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Celebrating the Good News of the new-born King, especially to:







The Chapel Messenger

Volume 13 Issue 12

DECEMBER 2024

Do all the good you can In all the ways you can In all the places you can At all the times you can To all the people you can As long as you can. -John Wesley

We send our love and Christmas greetings in the matchless name of Jesus!



The Greatness of the Expected and Unexpected

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

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For so long, the people of God had expected a Messiah. They hoped for the arrival of the one who would save. They looked intently for His arrival, filled their hearts and minds with images, and dreams of who was to come, based on the words of the prophets and what they themselves thought they meant. Yet, they could not have expected such a gift! Jesus was born to Mary, and Joseph took her as his wife, as the Lord instructed him. The precious baby in Mary's arms was an unexpected gift given to them. He revealed to us God in the flesh, and with His cry He broke the silence and declared the love, grace, and power of God. As Mary and Joseph received from God the One promised, the One expected and the expected reality of His arrival into their lives, they were filled with joy and fulfillment. Much of the world did not (Continued on page 23)



- 1 Andy Sanner
- 2 Jarod Hoover
- 3 Barb Stark
 Pete Sanner
 Leslie Pletcher
- 4 Mary Beth Mitchell
- 8 Gunner Temple
- 9 Rex Temple
- 10 Pastor Tim Monteith
- 11 Charles King, III
- 14 Caleb Pritts

- 15 Michael Hardwig
- 16 Bob Miller, Sr.
- 17 Cole Henry
- 18 Hunter Shultz
- 19 Elika Pletcher Holly Stene
- 20 Shane Pritts

 Jake Ulderich
- 21 Rich Beahr Madyson Maurer Landon Henry
- 23 Tonya Ulderich
- 24 Riley Temple
- 25 JESUS



27 Charlie & Martha Mitchell



A Christmas Eve candle lighting service will be held Tuesday, December 24, at 7:30 p.m. Our bell choir will be delighting us with special music. Come and let your spirit be filled with joy!

receive Him. No, He was born in a manger, because no room was found for Him in the inn or anywhere else for that matter. To a few selected people, shepherds, Mary and

"I bring good news...for all the people." Luke 2:10

Joseph, and Magi, who made their way a long distance, the joy was revealed, and they were filled with joy!

Only God could give such an expected gift to such an unsuspecting young couple. Only God could invite such shepherds and Magi to receive the invitation to His great reveal of His One and Only Son, given to be Immanuel, God with us! God alone could cause this baby to be born, grow, live, and die, so that He would fulfill every promise given, each hope ever expressed by the human heart. God alone could express such love, give peace, and fill with joy inexpressible the hearts of all generations past, present, and future in the cry of the baby given to us to be Immanuel, God with us! As it says above, "The LORD Himself will give you...Immanuel".

This Christmas and Advent Season, much will be expected and enjoyed - Christmas gifts, Christmas carols, cookies, the love of family and friends, and more. Yet, let the expected joys of the season draw us close to the Expected One. May each word sung and spoken, each cookie eaten, and moment shared fill our hearts with the joy of the Messiah's, Jesus', arrival. May God also surprise us as we draw near. May we experience unexpected moments of hope fulfilled, love given, joy filling, and peace giving which are just a taste of the goodness of the GOD who loves us so much that He gave to us the Expected One in such an unexpected way, to an unsuspecting young couple, to fulfill every expectation and promise of the Word of GOD, so that we could be given and receive our Messiah, Immanuel, God with us!

~ Blessings, Pastor Tim

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Our Country/Leaders Our church/Wesley Chapel Pastor Tim Monteith & family Presiding elder Doug Burns Ethan, Forrest & Barb Stark Maxine Temple Ralph & Chop Pletcher Darlene Stevanus Gail Minerd Persecuted Christians Police officers Military First responders Medical personnel Unsaved loved ones Rex Temple Kristi Burkett Jade Hetz Chun Emily Lemmon Myron Deal Terry & Kathi Schmuck Cook Ohler & family Gary Weimer Maxx Stevanus Israel Travel mercies Unspoken Somerset Christian School Larry Cornell Ray & Deb Ankeny Randy Cox family Jeff (Kim Smith's friend)

Andrea King

Catherine Viola

Harry Hoover

Bob Clark
Charles Sleasman & family
Sam Wiatrak
Matt & Stephanie Singo
Kenny Henry
Carol Dubbstadt
Marlene Patterson
Edna Hunt family
Randy Klein
Matt Kessler
Shirley Walter
Those in need
Katie Mae Saylor
Pat Woods

Claudia (Amy Monteith's mom)

Jane Hershberger Those not in church Tom Cox

Mikayla Adkins Jeff Romesburg Cindy Breckenridge

Juanita Frampton Olivia Eller Jill Latuch

Dr. Alvarez Beth Jenkins Steve Podratsky

Steve Podratsky Stephanie Fogie

Laura Findley
Mike & Lynn D

Mike & Lynn Deitz Dave Rogers William Hay

Children's Hospital

Mark Stevanus & family Tim Garmin Eugene Pletcher

Amber Johnson
June Bethel family

Gary Sheetz Titus Flail Hunters Byron Walters Crystal Hershberger Josh Verfosh



Military/Families

Jeremy Allan John Benford Stephen Bigler Ian Blevins Gabe Bluebaugh Kinzie Bugard Aaron Engleka Joe Gusbar Grant Hanak Keith Henry, Jr. Landon Henry Kristi Hopp Jake Johnson Lexie Kerns Richard King Denton Lester, Jr. Conner Lisbon Kurt Mav Jamie Miller Ross Pletcher Randall Pritts David Rogers Max Strasiser Randi Thomas **Charles Trimpey** Families of fallen soldiers

"If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

-2 Chronicles 7:14

Serving this month

ACOLYTES Brooklyn Monteith & Grace Sechler

	GREETERS	OFFERING TEAM
Dec. 1	Jamie & Mindy Singo	Jamie & Mindy Singo & friends
Dec. 8	Steve Pletcher family	Steve Pletcher family
Dec. 15	Jason Breegle family	Jason Breegle family
Dec. 22	Ray & Deb Ankeny	Lechliters & family
Dec. 29	Todd & Tracy Pritts	Todd & Tracy Pritts & family

If you are unable to acolyte, greet or usher on your Sunday, please find a replacement. Thank you.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

December 1	Matthew 1:18-20	Connie Pletcher
December 8	Luke 1:5-10	Grace Sechler
December 15	Luke 1:26-31	Dave Henry
December 22	Luke 2:1-6	Connie Pletcher
December 29	Luke 2:19-23	Tristan Pritts

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

December 1	Matthew 1:21-23	Forrest Stark
December 8	Luke 1:11-17	Joseph Sechler
December 15	Luke 1:32-38	Linda Henry
December 22	Luke 2:7-12	Forrest Stark
December 29	Luke 2:24-30	Faith Millin

If you are unable to read on your Sunday, please find a replacement. Thank you.

LOOKING FOR AWESOME, ENERGETIC, SPIRIT-FILLED persons to take part in Sunday services. We need greeters and ushers to fill a Sunday. A reminder that one of your membership promises is *SERVICE*. In case you're wondering, other promises with membership are *PRAYERS*, *PRESENCE*, *GIFTS* and *WITNESS*. Challenged yet? Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board.



Answers: Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

Lessons from the angels

To frightened shepherds on the first Christmas Eve, a host of angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14, KJV).

Nineteenth-century minister Charles Kingsley explained how these key words tell the meaning of Jesus' birth and give meaning to our lives.

- Glory. "That little babe, lying in the manger among the cattle, was showing the very highest glory of the great God who had made heaven and earth. To stoop, to condescend, to have mercy, to forgive that is the highest glory of God."
- Peace. "God is not selfish. He sacrificed himself for us. Sacrifice yourselves then for each other! Give up your own pride, your own selfishness, your own interest for each other, and you will be ... at peace."
- Good will. "God loves you, and He wills to raise you out of this selfish, quarrelsome life of sin, into a loving, brotherly, peaceful life of righteousness. That babe in the manger at Bethlehem is a sign to you and me that God will freely give us that spirit of love if we ask for it."
- ~Taken from The Newsletter CD, WordContent, 2013





October 2024

Thank you for your support of One Mission Society!

We are so grateful for your donation this month that enables Gospel work to happen worldwide. God continues to bless OMS through the generosity of faithful donors like you.



Did you know OMS is looking for more church multiplication facilitators (CMF) and associate CMFs to serve as non-residential or itinerant missionaries around the world? CMFs mentor, coach, encourage, and help hold our national leaders accountable. Most CMFs travel 3-4 times/year to serve in-person, and then regularly stay in touch by Zoom calls and WhatsApp. Could this be you or someone you know? Email info@onemissionsociety.org, or search opportunities on our website to learn more.

Gratefully, Jeff Edwards, OMS President

Christian symbol ~ Poinsettias

This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of a legend about a poor girl who

wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight, and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.

~Taken from The Newsletter CD, WordContent, 2013

Wreath

What you need:

- Paint (blue and green)
- · Paint brush
- Embroidery hoop
- 24 wooden clothespins
- Scissors
- Craft foam (white, red and green)
- · Glue
- 3 white feathers
- · Floral wire (two pieces)

What you do:

- Paint the hoop blue and the clothespins green. When dry, attach clothespins around the hoop.
- Cut a dove shape (slightly wider than the hoop's diameter) out of white foam. Glue on feathers.
- Pierce the beak with a scissors tip. Slide a piece of wire through the slit to make an olive branch.
- From green foam, cut out two leaves. Attach them to each end of the wire.
- 5. From red foam, cut out the letters P E A C E. Glue them onto clothespins.
- Place dove in center of hoop. Glue its head and tail to clothespins.
- 7. Attach wire to the back and hang up your wreath.



The Agape children are busy preparing for their annual Christmas program. They will be sharing it with you on Sunday morning, December 22nd, during the Sunday school hour. A time of refreshments and fellowship will follow. Join us in celebration of Christ's birth!



Food for the Soul will be held Wednesday, Dec. 11th at 6:00 p.m. Please contact Barb Stark with any questions!

According to Scripture, what does the name Jesus mean?



- A. "God is with us."
- B. "Anointed One of God"
- C. "[The Lord] will save his people from their sins."
- D. "Son of the Most High God"

Answer: C (See Matthew 1:21)



Wesley Chapel Church & Family, Feeling so blessed to have such caring brothers & sisters in Christ. The goodie basket was perfect! Todd liked it too!

Gratefully, Tracy Pritts

With many thanks and much appreciation. We just want to thank you for bringing joy & sunshine into our lives. We really appreciate the delicious food. God bless you for your kindness to us.

Lloyd & Esther Ansell

Thank you so much for the meals you provided us during Meade's surgery and recovery time. We are blessed and thankful for such caring people. Your thoughtfulness, prayers, and love are appreciated more than you know!

Cindy, Thank you for delivering the meals to us. Your friendship is unmeasurable.

Thank you, Meade & Tammy Meyers

Wesley Chapel,

Thank you for your generosity to the Lazarus Gate Food Pantry. Your food drive was a blessing as it helped stock our shelves. And the gift cards are such a blessing! It's a HUGE help in providing those we serve a gift card to Giant Eagle for the holidays.

Thank you, Susan Barclay Lazarus Gate

Many thanks to Tim & Jill Heiple for delivering and setting up the beautiful Christmas tree in the sanctuary. We truly appreciate it.

<u>Many Hands Make Our</u> Church Beautiful!

On Sunday, November 24th, many members of Wesley Chapel gathered together after the Sunday school hour and decorated the entire church for Advent/Christmas. A special thank you to all who organized and helped make this beautification happen.





















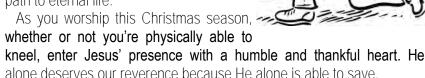




With humble hearts

Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, which marks the likely spot of Jesus' birth, has a four-foot-high entrance. Throughout the centuries, the height of the entrance has been lowered twice: once to prevent looting and once to keep out camel- and horse-riders.

Because visitors must bow as they enter, this has become known as the Door of Humility. It's a reminder of the reverent, submissive posture our hearts should take as we approach our newborn Lord and Savior. It's also a reminder that Jesus is the narrow door (Luke 13:24) — the only path to eternal life.



~Taken from The Newsletter CD, WordContent, 2014



Ronald McDonald House Toy Drive

I will be collecting toys and supplies again this year to supply the Ronald McDonald House in Pittsburgh. Any new unwrapped toys are welcome, no matter

how small, also any baby items. There is a huge need every year and God has put it on my heart to help. Last year I was able to completely fill

my truck bed the entire inside to the ceiling. Anyone interested in helping can contact me and I will make arrangements to pick up any items donated. Money donations are welcome also, and we will go shopping for even more supplies.



<u>DECEMBER 15th FINAL COLLECTION DATE</u> <u>Call or Text Steve Long @ 724-640-2075</u>



Our food pantry items for December are cookie making supplies and bagged candies. You may bring your donations to the church during the month of December. We are currently supplying the Rockwood Area Food Pantry located at Messiah Lutheran Church in New

Centerville. <u>Hours for distribution for December are 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.</u> the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month Thank you.

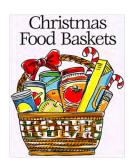
The Laurel Highlands Chorale will be presenting its annual Christmas Concert, titled "Tis the Season!," on Sunday, December 8th, at 3:30 p.m. and Monday, December 9th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Somerset Church of



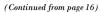
the Brethren (606 Berlin Plank Rd, Somerset, PA). You are cordially invited to attend. Tickets are only \$5.00 and will be available at the door, or through any chorale member.

Please contact Dorene Friedline at (814) 926-3610 or (814) 442-0460 for additional information.

Please consider supporting this non-profit, non-professional chorale group. The Laurel Highlands Chorale is an affiliate of Laurel Arts.



Please join the New Generation Class as they assemble their annual fruit and goodie baskets. The assembling is scheduled for Friday, December 11, at 6:00 pm. A sheet will be on the bulletin board for names of folks to receive baskets. We will be asking for homemade goodies such as cookies, breads or candy to be donated for the baskets. A separate sign -up sheet for these items is also posted on the bulletin board. Monetary gifts will be accepted to help with cost of fruit and gift cards. If there are any questions, please see any New Generation Class member.





A NEW FLOWER CHART has been posted by the office door. You have the opportunity to reserve flowers for the sanctuary on a Sunday of your choice. Price is \$30 for two cut bouquets. Please make your check payable to Somerset Floral and give it to Shanna Breegle or Kim Smith. Thank you.

Feel like brightening someone's day? A family in the community has politely asked if anyone would be willing to send their mother a birthday card! This special lady is turning 99 years old on December 14th...WOW...what a blessing! If interested, please send to:

Margaret Blough Countryside Personal Care Home 1841 Stoystown Road Friedens, PA 15541





A table for Christmas cards has been set up in the fellowship hall for your use. There are alphabetized tags to place your cards by church members' last names.



GOD'S ABUNDANCE, we delivered <u>301</u> Shoeboxes to Kingwood. Again thank you to everyone for your support and allowing this mission to grow within the walls of Wesley Chapel.

~Submitted by Mindy Singo







Pictured left to right - Kaitlyn Miller, Maddox Miller, Amy Monteith, and Pastor Tim





Pictured above are the many items packed with love into the shoeboxes



Just a few of the 301 shoeboxes packed by our Wesley Chapel Church family.

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"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or imagine, according to the power that works in us..."

Ephesians 3:20

When you read these words from scripture, the last thing many people think about is how God will take a donation and multiply it in more ways than you can imagine. Well, that is exactly what has happened inside the walls of Wesley Chapel. We have been immeasurably blessed with donations that go for various causes outside the walls of Weslev Chapel. As of late, the blessings have been flowing with Shoeboxes packed full of love and kindness, but more importantly...JESUS! Every year I am in awe of how this all comes together for our church to bless those all around the world. After being in Paraguay and seeing the love that poured out of the boxes and flowed through each outreach event, it became more apparent that we need to do more to reach the ends of the earth and spread the Gospel. How do we do this while living in Rockwood? Well, the easy answer is to pack more boxes! When you hear that at one outreach event, 10 boxes that went out into the hands of the children brought back 50 children to the Greatest Journey 12 week program, you can only do one thing, happy dance! These small tangible gifts that we as a church collectively packed are doing far more than we could ever physically see here earthside. A BIG THANK YOU to each person that prayed, donated, helped organize, those who attended the packing party, or those who individually packed a box - you have helped create ABUNDANCE and BLESSINGS. A special thank you to Brooklyn and Faith for helping to pack my car in a windstorm so the boxes were able to go for a short ride to Kingwood before departing to Baltimore, Maryland. On Monday, November 25th, the boxes were loaded onto two pup trucks and prayed over before pulling out to Baltimore. There they will be processed by hundreds of volunteers. The boxes will be covered in prayer and then begin their journey to the child that God has chosen from the start. Some boxes will be received by children within months and others will take a longer journey and may not reach their destination until summer. But each and every box packed and collected will within the year be distributed to GOD'S Children. Just last year at this time we were packing and praying over 257 boxes, and with your prayers and

At the end of October, the AGAPE kids gathered together and had a blast playing outside and making smores over a campfire. Mark Millin lead the children through games and also gave a lesson about letting your light shine. Forrest Stark with guitar in hand lead the praise songs. What a beautiful evening to be surrounded by God's creation hearing the children's voices raised up praising our Lord and Savior.























(Continued on page 17)

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Working Together with Compassion

Sue Barclay, coordinator of Lazarus Gate Food Pantry, contacted Wesley Missions to help a local family in need. Dave Henry, a board member of Lazarus Gate, was asked to help organize and transport the donation of a refrigerator and stove to the family. Doreen Engelka of St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church in the Barronvale/Trent area, helped with donating the stove from the church. Wes Cook of Somerset donated the refrigerator and together with his friend, Bob, transported the appliance to St. Paul's. Jointly with Todd Pritts, Dave transported the appliances to the Sleasmans. Two boys of the seven children helped bring the stove and refrigerator into the house. Donations of food from the Food for the Soul program also was added to fill the refrigerator. We hope this mission work blesses the family and the Lord will continue to guide and direct us in this very important work. A thank you to all who helped with this.





LOCAL MISSIONS





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Missionary News





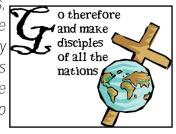
Missionaries Emanuel and Jessica Perez Gormley.

On Nov. 10th during the Sunday school hour, we had a presentation given by Missionaries Emanuel and Jessica Perez Gormley. They live full-time in Guatemala at an elevation of over 7,000 above sea level.

They are in their 15th year of being in the mission field. If you would like to know more, you can google Aselsi Missionaries and learn about their founder John and Sharon Harvey.

Recent Email from Jessica Perez:

We praise God for his divine appointments, working in better ways than we could have imagined, like the connection with Wesley Chapel! Thank you for becoming partners with us in ministry. Please pray for safe and healthy travels as we return to Guatemala at end of November.



~Submitted by Todd Pritts



Get bundled up and join Wesley Chapel's Bible Study Group as they go caroling to loved ones around the area. The group had so much fun last year and are looking forward to spreading more Christmas joy again this season! A date is currently being

determined so if you are interested, please see Shanna Breegle. Also, if you know of an individual that would love a visit on this evening, please let us know.



Just the beginning

As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, he baptized people and urged them to turn their lives around and live for God. As powerful as this ritual was, John was clear that Jesus' baptism would be more so: "I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit" (Mark 1:8, NIV).

The story is told of a gruff old man who'd resisted baptism all his life. Finally, he told his pastor he was ready to be baptized, according to the church's custom, that Christmas. After breaking the ice off the surface of the local pond, the minister plunged the man, face first, into the frigid water three times "in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

As the man emerged the third time, he exclaimed, "Thank God that's over!"

"Oh, no," replied the pastor. "Baptism is just the beginning."

~ Taken from The Newsletter CD, WordContent, 2014



December 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue		W	ed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 HOLY COMMUNION	2		sible Study :00 p.m.	4	Agape 6:00 p.m. Chimes 7:00 p.m.	5	6	7
WESLEY MISSIONS		*D 1 . 0 C1				ψ1 IZ 11 4	*D C 10	
*for peace on earth	*Jeremy Singo	*Robert & Chr Singo	istine	*Tom	& Lorie Skelton	*Joe, Kelly, Avery, Aubrey & Isaac Smiach	*Bryan, Crystal & Thayne Smith	*Craig & Kim Smith
8	9		ible Study	11	Agape 6:00 p.m.	12	13	14
		7:	:00 p.m.		Chimes 7:00 p.m. d for the Soul) p.m.		Preparing of Christmas Baskets 6:00 p.m.	
*mail carriers	*Creed & Kaylie Smith	*Diane Smith		*Matth Smith	new & Kim	*Taylor Smith & Molly Miller	*Tammy Snyder	*Forrest, Barb & Ethan Stark
15	16		sible Study :00 p.m.	18	Agape 6:00 p.m. Chimes 7:00 p.m.	19	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 First Winter
*for shut-ins	*Shawn, Holly, Elijah, Andrew, Samuel & Abigail Stene	*Darlene Stevo	anus		, Morgan & Stevanus	*Hope Renee Struckoff, Ira Steyer	*Lloyd & Judy Struckoff	*Kyle, Symanthia, Gunner & Zane Temple
22	23	24 Christma	as Eve	25	Merry	26	27	28
AGAPE Christmas Program 10:45 a.m.		Candleligh 7:30			ehristmas)			
*for Jesus' birth	*Mark & Rene Temple	*Maxine Temp	le	*Rex, I	Liisa & Riley ?	*Andrew, Lillian & Basil Tyson	*Calvin & Rhonda Ulderich	*Dominic Ulderich
29	30	31						
*for the New Year	*Jacob, Tonya, Landon & Teagan Ulderich	*Blaine & Shii Walter	rley					
			You are encouraged to removand place it on your refridgerato *Denotes daily			or for the month for refer		