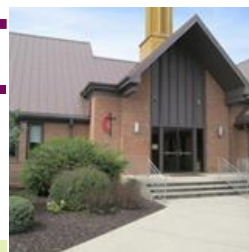


# DAYTON UNITED METHODIST

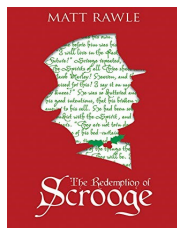
Mission Statement: "We invite everyone to become disciples of Christ by loving and serving God and actively living out their faith."

**Love. Connect. Serve.**

215 Ashby Street, Dayton, VA 22821 | 540-879-2102 | [daytonumc@comcast.net](mailto:daytonumc@comcast.net) | [www.daytonumc.net](http://www.daytonumc.net)



**DECEMBER  
2020**



## Looking at 'A Christmas Carol' during Advent

Pastor Jenny & Graham Witt are leading a study titled "*The Redemption of Scrooge: Connecting Christ and Culture*" by Matt Rawle. Join in every Wednesday evening in Advent, Dec. 2 - 23, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Choir Room or via Zoom. Contact Pastor Jenny to sign up for in-person or to get the Zoom link. ([daytonpastor@comcast.net](mailto:daytonpastor@comcast.net))

**Sunday Worship  
at 10 am  
Live Stream on  
YouTube  
DaytonUMC-VA**

**In-Person in the  
Coffee Social  
Area**

Please, if you have been exposed to someone with Covid-19 or have not been feeling well, remain at home and watch online.



## Bringing the Christmas Story to Life on December 20<sup>th</sup>

With so many holiday activities curtailed, we began looking for ways to share the Birth of Christ with our community. A faith-journey touchstone for many of us was putting on a costume and acting out the Christmas story so we are reviving the Live Nativity! It happens Sunday, **December 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m.** and be a 'drive-thru' format. There will be sheep and a donkey. ALL AGES are welcome to participate!

We are looking for volunteers for two different shifts during that three-hour time frame. You can dress up and play a nativity character, direct traffic, help with setup/cleanup, create or donate decorations or fill another role that is yet to be realized. This one-afternoon event will be an opportunity to share the true reason for the season with our neighbors through this special visual (and socially distanced) presentation. Please contact Melinda Shiflet (540-867-5288; [shifletmelinda@verizon.net](mailto:shifletmelinda@verizon.net)) or the Church office.



## Adapting Christmas Eve Worship for 2020

There is a song that goes, "*Are we ready for the Babe of Bethlehem? And will we know Him when he comes?*" We pray that everyone will be even more intentional in making Christ the center of your celebrations this year.

We can still worship, though it will look and sound different. What is staying the same? Well, the reading of scriptures, special music, lighting candles and "Silent Night" to name a few traditions. So how can you participate?

- Watch it:** a pre-recorded Christmas Eve Service will be posted on our YouTube channel early in the day that can be viewed at your convenience. (DaytonUMC-VA)
- Attend it:** We will offer two in-person worship services, one at **3:00 p.m.** and the other at **5:00 p.m.**, in the Sanctuary. Because of COVID-19 restrictions /precautions here's what you need to know if you plan to attend:
  - \* To maintain social distancing, there is limited space available. Therefore, **you must sign-up** ahead of time by emailing or calling the church office. **Registration ends December 22<sup>nd</sup> or when space is full.**
  - \* Masks must be worn by all those age 5 and older at all times. (disposables available)
  - \* Pews will be marked. Households may sit together but please maintain six-feet from all others... that means no hugging or handshaking (we know it's hard!).
  - \* No singing will be allowed, but please hum along to your heart's content!
  - \* All worship team members, including the pastor, will be wearing masks.

***The Good News is still the same*** - yesterday, today and tomorrow. Our celebration won't look exactly the same as other years, but we hope you will join us in worship in whatever way you feel comfortable!



**Advent  
Devotionals &  
Family Packets**

Be sure to pick up an Advent Devotional from the bins outside the front doors of the church. One bin has packets for households with children &/or youth which includes a family devotional, an Advent calendar, and a coloring book. Another bin holds devotionals marked for households with adults only.



Operating in the former Red Front Supermarket on Chicago Avenue in Harrisonburg until April 2021

Open Doors, our local low-barrier homeless shelter for Harrisonburg and Rockingham county, has been blessed by a community that continues to show Christ's call to put our faith into action. Most are aware that John Garber, the owner of Red Front, has opened his doors while that building remains vacant. It will be Open Doors' temporary home until April and will provide the space it needs to serve the 'least and lost' in our community.

This model departs from Open Doors' previous accommodations in our surrounding churches. What a blessing over the last decade that our faith communities would provide such hospitality in their facilities. It is no exaggeration to say that without such charity and support, Open Doors would not have remained active. Open Doors will be forever grateful for this relationship. It is clear though, that today, especially in a COVID-19 world full of lockdowns and restrictions, we can never return to that paradigm. But the mission of our faith communities is still profoundly needed to keep Open Doors, well, keep their "doors open." Especially as we consider that without a home, where is someone to self-isolate?

So how can Dayton UMC help? Open Doors is asking local churches to 'sponsor' a week, very similar to our scheduling over the years. The minimum needs during this week are straightforward: provide a meal to feed 55 individuals, to include guests, staff and volunteers. The meal is served at 7:00 PM each evening. Ideally, the church would also send three volunteers each evening to package and serve the meal in the Red Front kitchen, behind Plexiglas, without person-to-person interaction. If serving isn't possible, don't let this stop you from food preparations – Open Doors will solicit volunteers from the broader community to be food servers.

**Dayton UMC has scheduled December 21 -- 27 as our 1<sup>st</sup> week – but NOT on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, those are already provided.** So please consider one or more of the following ways to support this mission:

- Provide/prepare a meal in it's entirety. Maybe as a small group, Sunday School class or other neighbors can prepare each piece. If you need assistance transporting the meal to the shelter, we can do that! If you need some assistance purchasing ingredients DUMC has a budget line for that. If you need access to the amazing DUMC kitchen, we can do that.
- Contact any of our local restaurants or other small businesses and pay for them to deliver a meal to the shelter. They are struggling through the COVID restrictions as well.
- Send a contribution to the church indicating it is for Open Doors. We can arrange a meal to be prepared or reimburse other groups shopping
- If you are not a cook, sign-up as a volunteer to come package and serve the meal at the shelter that evening.

**The Point of Contact for this effort is Graham Witt, 540-383-8420, [hoowitts@comcast.net](mailto:hoowitts@comcast.net).**

All scheduling for this week will be done through him, but hopefully will move online for future weeks. If you need assistance in any way or questions about how you can support this mission, please don't hesitate to contact him.



### **More Opportunities to Help Local Families in Need**

**~Salvation Army Bell Ringing** is happening every Thursday thru Sunday and all week Dec. 21-24. Please, sign up through the Salvation Army site, [registertoring.com](http://registertoring.com) or you can call or email, Ashley Gordon-Becker at 540-435-3779 or [Ashley.Gordon-Becker@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Ashley.Gordon-Becker@uss.salvationarmy.org).

**~Mission Central Update:** Thank you for being so generous! Lena Osborne reports she has delivered several boxes of diapers, a bag of clothing and a couple developmental toys to The Children's Clothes Closet at Mission Central. There is always a need for diapers/baby supplies and at present, they need clothing for boys, size 6 & 6X. If you are able to donate, please place items in the crib in the Narthex or in the bin outside of the church's front door. Plus, the Medical Equipment Loaner Closet part of Mission Central needs some extra space to store medical supplies. If you have space available please contact [MissionCentralUMC@gmail.com](mailto:MissionCentralUMC@gmail.com) .



### **Birthdays**

- 1 Bridget Appleton
- 1 Sue Dinsmore
- 1 Braelon Steele
- 2 Carl Estes
- 3 Ethan Eberly
- 3 Betty Lou Huffman
- 4 Connie Gilmer
- 4 Daniel Heatwole
- 5 Evelyn Thomas
- 7 Stacie Bowers
- 10 Linda Jacobs
- 11 Doug Helmick
- 11 Steve Hill
- 13 James Snyder
- 17 Robin Simmons
- 18 Sidney Hamann
- 18 Mike Hill
- 19 JB Showalter
- 19 Codi Jo Wheelbarger
- 19 Lauren Mitchell
- 21 Nancy Showalter
- 22 Ruth Culver
- 22 Ken May
- 23 Mason Guyer
- 24 Davin Tatro
- 26 Becky Eberly
- 28 Mary Jane McCoy
- 29 Betty Robinson
- 29 Bob Dinsmore
- 30 Holly Harold

### **Anniversaries**

- 9 Carl Rasnack & Debbie Crist ('06)
- 9 Keith & Jill Wright ('78)
- 10 Lee & Bonnie Dellinger ('66)
- 23 Vince & Connie Gilmer ('67)
- 27 Don & Wanda Gault ('47)



... to the family & friends of **Jeremy Baugher**, who was killed in a motorcycle accident in November. Jeremy was the son of Leslie Sites and grandson of Joe Hiner.

...to **Loretha Bland** on the death of her sister, Charlene Parrisk, who lived in Oklahoma. A memorial service will be held sometime in 2021.

... to **Jim Nutter** on the death of his sister, Esther Harmon.\*

... to **Carrie Nutter** on the death of her brother, Donald Chewning, who lived in Pennsylvania.

... to **Mary Nieswander** and family on the death of her \*sister-in-law, Esther Harmon, especially Mary's niece who recently lost her husband and now has also lost her mother.

"The giving of gifts is not something [people] invented. God started the giving spree when he gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of his Son."  
—Robert Flatt



**The family of Ed Byrd** would like to thank our loving church family for all the acts of kindness and sympathy extended to us. It was deeply appreciated. Your expressions of sympathy and love will always be treasured.

**-Flo Byrd**

We express our appreciation to **Erika Gregory** for creating the planters on the front porch and to **Carolyn Davis & Nancy Harper** for the front door decorations.

...and, once more, thank you to all who contributed to the Pence Backpack program and provided 30 Apple Tree gifts.



### **Prayer Partners**

is a fun, informal DUMC fellowship activity. We intentionally pray for one another and take time to recognize holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, special accomplishments or just "thinking of you" moments with small gifts and greetings - while keeping identities secret for a whole year!

All Adults (male or female) are encouraged & welcome to become a Secret Prayer Partner. To sign up contact Pastor Jenny. She is going to oversee the pairing of names this year.

Won't you become a special (but secret) friend for another special person? You'll get to pray, express kindness, care and support and get that in return. Then, at the end of the year, surprise and be surprised when identities are revealed in a Christmas gift.

**Sign up to be a 2021 Secret Prayer Partner today!**



### **Finance Update**

Due to present lower interest rates, DUMC was able to *buydown* our mortgage with F&M Bank at a lower rate. Our interest rate was reduced from 5.79% to 4.24%. Our required monthly payment was decreased but Finance and Council voted to continue making the same payment we have been making as long as possible. In addition, any donations marked for mortgage reduction will be applied to the loan principal. This will result in a dramatic savings of approximately \$147,000 in interest over the life of the loan. We are grateful to Paige Will for working with the bank on the *buydown*.

**-Lena Osborne, Council Chair**



	Sunday	Sermon Title	Scriptures	Music
6	Advent 2 Communion	"Prepare the Way"	Isaiah 40: 1-11 Mark 1: 1-8	Connie Minnick and Sally Smith
13	Advent 3	"Unexpected Visitor"	Isaiah 61: 8-11 Luke 1: 26-45	The Hand Bell Choir
20	Advent 4	"Mary's Song"	2 Samuel 7: 4-11, 16 Luke 1: 46-55	Nicole Jenkins
24	Christmas Eve	"Bah Humbug" (it is 2020 after all)	Luke 2: 1-20	Jim Alley, Linda Jacobs, Melinda Shiflet
27	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas	"Promises Fulfilled"	Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 22-40	Jim Alley



*Love  
Light  
Tree  
2020*

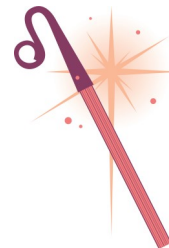
***It is a celebration of Love and Light*** - what the birth and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus, brings to us. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year for our Love Light Tree at DUMC and each light on the tree represents a person that is, or has, touched lives. Together, all of the lights are a reminder that, as followers of Christ, exhibiting unselfish caring and sharing brightens our world. This year your donations will be shared with the Dayton Community Aid Fund and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

**The deadline for all submissions is December 13<sup>th</sup>.** Lights are \$10 each and are traditionally shared in honor or memory of your loved ones. You can find forms in the tub on the front porch, in a special email, or by contacting the church office. Complete the form as you would like it printed, please, and return it along with a check to DUMC with the memo 'Love Light Tree.'

We plan to publish the list of donors and honorees in the next newsletter and during the Live Stream announcements. Hard copies will be available in the tub on the front porch.

"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern."

-Mother Teresa



*The simple shepherds  
heard the voice of an angel  
and found their Lamb;  
the wise men  
saw the light of a star  
and found their wisdom.  
-Fulton J. Sheen*

Treasurer's Report: Jan - Oct 2020 Budget	
Contributions/Income	\$220,176.36
Expenditures	\$231,048.70
Year-to-Date Budget	\$269,215.76
Designated Contributions	\$70,095.00
Mortgage Report as of October 31, 2020	
Loan Amount	\$650,000.00
Principal payments	\$98,282.62
Loan Balance	\$551,717.38
Extra payments on principal	\$546,929.69 **
** Includes Original + Refinanced Mortgage	

### We Accept E-Giving!

Use a checking account, savings account, debit or credit card to quickly and easily make your secure one-time or recurring (weekly or monthly) donation.



Automating your donations permits uninterrupted giving during vacations, illness or weather closure.

Just visit our website [www.daytonumc.net](http://www.daytonumc.net) or call Keri in the church office for more information.

540-879-2102 | [DaytonUMC@comcast.net](mailto:DaytonUMC@comcast.net)

**Giving Updates** - If you would like an update on your yearly giving please email or call the church office and Keri will be glad to help.



## INTRODUCING THE 2021 LAY LEADERSHIP TEAM

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Chairperson – Lena Osborne  
Vice Chair - Denise Lough  
Lay Leader – Steve Ruminski  
Lay Member – Linda Jacobs  
Church Treasurer – JB Showalter  
Finance Chair – Dennis Miller  
Nurture Chair – Don Bowers  
Outreach/Missions Chair – Graham Witt  
Secretary – Debbie Crist  
Staff Parish Chair - Beth Moseley  
Trustee Chair – Phil Gentry  
Witness Chair – Melinda Shiflet  
Worship Chair – Debbie Crist  
Youth Coordinator – Jenny Day  
UM Men - Steve Ruminski, President  
UM Women - Glenda Ryder President

### **ADMINISTRATIVE TEAMS**

#### **Staff Parish** – *Beth Moseley, Chair*

Class of 2021  
– Amy Simmons, Beth Moseley, Jennifer Appleton  
Class of 2022  
– Todd Nieder, Linda Covington, James Andes  
Class of 2023  
– Diane Pennington, TBD, TBD  
Lay Leader – Steve Ruminski  
Lay Member – Linda Jacobs

#### **Trustees** – *Phil Gentry Chair*

Class of 2021  
– Elsie Cox, Phil Gentry, Gail Mitchell (Vice Chair)  
Class of 2022  
– Mary Helen Witt (Secretary), Rebecca Wong,  
Keith Ryder  
Class of 2023  
– Cary Jackson, TBD, TBD

#### **Lay Leadership** – *Jenny Day, Chair*

Class of 2021  
– Mary Jane McCoy, Stacie Jackson, Dan Tatro  
Class of 2022  
– Chris Simmons, Jay Ralston, Elaine Heatwole  
Class of 2023  
– Betsy Hedrick, Kim Nieder, Debbie Crist  
Lay Leader – Steve Ruminski

#### **Finance Committee** – *Dennis Miller, Chair*

Keri Hiner (Admin. Assistant /Financial Secretary)  
At-Large: Paige Will, Jack Osborne, David Gregory  
Steve Ruminski (Lay Leader)  
Linda Jacobs (Lay Member)  
Lena Osborne (Council Chair)  
Phil Gentry (Trustees Chair)  
Beth Moseley (SPRC Chair)  
JB Showalter (Treasurer)  
Dennis Miller (Assistant Treasurer)

### **N.O.W.W. TEAMS**

#### **Nurture Team** – *Don Bowers, Chair*

Adult Sunday School – Jenny Day  
Care Committee – Elsie Cox, Coordinator  
Children's Sunday School – Kim Nieder  
Nursery Coordinator – Jan Alley  
Small Group Coordinator – Jenny Day  
Sunday School Secretary – Larry Hedrick  
Vacation Bible School – Mary Ryder  
Women's Small Group – Connie Gilmer  
Young First Followers  
– Betsy Hedrick & Jessica Tatro  
Youth Coordinator – Jenny Day

#### **Outreach/Missions Team** – *Graham Witt, Chair*

Easter Basket Project  
– Debbeey Roadcap & Kim Guyer  
Kingsway Apple Tree  
– Jan Alley & Amy Simmons  
Open Doors – Graham Witt  
Prayer Chain – Administrative Assistant  
Prayer Shawls – Nancy Byrd  
Pence Backpacks – Stacie Jackson  
Salvation Army Bell Ringers  
– Dick & Linda Jacobs  
Wednesday Night Dinners – Gail Mitchell  
Community Aid Fund - TBD

#### **Witness Team** – *Melinda Shiflet, Chair*

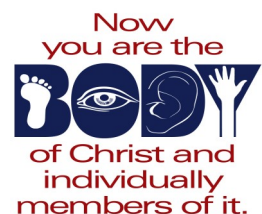
Coffee Social Coordinator – Lena Osborne  
New Member Assimilation – vacant  
New Resident Coordinator – vacant  
Publicity/Communications – vacant  
Visitor Follow-up – vacant

#### **Worship Team** – *Linda Wine, Chair*

Acolyte Coordinator – Linda Wine  
AV Team – Graham Witt, Karen Short,  
Steve Ruminski, Debbie Crist  
Children's Choir – Dianne Pennington  
Flower/Altar Ministry – Linda Wine  
Greeter Coordinator – Norma Snyder, Ann Will  
Noisy Cans – Doug & Diane Helmick  
Usher Coordinator – Nancy Harper

#### **Staff on Worship Team**

Bell Choir Director – Ramona Evans  
Music Director – Nicole Jenkins  
Organist – Jeff Weaver  
Pianist – Anna Showalter  
Pastor - Jenny Day



Continued on page 6

1 Corinthians 12:27, NRSV

### District/Conference Representatives

Alternate Lay Member - *Steve Ruminski*  
Camp Overlook Rep. - *Beth Moseley*  
Dist. Board of Missions - *Graham Witt*  
Dist. Steward - *Dennis Miller*

### Communications & Community

Crisis Club Coordinator - *Bob Dinsmore*  
Facebook Managers - *Susie Dinsmore*  
Librarian - *vacant*  
Newsletter Editor - *Sally Smith*  
Website Mangers - *Keri Hiner (AA) & Joe Helsing*



## 238<sup>TH</sup> VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT (Vol. 2)

The 238<sup>th</sup> Session of the Virginia Annual Conference was held virtually on October 31, 2020. The theme for this Conference was “See All the People” and Romans 15:7 was the guiding Scripture: *“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”*



This meeting was rescheduled from September which had to be cancelled because of technical difficulties. The entire agenda was repeated. In the October DUMC newsletter I reported on what did occur during the September meeting, so I will not repeat any of those notes. Most of the October meeting dealt with motions and recommendations from various committees and Boards which dealt with the business and administrative issues of the Virginia Conference. Attendees were able to vote virtually on those motions. I will not report on any of the voting since it was quite extensive and mainly involved Conference “business”. So, I will just add a couple more notes to the report.

- The Conference has produced videos on race and race issues which can be used for group studies in churches.
- Six congregations were discontinued (which I take to mean “closed”) and one congregation left the United Methodist Church denomination.
- There are 11,000+ churches in the Virginia Conference which are served by 16,000+clergy and have 314,000+ members.
- Laity makes up 99.49% of the church.

A full report can be found on the VA Conference website, [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)

--Connie Gilmer



### Where Do YOU Put Your Postage Stamps?

Can a used stamp benefit missions? Yes! This unique project, started by the Virginia United Methodist Women over 35 years ago, has raised thousands of dollars for UMCOR with 100 % of the proceeds being donated. Any and all postage stamps, canceled or un-canceled, are good and old ones are extra special. Trim paper around the stamp to ¼ inch of border or turn in the whole envelope. Leave rows of stamps intact and send whole postcards.

Christmas cards are coming to YOUR mailbox very soon! The holidays are a great time to collect used stamps and give them new life supporting victims of disasters. Look for a box in the Coffee Social Area or you can put them in the bins by the front doors. Join us in stamp collecting for missions!

Can't get to worship? Watch it LIVE! Check out our YouTube Channel! **DaytonUMC-VA**



“Like” us on Facebook!

Dayton United Methodist Church @Dayton UMC



**R**emember to contact the church office if you:  
Move or change an email address,  
Drop a land line or change a phone number,  
**THANKS!**

Direct questions and submissions for this publication to:  
Sally Smith, Editor at [DUMCNews@comcast.net](mailto:DUMCNews@comcast.net)  
I have a box in the Coffee Social Room, too!  
Next Deadline: Sunday, December 27

### Dayton United Methodist Church

215 Ashby Street, Dayton, VA 22821

Phone: 540-879-2102

Email: [daytonumc@comcast.net](mailto:daytonumc@comcast.net)

Website: [www.daytonumc.net](http://www.daytonumc.net)

Facebook: Dayton United Methodist Church

Administrative Assistant: Keri Hiner

**Pastor: Rev. Jenny Day**

Home address: 245 Ashby Street, Dayton, 22821

Cell phone: 703-999-4873

Email address: [jenny.day@comcast.net](mailto:jenny.day@comcast.net)

Want to have some fun? Join the Church Family



Gift Baskets awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest scores

Rules

- 💡 Participate as a family unit
- 💡 Outdoor Christmas decorations only! Decorations in your own yard don't count
- 💡 Pictures shot on cell phone or camera must be taken on December 17, 18, 19, or 20 between the hours of 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm when lighted
- 💡 "On your honor" scoring – Total your scores and submit with a list of "sighted and pictured" decorations.

Email scores & list to [DaytonUMC@comcast.net](mailto:DaytonUMC@comcast.net)

by 8:00 PM Monday, December 21

Also email 2 or 3 of your favorite photos to be used  
at a later date in a slide show!

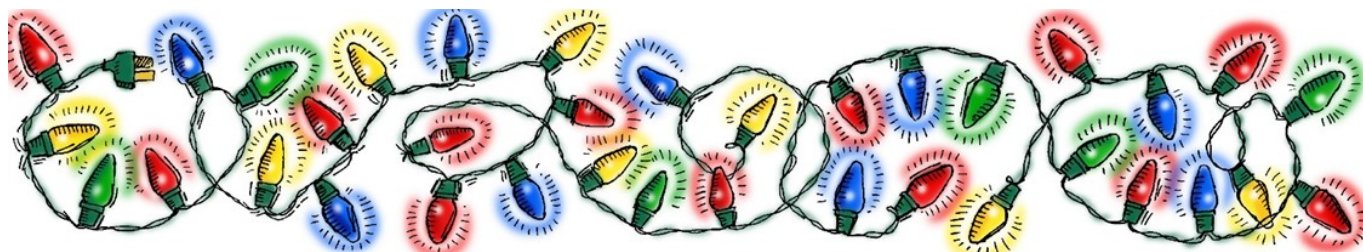
Ties will be broken by staff drawing names "from the hat"

Winners will be announced on Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> on our Facebook page and notified by email. Prizes can be picked up by calling the church office

Please be careful and safe and don't cause traffic jams –  
Our gifts are good, but not that good!

For anyone who may not be comfortable driving around or walking around after dark, we are trying to put together a **bus ride around the community** on the church bus to view the Christmas lights. Masks required and other sanitary precautions will be taken. Please contact the church if you would be interested and we will develop a schedule and times based on interest. Rides would probably be Friday, Dec/ 18<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 or 6:30 TBD! Please contact the church ASAP if you are interested.

540-879-2102 or [daytonumc@comcast.net](mailto:daytonumc@comcast.net)



# Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt Score Sheet

<p><b><u>Items Worth 1 Point</u></b></p> <p>Santa  Reindeer on Roof  Candy Cane  Snowflake  Wreath on a door  Snowman  Spiral Tree  A tree with lights on it  Star  Christmas tree in a window  House with only red lights and/or  House with only blue lights and /  or House with only white lights</p>	<p><b><u>Items Worth 2 Points</u></b></p> <p>Carolers  Angel  Snow globe  3 inflatables in one yard  Sleigh  Stocking  Christmas Train  A tree made only out of lights  Poinsettia  3 deer in Yard  Decorated Mailbox  “Merry Christmas” Sign  “Joy” Sign  “North Pole” Sign  Full Nativity</p>
<p><b><u>More Items Worth 2 points</u></b></p> <p>Rudolph  Elf  Toy Soldier  Gingerbread Man  Giant Present  Giant Ornaments  Polar Bear  Teddy Bear  Disney Character  Sesame Street Character  The Grinch</p>	<p><b><u>Items Worth 5 Points</u></b></p> <p>Lights synchronized to music  Mrs. Claus  A “Leg Lamp”  Family “Selfie” with LOTS of Christmas lights in background  A nativity with only Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus</p>