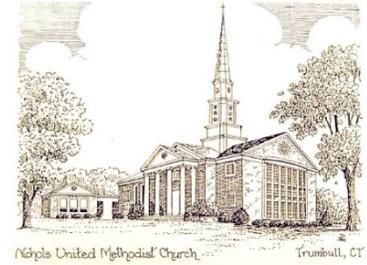


The Carillon

Nichols UMC

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January 2022



God's Good Gifts - by Pastor David Piscatelli

ESV Matthew 2:1-3 & 10-11 - Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ... ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

The wise men waited and waited and waited. They had studied the prophecies and astrology of the newborn king. When the star rose in the sky that was brighter than any they had ever seen, they were ready. They took the long journey to see God's greatest gift to the world: Jesus, the Savior of the World, lying in a manger. They followed the star and fell down to worship Him with their adoration, their actions, and their treasures. In return for this encounter with the Savior of the world, they responded to the invitation that God put in front of them, by giving gifts back to God. The story of the wise men is not the first stewardship message in the Bible, but it is the one we often hear on the first Sunday in January. These unnamed wise men became part of God's work in the world because they took time to celebrate the good gifts that God had provided and offered a portion of them back.

While we thought that 2020 would be one of the most challenging years of our lives, we expected 2021 to be a significant improvement. Instead, it was more of the same and 2022 will start with increased numbers of positive tests, hospitalizations, and death related to the COVID pandemic. Yet as God's people living in this time and space, we are tasked with living out our faith in Jesus Christ by continuing to do the work that God has called us to do. In fact, it is more important than ever given our circumstances. We are not alone in this work; God is with us and has provided all that we need. God's good gifts are everywhere! We have the gifts of personalities, intelligence, talents, resources, and more. We also have the gift of one another. God has not called us to do ministry on our own, God has brought us together to share in the work just like the travelers who followed the star. They came together and gave their unique gifts. We are invited to do the same. God wants to connect with more people in our community that feel lost and lonely. God seeks to provide food and clothing to those who do not have enough. God needs people who will take His good gifts and share them with the world in such a way that God's love is made visible in truly tangible ways.

January is when our stewardship program takes place. The theme this year is *God's Good Gifts*. We may be blessed with abundant resources or praying that God provides for our needs day by day. We could have extra time in our schedules or be so overwhelmed that we are perpetually exhausted. We might know what talents God calls us to use or still trying to figure it out. Yet, God invites each of us into a deep relationship with Jesus Christ and to minister to others no matter what we have or who we are. God has brought us together to serve side by side as we each share generously a portion of what He has graciously given. That is the essence of ministry.

Jesus came to the world as a child that we might accept the forgiveness and love that He offers. God wants us to know Him, love Him, and serve Him by making God's love known in the world around us. As the new year begins, we are all invited to reconsider how *God's Good Gifts* are inviting us to participate in His work at Nichols UMC. May we accept the challenges and opportunities that God puts before us to help transform and heal a broken world that needs Him desperately. May we prayerfully remember that all that we have and all that we are comes from the source of all good gifts: God.

~Grace & peace, *Pastor David*



God's Good Gifts – Stewardship 2022

Our 2022 Stewardship campaign theme is “God’s Good Gifts”. Even with the continued pandemic and turmoil in our world, God has provided for our needs both great and small. God’s good gifts support us when we are hurting and give us hope in times of struggle. These gifts are not for us to keep to ourselves; they are to be used and shared in the broken world in which we live. As has been our tradition the last several years, our stewardship campaign will take place beginning January 9th and will culminate with Dedication Sunday on January 23rd. During those weeks, we will hear sermons and talks that invite us to consider God’s good gifts that we have each received and how they can be used to support the good work of Jesus Christ at Nichols Church. Please be in prayer about how we can all work together to do the work that God has called us to do in 2021. ~Blessings, *Your Stewardship Committee*



Sunday Bible Study 8:45 - 9:30am on Zoom

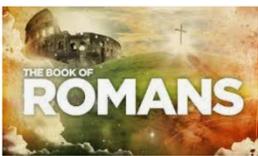
This study is taught by David Preusch and focuses on the books of I & II Kings. Please note the time has been adjusted to allow people to attend this study online and still attend worship in person if so desired. This story begins with King Solomon and a unified powerful and influential Israel, which slowly unravels and culminates into a divided kingdom. It is relevant for us today as we live in such divisive times. This is an inclusive group study, and no preparation is required, just bring your Bible. The link for this study may be accessed by clicking here: [I & II Kings Study](#) OR Dial in: (646)-568-7788, Meeting ID: 924 8616 1829.



Peace & Prayer: Mid-Week Time of Devotion Zoom - Wednesdays 11:30-

11:45am - Every Wednesday Judy Lang hosts a brief time of devotion and prayer via Zoom. During this time of pandemic and crisis, this will be an opportunity to spend about 15 minutes centering ourselves in reflective thought and prayer. The link for this mid-week centering time can be accessed by clicking here: [Peace & Prayer Midweek Time of Devotion](#) OR Dial in: (646)-876-9923, Meeting ID: 366 149 7977, Password: 35#.

Word & Coffee 9-10am on Zoom



Pastor David leads a study on the book Romans. Each week we will meet on Zoom, open in prayer, read the passage, and discuss what we have learned/questioned during our reading and reflection. All are welcome, and you may join any week. If you would like to attend, please email Pastor David pastordavidnumc@snet.net. NOTE: a recorded version will also be available upon request.

Lenten Devotional Book – Will You Please Contribute?

Our Lenten theme for 2022 is *Seeing God at Work Today*. We need 47 people to each write a short personal reflection on one of these topics on which Pastor David will preach. Each day’s entry should include: 1-2 verses of Scripture of your choice reflecting one of the sermon topics, your thoughts on that topic, a short prayer, and your name. The total entry should be no longer than 250–300 words so it will fit on one page of a 5”x 8” booklet. Entries should be written and submitted to Marilyn Lang at marilynlang@gmail.com no later than Monday, January 17th. Booklets will be distributed by Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, so we as a congregation can share Lent together on a daily basis as we read these devotions and reflect on our basic Christian beliefs. Together we can draw closer to God by staying grounded in our Christian faith and growing in our service to the Lord. Please contact Marilyn via email or at 203-377-1747 to let her know if you plan to make a submission.



Hello church family!

I am writing this to all of you to announce that after a year and a half, I will be leaving my position of part time director of education at NUMC. As many of you know, I have been working very hard to secure a spot in Lesley University's graduate school for their clinical mental health counseling program. Through a lot of hard work, dedication, and prayers, I am proud to announce that I was accepted with early admissions. Though I am looking forward to this new opportunity, I will be very sad to leave my home, NUMC.

Beginning my position during the pandemic definitely put an interesting spin on children's ministry. I was excited and interested about learning new ways of interacting, discussing, and making friends! The children were absolutely wonderful during our virtual meetings. I think I even miss seeing all of them being so comfortable in their own environments. It was truly a blast watching the kids login and be ready to show me new crafts they had made, their favorite thing about their house, or even a few surprise visits from the cat Mr. Pickles! Transitioning into in person classes definitely was something we were all very ready for and excited about.

The children of Nichols continue to bring their amazing energy, creative minds, and curious souls into church school every single week. We spent hours and hours learning about God's love for us through science experiments, cooking fun snacks, creating new arts and crafts, and being together!

To all of my amazing volunteers, I could not have done it without you. Thank you for working with my teaching approach and being by my side through the art, crafts, snacks, and mess of it all! You were able to spread God's love in more ways than you know, and it means the world to me and the children.

NUMC will always be my home, the place where my faith first grew alongside my best friends. I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to play a role in our church community.

With love and a grateful heart, Tessa Speaks

Tessa Speaks, Education Director ~203-400-9822 ~ tessaspeakss@gmail.com.

NUMC Youth Group

Hello 2022 – I'm so glad you are here!

Happy New Year and God's Blessings to all of you. It has been a whirlwind of a year for me and has surely looked different for our youth group. Our once consistent Sunday evenings have evolved into any and all different days of the week. We have had our share of obstacles to overcome, and I am very thankful for God's provision in keeping us healthy and safe. Last month we met for dinner and ice cream, and we also went to see The Chosen Christmas Special as a group. It was a great way to kick off our holidays. From there we started to meet online because the COVID numbers were on the rise. It is my hope and prayer that in 2022 we can resume our indoor meetings on a regular basis. It is also my hope that our "Winter retreat" will happen this year. This has always been one of the highlights of our year. The retreat dates are March 11th - 13th at Lake Champion in New York. I will keep you posted on whether it will become a reality. Check my weekly updates to see when and where (live or virtually), we will be meeting in January. Thank you all for being understanding during this continually challenging time. If you would like to be a part of my weekly updates please just let me know and I can add you to the email list.



A Prayer for Hope After a Hard Year

God, thank you for helping us to make it through this difficult year. Thank you that you've carried us through the uncertainty of deep waters, through the flames of trials, and through the pain of hard losses. We are constantly aware of how much we need you, your grace, your strength, and your power working through even the toughest days.

Help us to keep our focus first on you. Please forgive us for giving too much time and attention to other things, for looking to other people before coming to you first. Thank you that you came to give new life, peace, hope, and joy. Thank you that your power is made perfect in our weakness.

Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. For you never leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful Presence in our lives.

We choose to keep you first in our hearts and lives. Without you we would surely fail, but with you, there is great hope. Thank you for your healing power, thank you for bringing us into this new season up ahead. We look forward to all that You still have in store. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chrissy Ferrante, Youth Director ~ 203.558.7848 ~ chrissy842001@comcast.net



We strive to have in-person worship and Sunday School each week during the winter, however the weather does not always cooperate. However, there will always be worship service via Zoom. The first and best rule is that if you do not feel the roads are safe for travel, please stay home and join us online! Even if the church is open, we want everyone to take a "safety first" attitude toward attendance. Whenever possible, decisions about closing information will be made as early as possible. The goal will be to send all notifications via

a Nichols' Notes special e-mail announcement no later than one hour before worship. Additionally, closing information will be posted on WFSB (CBS Channel 3) and WTNH (Channel 8). The codes used on each station is often limited in description and we will do our best to clarify cancelations. Blessings to all during these winter months!

Condolences

Our condolences and prayers go with the family of Eileen Moore who died on November 23rd. A prayer service was held at Adzima Funeral Home in Stratford on December 10th.



It was the most wonderful time of the year thanks to all of you. Thought my heart was going to burst. Everyone came together to make this Christmas so very special for families less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you, friends, family, church members, scouts pack # 167 and MDO. Together we touched the lives of over 80 children with multiple gifts and a very special activity gift for each family. My heart is filled with hope, joy, love and peace. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. ~Blessings, Debbie Redin



January's outreach is for Appalachia Service Project (ASP). ASP is a Christian ministry open to high school youth that fosters spiritual growth through completing home improvement projects in central Appalachia. Our goal as volunteers is to give hope and help to impoverished families. As one of our youth put it: "The purpose of the trip is to make homes warmer, safer, and drier for people in extreme poverty. When I left those homes, I knew that one more home wouldn't flood during the next rainstorm because of the drainage ditch my team dug, another home would have an accessible front door from the new porch we built, and a home would be warmer come the winter because of the siding we put up." But beyond that, what is important is to lift spirits and remind the families of God's love and provision. We discover that regardless of geography, education, or economics, we are all equal members of God's family. NUMC is honored to have served for over 35 years in this incredible mission. We are asking for your support for our 2022 trip. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. All funds will be used to improve houses in Appalachia. Checks may be made payable to NUMC with ASP in the memo, and outreach envelopes are on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you in advance for your donations and support. We could not continue this valuable ministry without your help.



We hope all of you are caring for yourselves in the New Year, finding ways to eat healthy and exercise regularly despite the pandemic. Below is information about AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators). We are replacing the current AED in the church, so it is a good time to re-familiarize ourselves with how they work. There will also be information about online CPR/AED trainings.

BP Screening: On Hold

Grief Support Group: On Hold.

January Health Tip - How To Use An AED

An AED is a device that can analyze a heart rhythm and deliver a shock if needed. Thus, AEDs can be used by first responders to deliver early defibrillation in out-of-hospital and hospital settings. However, simply providing an AED would not likely improve survival outcomes. Rather, AEDs have a role in strengthening the "chain of survival," which includes prompt activation of the 911 telephone system, early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), rapid defibrillation, and timely advanced life support.

1. The first step for a witness of a cardiac arrest in an out-of-hospital setting is to call 911.
2. The witness initiates CPR (if she or he is trained in CPR) while other bystanders get the AED. The AED is located in a cabinet near the fire extinguisher in the sacristy. If the witness cannot initiate CPR, push hard and fast in the middle of the chest until the AED arrives. There is a face mask, scissors, gloves, and a razor in the small bag attached to the AED.
3. Once the AED arrives, open the lid and follow the voice prompts.
 - a. The first step will be placing the pads. There are pictures on the pads to help with placement.
 - b. Once the pads are firmly in place, plug in the pads connector to the AED device and again follow the voice prompts. Be sure to refrain from touching the victim while the pads are analyzing the heart rhythm.
 - c. The AED voice prompt will let you know if a shock is advised.
 - d. If a shock is advised, be sure everyone is clear of the victim before pressing the shock button. It is best practice to loudly say, "stand clear, is everyone clear, preparing to shock."
 - e. Once the shock is given, the voice prompt will tell the rescuer to resume CPR for about 2 minutes. The voice prompt will tell you how well the rescuer is compressing and when to stop compressions so the AED can analyze the heart rhythm again.
 - f. If another shock is needed, repeat the same procedure by ensuring everyone is clear and then pressing the shock button.
 - g. Continue to follow the voice prompts until help arrives.
4. When the first responders of the 911 system (e.g., firefighters/police) have arrived, the first responders will take over CPR. The patient is handed over to the advanced life-support team with subsequent admission to an intensive care unit in a hospital.

There is an online heartsaver CPR AED class. It costs \$15.00 here is the link:

<https://shopcpr.heart.org/courses/heartsaver-cpr-aed>. Once the online portion is completed, Marilyn Faber will offer a skills session.

"Father, thank you for your truth. Help us to see what is important, what is eternal, and what is lasting..."

~Max Lucado

God Bless You All! Your Parish Nurses



January 1 Bill Lover
January 3 Raeann McLaren
January 3 Mike Rolleri
January 3 Helen Sweet
January 4 Nancy Fettig
January 4 Timothy K. Owen
January 4 Aiden Weir
January 5 Colette Shay
January 6 Helen Rosselli
January 7 Carol S. Grzyb
January 7 Michael Kyrytschenko
January 7 John Nigro
January 7 Grant Smith
January 8 Sean O'Leary
January 8 Craig Packnick
January 8 Sara Rolleri
January 9 Tyler Hoggatt
January 10 Joseph Berkowitz
January 10 Jace Rockwell
January 10 Giovanni Stagnetta
January 11 Cynthia Nigro
January 11 Steven Otfinoski
January 12 George Grafton
January 14 Judy Dalaker
January 14 Amy Maltas
January 15 Barbara Cole
January 15 Sarah Greene
January 15 Cameron Holmes
January 16 Barbara J. Bauer

January 16 Mike Rolleri
January 17 Timothy Cantafio
January 17 Kim Heard
January 17 Paulo Lage
January 17 Joyce Mack
January 18 Nicholas Cantafio
January 18 Ian Hall
January 18 Cara Marquis
January 19 Ryan Janik
January 19 Thomas Metz
January 20 Allie MacDonald
January 20 Pryce Palmero
January 22 Dylan Koury
January 22 Kyle Koury
January 23 Jan Gaulin
January 23 Brooke Godsill
January 23 Nate Shay
January 23 Janice Wendt
January 24 Megan Griggs
January 25 August Metz
January 26 Robert G. Cole, Jr.
January 26 Jennifer L. Martin
January 27 Corinn Ouellette
January 28 Douglas Platz
January 29 Annabelle Liptak
January 30 Tyler Janik
January 31 Linda Kojalowicz
January 31 Peyton Ponzeka
January 31 Lorenzo Sevilla

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28 MDO 2 - 9:30-1:30 Tue, - Fri MDO 3 9:15-1:45 Tue & Fri No MDO 12/21-31/21	29	30	31	1 
2 10 AM Worship w/nursery care 5 PM Sea Scouts 7 PM AA	3 Office Closed 7 PM Staff Parish Relations Meeting	4 5:30 PM AA 6:30 PM Bells 7:30-8:15 PM Christian Yoga	5 11:30 AM Peace & Prayer w/Judy - Zoom 7 PM Boy Scouts 8 PM AA	6 9 AM Word & Coffee w/ Pastor David - Zoom 10 AM AA 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	7	8 8:30 AM Covenant Discipleship @ Lang's home
9 8:45 AM Bible Study - Zoom 9 AM Confirmation Class 10 AM Worship w/nursery care & church school 5 PM Sea Scouts 7 PM ASP Mtg 7 PM AA	10 6-8 PM Cub Scouts 7 PM Council on Ministries Meeting	11 5:30 PM AA 6:30 PM Bells 7:30-8:15 PM Christian Yoga	12 11:30 AM Peace & Prayer w/Judy - Zoom 7 PM Trustees 7 PM Boy Scouts 8 PM AA	13 9 AM Word & Coffee w/ Pastor David - Zoom 10 AM AA 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	14	15 8:30 AM Covenant Discipleship @ Lang's home 10 AM Book Club
16 8:45 AM Bible Study - Zoom 10 AM Worship w/nursery care & church school 5 PM Sea Scouts 7 PM Boy Scout Committee Mtg 7 PM AA	17 Office Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day 6-8 PM Cub Scouts 7 PM Finance Meeting	18 5:30 PM AA 6:30 PM Bells 7:30-8:15 PM Christian Yoga	19 11:30 AM Peace & Prayer w/Judy - Zoom 7 PM Boy Scouts 8 PM AA	20 9 AM Word & Coffee w/ Pastor David - Zoom 10 AM AA 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	21	22 8:30 AM Covenant Discipleship @ Lang's home
23 8:45 AM Bible Study - Zoom 9 AM Confirmation Class 10 AM Worship w/nursery care & church school 5 PM Sea Scouts 7 PM AA	24 6-8 PM Cub Scouts 7 PM Administrative Board Meeting	25 7 AM Merton House Sandwiches 5:30 PM AA 6:30 PM Bells 7:30-8:15 PM Christian Yoga	26 11:30 AM Peace & Prayer w/Judy - Zoom 7 PM Boy Scouts 8 PM AA	27 9 AM Word & Coffee w/ Pastor David - Zoom 10 AM AA 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	28	29 8:30 AM Covenant Discipleship @ Lang's home
30 8:45 AM Bible Study - Zoom 9 AM Confirmation Class 10 AM Worship w/ nursery care & church school 5 PM Sea Scouts 7 PM AA	31 6-8 PM Cub Scouts	1	2	3	December 2021 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 28 29 30 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	February 2022 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

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DEADLINE FOR THE February 2022 ISSUE

IS January 12th

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Happy New Year from Nichols United Methodist Women

NUMW would like to remind everyone that there will be no meeting or program this month. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy & Healthy New Year and to thank you for your continued support that has enabled us to reach out and support so many missions and charities, both close to home and around the world.

