held on Sunday, December 11th at 5:30 pm as a covered dish. Followed by a special music program by Seonmi Chio (singer from Rome, Italy) and Hyohwan Kim (pianist from Seoul, Korea).

A special 5th Sunday covered dish luncheon is scheduled for January 29, 2017 following worship service.

Our annual HOTS was successful in serving 822 with profits expected over \$6000 and Fall Bazaar was also successful with profits over \$1,000. Thanks to everyone for their generous help in making these events successful for our church and community.

Our next Church Council will meet on January 26, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Nurse's Health Corner

National Hand Washing Week (December)

As we prepare for the cold and flu season, many activities exist that can help you and your family stay healthy during the winter months. The number one activity that can reduce the spread of germs is hand washing. Also, **NEVER put a finger in your eyes, nose or mouth!** December 4–10 is National Hand Washing Week, promoting better hand washing or "Hand Hygiene" to adults and children alike. The CDC's (Centers for Disease Control) focuses on proper hand washing to prevent the spread of germs and infectious disease.

Hand washing is like a "do-it-yourself" vaccine:

Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.

Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.

Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.

Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.

Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

If soap and clean water are not available, use an alcohol-based product.

When should you wash your hands?

Before preparing or eating food

After going to the bathroom

After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has gone to the bathroom

Before and after tending to someone who is sick

After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing

After handling an animal or animal waste

After handling garbage

Before and after treating a cut or wound

Mission Opportunities

Valley Mission—ongoing project of cereal. Bring your boxes of any kind of cereal and leave in Wesley Sunday School Classroom. Regular deliveries are being made. Thank you !!!

Henry Fork Service Center—ongoing project of saving our Campbell Soup labels.

Web Page

Web Page: mynhumc.weebly.com

Reminder to check out our church web page frequently for updates including the church calendar.

Lectionary Readings

12/4

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (UMH 795)
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

12/11

Isaiah 35:1-10
Luke 1:47-55 (UMH 199)
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

12/18

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (UMH 801)
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

12/24

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96 (UMH 815)
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

12/25

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98 (UMH 818)
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14

1/1

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795)
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolyte

12/4 Becky Tate
12/11 Weston Powell
12/18 Derek Deavers
12/25 Joanie Troxell

Nursery

12/4 Morgan Craun & Martha Fretwell
12/11 Robin Craun
12/18 Tonya & Taylor Meier
12/25 Betty & Courtney Stout

Lead Ushers

Children's Message

12/4 Pastor Shin
12/11 Kevin Armstrong
12/18 Helen Morse
12/25 Dana Breeding

12/4 Rob Riner & Jake Botkin
12/11 Lewis Whitmer & Becky Tate
12/18 Charlie Bill Fretwell & Henry Breeding
12/25 Darryl Deavers & John Morse



December/January Anniversaries & Birthdays

December

1-Steve Broyles
 1-Robert Corbin
 1-Diane Miller
 2-Leslie Shaver
 2-Robin Craun
 3-Richard Booth
 3-Josh & Cheryl Bennett
 3-Herman & Carolyn Pace
 4-Matt Carr
 5-Susan Baldwin
 5-Charles Darrah
 5-Michele Taylor
 6-Clarissa Booth
 6-Karen Whitmer
 7-Betty Gruber
 7-Beth Rosen
 8-Peggy Corbin
 9-Josh Dively
 9-Mac Craig
 10-Bernie Powers
 12-Mary Jane Shaver
 13-Jennifer Bottenmiller
 13-Jake & Julie Botkin
 14-Brenda Price
 14-Dawn White
 16-Carrie Reed
 16-Wyatt Markow
 16-B.F. Caricofe III
 16-Dwight Craig
 16-Shelvie Critzer
 16-Paul Whitmer
 16 Carrie Reed
 17-Kim Maugans
 17-Tim & Suzanne Lank
 20-Amye Bergman
 21-Emily Howdysshell
 22-Keith Chittum
 23-Julia Botkin
 23-Cheryl Howell
 25-B.F. Caricofe, Jr
 25-Wally Smith

26-Carl Caricofe, Sr
 26-Jesse Hartman
 26-Larry & Nadine Hinebaugh
 27-Jeffrey Shipe
 28-Logan Kraisser
 28-Mathew & Tanya Keys
 29-Christopher Dively
 30-Kim & Karen Maugans
 31-Andy & Dana Breeding
 31-Gary & Kathy Lewis

January-

2-Filmore Cook
 2-Mary Rowe
 3-Dana Breeding
 3-Jack Walker
 3-Sam Arnold
 4-Michelle Chittum
 4-Brooke Darrah
 5-Dave Critzer
 5-Bucky Darrah
 5-Shirley Western
 6-Gary Campbell
 6-Michael Herman
 6-Phyllis Jarvis
 6-Herman Pace
 7-Kristin Walker
 9-Barbara Arndt
 9-Jacob Schreckhise
 10-Vinda Shaver
 11-Jackie Wilberger
 12-Phyllis Fretwell
 13-Amanda Corbett
 14-Will Bergman
 17-Mildred Hartman
 17-Candice Kincaid
 17-Jason Shiflett
 18-Crystal Abbe
 18-Lynn Shaver
 19-Kathy Campbell
 19-Gina Davis

20-Michael Breeding
 20-John Western
 20-Laura Jenner
 21-Ken Fretwell
 22-Heather Abbe Fitcham
 22-Bob & Jean Critzer
 24-William Critzer
 25-Richard Ritchie
 25-Christian Deavers
 26-Jeremy McLaughlin
 28-Gary Lewis
 31-Denise Duncan



If we have any incorrect information or are missing information, please leave updates in mailbox in church library for Hilltopper or email to altuten@vaumc.org

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Other activities exist that help us stay healthy. Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces remove and destroy germs. The bathroom and kitchen are areas that have frequent traffic and should be disinfected frequently. Practicing safe food preparation and handling can prevent the spread of harmful bacteria and germs. Safe food practices include cleaning your hands and surfaces often, separating preparation, cooking and food serving areas to prevent cross contamination, and cooking and storing foods at the appropriate temperatures.

Help your body's immune system be strong by getting your annual flu vaccine. It is not too late to get your flu shot. The vaccine helps your body create antibodies to the flu viruses contained in the vaccine. It can prevent you from getting the flu or decrease the severity if you are exposed to a different flu strain. Realize that many colds and sore throats are caused by viruses. Antibiotics do not help with this type of infection. Be willing to leave the doctor's office without medication if your physician feels the cause is viral and not bacterial. Remember that antibiotics kill good bacteria found in our bodies that actually protect us. If you do receive an antibiotic for a bacterial infection, please use as directed and complete the full course of treatment. Using antibiotics for viral infections and not completing the course of treatment help certain bacteria become resistant to antibiotics through being overexposed to antibiotic treatment.

Some information regarding hand washing was obtained from the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>. Henry the Hand at www.henrythehand.com/ has many child oriented activities to educate children about hand washing practices. This information is provided as education and should never take the place of a physician's consultation.

Information provided by Dana H. Breeding, RN Health Educator from Community Wellness, at Augusta Health. To contact her related to the above information, please call 332-4988 or 932-4988.



The Cross symbolizes that Christians believe Jesus Christ died for everyone on a Cross.



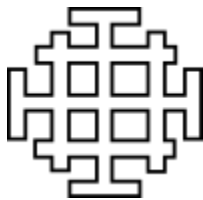
The Latin Cross, also sometimes called the Roman Cross. The base of the Cross has three steps that symbolize faith, hope, and love.



The Irish or Celtic Cross is a normal cross with a circle in the middle to symbolize eternity.



The Triumphant Cross represents the earth with the cross on top. It symbolizes Jesus is triumphant over anything we can face in the world.



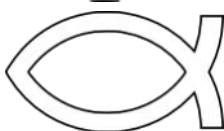
The Jerusalem Cross was worn by the crusaders going to Jerusalem, in the middle ages. It can symbolize the Four Gospels in the Bible, the spread of the Gospel to the four corners of the earth or the five wounds of Jesus when he died on the cross.



The Anchor Cross reminds Christian's that Jesus is the anchor of their faith.



IHS are the first three letters of 'Christ' in Greek. I've added them on a Cross as it looks more interesting!.



The Fish is one of the oldest Christian symbols. The letters, from the Greek word for fish (ichthus), stand for Jesus (I), Christ (X), God (Q), Son (Y), Savior (S). Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen.



Alpha and Omega are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. Used together, they are the symbols that Christians believe Jesus is the beginning and end of all things.



The Chi-Rho looks like a 'P' with an 'X' on top of it. These two letters are the first two letters of the Greek word 'Christos' which means Christ.



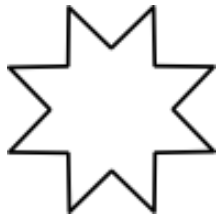
The Star of David, sometimes called the Star of Creation, is a symbol that Jesus was a Jew and a descendant of King David.



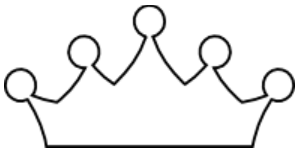
A Five Pointed Star represents the five wounds of Jesus on the cross.



The Nativity Star is the symbol of [the Star of Bethlehem](#) or Epiphany, when the [Wisemen](#) visited Jesus.



An Eight Pointed Star represents baptism and regeneration.



The Crown is the symbol that Jesus is King. It shows that Christians believe Jesus is ruler over heaven and the earth.



The Shepherd's Crook or Staff remembers that Jesus sometimes called himself a shepherd. It can also represent the shepherds who were the first people told about the birth of Jesus.



Both of these symbols represent the Christian 'Trinity' of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. **The Triquetra** is made of three loops making a triangle representing the three parts of the trinity. **The Trefoil** (at the bottom) is three equal circles intertwined to form a whole.



The Dove is the symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit. It is shown pointing down to represent the Holy Spirit that appeared as a Dove when Jesus was baptized.



The Lamp and **The Candle** both represents that Christians believe Jesus in the Light of the World.



The Cup or Chalice is a symbol of the Mass, Eucharist or Communion. It also represents God's forgiveness.



Babe / Manger represents Jesus as a baby at Christmas.



The Lamb is a symbol for Jesus who is sometimes called 'The Lamb of God'.



The Butterfly is a symbol for transformation and the immortal soul.

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Did you know? Our Christmas banners were designed and constructed by Helen Morse and Sherry Woods. The nativity set in the Narthex was made and donated by Sue Harmon

Our Advent Candle/Wreath was designed and constructed by Kim Maugans



Reminders

_Church Annual Covered Dish Christmas Dinner December 11th at 5:30 pm - entertainment will be provided

New Hope United Methodist Church
PO Box 86
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Address Service Requested



HILLTOPPER

Mission: Growing as followers of Jesus Christ, we seek to live out our faith and serve God's community.

Identity: The New Hope congregation is a family of sharing and caring Christians who gather for worship and fellowship and through whom opportunities for spiritual growth are offered for all ages.

Vision: The people of New Hope will allow God to make a lasting and holy difference in us and through us as we apply ourselves to worship, prayer, study, witness and service



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