

Camp Chapel United Methodist Church

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A Message from Our Pastor

What makes the church? YOU make the church. Without your investment of time, talent, and treasure, Camp Chapel UMC would not be the place of worship, disciple-making, and service that it is today. As we begin a new year of mission and ministry, I want to recognize our church officers and committee members. Officers and committee members serve terms of three years. At times, people may be asked to complete a term for a member who had to step back from the position. This list is does not contain the name of every volunteer servant at Camp Chapel UMC; a complete list would take up this entire issue of the Acorn!

As you read the list of officers, team leaders, and committee members, you will see that a few positions are not yet filled. If the Holy Spirit is nudging you toward deeper involvement with the church, pray about these openings. God may be leading you to a new place. On the other hand, perhaps it is not the vacancies that have caught your attention but a specific mission or ministry. You do not need to wait for a personal invitation to serve – contact the team leader or chair to see how you can participate!

I give God thanks for you and the way you give your wisdom, wealth, and work to spread good news, make a difference in the name of Jesus, and build up the Kingdom of God!



Peace, Carol

CAMP CHAPEL UMC LEADERS (CLASSES 2025-2027)

Church Council

Chair: Angela Gaskin

Secretary: Barbara Thompson (Substitute: Frank Long)

Lay Leaders: Camille Adams-Bain, Pat Ryan

Lay Members to Conference: Bill Smith, Mary Smith (Pat Ryan – alternate)

Finance Representative: Winston Bain

Church Treasurer: Sharon Ward Trustees Representative: Allen Zink SPRC Representative: Lisa Dziuk

Parish Nursing: Susan Wallace & Kathy Whitson

Historian: Doris Tarleton

Green Team: Kathy Martin, Frank Long

Age Level Ministries

- Children's Church School Superintendent: Karen Warren
- Children's Summer Church School Facilitator: Angela Gaskin
- Adult Studies Facilitator: Sue Garrison
- Children and Family Ministry: Jackie Brawn
 - Carnival
 - "Welcome Back to Sunday School" Night
 - Fall Tea
 - Pumpkin Painting
 - Holiday Bazaar
 - Live Nativity Scene
- Gingerbread Event: Karen Warren
- Easter Egg Hunt: Sara Delkhoon, Kellie Smith
- Vacation Bible School: Jackie Brawn
- Scouting Liaison: Lisa Dziuk
- Adult Ministry: Cathy Zink (JOY, Lemonade on the Breezeway)

Mission Outreach Ministries

- Streets of Hope: Susan Wallace
- Community Assistance Network: Karen Knauer
- Eastern Regional Shelter: Sharon Smith
- VIM/BCCW: Mike Ryan, Pat Ryan
- Pillow Project: Debbie Kalendek
- CROP Walk: Liz McDonold

Endowment Committee

The Committee MAY begin meeting by June of 2025.

Pastor, Church Council Chair, Finance Chair, Trustees Chair, Sue Garrison (at large), Ann Ansel (at large)

Finance Committee

Chair: Winston Bain (2026)

Financial Secretary: Cheryl Kempler (2026)

Treasurer: Pat Ryan (2025)

Auditor: (vacant)

Class of 2027 Sharon Ward, Anita Obinger, Paula Kraft, Class of 2026 Cheryl Kempler, Winston Bain, John Gregory

Class of 2025 Pat Ryan, Karen Yanson, Joyce Kraft

Trustee Representative: Allen Zink

Consultants: Barry Foster, Ron Wernsdorfer

Counting Team: Cheryl Kempler, Joyce Kraft, Anita Obinger

Green Team

Co-Leaders: Kathy Martin, Frank Long

History Committee

Church Historian: Doris Tarleton

Members: Susan Wallace, Mary Smith, Arleen Parcover, Corinne Lewis

Missions Team

Streets of Hope: Susan Wallace

Community Assistance Network: Karen Knauer

Eastern Regional Shelter: Sharon Smith VIM/BCCW: Mike Ryan, Pat Ryan Pillow Project: Debbie Kalendek

Nominations Committee

Class of 2025: Lisa Dziuk, Karen Warren, Barbara Thompson

Class of 2026: Pat Ryan, Kathy Whitson, Brenda Grande

Class of 2027: Arleen Parcover, (vacant), (vacant)

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Class of 2025: Camille Adams-Bain, Barbara Thompson, (Vacant)

Class of 2026: Lisa Dziuk (Chair), Susan Wallace, (Vacant)

Class of 2027: Ed Mathus, Bob Delkhoon, Marge Brown

Lay Members: Bill Smith, Mary Smith

Trustees Committee

Class of 2025 Mike Ryan, Hannah Warren, Karen Warren

Class of 2026 Allen Zink, JW Ward, Don Stipek

Class of 2027 Bill Burton, Joanne Bowers, Laurie Stephan

Memorials: Mary Ann Daubert

Worship Committee

Staff: Carol Pazdersky, Gary Lushbaugh

Altar Guild Co-Chairs: Cathy Zink, Sue Garrison

Acolyte Coordinator: Sue Garrison

Communion Stewards: Cheryl Stephens, Mary Smith Baptismal Stewards: Cheryl Stephens, Mary Smith

JUDY HOMBURG ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



Judy Homburg notified Camp Chapel of her intention to retire in the following letter:

It is with a blend of excitement and nostalgia that I announce my retirement from Camp Chapel UMC, effective March 27, 2025. As I look forward to this new chapter in my life, I remain deeply committed to ensuring a smooth and positive transition for my successor. I will do everything in my power to support them and facilitate a seamless handover.

Reflecting on my time at Camp Chapel, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible journey we've shared. Together, we've experienced moments of joy, faced challenges, and built lasting friendships that I will always cherish.

Thank you for the unwavering support and love you have shown me throughout my tenure. I am confident that Camp Chapel UMC will continue to thrive and grow in the years to come.

In 2012, the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and Pastor Richard Brown-Whale interviewed Judy for the position that had been made available with the retirement of her predecessor, Sharon Caufield, and she began working here on April 2 of that year.

Current SPRC chair, Lisa Dziuk, released the following statement: "We appreciate Judy's dedication and support these many years and wish her the very best in her retirement. Even though we are sad that Judy is leaving, we are happy about this wonderful next chapter for her and her husband. Please take a moment to extend your best wishes to Judy prior to her departure."

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR POSITION OPEN

The SPRC is in the process of updating the job description for this position. We will be advertising in greater detail but want to provide a brief description if any of our members might have a friend or family member that does not attend Camp Chapel and may be interested in a part-time position. This person will be working from 9 am to 4 pm Monday through Thursday.

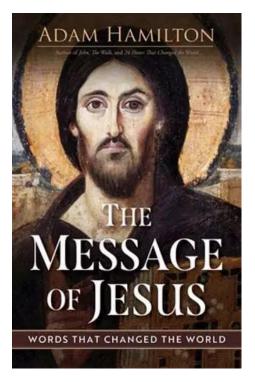
The Church Administrator is responsible for a wide range of church administrative and member care support at the direction of the Pastor, Church Council, and SPRC. This person would exercise independent judgement in the resolution of administrative needs, prioritizing workload, purchasing supplies, and assisting with special events or programs. This position provides secretarial support to the pastor and others including but not limited to correspondence, bulletins, record keeping, filing, and conference required materials.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

If you have never been part of a Bible study, now is the time for a new experience. Study consists of reading a chapter in a book, attending class for a DVD segment and lively discussion, and creating new friendships. All the while you are learning and continuing your spiritual journey. And, we have fun. Come try it out and see if Bible study is for you.

The first study for 2025 is *The Message of Jesus* by Adam Hamilton, one of our favorite authors. This is a 6-week study in which we will examine the message in the Sermon on the Mount, some parables, the who am I questions, final words, and more.

There are 2 sessions—Sundays at 9:30 and Mondays at 11:00. Both sessions meet in the hall. Classes will begin on Sunday, January 12 and Monday, January 13. For more information see Sue Garrison who facilitates each session. Contact info is: 410-256-2018 or 410-852-9056



GIFTS OF LOVE MINISTRY



Your kind donations made 6 local families much happier this Christmas. The generosity of this congregation is remarkable! Some of you shopped for gifts yourselves and some sent money or gift cards. All contributions were greatly appreciated and put to good use. Our adopted children were able to receive some form of clothing (pants, shirts, coats, shoes) and at least 2 other items (toys, books, games). We also collected over \$500.00 of gift cards to give to the families for needs.

Many Thanks to the kind elves of Camp Chapel who participated in the Gifts of Love Ministry.

We are ever grateful to the generous members of Camp Chapel for participating and sharing God's love with 13 children from 2 local schools. It has been a pleasure working with you on this worthwhile ministry. Blessings and Merry Christmas to all!

The ladies of the Circle of Sisters Ministry



CHRISTMAS EVENT PHOTOS













Bits and Pieces

Nine Things I Learned in 2024

It's that time! Let me tell you some things I learned or thought about in a fresh way in 2024.

- 1. It is with great relief that I report to you this year that the most painful parts of the split that occurred in our denomination are largely in the past at least the parts that caused the most emotional upheaval and grief. Make no mistake, the schism isn't completely finished. There is a lot of dust that still needs to settle and a lot of hurt feelings that will take time to heal and there are bunches of lawsuits still to be adjudicated. But by and large, the churches that decided to leave have left and the churches that wanted to remain have remained. The United Methodist Church abides, and we are still part of it. I think we're going to be okay.
- 2. Several years ago in my year-end essay, I wrote about bumper stickers. I believe I said something about being able to tell how crazy a person was by counting the number of stickers or magnets on their car. The next Sunday, I started counting bumper stickers on our parking lot. I wasn't talking about any of you, okay? Also, stickers for schools you or your kids go to and whether they're honor students, bands you like, stuff about your pets, national parks you have visited, teams you root for none of those count, nor do ones like "My Other Vehicle Is a Broom" or "Save the Whales" or like that. I was talking about the overly political ones or the creepy ones that when you read them, the hairs on the back of your neck stand up a little bit.



3. If time travel were a thing and I could go back and visit and interact with people during the time when Jesus began his ministry, I would do everything in my power to meet and possibly have a word with him somehow. If I could accomplish that, I would offer Jesus just one suggestion. I'd say, "Master, there may come a time when you are followed by a crowd of people who want, more than anything else, to hear what you have to tell them. Perhaps you will stop on the side of a large hill and gather them in close. Perhaps you will be moved to speak to them of morality and what kind of people your followers should strive to be. You may tell them that those who are meek are blessed and so are those who hunger and thirst for justice, as are those who show mercy, those who mourn, those who are persecuted, those

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who are pure in heart. Lord, if you should find yourself in such a situation someday, could you please also say something like 'blessed are they who mind their own business?' Lord, you have no idea how much trouble could be avoided in the next couple of millennia if only Christi- er, I mean, the descendants of your disciples would just mind their own business!"

4. Speaking of bumper stickers, I am becoming more and more convinced that a lot of people out there with those magnetic plaques on their cars that say things like, "Please Be Patient – Student Driver" don't have any driving-age kids. They're just using those signs so they can get away with their own horrible driving behavior. When I'm doing fifteen miles under the speed limit in the fast lane behind a car with one of those stickers, I don't expect to see a bald guy driving when he finally pulls over to let the rest of us pass. Without using his blinker.



- 5. I was watching an evangelical preacher on television not long ago. He was preaching about how Jesus died to redeem us from the consequences of our sins. The more he talked about salvation, the shallower it sounded to me. His point seemed to be that Jesus had offered us a gift, and all we had to do was accept it. For me, his definition of "accept" was kind of shaky. There wasn't anything of substance beyond "accept Jesus as your Lord and savior." I believe, though, that there's something deeper that needs to happen. Sticking with the gift analogy, let's say Aunt Petunia gives her young niece a Christmas present. The girl tears off the wrapping paper and opens the box and there's a sweater. She thanks Aunt Petunia, then takes the sweater home, puts it in her closet, and never even thinks of it again until twenty years later when she spots it on the shelf and donates it to her church's clothing charity. A week later, a child in a poor family is given the sweater. The child thinks it's beautiful. She takes good care of it, and it keeps her warm for many winters until she wears it out. Which girl really appreciates the gift of the sweater?
- 6. Speaking of bad driving, I decided it might be time for me to write a book about that subject, considering all the bad examples of driving I've been encountering on the road these days. If I ever do, I'm thinking of calling it *Bill Smith's Guide to Defensive Driving, Volume 1*. I plan to use my own decades-long accumulation of experiences as source material after all, who better? I'm an excellent driver in fact, not to brag, but I'm the best driver I've ever ridden with. I've already got some ideas. Rule one in the guide is, "Don't run into the cop car." Rule two is, "Try not to speed if you pass the cop car." The ones that come after that are a bit more subtle, but I'm grappling with them. It's a work in progress.
- 7. Reverend Bob Clipp preached here a few weeks ago, and he said something that made me perk up and take a few notes. He was talking about being a witness for Christ, and his point was that the question we need to be asking ourselves isn't, "Am I going to be a witness?" it's

"What kind of witness am I going to be?" Whoever we are, we don't have a choice, really — we are going to be a witness whether we want to be or not. Anybody that gets close enough to learn anything about you eventually knows that you are a Methodist or a Jew or a Catholic or a Buddhist or a Muslim or whatever. As soon as they learn that fact, everything you ever have done or ever will do is informed by that identification. Let me give you a quick example. A friendly and pleasant young man and his family lived next door to me. He was aware that I had had some health issues, so if he hadn't seen me for several days, I might expect a knock on my door, and he'd ask if I was okay. In winter when there was a snowfall, I had to be sure to get out early with my shovel. If I waited too long after sunup, I'd open my front door to find that he had already cleared my front walk and steps. The men who flew planes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were witnesses for their faith. My neighbor, Shahid Mohammad, was a witness for that same faith. None of those men did the things they did with the intent of witnessing to their faith, but they were all powerful witnesses nonetheless. Because of Shahid, I don't think of Muslims the same way that some Americans do.

- 8. This past year has seen an increase in television adverts for products that are supposed to make us all stink less than somebody wants us to think we do. There are several medical professionals on my trivia team, and I asked them about this. They were unanimous. Listen, if you practice normal personal hygiene you know, take regular showers, brush your teeth, change your underwear, use an antiperspirant and people can still smell your funk, you don't need an all-body deodorant, you need a doctor!
- 9. I try not to get into politics too much in these essays, and I don't think this is political because I'd be upset about this no matter whom it came from. Anyway, I am of the opinion that writing your own name in a Bible and selling it for a lot of money is several different kinds of blasphemy. I can't understand why Christians aren't more outraged over this. Several people have done it, including Lee Greenwood, the guy who wrote the song "God Bless the U.S.A." Oh, and here's a fun fact: Lee Greenwood also released a song called "God Bless You Canada" that has these interesting lyrics: "And I'm proud to be in Canada / Where at least I know I'm free / And I won't forget the men who died / Who gave that right to me / And I gladly stand up / Next to you and defend her still today / 'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land / God bless you Canada!"

Bill Smith



Devotions at Camp Chapel Gatherings

We try to make it a practice to hold space and time at the beginning of Camp Chapel meetings for a devotion. Here is a bit of United Methodist background regarding devotions taken from UMC.org Ways We Grow (www.umc.org/en/ways-we-grow/worship-and-devotion):

As United Methodists, we nurture our faith through public acts of worship and private acts of devotion. Prayer, contemplation, the study of Scripture, singing and learning open our hearts to the movement of the Spirit. These sacred moments lead us to a more Christ-centered life. As we seek to grow in our faith, it is important to take time to be alone with God for prayer and study. A regular practice strengthens us in the difficulties of life and helps us focus on our blessings.

Please consider using the following devotional practice this month. Collectively our spirits will be transformed in order to transform our ministries.

Preparation suggestions: Sit with your eyes closed, feet on the floor, hands palms up on your knees. Breathe in and breathe out 3 times, each time a bit deeper and slower.

For Groups: At committee or group gatherings, usually one person reads the devotion, slowly, while the others listen and respond as the spirit leads.

For Individuals: Read the devotion at a pace that fits your spirit. It's ok to read one line at a time.

Write down or share what comes to you during this time.

Devotion - Group Gratitude based on Linda Douty's, *Rhythms of Growth*. Upper Room Books, 2014.

It's not surprising that words of praise and thanksgiving fill the liturgies of many faith traditions, especially this time of year. The thread of gratitude weaves its way from Genesis to Revelation, as an appropriate response to God's gifts.

Think and reflect on how your spirit sours when we join in praise with others (pause)

The power of praise doesn't stop there. Group gratitude grows into meaningful ministry, in our church and also spreads beyond our walls. By focusing on our collective strengths rather than our weaknesses, we can spotlight Camp Chapel's strong points.

Think and reflect on what you think is one of Camp Chapel's strengths (pause)

By focusing on our strengths in our community, how can we better serve and show our gratitude to others?

Think and reflect on 'What makes our church special?' (pause)

When we use these questions & reflections as an invitation to unite us, we start and continue toward the future God desires for us.

Think and reflect on a time you felt the force of a group united in gratitude. (pause)

With Peace and Blessings, Kathy Martin



Departed



Robert Knight Sr. September 23, 1938 – November 22, 2024

We regret to inform you of the passing of Robert "Bob" Knight on November 22, 2024. Bob was the loving husband of Gertrude Knight; cherished father of Robert Knight Jr. and significant other Laura Renshaw, Vicki L. White and husband William J. White; dear grandfather of Kerrian and Joshua; loving brother of Judy Eyler, William and Donald Kershner; also survived by many loving family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: <u>Trustee</u> Fund of Camp Chapel United Methodist Church.



Thank You

Dear Camp Chapel United Methodist Church,

A quick thank you.

I found your contact information on the tag to a pillow from my recent delivery at Franklin Square. God bless you for the incredible blessings you provided through these pillows. It was a source of comfort following my C-section to prevent pain when coughing or laughing. I brought it home with me and my girls now use it while drinking their bottles.

Hopefully once life slows down, we can attend a Sunday service. It can be challenging to get out the door with triplet newborns at the moment.

God bless, Brittany Bowen



I would like to take this time to thank the many who helped me since Butch's passing. From Pastor Carol, the comfort and guidance she gave me throughout, to Judy once again being there for me and all her help. To all those that helped with the luncheon and gave it such a warm feeling. Your many cards, prayers, overwhelming support and love have helped so much getting through this very difficult time in my life.

With Much Appreciation, Cindy Kahl



Birthdays

January 3

January 31

January Birthdays

Barbara Thompson

David Whitson

February Birthdays Philip Graham February 2 Darlene Grief February 3 Paul Gyr February 4

John Olcott	January 4
Debra Kalendek	January 8
Winston Bain	January 13
Anita Obinger	January 15
Hannah Warren	January 15
Betty Day	January 21
John Amador	January 22
Ryan Gaskin	January 25
Joyce Williams-Joiner	January 25
Angela Gaskin	January 26
Elly Delkoon	January 28
Kellie Smith	January 28
Jackie Brawn	January 30
David Dziuk	January 31

February 3 February 4 Benjamin Craven February 7 Andrew Brawn February 12 February 13 **David Borgerding** Carolyn Glorioso February 20 Cathy Zink February 22 Allison Anderson February 24 Faye LeBar February 27



Having a Birthday?

The *Acorn* would love to celebrate every single birthday of every member of our congregation, but sometimes we do not have that information in our files! Each month, we list the birthdays for this month and the next. If your birthday does not appear, please send an email to acorn@campchapel.org with your name and the month and day you were born. WE DO NOT NEED TO KNOW THE YEAR! Your age can be your secret!

Lectionary Readings

January

January 5: Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795)

Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

January 12: Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29 (UMH 761)

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 19: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10 (UMH 771)

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

January 26: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 30

Psalm 19 (UMH 750)

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

February

February 2: 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6 (UMH 794)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

February 9: 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)

Psalm 138 (UMH 853)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

February 16: 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1 (UMH 738)

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

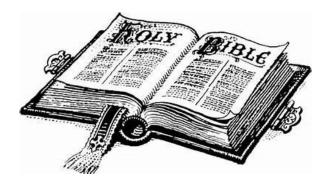
February 23: 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11. 15

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (UMH 772)

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38



The Holy Bible Is the Word of God

IMPORTANT REMINDERS Handicap Parking

Because there is such a demand for the limited number of handicap parking spaces, if you are currently accustomed to using one of these spaces and the driver of your vehicle is able, please consider having the driver drop the passenger off, park in one of the regular spaces, and pick up the passenger when the service or the event is over. Thank you for your consideration.





SPRC Message About the Pastor's Work Week

Just as we respect Judy's days off, please respect Pastor Carol's regular days off (Fridays and Saturdays - her "weekend") by not calling or texting her unless it's an emergency. Before you call or text, please pause and think about it: most things can wait until Monday.



Cards are available to anyone who wishes to request prayers. The cards are available in the Narthex of the Chapel and in the pews in the Sanctuary. You may place the card in the offering plate, hand it to an usher prior to the service, or give it to the pastor after the service.

Another way to request prayers is through Camp Chapel's Facebook page on which members may post their joys and concerns throughout the week. Other members can respond with an emoji expressing their support or with a comment offering an encouraging word. Yet a third way to request prayers is by using the Prayer Request page on the church web site:

<u>https://campchapel.org/prayer-request/</u> or scan the QR code ▶



Each week, prayer requests from these sources are collected and lifted up at the worship services.



Snow and Ice Policy

In the event of inclement winter weather (snow or ice), we may have to close the church. During the week, any time Baltimore County schools close for winter weather, all activities at the church are cancelled. Saturday events are cancelled if a snow emergency is in effect. Sunday worship will be cancelled to protect our members' safety if our parking lot and walks cannot be safely cleared. The decision about cancellation of worship is made the evening before based on the information we have at that time. Safety is always a priority. Announcements of closure will be posted on our website and on the church office answering machine.



Alert: Phishing Scams

Phishing scams have become the most common type of cybercrime. These scams are often delivered in spam emails (email phishing), targeted, personalized messages (spear phishing), automated phone calls (voice phishing or vishing), text messages (smishing), page hijacking – impersonating or compromising legitimate web pages, or the most recent form of phishing, using QR codes to direct victims to malicious web sites (quishing). The purpose of a phishing attack is to trick you into giving up sensitive information, like account numbers, usernames and passwords, banking information, Social Security Numbers, credit card information, and the like.

One phishing attack currently making the rounds appears via a malicious email that impersonates a communication from Costco. The email may appear to be sent from Costco_Membership, COSTCO Membership, CostcoMembership, or some other variation of that name, with a subject line like "Upgrade Your Shopping Experience: Enjoy a Year of Costco Membership FREE" or some other appealing enticement.

The body of the message will try to get you to extend or renew your Costco membership by clicking on a link. Don't do it! Clicking the link could take you to a page that appears to be legitimate, but is, in fact, a scam web site that will ask for your credit card information.

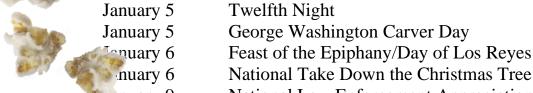
Don't be a victim!

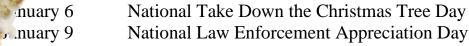
- Train yourself to be skeptical of suspicious looking emails.
- Double-check to make sure that web site addresses (URLs) are safe
- If any company's web site that you do business with offers two-factor authentication, use it!

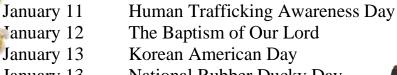


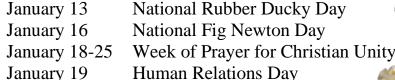
What's Happening in January?

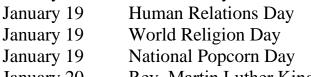
Among other observances, January is Candy Month, Thyroid Disease Awareness Month, Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Poverty in America Awareness Month, Glaucoma Awareness Month, Polka Music Month, Blood Donor Month, and Birth Defects Awareness Month January 1 Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus January 1 New Year's Day January 1 World Day of Peace Perihelion Day – the Earth is closest to the Sun January 4 **Epiphany Sunday** January 5

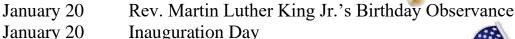












January 24 International Day of Education Spouse's Day January 26

January 26 World Leprosy Day

International Holocaust Remembrance Day January 27 International Reducing CO2 Emissions Day January 28

January 28 National Kazoo Day January 28 Christa McAuliff Day January 29 Chinese Lunar New Year

January 31







