



# Pemberton UMC NEWSLETTER



## JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE

### FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

*I'm thankful God woke me up this morning.....*

Have you ever had moments when you wanted something so bad that you would do anything if you could get it? Have you ever said God if you do this for me then I will do this for You? Have you ever dreamed or felt God telling you that you could do this big thing? Have you ever had someone give you the perfect gift? You weren't sure how they knew that was exactly what you wanted.

The list of question I could ask could go on and on for days. I will speak for myself this last year the very things that I wanted I couldn't have. But the things I could've had easily I didn't want. I will even go as far to say, that the things that were closest and attainable sometimes I just was unable to see them. I can say that because I wasn't paying attention to the signs and other times, I could see them but would walk in denial of their existence. I know what you're thinking, what is Pastor Tiffany talking about and where is she going. Well, to be honest, I'm thinking about a lot of different things, gifts from God, trials from God, my own selfishness, my weakness, and I would go on but that may just be too honest for this writing.

As we begin this new year, I want to remind us of the obvious things. Let's take the time to celebrate the good and conquer the bad. What I'm suggesting is looking at the day-to-day things and examine where you are in life. God is always speaking and moving in our lives, but all too often we fail to see it because of our own issues. We also, quickly forget the things that He did for us just today or even yesterday. For some you will look at 2022, and hope that 2023 will be better, different. You may be thinking about all the things you desire to leave behind. However, no matter what 2022 had to offer, I want you to look at the ways that God has been so good to you. I would encourage you to write down both the good, the bad and the ugly. I would be willing to bet that the blessing vs. bad, the good would outweigh the bad.

One of the things that I can remember about my grandma's church was the time of testimonies shared by different members. During that time of sharing someone would get up and thank God just for waking them up that morning. And I can remember that after the third person got up and said the same thing, I want to thank God for waking me up this morning, I would wonder why



---

that was so important. Now as I have gotten older and have lost many friends and loved one in a variety of ways, expected and unexpected deaths. I now know how precious one day of life is because tomorrow is never promised, and so I must be thankful just for waking up this morning.

In this season where many of us begin to reflect on 2022 and we begin to the things that we want to be different in the new year, begin to thank God for everything even if you don't feel like it. Don't forget to thank Him for the stuff that you wanted and didn't get even after you bargained for it. Thank God for the little things and give thanks for the big things. Take some time to just reflect on how blessed you are even today. Then sing, "Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy one, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his son. And now let the weak say I am strong. Let the poor say, I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us, Give thanks."

*1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18(NLT) Always be joyful. Keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.*

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Tiffany S. Murphy



Baptism and receiving of new members

## Upcoming Events

January 3- Bible Study resumes 10:30 am and 6:30pm

January 14, Administrative Council Meeting and visioning session 10am-1pm (all are welcome-lunch will be provided)

January 15- Coffee with the Pastor

February 4- State of the Church (all members highly encouraged to attend)

February 22- Lent begins

# Community Pictures with Santa

I wanted to thank the church for being such a generous congregation

On Dec 11 we collected 28 gift cards from our Angel tree. We gave them out on Dec 13th to the children that come to our Food Pantry and God's closet.

On December 17, we had photos with Santa in Westley Hall.

I would like to thank all the people who volunteered to make this event successful. Mr and Mrs Santa were wonderful and enjoyed by all. They worked for 2 hours with our children and families to make them smile.

We had over 30 children and 50 free photos with Santa. 50 photo taken and given free to the families- over 30 children came to sit with Santa.

We had 14 volunteers who showed up to help out:

- Some donated donuts, candy canes, cookies, juice
- Some helped with registration.
- Others helped the photographer keep track of who gets the pictures
- Some served donuts, cookies, juice, and hot chocolate
- Others helped children with crafts- making Christmas wreaths, snowman decorations, nativity scene sticker door knob hangers . The crafts kept the children busy while the pictures were being developed.

And all this was made possible by the generous people of Pemberton donated their time and financial resources to make the day a success.

The photographer Nicki said she enjoys coming to Pemberton seeing all the happy children faces . It was her 5th Christmas with us. She wanted to thank the church for having her here.

During clean up time, a gentleman drove up in our church parking lot to donate \$100 to our church. He enjoyed our community outreach so much he wanted to donate.

So as you can see the spirit of giving is moving in Pemberton.

But the most important gift of Christmas is the birth of our Savior, Jesus on Christmas. The gift of LOVE, FORGIVENESS, and ETERNAL LIFE

What a gift !

Mariko Tabone  
Chairperson of NOW





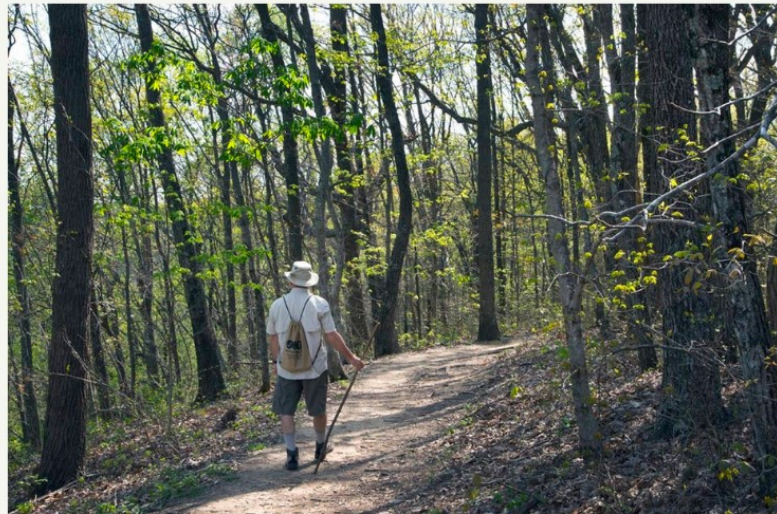
# What is Lent?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

*By Ask the UMC, a ministry of the United Methodist Communications*



**LENT IS A JOURNEY OF PREPARATION FOR  
FOLLOWING THE WAY OF JESUS.**

**PHOTO BY KATHLEEN BARRY,  
UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS.**





