

Sunday, December 8, 2013
Volume 48, Issue 49

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT SUNSHINE

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The Essential Message of Christmas

Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name 'Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'

—Matthew 1:23

At this time of the year, we say, "Merry Christmas." I prefer that to "Happy Holidays," but I don't get confrontational about it. Instead, I want to be gracious. After all, Christmas isn't always a happy time for everyone. For someone who has lost their job, this is not the most wonderful time of the year, because so much emphasis is placed on a merry Christmas being a materialistic one.

There are also those who have lost loved ones. I am one of those people, and things that once made me happy at this time of year now make me sad. Those things that once brought happiness are now things that bring sadness, because they evoke memories of times we spent together. Therefore, Christmas becomes a difficult time for some.

There are many who are in need of encouragement at this time of year. They don't need a Christmas present; they need His Christmas presence. They need to be reminded of what this season is all about. It is not about things. It is not about presents.

These things have their place, but we need to remember the essential message of Christmas, which is Immanuel—God is with us. And for the hurting person, the lonely person, the sorrowing person, this is the time of year to bring the gift of encouragement to them and say, "The message of Christmas is: God will be with you. God will help you. God will strengthen you."

So look for opportunities to share the love of God during this season, because it is a time when we seem to be more open to engaging in conversation with others. Now is a great opportunity for you to bring encouragement to someone who is struggling. Who needs your encouragement today?

Greg Laurie
www.harvest.org

Please Pray For:

For our nation as we are going through troubled times.

For our national leaders and world leaders as they lead their respective nations.

For our troops in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Korea, Iraq, Liberia, Haiti and other places.

For the innocent who are suffering in the midst of war.

For the "people in the box"-- the lost in our families and community.

For those who are being martyred and persecuted for Christ in our own time.

For marriage to stand in our laws as God ordained it.

For the church in Siliguri and Naresh Chhetri and Ashok Basfor.

For the churches in Honduras and Haiti who partner with us in the gospel.

For the people in the Philippines affected by the typhoon.

Gregg Ferrell home and doing better all the way around.

Matthew Gampp in the Philippines working to deliver water to people affected by the typhoon.

Angie Arnett (friend of Laryssa Grashel, mother of 2 children) fighting cancer.

Eldon Conkel (former member now living in Atlanta) cancer of the bladder. Starting his chemo on November 27.

Jim Young (Terri Young's husband) completed his chemo this past week.

Jeff Hayward back in ER on Monday. Now home. Tests now show possible ulcer.

Dylan Remy (5th grade classmate of Kelsey Isley) fighting cancer of the brain.

Debbie Krumpleman (Stephanie Copas' friend in Cincinnati) diagnosed with cancer, facing chemo and radiation.

Kaye Hammond scheduled for cancer surgery on Thursday at OSU. Prayers requested for surgery and complete healing.

Russel Bryant (Amy Graff's uncle) liver failure, doctors say only one or two weeks left at best.

Bud Bryant (Amy Graff's uncle) aggressive cancer, not doing well.

Seeing Hope

The Flatwoods church of Christ is collecting old prescription glasses to distribute in Peru where they are presently involved in a mission work. They have asked us to help them by gathering up all our old prescription glasses and sending them to Peru. There is a basket in the foyer for collecting these glasses. We have until January 31, to get everything collected. Questions, see Cheryl Villinger.

Praise Reports



All the Crams (including Ana Mei) are together in China. Expected to be back in Minford on Thursday.

Paul Hagen (Donnie Coriell's friend) had surgery this week to remove a cranial tumor. Surgery successful.



Coming Events

12/8	Soup Fellowship
12/15	Christmas Caroling
12/21	Christmas lights in Ashland
1/8	PG Men class begins

Soup Fellowship Today

We will be having a soup fellowship meal after our worship services today. The church will provide drinks and crackers. There will be plenty for everyone. Please stay even if you "forgot". Any questions see Aaron McCray

Budget Requests for 2014

Soon we will be preparing our budget for 2014. If you anticipate a need for funding for a ministry in 2014, please get that request ASAP to one of our deacons, preferably the one who is over the area of ministry where your idea would fit.

Notes of Encouragement

Our shepherds serve the congregation on a daily basis. They handle a myriad of problems (spiritual, financial, emotional, physical) that come to them from individual Christians and families. They set the direction for the congregation as we move forward. They oversee the work of the deacons and the ministers and advise them in the specific areas of work they may be involved in. None of them are paid. All is done on a voluntary basis and some of our shepherds have been serving in this capacity for 20, 30 and more than 30 years. This work is the highest work to which a man can be called in the Lord's kingdom and it is the most difficult work in the kingdom when it is done conscientiously. Our shepherds have been faithful in their work and for the next few weeks we invite you to write your own note of thanks and encouragement to the men in our present eldership. There are manila envelopes on the window in the foyer. Write your note and drop it in the appropriate envelope. Let them know how much you love, respect and appreciate them.

Save Labels for Mid-Western Children's Home




You can help Mid-Western purchase sporting equipment and more by clipping Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Labels for Education coupons and sending them to

Mid-Western Children's Home
P.O. Box 48
Pleasant Plain, OH 45162

PG Men Starting Soon

About 15 of our men so far (18 and older) will begin meeting soon on Wednesday evenings during class time (plus 15 minutes) to view the DVD series **The Mousetrap** and to have a few minutes of discussion each time. There are 18 sessions in all. We hope to begin this special class January 8, 2014. If you would like to join the class or have other questions, see Steve Miller. This is a follow up to the presentations made by Lou Butterfield a few weeks ago.

Christmas Caroling

Youth Group, look! Sunday, December 15th! Be at Sunshine at 1:00PM to stuff bags and practice singing carols with other groups involved. We will be visiting the Concord nursing home from 3:00-4:30. The youth group will be making cookies and cards for 125 residents between two different nursing homes (Concord and Fountainhead). Fountainhead is very small and will be visited some time later by a small group.

Food and Lights

Youth Group, look! Saturday, December 21, 4:30-10 PM. We're headed to Ashland to see the Christmas lights and to eat at a "sit down" restaurant (not fast food). Sign up on the sheet in the foyer.



Coats for Kids

Between now and Christmas vacation, we are supplying new winter coats and jackets for needy students in the Minford schools (based on recommendation of the teachers and administration). Eugene Risner and Kristine Coriell are heading up this project. Give your money to them and they will make sure the coats are purchased and delivered ASAP. A typical coat/jacket costs about \$30.00. Checks can be made to Sunshine church.

Mission Accomplished

Mandi Coriell thanks all those who helped out with the backpack project. We were able to supply 63 backpacks with school supplies and personal items to all students who were on the list. One of the thank you letters from a student is on the bulletin board in the foyer.

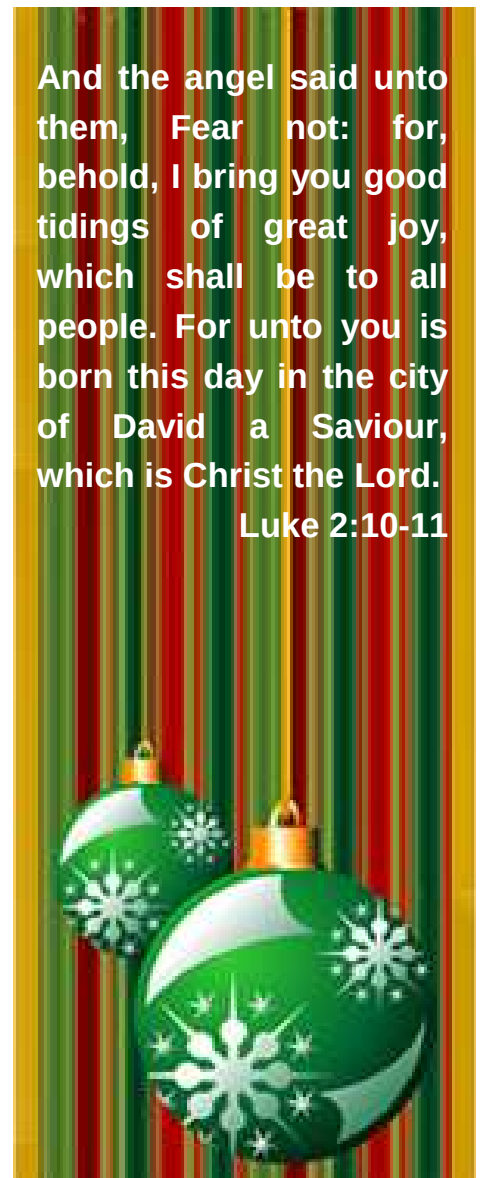
Song Leader/Worship Class Suspended

The song leading/worship leading class is suspended till January, 2014.

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And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11



THOSE WHO SERVE

Sunday Morning

Welcome & Prayer
Song Director
Worship Leaders

Message

December 8

Jon Coriell
Ralph Gampp
Jacob Miller
Josh Coriell
Caleb Miller

December 15

Wayne Gampp
Aaron McCray
Greg Shepherd
Steve Williams
Jamie Riley

Sunday Evening

Song Director
Scripture Reading
Lord's Supper
Assist
Prayer

Don Ramey
Shawn Gragg
Jason Coriell
Troy Gahm
Greg Shepherd

Gabe Coriell
Dewey Cordle
Don Ramey
Tim Coriell
Jim Cunningham

Wednesday Evening

Song Director
Prayer

Mark Gampp
Aaron Kallner

David Bradshaw
Mark Villinger

Regular Service Times

Sunday

Worship - 10:00 am
Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.

This bulletin is a publication of the Sunshine Church of Christ. To learn more about the Church of Christ you may contact us at the telephone number or address on the front cover. Deadline for each issue is 3 p.m. Saturday. Content should be emailed to info@sunshine-church.org

Visit us on the web:

sunshine-church.org
sunshine-church.blogspot.com
www.syginfo.blogspot.com



Many of our members also keep in contact via Facebook. Ask about joining one of our church related groups there.

What's That Word?

Ten Bible words are defined below. Each one is seven letters long and begins with the letter "S." Scripture references are given to help you, but some translations may use a different word. Solution is on page 3.



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- .. Syrian stringed instrument - Daniel 3:5
- .. The day of rest - Genesis 2:2
- .. Small bird worth a farthing - Matt. 10:29
- .. A type of footwear - Mark 6:9
- .. A type of punishment - Acts 7:59
- .. Red colored dye - Luke 23:11
- .. Small models of a pagan god - Acts 19:24
- .. Hebrew coinage - 1 Samuel 9:8
- .. Babylonian officer - Daniel 3:2
- .. King David's heir - 1 Kings 1:11