

January 2025,

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have travelled another year together and I am \*SO\* grateful. Y'all are the \*MOST\* wonderful congregation \*EVER\*. You truly do represent the body of Christ, serving as his hands and feet in our community, with grace and love and good humor. Here's few

of the reasons why (You ever notice how in the Bible when there's a transition to something big, the words "AND THEN" are used?):

Several unexpected things came up in the last month **AND THEN** you rose to the occasion.

Really, it started in November, as all of the people who impact Christmas worship came together. We were discussing poinsettias and wreaths and all the practicalities a church focuses on for advent, **AND THEN** the Holy Spirit came upon us and someone said, "How about a mitten tree?" And another someone said, "hats and scarves for the needful kids in Madison" And another someone said, "and how about socks for the prisoners?!"

And y'all got behind it.

**AND THEN** Bobbie brought us the good news and beautiful award from the Boys and Girls Club of Virginia naming us "Community Partner of the Year 2024". We share this award in partnership with two other churches in Madison for our Loaves and Fishes work, an effort that goes on all year round to feed the underserved families in Madison.

And y'all get behind this, all year long.

**AND THEN**, at our free Santa's Workshop, we had strangers, as we always do. And we had beautiful volunteers helping out, as we always do. Some of those volunteers are the kind of folks that you would just spill your story to if they sat next to you. And they got to talking with a couple of the strangers, and found out that this Grandma and Grandpa and two granddaughters were living in an efficiency hotel, and participate in Head Start in Madison. The little girls were dressed in their best to come see Santa. And we are clothed in Christ, so one of our members reached out to the Madison HeadStart, who verified their position and let us know their needs.

We put out an all-call - and y'all got behind it.

AND THEN, this congregation was nominated for a "Hometown Hero Award for Community Service" for the

"Annual Madison County Parks and Recreation Hometown Heroes Awards." We are the only church to be nominated in any category. I am so proud of all of you and all you do in the name of Christ. There are 3 other nominees and there will be one winner. It does cost \$2.00 to vote, and that money goes to the Madison County Parks and Recreation to help fund the Hoover Ridge Outdoor Recreation Center.

You may remember that on March 20, 2024, high winds triggered a wildfire that spread to the hockey rink. Much of the rink was destroyed, along with the player's shed containing hockey gear, rink equipment, tools, skates, uniforms, and more. The new project will include these items: Hockey Rink, Accessible Playground, Splash Pad, Basketball Court, Tennis/Pickleball Court, Accessible Walking Path, Restroom facilities, Picnic Shelter, Water Retention Pond, and a Dog Park.

If you would like to vote for us (or for our beloved Nan Coppedge who was nominated for Hometown Hero for Cultural Enrichment! Yay Nan!) you may do so here: hometownhero25.givesmart.com.

The deadline to submit nomination forms is Friday, December 6, 2024. The final recipients will be honored at the Hometown Heroes Community Awards Gala on February 15, 2025.

AND THEN you know we will continue to serve the community into 2025 and beyond regardless of nominations and prizes. We will always do for the least of these to the glory of God. We have an audience of One and we are grateful and blessed!

Happy New Year!

Your Sister in the Journey,

Pastor Karen

# **ANNUAL MEETING January 26th**

ANNUAL MEETING – The Annual Congregational Meeting to report on 2024, have the corporate meeting, and vote on the pastor's terms of call for 2025 will take place on January 26, immediately following worship in the fellowship hall. Please bring a dish to share for potluck! Elders and Team leaders get your annual reports from 2024 into Donna by Wednesday, January 16. Also, if anyone has changes to the directory, please send those to Donna as well. Thank you!

#### **Pastor Karen Contact Information**



My cell is 540-414-3193 Saturday through Thursday 9am-7pm.

My Sabbath is Friday. Emergencies only on Fridays, please.



**EMERGENCIES** call any time. PLEASE call or text directly if you or your loved one goes to the hospital, as soon as possible. Do not assume I know.



In the Office M, W, Th from 9 to Noon AND when you want to see me.

I am HAPPY to make afternoon, evening, or weekend appointments.

My time will flex to accommodate you.

If you want to drop by to see me instead of making an appointment, I will always be glad to see you. Just know you may have to wait if someone else has scheduled time.



#### **MPC Office Hours**

**Donna** is in the Office Mon-Thurs 8:00am-1:00pm. Please stop by, leave a message on the phone or send an email if there's anything we can help with. If you have changes to your Address, Phone, or Email please send updated information to office@madisonpresbyterian.com.





# Madison Presbyterian Church

PIN: 22871 Presbytery: James (<u>150298</u>) Synod: Mid-Atlantic (<u>150</u>)

# The Mitten Tree looks Amazing.

If you still want to bring items, please have them at Church **no later than Jan 5th.** We will be sorting and delivering that week to the school nurses for distribution. Thank you once again for stepping up to help those less fortunate.



Madison Presbyterian Church, Hebron Lutheran Church and Piedmont Episcopal Church received the Community *Partner of the Year Award* for 2024 from Boys & Girls Clubs, Madison Club, for Loaves and Fishes. The congregation of MPC generously provides financial support, and the following people aid in the shopping, packing and delivery: Mary Haught, Sam Strahan, Berta and John Storey, Audrey Sarate, Malcolm Davis, George and Bobbie Carroll, and others who assist when needed.





There is a great collection of books in the Tack Room to learn more about how to become a steward of our planet, and in keeping with

being an Earth Care Congregation.



# BROWN BAG BOOK STUDY CONTINUES

"Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End" By Atul Gawande January 8th and 15th at 11am

Tack Room

In his bestselling books, Atul Gawande, a practicing surgeon, fearlessly revealed struggles of his profession. Now he examines its ultimate limitations and failures – in his own practices as well as others' – as life draws to a close. And he discovers how we can do better. He follows a hospice nurse on her rounds, a geriatrician in his clinic, and reformers turning nursing homes upside down. He finds people who show us how to have the hard conversations and how to ensure we never sacrifice what people really care about.

Riveting, honest, and humane, *Being Mortal* shows that the ultimate goal is not a good death but a good life – all the way to the very end.

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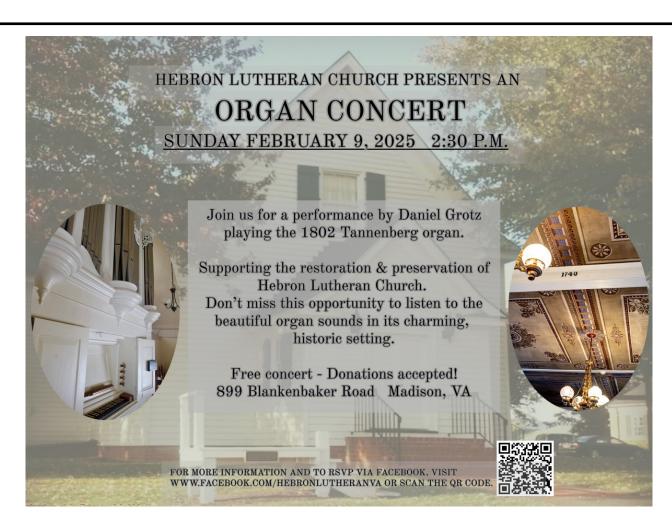


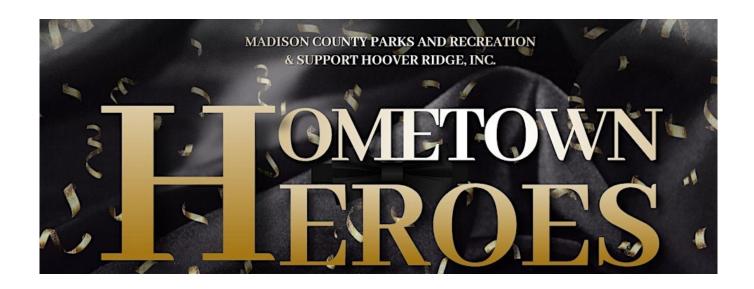
Approximately 40 children attended the Santa's Workshop from age 7 weeks through teens. Thanks to all those who helped including Pastor Karen and Odie, Frank and Mary King, Sharon Carter, Jane Lamar, Bonn Beatty, Dorinda Grasty, Emily Petersen, and Barbara Hawley.

# The choir provided the beautiful gift of music for the Advent season.









Madison Presbyterian Church has been nominated for a "Hometown Hero" award for Community Service for the annual Madison County Parks and Recreations Hometown Heroes Awards. We are the only church to be nominated in any category. I am so proud of all of you and all you do in the name of Christ. PK

What happens next: Online voting opened December 19th and will close on Wednesday, January 15th at 11:59pm. All winners will be gifted a ticket to the Hometown Heroes Community Awards Gala on Saturday, February 15 from 7:00pm-10:00pm at Renback Barn in Rochelle, VA. Winners will be presented with their award at the event.

Here's how you can help! Please share this with people you know, or print and put in your business or organization. You can also share this link - <a href="https://hometownhero25.givesmart.com">https://hometownhero25.givesmart.com</a>. We also have incorporated a texting feature where you can text *hometownhero25* to 76278!

YOU HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BECAUSE YOU DESERVE TO BE HERE! Show yourself off! You're doing great things!

#### Counters January—March 2025

January	February	March
Elizabeth Anne Storey	Sue Strahan	Heidi Sage
Nancy Preston	Sam Strahan	Allen McLearen

**The Card Group** makes greeting cards for nursing home residents and church members that are home bound, and for other occasions. They meet Fridays (January 10th, 24th, and 31st) in the Fellowship Hall at 10am. All are welcome to join!

**Choir Practice** meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Please contact Elizabeth Anne Storey with any questions.

**Breakfast Buzz** meets at 9am on the third Friday of the month, in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Bobbie Carroll with any questions.

**Presbyterian Women** meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday (January 8th), at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.

**Men's Group** meets each Tuesday at 9am in the Tack Room. All men are welcome!

**Book Club** meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11am in the Tack Room. This month we're meeting the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday.

#### **January**

Allen McLearen

Mike Willis Sue Strahan

Cindy Pattie Dudley Pattie



On Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of each month, the cups contain only Juice.

Janua	ary Liturgists	and Greeters		
Jan 5	Nan Coppedge	Harvey & Corinne Stanley		
Jan 12	Bonn Beatty	Dorinda Grasty & Guy Hargrave		
Jan 19	Sharon Weakley	Ruth Miles & Sam Gentleway		
Jan 26	Art Pearson	Tom & Holly Thomas		

# **Social Services Needs for Families**

Needs of the Month: JANUARY "Foods" of the Month



Single serving size canned vegetables, fruits, meats or soups with pop-up lids, packs of pudding or Jell-o cups, crackers, small jars of peanut butter & jelly or packs of raisins.



Please place your donations in the red container in the Fellowship Hall. Items will be taken to Madison Social Services to help neighbors in need.

# **January Birthdays**

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01/02 Darren McKinney

01/03 Morgan McKinney

01/05 Elizabeth Kloker

01/10 Conner Titman

01/15 Kaleb Dooley

01/28 Elizabeth Haines

01/29 Alexandra Spencer-Lowell

01/31 Judy Carter



# Breakfast Buzzzzzz

Friday January 17th 9AM No Speaker

Please bring your ideas for 2025 Speakers and join us for breakfast

# The First Sunday of each month we collect a special offering for 5° a Meal.

Please consider contributing to this worthy cause in the effort to end hunger.



# **January Anniversaries**

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01/27 Harvey & Corrine Stanley

#### Men's Group

meets each Tuesday at 9:00am in the Tack Room.

Bring your breakfast and enjoy some coffee and conversation.

All men are welcome!

# Have something you would like to contribute to the Monthly Newsletter?

Send your articles, pictures, or information to the church office at:

office@madisonpresbyterian.com



#### **STEWARDSHIP**

Please remember to send in your pledge cards for the 2025 fiscal year. Pledge 🦫 cards allow the Finance Committee to estimate the budget for the coming year.

Thank you for your contribution!

#### **Brown Bag Book Study**

We will meet Wednesday, January 8th and 15th at 11am in the Tack Room. Our book is Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande. Contact Bobbie Carroll if you have any questions. 540-948-9922



Madison Presbyterian Church PO Box 297, 1236 Fishback Road Madison, VA 22727 540.948.6972

www.madisonpresbyterian.com

Pastor: Karen Allamon Church

pastorkaren@madisonpresbyterian.com

Administrator: Heidi Piper

office@madisonpresbyterian.com

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a - 1:00p

# January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
			1 Happy New Year	2 Garden Club 9am-1pm	3	4		
5 Worship 10am Communion AA 5:30pm	6	7 Men's Group 9am Garden Club 9-4 Session 6:30pm	8 Pres Women 10am Brown Bag Book Study 11am Choir Practice 7pm	9	10 Card Group 10am	11 Officer Dinner 5:00pm		
12 Worship 10am Elder Installation AA 5:30pm	13 Quilt Guild 1:00pm	14 Men's Group 9am	15 Brown Bag Book Study 11am Woman's Club 6:00pm Choir Practice 7pm	16 Garden Club 11-5 Annual Reports Due	17 Breakfast Buzz 9am	18		
19 Worship 10am AA 5:30pm	20	21 Men's Group 9am	22 Choir Practice 7pm	23 POJ Clergy Women's Lunch 11-2:30	24 Card Group 10am	25		
26 Worship 10am Potluck/ Annual Mtg 11am AA 5:30pm	27 Quilt Guild 6:30pm	28 Men's Group 9am	29 Choir Practice 7pm	30	31 Card Group 10am			

Sunday, January 5 Second Sunday of Christmas Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9) 10-18

Sunday, January 12 Baptism of the Lord Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, January 19 Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11

Sunday, January 26 Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a Luke 4:14–21