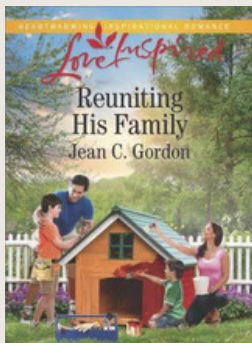


THE NEW SERMON SERIES WE'RE STARTING THIS SUNDAY IS CALLED BEHOLD: A SAVIOR IS BORN. IN THIS SERIES WE'LL FIND THAT CHRISTMAS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF PROPHETIC PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH WHO WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD. GOD'S PEOPLE WAITED FOR A SAVIOR WHO WOULD COME TO RESCUE AND RESTORE A BROKEN CREATION. THEY HELD ONTO HOPE THAT GOD WOULD STAY TRUE TO HIS PROMISE. WITH JOY, THEY ANTICIPATED CHRIST'S ARRIVAL. AS A HUMBLE SERVANT, JESUS LOVED ALL HE ENCOUNTERED FROM THE CRADLE TO THE CROSS. THE WORLD WOULD KNOW THE PEACE OF GOD, WHO HAD COME NEAR. BEHOLD, A SAVIOR IS BORN. THE WORLD WILL NEVER BE THE SAME! TODAY, WE FIND OURSELVES MUCH LIKE WHEN ISRAEL WAS WAITING FOR THE COMING OF THE SAVIOR. WE ARE WAITING FOR JESUS' SECOND COMING. ADVENT, WHICH COMES FROM THE LATIN WORD "ADVENTUS" MEANS "ARRIVAL." IT MARKS THE TIME IN WHICH WE PREPARE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF CHRISTMAS, BUT ALSO FOR JESUS TO COME AGAIN. ADVENT IS A TIME IN WHICH WE WAIT, WE REMEMBER, & WE ANTICIPATE. WE RECALL JESUS' FIRST ARRIVAL – THE STORY OF JESUS' CONCEPTION AND BIRTH, OF HIS HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, AND OF HIS LIFE, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION. JESUS WAS THE PERFECT GIFT FROM OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN! THROUGH JESUS WE CAN BE FORGIVEN OF OUR SINS AND BECOME HOLY IN GOD'S SIGHT. WE'RE CALLED TO MAKE ROOM IN OUR HEARTS AND LIVES FOR JESUS.

IN ADVENT, WE'RE ALSO IN A TIME OF ANTICIPATION OF JESUS' ARRIVAL FOR THE SECOND TIME. JESUS WILL COME AND SET ALL THINGS RIGHT. HE WILL SEPARATE THE SHEEP FROM THE GOATS (THOSE WHO HAVE ACCEPTED HIM FROM THOSE WHO HAVE NOT). DON'T WAIT TO ACCEPT JESUS AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR! CHRISTIANS WILL BE REWARDED BASED ON HOW THEY HAVE SERVED JESUS USING WHAT HE HAS GIVEN THEM WHILE ON THIS EARTH. AND THERE WILL BE NO MORE TEARS, NO MORE DEATH, NO MORE MOURNING, NO MORE PAIN. PERFECT RELATIONSHIPS, PERFECT PLACE, PERFECT LIFE FOREVER! ALL WE HAVE HOPED FOR WILL BE A REALITY –PERFECT JOY, LOVE, AND PEACE! I CAN'T WAIT! I HOPE YOU'RE READY FOR THAT DAY!

SEE YOU SUNDAY!! *Pastor Larry*

Church Library Book Review



By Doreen Lawman

Review

Reuniting His Family

BY JEAN C GORDON



IF YOU LIKE HALLMARK MOVIES, THIS BOOK IS FOR YOU! RHYS MADDOX IS A HUSBAND GRIEVING THE LOSS OF HIS WIFE. HIS DECISION TO DRIVE A GETAWAY CAR CAUSED HIM TO LOSE HIS TWO SONS TO FOSTER CARE, AND CONSEQUENTIAL IMPRISONMENT COST HIM ALMOST 5 YEARS AWAY FROM THEM. THE FACT THAT THE BOYS ARE IN FOSTER CARE BREAKS HIS HEART. HE IS ALLOWED SUPERVISED VISITATION, BUT HE WANTS MORE TIME WITH HIS BOYS. CAN HE GET TO THE POINT WHERE HE CAN AFFORD A HOUSE, GET A JOB AND ESTABLISH HIMSELF IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE HIS BOYS ARE? WILL HE GET HIS BOYS BACK? WILL HE HAVE A “NORMAL LIFE” AGAIN? WITH CHRISTIAN VALUES INCLUDING SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER, THIS BOOK IS INTRIGUING AND I FOUND IT HARD TO PUT DOWN.

Yes, there is a church library! It is located in the main building near the stairs to the education wing! CHECK IT OUT!!!



Now you know!



Have you ever wondered, when you receive a get well or birthday card from the church, where it comes from? Well it is a product of our very efficient and loyal

Prayer Card Ministry

A group of CrossRoads volunteers each take one month at a time then prepare and send out Birthday cards or, as CrossRoads learns of a need, a card is sent out. This ministry is an important part of our outreach. If this is something you might want to help with, drop us a line!

NOW YOU KNOW!





The Lovable Lagniappe



Good Advent tidings to you and yours! The time to prepare for the birth of our Savior has come. I always look forward to taking the time to experience Advent, and ground myself in the preparation of the birth of Christ. I had the absolute privilege of sharing the importance of Advent with 10 kiddos during the Great ADVENT-ure! I can NOT thank all the people who helped enough. I was so proud to be a part of it! I sure hope the kids were able to get a good grasp on the path of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love! I wish everyone could have heard those sweet little voices singing "Silent Night" at the foot of that lit up cross!

There are two Advent studies being offered this season, one on Sunday mornings and one on Tuesday evenings, (see the info in the newsletter). In your daily preparations for Advent, please pray for those who don't know the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of Christ.

Don't get lost in the bustling of the Christmas things. Take time to seek out your Advent-ure to prepare to celebrate His birth!

*Merry Christmas!!
Kate*



The Agape Circle gals have been feverishly preparing for and successfully executing the Great ADVENT-ure. It was amazing and the Agape Circle ladies did not disappoint! Be sure to admire the gorgeous cross set up in Wesley Hall! A big shout out to Linda Gibbs for organizing and leading the craft department for the day! And Morris for grilling our lunch!!

The Agape Circle will take time to enjoy the Christmas season. But we are working on new and exciting things for the new year....even more in 2024!!!!



The Holiday Community choir of 2023 has been working diligently on our upcoming performance! I have been working with each section and each soloist making sure we are at our very best for the performances on December 17th.

Look for our ad on the billboard near the stop sign!

Mary Ruth Boone



The Hand Bell Choir December 24th during the 10:30 AM service and again at the Christmas Eve service!



Giving Tree

VISIT THE GIVING
TREE IN WESLEY
HALL ENTRANCE
AND CHOOSE
YOUR ORNAMENT!



Merry
Christmas

December 10th

December 9th



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2023
6:00 PM

JOYS

THANK YOU
DONNA KELLER FOR
MAKING OUR CHURCH
LOOK FABULOUS!
(AND HER ELVES)

Our community ROCKS!!
The community
fundraising event held for
Kevin Corbin (who is
healing
from a major motor
vehicle accident) in Wesley
Hall raised over
\$19,000!!

THANK YOU
DEBBIE FISHER
FOR CONTINUING TO
HELP IN THE CHURCH
OFFICE!

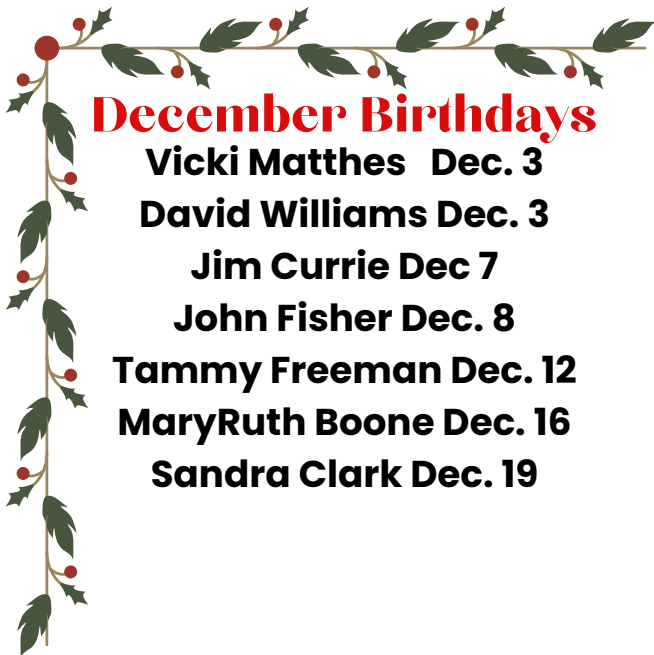
**Thank you Agape
Circle ladies!**
OUR SPECIAL PROJECTS
WOULD NOT HAPPEN
WITHOUT YOUR IDEAS,
SUPPORT, FINANCING
AND
ENCOURAGEMENT!!

LINDA & MORRIS GIBBS
AND FAMILY- YOU
ROCK A GRILL!!!

**PATTY SHELL- THANK YOU FOR
YOUR TIRELESS EFFORTS GIVEN
FOR YOUR COMMUNITY AND
YOUR CHURCH FAMILY!**

Thank you Crossroads
members and friends for
attending to the needs
of our community so
quickly! We gathered 200 cans
of chili for our local nutrition
center! you are also
creating quite a stack of items
under the angel tree!!!

CHRISTMAS
BLESSINGS



December Birthdays

Vicki Matthes Dec. 3

David Williams Dec. 3

Jim Currie Dec 7

John Fisher Dec. 8

Tammy Freeman Dec. 12

MaryRuth Boone Dec. 16

Sandra Clark Dec. 19









Sunday Service times:

8:15 AM

9:15 AM

10:30 AM

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>9:15 AM Advent Study Each Sunday</div> <div></div>			<div></div>		<div>1</div>	<div>2</div> <div>The Great ADVENT-ure 9a- Noon</div>
<div>3</div> <div>1st Sunday of Advent 2:30p Choir 4p Bell Choir</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div></div> <div>6p Advent Study</div>	<div>6</div> <div>6p Praise Band (WH) 7p Choir</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Live Nativity 5:30p-8p</div>
<div>10</div> <div>2nd Sunday of Advent Christmas Dinner 2:30p Choir 4p Bell Choir</div>	<div>11</div>	<div></div> <div>12</div> <div>6p Advent Study</div>	<div>13</div> <div>6p Praise Band (WH) 7p Choir</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div>
<div>17</div> <div>3rd Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM Cantata (only service) 5:30 PM Cantata</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div> <div></div> <div>6p Advent Study</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>
<div>Christmas Eve 24 4th Sunday in Advent 6:30 Service</div> <div></div> <div>Happy 31</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Merry Christmas</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>

OPPORTUNITY IS KNOCKING IN 2024!!



“EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD’S GRACE IN IT’S VARIOUS FORMS.”

1 PETER 4:10

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN THE NEW YEAR!

WELCOME MINISTRY, CHILDREN’S MINISTRY, OUTREACH AND MORE!