

CHERRYVALE CHATTER

January 2020 Church Monthly Newsletter



Founded 1958

How do United Methodists celebrate Epiphany and Three Kings Day?

Epiphany is the day Christians remember the coming of the Magi to visit Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

It occurs on Jan. 6 every year, the 13th day of the Christmas season. The word "epiphany," from the Greek word epiphania, means appearance or manifestation.

The arrival of these visitors was a sign that the incarnation of God in Christ had been made known and was recognized by the heavens to the whole world, so that even Gentile wise men from the East came to pay him homage. This is an observance of great majesty, solemnity and awe.

An even more ancient Christian celebration than Christmas, Epiphany originally focused on the nativity, God's incarnation (God made flesh) in the birth of Jesus Christ, and Christ's baptism. After the late fourth century, as Advent developed as a season of baptismal preparation in addition to Lent, Epiphany became associated with baptism. This is why we see images of the three Magi on many older baptismal fonts.

In many Hispanic cultures, Epiphany is a day of great rejoicing and celebration, often kicked off by a parade the night before in which people dressed as the three kings or carrying statues of the three kings pass through the towns and villages throwing out candy and small gifts to all around. Families and children alike look forward to Dia de Los Tres Reyes (Three Kings Day) as a time for presents, feasting and celebration. Attending church services that include the celebration of communion is

also common in many of these cultures, even for those who may not attend worship regularly.

In England and some other European cultures, Jan. 5 is known as Twelfth Night, the culmination of the 12 days of Christmas feasting and partying. On Twelfth Night, many families gather in homes to celebrate with friends, food, singing and gifts. It is at these Twelfth Night celebrations that "Chalking the Door," asking God's blessing on those dwellings and upon all who live there, is most often observed.

In New Orleans, Twelfth Night begins another season of celebrations that comes to fulfillment at Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday). Epiphany itself, Jan. 6, becomes the kickoff day for that season, but is also often observed with a full celebration in church, complete with incense, elaborate processions, choral celebrations, and Eucharist.

Some United Methodists in the United States, who are not part of these rich traditions, tend to recognize Epiphany on the Sunday nearest Jan. 6. There may be a pageant of the three kings as part of worship that day and a small party afterward.

In celebrating Epiphany this year, consider partnering with a Hispanic, Latino or other congregation to find new ways to joyously celebrate Epiphany/Tres Reyes. In whatever ways you decide to celebrate it, remember at the heart of your celebration are the Magi kneeling, worshipping and offering gifts to Jesus, Messiah for all people.

Source: umc.org



Cherryvale United Methodist Church
709 Cherry Hill Dr.
Staunton, VA 24401
540-885-0098

Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9am – 1pm
All other times by appointment.

Sunday School Classes
9:30 am. -10:10 am
Worship Service
10:30 am

Pastor Vivian Utz
Choir Director Lawana Mayo
Administrator Laura Wonderley

MONTHLY SCRIPTURE VERSE

"May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." Psalm 19:14 (NIV)

**Don't just ATTEND your
church - LOVE your
church.
Serve, give, invite,
worship, post, join,
engage, participate!**

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The Monday night Bible study will delay their start until Pastor Vivian has done her Bible study next year. We will study with Beth Moore. The materials are on order we will just need to set the date. Meanwhile plan to support Pastor Vivian in her Study which will begin in February.

2019 MEMORIES



FAMILY



FELLOWSHIP





FAITH



FUN



FRIENDS



Healthy Living will start in late January

Randy Maddox:

John Wesley says, 'Take care of yourself'

Health and wellness was central to the ministry of the founder of Methodism, says a leading Wesley scholar. God cares about body and soul, and wants the flourishing of humanity and all creation

Wesley recognized that we won't have perfect health forever and that we all eventually die, but he believed that God wants good for us and provided means to support that.

Wesley sees this life as a foretaste of what will be in the next. If the next life is to be a life of flourishing of body and soul, then in this life God also wants us to work toward a flourishing of body and soul, and that's what Wesley encouraged people to do.

Wesley believed that God wants you to be an active participant in God's transforming work. So both spiritual and physical exercises were an important part of early Methodism.

In his letters, he wrote that exercise was the most important way to cultivate the health of both body and soul. And he gave specific advice in the "Primitive Physick (book0" about the types of exercise to do -- walking outside every day, getting your steps in, riding a horse. He recommends several, many of which are cardiovascular in nature.

What are the lessons for the church today?

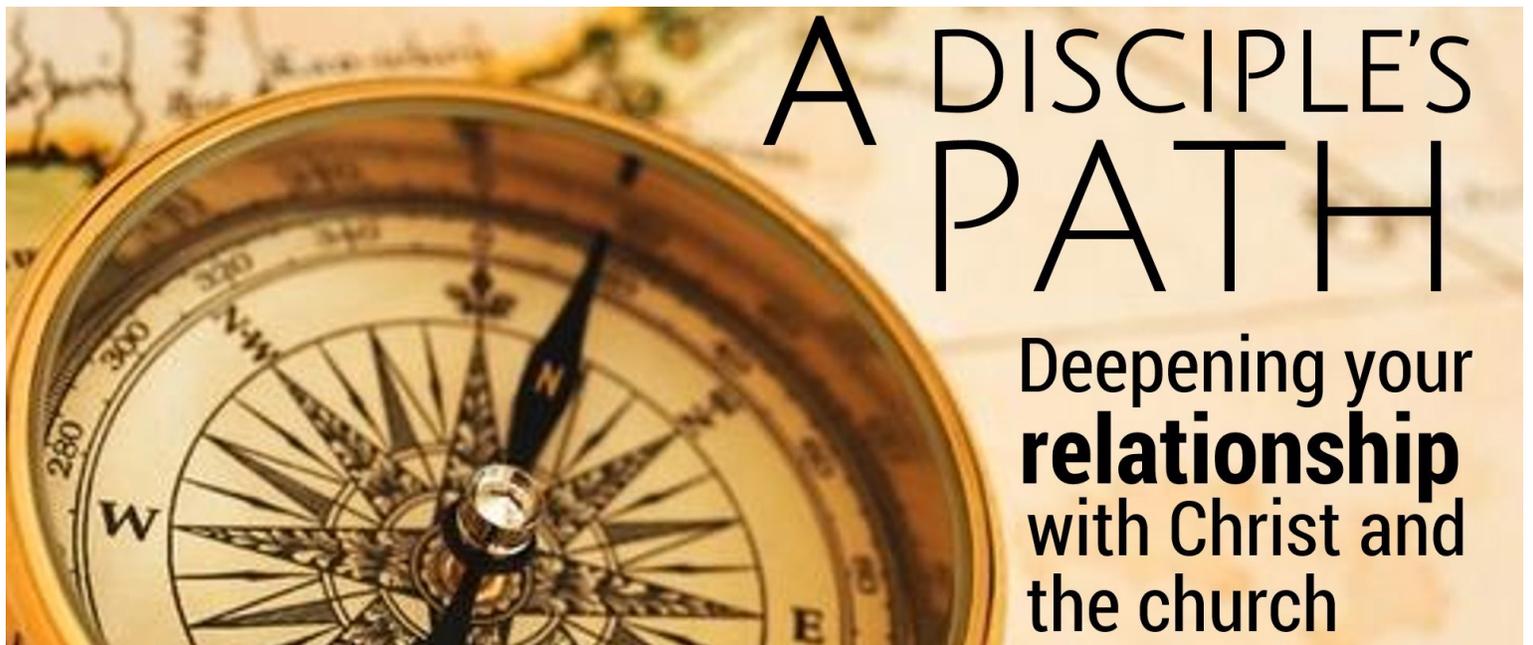
First, that God cares about body and soul, that we are created in such a way that the spiritual and the physical are interdependent.

Second, Wesley was concerned not just about how we heal that which is sick or broken but also how we nurture sustaining practices of health. He stressed that we ought to practice proper diet, exercise and sleep in order to cultivate health, that God created and sustains us, and expects this of us.

It's about human flourishing in every dimension, indeed, the flourishing of the whole creation. One insight that I don't think he realized as deeply as we do is that our care for ourselves is tied up in our care for creation. If we don't care for the creation, that too comes back to our physical detriment.

Finally, Wesley wanted to make sure that good basic care was available to all people. He designed the "Primitive Physick (book)" and the work of the visitor of the sick and things like that to reach out to those who didn't have access to or the means to purchase care.





A DISCIPLE'S PATH

Deepening your
relationship
with Christ and
the church

A Disciple's Path Bible Study By James A. Harnish, Justin LaRosa

Starts February weather permitting.

A Disciple's Path Bible Study is one that will deepen your relationship with Christ and the Church.

A discipleship study within the context of the United Methodist heritage and tradition.

A study on Prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness this is what we commit to when we become members of The United Methodist Church, and it's a big step.

But A Disciple's Path helps us look beyond membership, presenting an engaging approach to discipleship from a distinctly Wesleyan perspective.

Discipleship is ongoing, so the 6-week study is perfect for new-member groups, but also works well in small groups of long-time members. It helps you develop spiritual practices, discover your unique gifts, and engage in ministry that brings transformation to your own life and to the lives of others and the world.

Pastor Dio needs to know now how many people intend to do the study so we can order the workbooks.

Bible Study and Sermon Series

What does the Bible say about OMG? I was sitting at a sporting event, when the lovely, Christian lady beside me shouted, “Oh, my God!” as her child made a mistake. I cringed inside. And then I wondered, “does she know?” Does she know that the Bible tells us not to use God’s name in vain?

And honestly, this is not unusual. I hear Christians do this all of the time. Many are wonderful people who obviously love the Lord. Is it because we just don’t hear this called sin anymore? Are we so hardened to the use of His name due to the company we keep and the entertainment that we fill our minds with, that we just didn’t notice when we started doing it, too?

Exodus 20 is where we find the ten commandments. The third commandment is “*You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.*”

We are not to use God’s name as a curse word. We are not to use His name lightly. If we study who God is, we understand a bit more why this is such a grave sin. God is holy, sovereign, unchangeable, omnipo-

tent, omniscient, faithful, patient, and merciful. This is just a short list of the adjectives that could be used to describe God, the One who made a way for us to be reconciled to Him through His son, Jesus Christ. If He is so awesome and so wonderful (and He is!), then we can understand why it is so important for us not to use His name when we are angry or surprised.

I am not writing this to point a finger or to make you feel guilty. Quite honestly, I have personally believed for a long time, that I probably shouldn’t even say “Oh, my gosh!” It is obviously a sadly disguised copy of the original. And yet, I still struggle with it. You will still hear that come out of my mouth on occasion. Language is a hard thing to change. When we grow angry or are surprised, we tend to forget our speech in the heat of the moment.

My desire in writing, as always, is to make us think. We need to think about the words that come out of our mouths. If we are a redeemed soul saved by grace, then all of life should be lived intentionally to please our heavenly Father. May we recognize that taking God’s name in vain in any form is offensive to the Holy God who saved us. And let’s start today anew using our tongues to glorify God’s name instead of curse it! **Source: growing4life.net**



Sunday School
9:30-10:10 am

Worship Services
10:30—11:30 am

Classes Available:

Simon Gilbert—1st floor
New Beginnings—1st floor
Seekers— 1st floor
Children’s—1st Floor

Please Pray for the following:

Lonnie C.
Connie W.
Carl W.
Christine K.
Bonnie D.
Denise R.
Larry C.
Pete M.
Donnie L.
Diane S.
Russ G.

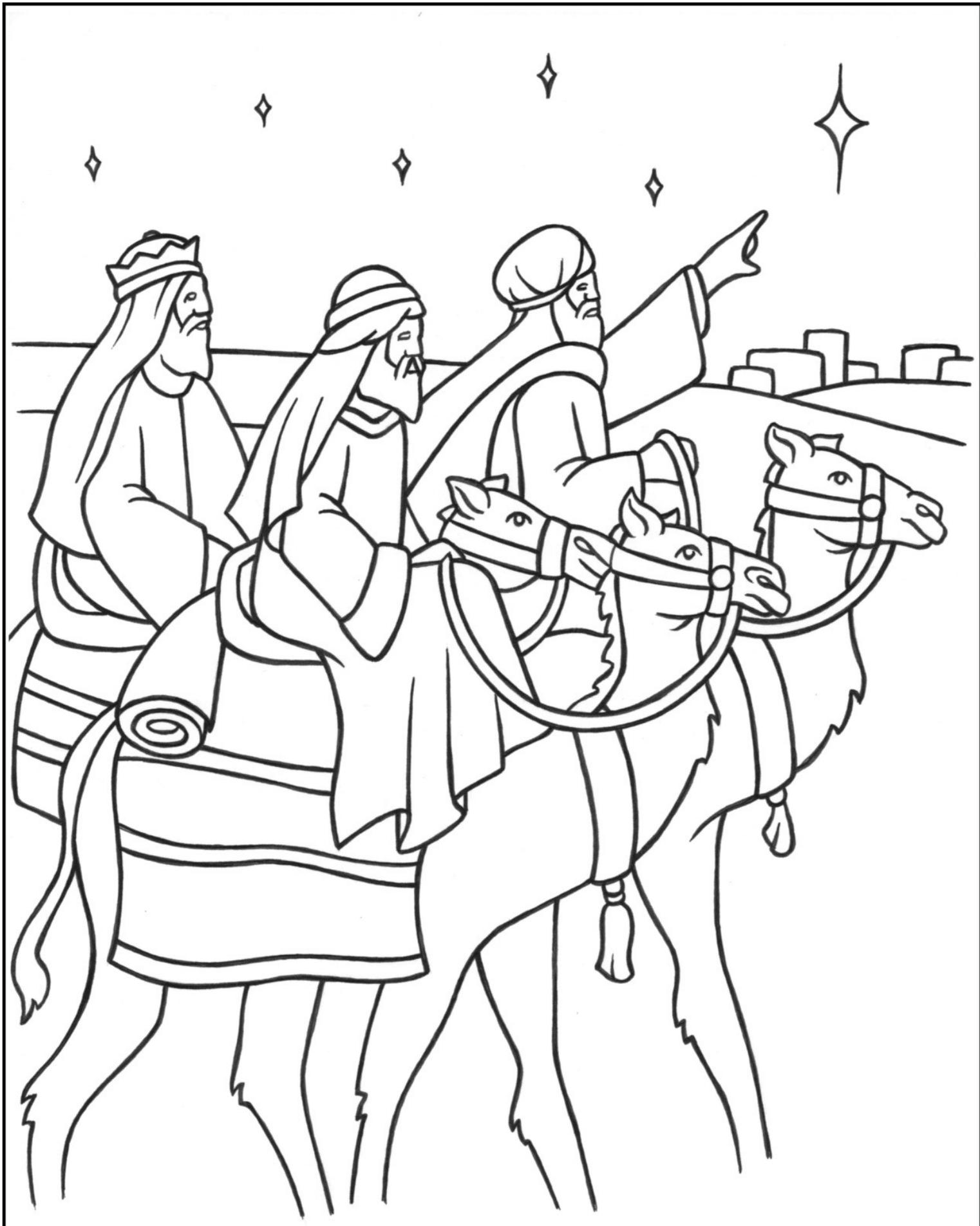
Tom G.
Luther W.
Wilma R.
Colby R.
Tony C.
Jeff D.
John C.
Marylou H.
Danny M.
Donna L.
John J.
Bob E.

SHUT INS

Remember our brothers & sisters who are unable to get out to the church for services and fellowship. Send a note or visit them.

Leola B.
Mabel P
Maxine B
Kathy C
Tootie F.

SPRING CLEANING— Why spend the first beautiful days of the year spring-cleaning when you could have done it on more dreary days? That’s why winter is the perfect time to declutter and donate unwanted or unused items.



JANUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5 Sunday School 9:30a m Worship Services 10:30 a.m.	6 Epiphany	7	8	9	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:30a m Worship Services 10:30 a.m.	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:30a m Worship Services 10:30 a.m.	20 Martin Luther King Jr Day	21	22	23	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:30a m Worship Services 10:30 a.m.	27	28	29	30	31	



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Tre Bell **11th**
Lisa Chambers **26th**

An affirmation to say every day:

The healing power of God is
working in me right now.
Every day I get better and
better in every way.
~Joyce Meyer~

APOLOGIZES TO: The following was left out of the
December newsletter

Sherry and Wade Munford have been married for 40 years
on December 1, 2019.

HA! HA! HA!

At the Christmas Eve service the pastor
was quizzing some children about the
nativity, asked, "What gifts did the three
wise men give the Christ child?"

"Gold!" one child yelled." Frankincense!"
shouted another. After a pause, a third
asked, "Gift cards?"



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—Please submit all FEBRUARY newsletter information by JANUARY 15th to
cherryvalenews@gmail.com or to Alison Painter. Thank you & have a Blessed January!