



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church®

*The Kedron Connection*

**Kedron United Methodist Church**  
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**Phone: (615) 223-7858**

**Website: [www.kedronumc.org](http://www.kedronumc.org)**  
**Facebook: Kedron UMC**

**Reverend Barry Culbertson, Pastor**  
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*Volume 20      January 2021      Issue 1*

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***From Our Pastor***

Matthew 2:1-12

"....during the time of King Herod, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem and asked....."

I can't imagine any of us being opposed to three (or more) wise persons showing up to help us all in 2021! We look forward to assistance in making good decisions about any number of things: relationships, employment changes, finances, personal health care, meaning and purpose in life.

January 6 is Epiphany the day and season of the Christian calendar when we recognize the arrival of the Three Wise Men (Magi) from the East. They follow a star (Jupiter and Saturn in conjunction?!) and honor the newborn King of the Jews with helpful and symbolic gifts. We should be impressed by their wisdom in looking for salvation in an infant in a faraway country. And their listening to an angel to avoid bad King Herod and head home on a different route!

If only we were so attentive to others who lead, guide, and demonstrate wisdom by their example! We might make fewer misguided, uninformed decisions as we face hard times calling for difficult choices.

On the other hand.....sometimes we discover wisdom only after the fact of our mistakes and wrong directions we have taken. It's a current bad pun when we say "if we had only had 2020 vision!" We all are hoping for 2021 to bring us better things than we experienced in 2020. Even so, in whatever age we live in, life is a combination of personal choices as well as experiences that come to us unasked for! Poor health, accidents, injury, loss and grief often come to us without any act of our own.

So, in that which we have some control over, seek to act wisely. Look for wise helpers. Look for wisdom in community life eg church worship, shared mission, and supportive fellowship. And trust God to see us through whatever comes our way.

Blessings in this a most eagerly awaited New Year!

Pastor Barry

## Happy Birthday to:

Rev. Dr. LeNoir Culbertson January 4  
Katelyn Patterson January 11  
Shannon Stacey January 11  
Myron Palmer January 15  
Lynn Lee January 22  
Shana Stacey January 24

## Bucket Offerings

In January, the bucket collections at Sunday morning worship will be donated to the local food bank.

## Food Bank

You may bring food donations for the local food bank on the first and second Sundays of the month. Place the donations on the pew in the narthex. The food will be delivered to the food bank. The suggested item for January is soup.

All non-perishable foods are accepted and appreciated. The need is great.

## Resources Available

Resources for various kinds of help/support for you or someone you know that might benefit from counseling and/or spiritual support are listed below.

- Insight Counseling Center, Murfreesboro  
615-383-2115 for in person or  
Online/phone counseling
- Upper Room Prayer Ministry  
615-340-7200
- Talkspace.com  
Online/phone counseling

## Methodist News Source

## Lay Servant Training

In late January, Lay Servant Training will be offered via Zoom courses. Pastor Barry has information.

**Matthew 1:21** was the quotation in the December newsletter.

*I hear you, blithe new year,*

Ring out your laughter,

And promises so sweet;

I see the circling months that follow after,  
Arm-linked, with waltzing feet.

-Abba Goold Woolson, American poet  
(1838-1921)

from the Old Farmer's Almanac

## January Calendar

Friday, Jan. 1 New Year's Day

Sunday, Jan. 3

Epiphany Sunday

8:45 a.m.

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Worship Service

Wednesday, Jan. 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, Jan. 10

Baptism Remembrance Sunday

8:45 a.m.

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Worship Service

Monday, Jan. 11

Human Trafficking Awareness Day

Sunday, Jan. 17

Human Relations Day

8:45 a.m.

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Worship Service

Monday, Jan. 18

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance

Jan. 18-25

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday, Jan. 24

8:45 a.m.

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Worship Service

10:30 a.m.

Feb. 2021

newsletter info due

call Fay

615-459-2618 or

lf\_fraley@

prodigy.net

Ad. Council

1:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 31

8:45 a.m.

Sunday School

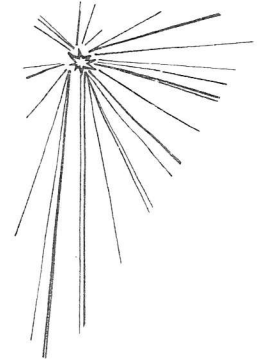
9:30 a.m.

Worship Service

## Where are these words found?

“And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.”

-NRSV (hint book of 1 Peter)



HOWARD STRINGER

“...GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH?...I BET HE REALLY WANTED A PUPPY”

## An epiphany

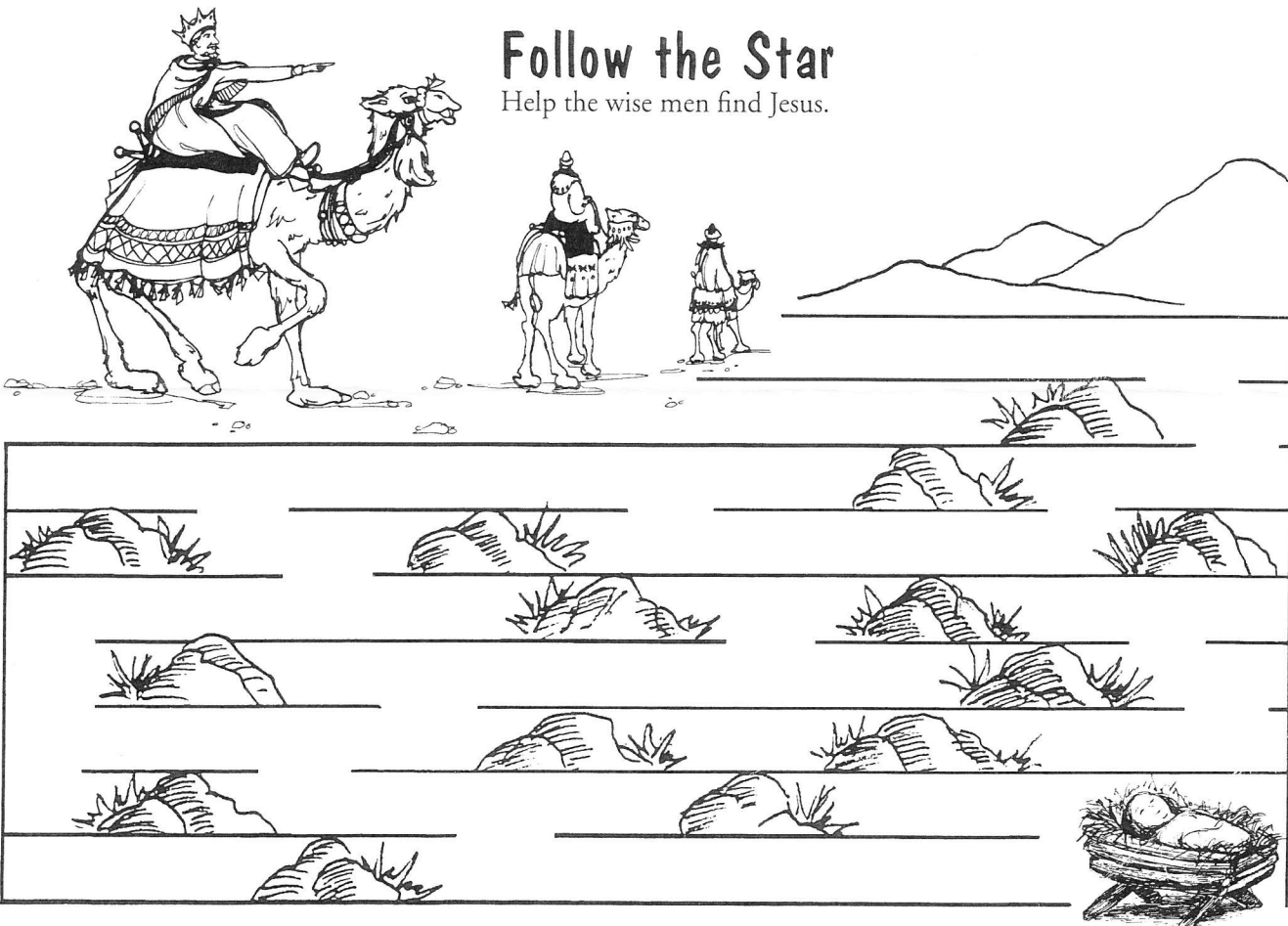
“I bring thee gold,” said the first wise man in the church school nativity play.

“I bring thee myrrh,” said the second.

The third wise man paused. Finally, “Here, Frank sent this.”

## Follow the Star

Help the wise men find Jesus.



**Kedron UMC 2021 Administrative Council**

Chairperson: Larry Fraley  
Vice-Chairperson: Mary Vanderkooi  
Recording Secretary: Fay Fraley  
Lay Leader: John Vance  
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Miranda Rhodes  
Trustee Chairperson: Wayne Lee  
Finance Chairperson: Mary Vanderkooi  
Treasurer: Naomi Lee  
Assistant Treasurer: Mary Vanderkooi  
Financial Secretary: Sue Harris/Lynne Lee  
District Steward: Danny Fraley  
Pastor-Parish Relations Chairperson: Linda Lee  
Charge PPR Chairperson: Bill Smith  
Church School Superintendent: Jim Pressley  
Membership Secretary: Naomi Lee  
Nurture and Program Director: Delann Dunbar  
Outreach Ministries: John Vance  
Witness/Evangelism: Tom Root  
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Dee Rouse  
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Doug Rouse  
Martin Methodist College Rep: Mary Vanderkooi  
Church Historian: Miranda Rhodes  
Newsletter: Fay Fraley  
Website: John Vance  
Worship Chairperson: Sue Harris  
Usher Coordinator: Danny Fraley  
Acolyte Coordinators: Doug Rouse, David Lee

**Kedron UMC 2021 Administrative Council**

Greeter Coordinator: Danny Fraley  
Members at Large: Ruth Kitchen, Jane Rainey,  
Lynn Lee,  
Pastor: Rev. Barry Culbertson

**Kedron UMC 2021 Committees**

Committee on Lay Leadership:  
Term expires 12-31-21  
Doug Rouse  
Mary Ellen Vance  
Term Expires 12-31-22  
Fay Fraley  
Shana Stacey  
Term Expires 12-31-23  
David Lee  
Linda Lee  
Pastor (Staff) Relations:  
Term expires 12-31-21  
Miranda Rhodes  
Shannon Stacey  
Term expires 12-31-22  
Tom Root  
Dee Rouse  
Term expires 12-31-23  
Linda Lee, Chair  
Sue Harris  
Trustees:  
Term expires 12-31-21  
Wayne Lee, Chair  
John Vance  
Term expires 12-31-22  
Danny Fraley  
Mary Vanderkooi  
Term expires 12-31-23  
Lynne Lee  
Doug Rouse  
Finance:  
Term expires 12-31-21  
Dee Rouse  
Mary Vanderkooi, Chair  
Term expires 12-31-22  
Sue Harris  
Wayne Lee  
Term expires 12-31-23  
Travis Perry  
Tom Root