



December 18, 2023

The Good News!

With Pastor Clark Cundiff

As we finish *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachel Billups, we end the book with the assurance that God shows up in our lives. God chose to show up to shepherds living in the fields and watching over their flock (Luke 2:8-20). Shepherds were the working class at the time of Jesus' birth. They were probably the most unlikely group of people to receive this miraculous news. God shows up to the most unlikely people just as God shows up to us when we may least expect. God chose shepherds to receive the great news just as he chooses each one of us to receive the good news of God's great love through the gift of Jesus. We need to choose to engage in the power of God's presence and to know that God shows up in all the ordinary parts of our lives. God shows up in our "dark nights and ordinary days" (p. 110). "God shows up when we do not think we have the energy to be a blessing in someone else's life." "God's presence and power are available to us if we would just open our eyes and our schedules to God's presence...God is here and God is present" (p. 111). Remember Immanuel: God is with us each of every day of our lives. Merry Christmas! Pastor Clark

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE LOT!



Christmas Tree Lot 2023
Thanks Everyone for Sharing God's Love on the Christmas Tree Lot!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated on the Christmas Tree Lot! Without your help, we could not have persevered given the late arrival of the delivery truck, every weather condition from rain, wind, and frigid temperatures to the economic slowdown! We sold all but a few trees that yielded proceeds of approximately \$7K that will be used to support our community mission projects! A special thank you to Al Will who was the project leader!

WORSHIP

This week in will be the 4th Sunday in Advent & Christmas Eve. We will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Join us for worship in the Sanctuary or online at 9am & 11am in person or on Facebook Live & YouTube (Baylake United Methodist Church).



(Children learning about Jesus)

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:8-20

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Welcome to Our Newest Member
Hahn Allgood!

HOPE AT CHRISTMAS



Blue Christmas Service 2023
A Comfort to Many!
Thank You Bay Lake Retirement & Assisted Living AND
Pastor Clark!

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH WINTER SHELTER



Winter Shelter 2023-24
 Begins on December 27th (Dinner) and Ends on January 3rd (Breakfast)

Volunteers are Needed!

Contact Wendy Howard
 (wendyraehoward@gmail) to sign up

People in Need

We are just a few weeks away from hosting Winter Shelter at Baylake UMC in conjunction with People in Need Ministry! We are grateful to our sister UMC churches, Haygood UMC and Francis Asbury UMC, groups and members from Baylake UMC for providing meals for dinner! Also, to Virginia Hoffman and her team for providing and preparing the food for breakfast! Volunteers are still needed to serve breakfast from 5:30 to 7:30am. Contact Wendy Howard at wendyraehoward@gmail.com

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY



Financial Peace University!
 Starts January 28th 3:30 - 4:30pm - for 9 Weeks - VIRTUALLY!

Register at
[\(baylakeumc.org\)](http://Baylake United Methodist (baylakeumc.org))
 Reduced Cost at \$80

Led by Robert Howard
 (roberthoward72@aol.com) & Allen Cheek

Do you desire to better control over your money and other financial aspects of your life? Then you don't want to miss out on this year's Financial Peace University led by Robert Howard (roberthoward72@aol.com) and Allen Cheek. In this 9-week course, you will learn the following:

- **Lesson 1:** Build a Starter Emergency Fund and Learn How to Budget
- **Lesson 2:** Pay Off All Debt
- **Lesson 3:** Save a Fully Funded Emergency Fund
- **Lesson 4:** Invest for the Future and Build Wealth
- **Lesson 5:** Buyer Beware
- **Lesson 6:** The Role of Insurance
- **Lesson 7:** Retirement Planning
- **Lesson 8:** Real Estate and Mortgages
- **Lesson 9:** Living and Giving Like No One Else

PRAYER NEEDS

Prayer: Peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Bill and Neola Waller, Naomi Cummings, (Lynne German mother), Bob Rieve, Caye Spalding (Sue Rieve's sister), Zoe Scaduto, the Gray family, Nancy Pelton (Bob Edmunds sister), John Barnes, Maddie Long, Bill Stevenson and Sherry Harrington. Bereaved the families of Lynea Manners, Carlyn Stevenson, Coach Paul Webb and Margie Stallings. Send your prayer requests to prayerbumc@aol.com.



Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24, 2023

11am - 4th Sunday in Advent Service

5pm - Candlelight Service

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Staff at Baylake UMC – Pastor Clark Cundiff, Gary Shaw, Steve Archer, Lynne German & Grace Holdren!



HAPPY NEW YEAR

New Year's Eve Celebration at Winter Shelter

Join the Howard and Dolson Families as we celebrate the New Year with our Guests!

December 31st from 6-9pm in the Fellowship Hall

Let Wendy (wendyraehoward@gmail.com) know if you join the fun!



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