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From the Pastor's Desk



Greetings to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

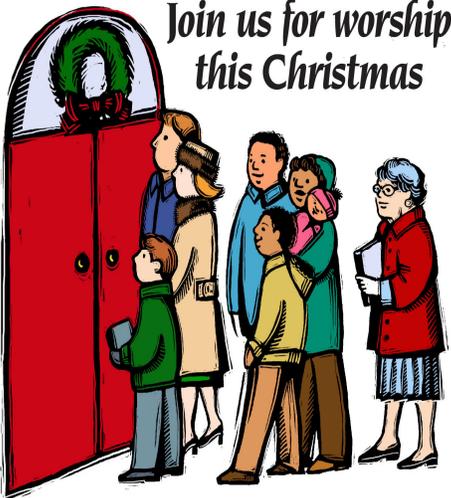
COVID 19 is spiking all throughout the country! We again need to be very diligent about how we interact with other people! We are now told that the virus spreads through inhaled droplets rather than by surface contact. So, as much as some are not willing to abide by wearing masks, we do need to emphasize that as you come into the church building, you need to have a mask or face shield. We do understand that some people have difficulty wearing masks long term and we do understand if people have breathing problems and cannot keep masks up. **WE HAVE OPTIONS FOR YOU!!!**

We are most fortunate at Blymire's to have the set up we have! As from the beginning of the Pandemic, for indoor worship we have marked off every other pew and ask that people stagger where in the pew they sit so that there is six feet between worshippers. We also offer seating in the Gathering Room and we keep the Sanctuary doors open so that you may see what is happening during worship. Because we record every service, we have a third option. We have televisions in three of our Sunday School rooms and we closed circuit broadcast the worship service in these three rooms. A parishioner used this option the other week and was so thankful to be able to be away from "close" contact with other people, but still be able to see the service. A fourth option.... we continue to broadcast on radio station FM 87.9 and you can stay in your car for the service. **KEEP YOUR ENGINE RUNNING FOR THE HEATER!!!** During the summer we had a number of people run down their battery from running the air conditioner and the car then would not start. We do have someone come out around 10 minutes before the worship service to bring a bulletin and collect your offering.

We at Blymire's have done many things throughout the Pandemic to insure a safe environment for worship! We have **NO TOUCH** sanitizer dispensers at both entry doors. We have plenty of sanitizer bottles throughout the high traffic areas. We have disposable toilet seat covers. We spray the return vents in order to kill possible contaminants. **WE DO A LOT** to protect our faith family and visitors to our church! We hope you feel safe coming in person to worship with us.

We do understand that this whole scenario of the Pandemic has been very difficult for many people! We are social beings and yet our time of social contact has become minimized because of trying to not transmit COVID 19 to our loved ones as well as strangers to us.

**Join us for worship
this Christmas**



Unfortunately, this is affecting two of our biggest family gathering holidays! We have already altered our Thanksgiving gatherings to a minimal number since we were given the mandate of 10 or less for indoor gatherings. As Christmas is fast approaching, we have already heard the same suggestion for that celebration. This will be very difficult for many families - especially those whose loved ones live out of state. We can travel to other states but only after assuring we are not positive and then we need to consider self quarantining when we return. If you choose to be with family, we pray you may stay safe and free from COVID. WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS!

I would be remiss if I did not offer an opine about Christmas. After all, this day and Easter are for Christians the two most significant days in our year! We now are in the season of Advent where we emphasize the anticipation of the Birth of our Savior. And, of course, the JOY of celebrating the day of "GOD WITH US" which reminds us that we are NEVER alone! Our preparation for celebrating Christmas may be a bit different this year because we may not be able to physically shop as in other years, but the reason for the preparation remains the same! So, let us not become overwhelmed by the effect of the Pandemic and all the mandates that come down to change our plans. Let us keep our eyes on the star that led shepherds and Kings to the humble manger bed that cradled our Savior!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!!! ... (next month I'll say Happy New Year!)



God Bless us ALL! God guide us all!!! With love - Pastor Lou Ann

SPECIAL SERVICES in DECEMBER

December 6, 2020 - Advent 2

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 John the Baptizer ... prepare the way of the Lord

Sermon: "The Beginning of the Good News"

December 13, 2020 - Advent 3

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28 John the Baptist testified to the light ...

Sermon: "The Morning Sonshine"

December 20, 2020 - Advent 4

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 the birth of Jesus foretold

Sermon: "The Servant of the Lord"

December 24, 2020 - Christmas Eve-11:00 PM

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20 the birth of Jesus

Cantata: "A World of Christmas" Martin

December 27, 2020 - Christmas 1

Gospel: Luke 22:22-40 Simeon (Lord, let your servant go in peace) and Anna (in the temple fasting and praying)

Sermon: "Simeon and Anna"



TOWN MEETING

On Sunday, January 3, there will be a Town Meeting immediately after the worship service to discuss and approve the budget and the members of the Coordinating Ministry Team for 2021. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS



*May God
Bless You on
Your
Birthday!*

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----|----------------|
| 2. | Sundi Neuhaus | 26. | Thomas Miller |
| | Judy Bishop | 27. | Donna Sleeth |
| 5. | Natasha Brenner | | Sylvia Kohler |
| 6. | Cindy Luckenbaugh | 28. | Jessica Giese |
| 7. | Jamie Klyeman | 31. | Herbert Bosley |
| 10. | Kevin Myers | | |
| 12. | Carl Criswell | | |
| | Jennifer Roelke | | |
| | Katie Stoops | | |
| 14. | Jennifer Knickel | | |
| 16. | Lori Corso | | |
| 17. | Hannah Marshall | | |
| | W. Edwin Bishop | | |
| 18. | Brett Innerst | | |
| | Kortney Troop | | |
| 19. | Danielle Marshall | | |
| | Zachery | | |
| | Luckenbaugh | | |
| 22. | Carol Barnhart | | |

CELEBRATING DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Dec. 16 - Rod and Linda Eichelberger - 53 years
Dec. 18 - Pastor Curt and Ginny Weber - 49 years
Dec. 26 - David and Susan McDowell - 50 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2020	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$9,741.85	\$12,109.48	\$0.35	\$269.82	\$812.70	\$1,291.80
February	\$14,597.12	\$13,351.53	\$1.68	\$274.10	\$1,142.27	\$0.00
March	\$8,721.22	\$11,240.07	\$3.39	\$435.00	\$101.14	\$211.30
April	\$11,764.11	\$8,301.79	\$1.32	\$191.93	\$0.44	\$0.00
May	\$13,058.86	\$10,042.83	\$0.80	\$160.11	\$100.25	\$1,930.00
June	\$12,515.15	\$19,338.81	\$0.85	\$314.46	\$200.18	\$2,326.30
July	\$9,101.78	\$10,003.38	\$125.76	\$98.76	\$7.22	\$2,595.00
August	\$9,954.50	\$9,408.12	\$0.81	\$109.26	\$0.37	\$1,535.00
September	\$9,302.80	\$12,765.74	\$0.81	\$346.94	\$100.30	\$2,286.30
October	\$9,060.00	\$9,237.58	\$0.80	\$227.35	\$1,700.20	\$2,500/00
November						
December						
Total	\$107,817.39	\$115,799.33	\$136.57	\$2,427.73	\$4,165.07	\$14,675.70

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @November 1, 2020

(\$2,582.44)

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ November 1, 2020
(Includes \$54,814.70 Endowment)

\$73,307.28

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ November 1, 2020
(Includes \$833,695.45 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$838,203.61

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2020

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 437.45
January			\$ 69.87	\$ 507.32
February	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 86.47	\$ 568.79
March	2	\$ 75.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 563.79
April	3	\$ 175.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 478.79
May	2	\$ 1700.00	\$ 1900.00	\$ 678.79
June	2	\$ 310.75	\$ 725.00	\$ 1093.04
July	2	\$ 575.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 658.04
August			\$ 29.00	\$ 687.04
September	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.50	\$ 697.54
October	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 71.15	\$ 718.69
November				
December				
Total	14	\$ 2960.75	\$ 3241.99	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Freda Berry
The Haven at Springwood
2321 Freedom Way
York, PA 17402



Linda Trone
Room 700
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403

Peggy Luckenbaugh
Room 704B
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403

Keeping in our prayers
Dolores Barley
Nancy Taylor
Friends battling cancer
Covid 19 patients



Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military

A1C Ness, Brandon
6907 S. Camino de la Humanidad
Tucson, AZ 85756

Another year is coming to an end. This was a very strange and stressful year. I hope everyone that was a member in the Secret Pal Club enjoyed their surprises. I really enjoyed finding items for my Secret Pal. It made the year a little more bearable for me. I have talked to several people and we agreed we are going to do it again in 2021.



Papers to sign up will be put out at the Secret Pal table beginning Sunday, November 29. Please return them by Sunday, December 20. Everyone is welcome to participate. You must spend at least \$10 or more each month on your Secret Pal. If you send your Secret Pal something in the mail, don't put your name or address on the envelope or card. It keeps your Secret Pal trying to guess who has their name.

Because of Covid-19, this year we will not be having a breakfast, but on December 27, I will have surprise bags for everyone who participated. In the bag will be the name of the person who was your Secret Pal in 2020. My sister Susan is the only person who knows who has who, so even I don't know. If you have any questions, please call me at (717) 741-1840. Thank you. Diana Myers



.... to the **everyone who donated or signed** Christmas cards for the residents of Homewood Homes. The residents LOVE to receive our cards. Thanks also to SOS and Linda Flinchbaugh for coordinating this project

.... to **Cindy Innerst-Axe** for generously baking her delicious pumpkin rolls as a fundraiser for SOS.

.... to **Nelson Leader** for putting together special music each Sunday since our choir has not been singing because of Covid. Thank you to **everyone who said YES** when Nelson asked you to sing or play an instrument.

.... to **everyone** who helped with the much needed clean-up at the Red Brick Chapel.

.... to **everyone** for the cards, prayers, and concerns following my recent surgery. They were much appreciated. Ed Adams



Our Women's Book Club has now begun meeting at 11:00 AM on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at a local restaurant, combining a book talk and lunch.

We are currently meeting at the Dallastown Family Restaurant, 2695 S. Queen St., York. The restaurant is subject to change. Please come join us. Any questions, call Ginny Weber at (717) 246-9027

SOS (Sisters of Service) Announcement

It is with much sadness that we have cancelled all activities for 2020. This includes the BAZAAR, CHRISTMAS PARTY, and COOKIE WALK. We are still donating money when it is needed. Let us know if we can help out. We hope to be able to resume meetings and activities in 2021.

BOOK SALE

Our annual Book Sale is now in progress. It is located in the last classroom on the left at the end of our education wing.



You can purchase or donate books any time now through February. The sale will not be open to the public. This is your chance to stock up on reading material for the upcoming winter. Prices are as follows:

- VHS tapes 4/\$1.00,
- DVD's & CD's -2/\$1.00,
- Hardback books-\$1.00,
- Paperback books-\$.50.

Homewood Auxiliary

"It's that time of year again- Homewood Auxiliary at Plum Creek Fall Membership drive has begun!! Current auxiliary members will be receiving individual letters that include a form to fill out and return to our church reps, Linda Eichelberger and Stephanie Frey, along with dues. Dues are \$3.00 for individual membership; \$5.00 for joint membership. Forms and dues may be hand delivered or sent in the mail to Linda or Steph. Unfortunately 2021 pocket calendars will not be available this year. December 27 will be the last day for collecting the forms and dues.

Due to COVID 19, the Fundraising Tea had to be canceled, gravely impacting the annual income and donations to Plum Creek. Any and all questions please see Linda or Steph.

St. John's Blymire's Cemetery

A new burial lot pricing schedule was approved at the November 18, 2020 Trustee meeting. This new price schedule becomes effective January 1, 2021.

1. St. John's Blymires Cemetery Burial definitions:
 - a. A cemetery lot will consist of 2 plots or 6 plots.
 - b. Burial plot is to house one-person vault or two-person ash urns.
2. Pricing Schedule
 - a. St. John's members:
 - \$550 for 2 burial plots in the new section;
 - \$1,650 for 6 burial plots in the old section.
 - b. Non-Members:
 - \$900 for 2 burial plots in the new section;
 - \$2,700 for 6 burial plots in the old section.

GIFT CARDS

Would you like to help your church without spending any extra money? You can do this by buying gift cards to use for everyday purchases. For every card sold we earn a profit from 1½% all the way to 16%, depending on the merchant. To get your cards, just fill out an order form and attach a check or cash. Checks should be made payable to St. John's Blymire's UCC. You may drop the orders in the offering plate, place them on Wanda's desk in the office or mail them to the church. Payment must be included with your order. Orders will be sent to the Great Lakes Scrip Center each Monday morning. You may pick up your gift cards from Sandy Innerst at church the following Sunday. For more information about the program, you may call Wanda at the church office or check out the website www.glscrip.com. **This is a great way to do your Christmas shopping this year.**

FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSORS



If you would like to become a sponsor for the Bulletin and/or Altar Flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of an occasion, please fill in your information in the book located on the podium in the Gathering Room. The cost of sponsoring the bulletins for a week is \$10.00. Altar flowers are now \$25.00 for a half set and \$35.00 for a full set. You may place your payment in an envelope marked "Altar Flowers" or "Bulletin" in the offering plate or mail to the church office.



25th Annual Garden of Life Homewood at Plum Creek

Join us virtually for the annual Garden of Life!
This year commemorates the 25th celebration of welcoming in the Christmas season with the lighting of our campus, along with remembering and honoring our loved ones.

While we cannot come together in celebration, there will be a video link posted to our website, www.homewoodplumcreek.com, on December 18, 2020 bringing the Garden of Life and Christmas wishes to you and your family!

Donations are being accepted to sponsor a light in memory or honor of a loved one. All proceeds benefit the Homewood Foundation Benevolent Endowment Fund which helps to financially support residents who have exhausted their financial resources. Your gift is greatly appreciated and tax-deductible.

To sponsor a light and have your loved one's name listed in the Book of Honor, please complete and return the donation form. Donations are being accepted through January 31, 2021.

Thank you for your support!



425 Westminster Ave.
Hanover, PA 17331
717-637-4166 TDD 717-633-4620
www.homewoodplumcreek.com





Homewood at Plum Creek – Garden of Life Donation Form

All donations benefit the Homewood Foundation Benevolent Endowment Fund and are greatly appreciated. Donations are being accepted through January 31, 2021.

Donated by: _____

Anonymous

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

In Honor of: 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

In Memory of: 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Amount donated: \$ _____ Check _____

Checks may be made payable to: Homewood Foundation

Memo: Garden of Life

Please mail this completed form with donation, to:

Homewood at Plum Creek

Attn: Homewood Foundation; Garden of Life

425 Westminster Ave.

Hanover, PA

Thank you for your tax-deductible gift.



Landscaping Update from the Trustees

The job of the Trustees of our church is to maintain the church building and surrounding grounds and to make repairs as needed. After considerable review of existing water runoff issues, we have determined what repairs are needed to correct these ongoing problems. We have signed a contract with All Seasons Resources in Dallastown.

Plans are to replace the above ground system which has been causing erosion and damage to the foundation. We will install a below ground system which will help control the water runoff during icy weather. The work will be completed in Phases.

Phase 1 will deal primarily with the east side and south end of the Christian Education wing. Plans include: replacing the down spouts with upgraded materials, removing the grass between the sidewalk and brick structure, and placing a new underground drainpipe system topped with landscape stone from the entry to the sidewalk at the end of the wing. Plants will be added to make a welcoming entrance to the building. With this, the damage that has been done to the cement sidewalks from the mowers will be greatly reduced.

At the stair end of the Christian Education wing where the sidewalk has been damaged, it will be removed and replaced. The grassy areas on both sides of the steps will be removed and landscape stone will be placed between the sidewalk and the building. Plants will also be added at intervals. Phase 2 of the project will be at the main entrance of the church where the sidewalk has begun to sink and is creating pools of water which are undermining the foundation there. The cement area will be raised and stone placed beneath. We will then add landscape stone and drainage pipe to divert the downspout water.

We have encountered the same damage on the west side of the Christian Education wing (outside the main entrance and office area.) The existing down spouts will be connected to a new underground drainage system. This will decrease the chances of ice forming on the drive entrance due to runoff waters during rain or melting snow. The drainpipe will be connected to a stone drain field located at the edge of the driveway area on the west side of the cemetery steps.

As you can imagine, it will take considerable funds to make these repairs and upgrades. Therefore, we are asking for your help to make this possible. One way is through a "***Donors Plaque***". If you would like to make a donation to this project "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone or something, please submit the form below, along with your contribution. *We ask for a minimum of \$50.00 contribution.* The size of the name plate will be approximately 1½ inch x 4 inches. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can request that your name not be placed on the plaque.

----- **PLEASE PRINT** -----

In Loving Memory of

In Honor of

Name of the donor _____

Include donor's name on plaque _____ Do **not** include donor's name on plaque _____

In lieu of Women's Sunday, I will be sharing 7 short articles about Rhythms of Life, from the Fall 2020 Magnolia Magazine. The articles speak to the "unrhythmic" times we are facing now. Marti Leader gave me the "Rhythm" articles and asked if I could think of some way to share them with you. She said, "The articles seem so appropriate for us now. We need them." So... one article a week will appear in the church bulletin as an insert, as well as in the Newsletters. I hope you will read them during the quiet time in preparation for worship, or at home during your own quiet time.
Thank you, Marti (Ginny Weber)

ARTICLE ONE: WE BELIEVE -An Introduction to the Rhythm Articles
"We believe in home, that it should restore us from today and ready us for tomorrow.

We believe in friendship, because friends who feel like family are the best kind of friends, and that nothing matters more than family.

We believe in seeking the balance between hustle and rest and learning to find contentment in both.

We believe everyone deserves a seat at the table and everyone has a story worth telling.

We believe in human kindness, knowing we are made better when we all work together.

We believe in courage, in cartwheeling past our comfort zones and trying something a little bit scary every day.

We believe that failure needn't be a negative thing: rather, we learn from our mistakes and fail smarter next time.

We believe in doing good work that matters and, in choosing that, nudging others toward doing the same.

We believe that newer isn't always better and that it's time for the pendulum of trend to swing back to the basics.

We believe in unearthing beauty, however hidden or subtle it might be.

We believe that each day is a gift and that everyday miracles are scattered about if only we have eyes to see.

And of all heroic pursuits large or small, **we believe** there may be none greater than a life well loved."

Magnolia Manifesto

GOD'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO YOU

No matter what your faith is or is not, no matter where in the world you are, I want you to know that during this holiday season I'll be with you. In the eyes of every child and the melody of every song. I'll be the glimmer in the ice crystals, the rays in the sun, and the stars at night. And with each smile you see, every hug you receive, and every laugh you hear, I'll be there, reaching out through another, with blessings and tidings to last you the year.

Not because it's Christmas, but because I love you, because I've always loved you, and because I always will. And because all of these things have been true, and will be true, every day of your life.



DECEMBER

When our daughter was 4, my wife and I tried to prepare her for Christmas by talking to her about the real meaning of the holiday and why we celebrated.

We had a wonderful Christmas with lots of presents and toys. A few days later when talking with her older sister about what a great Christmas she had had, our little one said, "I sure hope Joseph and Mary decide to have another baby!"

Donald W. Dugan



PRICELESS GIFTS TO GIVE

The gift of listening: No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your responses. Just listen.

The gift of affection: Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholding.

The gift of laughter: Share articles, funny stories, and cartoons to tell someone, "I love to laugh with you."

The gift of a compliment: A simple and sincere "You look great in red," "You did a super job." or "That was a wonderful meal." can make someone's day.

The gift of solitude: Be sensitive to the times when others want nothing more than to be left alone.

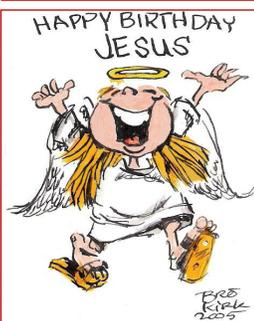
The gift of a cheerful disposition: The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone, even if it's just saying hello or thank you.

The gift of prayer: Let your friends and loved ones know you pray for them__then do it!

Barbara Johnson

"There is no greater gift at Christmas than to have everything you want before you open the gifts."

Flavia



GOD'S GREAT GIFTS

Why did he do it? A shack would have sufficed, but he gave us a mansion. Did he have to give the birds a song and the mountain a peak? Was he required to put stripes on the zebra and the hump on the camel?

Why wrap creation in such splendor? Why go to such trouble to give such gifts?

Why do you? You do the same. I've seen you searching for a gift. I've seen you stalking the malls and walking the aisles. I'm not talking about the obligatory gifts. I'm talking about that extra-special person and that extra-special gift. Why do you do it? You do it so the heart will stop. You do it so the jaw will drop.

You do it to hear those words of disbelief "You did this for me?"

That's why you do it. And that is why God did it. Next time a sunrise steals your breath or a meadow of flowers leaves you speechless, remain that way. Say nothing and listen as heaven whispers,

"Do you like it? I did it just for you."

Max Lucado



**“WHEN YOU HAVE TO NAVIGATE THE HOLIDAYS THROUGH UNPARALLELED DAYS:
STAY ON THE WAY AND TREAT EVERYONE AS YOU WOULD THE COMING KING”**



At the end of the longest, most painful year, who doesn't need the most meaningful Christmas? That's what I'm thinking when we drag out the tree early: In a year that can't be over too soon, it can be none too soon to set up the tree, to turn on the lights, and turn up the tunes. I mean, in a year that was kind of just two months, *then pandemic*, and then Christmas, the weary are more than ready to let all the joy, hope, and peace be epic this year. String up the lights! Set out the candles! Celebration is a smart strategy. It's good for everyone's mental health to have something good to look forward to.

Caleb, the oldest of my seven children has dreamed up a story for his little sister, a story about a little girl— *just like her!* — who had sheep. He calls his story “The Light Gift”. In it, little Leora's sheep was due to have a baby lamb, and she wanted to run from her village, out to her shepherd father in the hills, to be there when her sheep gave birth, because what could be worse than missing the birth of your Lamb? Yet all along the way, Leora ran in to things that seemed to be in the way: someone who needed this, someone who needed that, all the things that got in the way of all her plans. Kind of like a year we have all just painfully lived.

“But Leora could hear the sure song of her own heart beat: “*Stay on the Way and treat everyone as you would the coming King!*” When the year goes south: “*Stay on the Way.*” When the world splits, divided: “*Stay on the Way and treat everyone as you would the coming King.*” When you have to navigate the holidays through unparalleled days: “*Stay on the Way and treat everyone as you would the coming King.*”

The story brings smiles, as Big Brother tells how Leora, who is anxious not to miss the birth, but reaches out to help someone here, surprises someone with a hand there. Yet all doesn't go as planned. Yeah, looking right at you 2020.

But Leora misses the birth of her little lamb. Her father asks if she got lost along the way since she took so long. Leora explains how she reached out to help with a need here, and lingered longer to love there, because, even when things seemed to go wrong on the way, and things seemed to get in her way, her heart beat with one certain thought: “*Stay on the Way and treat everyone as you would the coming King.*”

But, big brother continues —and Leora listens to the angels that ignite the hills. She turns and runs to the manger with the shepherds, and holds up her light to help the shepherds see. In the end, Leora discovers how *all the ways she loved turned out to be a gift to the coming Baby King.* She hadn't missed the birth of her Lamb after all.



**This isn't the year to miss the Lamb, this isn't the year to miss the Light of the World.
This isn't the year to miss *being* the light.**

More than ever during this very difficult year, find it in your heart to surprise people with acts of kindness —a calling card that the Light of Christ was here!

Ann Voskamp

FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Imagine what it must've been like for Mary in those first moments after Jesus was born. Like any mother of a newborn, Jesus would have been pulled tight against her chest, wrapped up for warmth and comfort, while mom looked tearfully and exhaustedly down on the miracle that just happened. (And I wouldn't think less of Jesus either if He was squealing like most newborns do). Now imagine what the host of angels must have been doing as they saw God now as a child.

If angels drop their jaws at anything, this would have been it.

Last, imagine what God the Father must have been doing. His precious Son, who was with Him before in all things, just became the most fragile, tender, totally dependent thing in all creation: a newborn baby. God must have looked on with profound love at the One who would bring His creation back into relationship. He must have swelled with affection knowing the mission He sent His son to accomplish.

When was the last time you gawked at God? Staring at Jesus is a perfectly natural reaction. All of creation did it when He was born, and we've continued to do it for thousands of years. As you think about this God-made-man, shake yourself out of the familiarity that's layered on top of Him over the years. Let your heart be warmed by the traditions, the garland, the candle-lighting. But be shocked— be in awe of the baby in the manger.



Bob Goff

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

December 2020

Christmas Project



Because of the coronavirus and the difficulty of doing any shopping in person, we have changed our Christmas Project this year. Instead of giving out name tags and asking church members to buy gifts for a specific child, we have decided to give \$50 in gift cards to each eligible child or teen. In order to do this we are asking for cash donations in any amount to help purchase the cards. They will be given out to the parents on December 12 and December 19.

We are still accepting donations of food, cleaning products and toiletries. We are giving them out by having the clients come to the parking lot door rather than inside St. Paul's. Donations of food and other products may be dropped off at Blymire's church on Sunday mornings or weekdays during office hours. Thank you for helping your neighbors in this time of need.

Cartridge Recycling



Don't forget to bring in your empty printer cartridges and place them in the box above the coat rack in the hallway. Thank you for your support of this project which will not only raise money for those in need, but also help to keep our planet "green."

Bags Needed

If anyone uses Giant Direct for their grocery shopping, we are asking for donations of the empty bags. They are the perfect size and sturdiness to hold the groceries that we give out. You may place them in the food bins. Thanks.



THANKS FOR CARING!

E.C. Continuing Needs

Juice
Cereal/Oatmeal
Peanut Butter/Jelly
Pancake Mix
Spaghetti Sauce
Boxed Dry Pastas
Helper Meals
Dessert Items
Condiment Items
Canned Tuna/Meats
Canned Fruit/Vegetables
Soap
Shampoo
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Dish Washing Liquid
Laundry Detergent
All-Purpose Cleaners
Children's books/toys
Small household items

Please, NO Expired Food Items

Below is a list of items that we are especially in need of right now:

Dinner kits (pizza, taco, etc.)

Frosting (assorted flavors besides chocolate please)

Jelly, jam, preserves

Cereal

Gravy

Rice

Poptarts

Sloppy Joe mix

Stuffing

Soap

Shampoo

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Detergent

Cleaning supplies



Revelations for December from “Bly Mire” Mouse

GREETINGS!!! As I write this, we are one week before Thanksgiving, but as you read this we may be close to one month away from the end of 2020! Do any of you agree this has been one CRAZY year???? I know that COVID 19 will be with us for part of or maybe even all of 2021 but so much of the craziness of the political campaigns is past. We no longer hear that there is rioting in large cities. The cancel culture seems to be quieted. There still are things going on with the aftermath of the Presidential election being unsettled and the run off in Georgia filling our news programs. But, at this point we hope it soon gets resolved and we can move on to the next President and Congress...(which we hope will get to agreement to work together for the good of the people that elected them.) But, enough of that political talk.

Once again we are hearing many people say that they are so irritated that stores have Christmas displays everywhere you look. I have heard people saying that they can't believe their favorite radio station is playing Christmas music already. I will have to admit that I have even seen some outside Christmas lights lit on homes I pass by. I will say that for many years I too would shake my head and say that I just can't believe that people are rushing Christmas. They forget about Thanksgiving and the meaning of that holiday. But, I will admit that this year I am kind of having a different thought process. When I saw the Christmas lights lit on one of my neighbor's homes, I had a quick thought of: "I can't believe it!" which was soon followed by: "I can understand why someone would decorate for Christmas and turn the lights on." Now, before you think my little mouse brain has gone off on a sabbatical, let me share why I don't mind the early observance of Christmas....

I think, this year especially, we have been in such an upheaval of what we knew as normal that some people are looking to the observances of Christmas just to focus on something from our traditions that will give a continuity to daily life. Now, I would also hope that along with the long held tradition of decorating the house and lighting Christmas lights, the neighbors would also be focusing on the reason for the season. The birth of Christ, God's only Son, our Lord and Savior IS the reason we have Christmas Day! The birth of Jesus is so important because God took on human flesh. Jesus is GOD WITH US!!! And, we know that God is with us 24/7/365 (or 366 in leap years.) God is with us every moment of every day. And, I know I have heard Pastor Lou Ann emphasize that we should live every day as if it were Christmas Day....not for the food, the presents, the family gatherings, but for the reality of the love of God for us! Every day is Christmas Day because every day God is with us. Now, I am not indicating that we should keep Christmas decorations up and visible every day of the year, but I am saying that our hearts should be adorned with the reason for the season every day of our life! So, my hope and prayer is that we are all Christmas people the whole year through!

December's humor:

So last year I started a tradition, I carry a pebble and throw it at anyone who sings Christmas songs before December.... I call it my JINGLE BELL ROCK!!!

Back in December a Santa wondered into the wrong street and couldn't figure out a way out.... He was a lost CLAUS!

MERRY CHRISTMAS. AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

With our Love, BLY and MIRE



LET IT snow!

Create a winter wonderland with this fun craft.



What you need:

- Glass jar with lid but no label
- Laminated photo (that will fit in the jar)
- Small plastic Christmas trinkets
- Hot or waterproof glue
- Container with spout
- 1 cup distilled water
- 3 tsp. glycerin
- Glitter



What you do:

1. Unscrew lid and flip jar upside down. Glue the photo and trinkets to the inside of the lid, standing upright.
2. In a container, mix water and glycerin. Pour the mixture into the jar, leaving space at the top.
3. Spoon in some glitter.
4. When glue is dry, attach the decorated lid tightly. Shake the jar to see "snow" swirl and settle.



WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
❄️ for	❄️ give	❄️ come	❄️ together	❄️ around	❄️ after
❄️ self	❄️ into	❄️ settle	❄️ eternal	❄️ thanks	❄️ forgive
❄️ God	❄️ LORD	❄️ says	❄️ without	❄️ Christ	❄️ warmth
❄️ love	❄️ sins	❄️ scarlet	❄️ other	❄️ light	❄️ praise
❄️ red	❄️ star	❄️ white	❄️ snow	❄️ winter	❄️ peace

EXIT ↓

"_____ now, let us _____ the matter," _____ the
 _____. "Though your _____ are like _____,
 they shall be as _____ as _____"

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

ANSWER: Path 3; come, settle, says, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow