

HARMONY PASTORAL CHARGE  
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

**Worship at 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings  
At Centreville Presbyterian Church**

Everybody welcome.

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**THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS;  
AND THE STORY BEHIND THE MOST  
ANNOYING CHRISTMAS CAROL EVER.**

The twelve days of Christmas, also known as Twelvetide, form the official 'Season of Christmas' in the church. These twelve days begin Dec 25<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, and continue to Jan 6<sup>th</sup> or Epiphany which is the day set aside to remember the arrival of the three Maji or Wise Men.

In different cultures the traditions surrounding this season vary. In some countries gift giving happens on Jan 6<sup>th</sup> not Dec 25<sup>th</sup>, and decorations are not removed until after that date.

These 'twelve days of Christmas' were established in 567 AD by the church Council of Tours and included feast days and saints days. When early settlers came to North America they brought with them variations of the 'Twelve Day' traditions. Wreath

making was one of those traditions. Wreaths were made and hung on Christmas Eve would remain hanging until Epiphany or the Twelfth day.

The song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' first appeared in print in a book called Mirth Without Mischief in the year 1780. A first edition of that book sold for \$23,750 at auction in 2014.

It is thought that the song was a 'memory and forfeits' song which were popular in that era. If you forgot the words or the verses to the song, you had to forfeit a kiss or some sort of favour.

Over the years the words of the song have changed. For example, the original 'colly' birds referring to coal coloured birds such as blackbirds, has been changed to 'calling' birds.

In our secular world where Christmas is so often packed up and forgotten by

December 26<sup>th</sup>, it is good to remember that for us in the church Christmas begins on Dec 25<sup>th</sup> and extends to Jan 6<sup>th</sup>.



### **SANDWICH OUTREACH**

We have a wonderful group of dedicated sandwich makers who volunteer and make sandwiches on the first and third Thursday of each month.

Sandwiches are picked up in Millbrook and taken to One Roof Diner to be given to folks in the community who are living with food insecurity. This month our Sandwich Days are Jan 5<sup>th</sup> and Jan 19<sup>th</sup>.

We also have generous donors who have made financial contributions to the Sandwich Outreach program.

If you are making sandwiches, **Thank You!**

If you are supporting the program through donations, **Thank You!**

If you would like to become involved or learn more, please email or phone Rev. Lynda 705 559 1774 ,  
[unitedchurch@nexicom.net](mailto:unitedchurch@nexicom.net)

### **JOINT WORSHIP SERVICES**

Our Harmony Centreville joint worship services continue to be held in the Centreville Presbyterian church on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Schedule for January is as follows

Jan 1, 22, 29 Rev Lynda

Jan 8, 15 Kevin Adams

### **PRAYER CIRCLE**

Harmony continues to have an active Prayer Circle made up of folks who offer prayer for folks who may be ill, experiencing grief at the loss of a loved one, facing surgery or other life challenges. If you know someone who would like to be added to our Prayer Circle please let Ann Rich, Carole Fallis or Barb Ramsey know. Please make sure the person whose name you add gives permission for their name to be shared with our 'prayers'.

