

Another Word Dec. 20, 2022

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

The calendar tells me that winter begins tomorrow the 21st. Looking at the forecast over the next few days, it appears winter has been building up strength for a grand opening; temperatures will be plummeting, and the possibility of a rather large snow event are in our near future. And of course, just in time for Christmas. Because of the bitter cold, and your safety, leadership has decided to continue with the Christmas Eve service, but cancel our planned service on Christmas Day.

The Christmas Eve service will be a festival of lessons and carols, combined with the readings and music we had picked for Christmas Day. This special service will begin at 7pm. If you would like a ride to and from the service, please call the church # 419 289 7439 and leave your name. We hope to see you all this Saturday as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Our scriptures for January 1st are: Psalm 148 and Matthew 2:1-12. "The wise still seek Him." Linda Gardner is our serving Elder.

Please keep the families of Ken Donelson and Dick and Vera Baum in your prayers. Let us pray:

O Holy and mighty creator, we look into each new day filled with hope because there are so many things to thank you for. Family, friends, the beauty of our world, and the opportunities we have to serve you. Even in the stress of life, you are there guiding and comforting us, granting us peace. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our savior, we lift our hearts to you. Hear our prayers and grant our brothers and sisters

around the world your Peace. In Jesus' most precious name we pray,
Amen

Every morning I make a cup of coffee, head to a quiet room, read scripture, and pray. I love spending time with God's word and in worship. Distractions and frustrations fade away and I'm able to ponder on His wonderful gifts. I believe that is what Luke is telling us when he wrote, "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:19

Imagine the previous 12 months of Mary's life. She has been visited by an Angel, told she will become pregnant out of wedlock, and that the child will be the Son of God. Her elderly cousin Elizabeth is also pregnant, and like Mary's new husband Joseph, Elizabeth's husband has also been visited by the Angel. Something extraordinary is happening! Imagine the stares and whispers as they settle in at Joseph's house in Nazareth. And then, just before she is to deliver, they must make a dangerous trip to Bethlehem. And to top it all off, she delivers her child in a stable. The Heavens erupt in praise, shepherds visit, and then leave glorifying and praising God!

As Mary holds her baby tenderly in her arms she ponders all that God has done for her and through her. Nothing in the world could distract her from worshipping God.

And that's the lesson for us all. We are to never allow the troubles of the world to distract us from our praise, thanks, and worship to our almighty and loving God.

In Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love,

Rich