

Dear Church Family,

To say that the last few months have been odd is probably the understatement of the century. The not knowing, the unpredictability, the restraints, have all taken their toll. Now with the slowly returning restrictions due to COVID-19 we have no idea of how our lives will continue to be disrupted.

And it just doesn't seem fair. After all, we are preparing to enter the season of Advent. This is a time for celebration, delight, and togetherness, not a period of soberness and restrictions. During these trying times it is easy for fear to creep in and overwhelm our souls.

Fear is a word that we don't normally associate with the joy of the Nativity, but it is more appropriate than we might think. When we turn the clock back two-thousand years and focus on a backwater portion of the Roman Empire we discover that fear was all too apparent. It was there that foreign occupation was quite real and the unknown was chilling. When we go back and hear the accounts of the birth of the Messiah, we continue to trip over the phrase, "Do not be afraid."

Take a look at the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke and you will see this phrase declared no less than three times. This reassurance was first delivered to Zechariah by the angel of the Lord (Luke 1:13), then presented to Mary by the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:30), and finally proclaimed to the Shepherds by the heavenly host (Luke 2:10).

Fear of the overwhelming realities that face us, as well as the unknown forces that lurk behind us is a constant in life, but with the advent of our Lord Jesus Christ we can experience hope anew. In the midst of the festivities, this is a portion of the Christmas message that we often overlook and that we need to hear anew and afresh.

Come and worship our Lord Jesus Christ in this Advent season that begins on the last Sunday of November. We will be reading from these three passages the first three Sundays of Advent (29 November, 6 December, 13 December) and then join together for our Choir's presentation of *Majesty*, this year's Christmas Cantata on the fourth Lord's Day (20 December). Don't forget our Christmas Eve service at 11 p.m. on the twenty-fourth.

If you don't feel safe due to medical issues about coming out for these times of public worship, I do understand. Please continue to join us via our livestream that can be found on our church's website, Vimeo, YouTube, and Facebook. But if you have just gotten out of the habit, then I encourage you to make a recommitment to the gathering with one another for the Worship of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.—and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Do not be afraid! Let's worship Jesus Christ!

With Love for You All, Pastor Tim.

N.B. If you have gotten behind in returning the Lord's tithe and in the giving of your offerings, this Christmas season and the end of the year is an excellent time to catch up. Thank you for giving to the Lord. Your faithfulness is appreciated and needed for the work of our Church's ongoing ministries!



## 1 Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

Can you believe we are just weeks out from Christmas 2020?! It seems crazy. 4:12 Youth Ministry has been meeting regularly on Sunday evenings for fellowship, food and fun! On November 22nd we will have our annual "Friendsgiving." We will gather around the table to talk about the good things God is doing in our lives, even though this has been a difficult year for all of us. We will decorate the youth room for Christmas and watch "Elf." This will be our last Sunday evening gathering until after the New Year. However, this doesn't mean we won't be active doing things!

On December 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be Bell Ringing at Walmart from 10am-12pm. Make sure you stop by to say hello! We plan to go Christmas Caroling on December 18<sup>th</sup> to some of our Home-bound members. We are excited to join our whole church family for a family movie night on December 27<sup>th</sup>. We will be watching, "The Santa Clause." Then on December 28, we plan on taking a day trip to the Creation Museum to check out some of their new exhibits and to walk through their Christmas town light display. We plan to end our year the same way we began, with our annual New Year's Eve lock-in. We will eat, play games, have a nerf war and watch the ball drop together. We will read our resolutions from last year and make new ones for 2021.

One challenge we will give the teens this Christmas, is to read one chapter a day from the book of Luke beginning December 1st. We pose this same challenge to you. There are 24 chapters in the book of Luke, one chapter a day until Christmas eve. This challenge is to help refocus us on the true meaning of Christmas. Once finished, we will have read a whole account of Jesus' life and ministry. This has been a trying year for all of us, let's finish strong and focus our whole lives on Christ once again. On Christmas day, I challenge you to read all the accounts in the Gospels as a family. Can we slow down enough to make this possible? Make this season the season of Christ.

God's Grace and Peace, Pastor Tyler & Leah

#### **FUTURE EVENTS**

#### JANUARY 2021

- 1 Youth Lock-in ends, 9:00 a.m.
- 3 Youth Gathering, 5-7 PM
- 10 Deacon's Mtg., 12 PM; CCA Exec. Bd. Mtg., 2 PM; Bd. of Christian Min. Mtg., 3:30 PM
- 13 Business Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 16 Shared Blessings, 10 a.m.-2 PM
- 17 Youth Gathering, 5-7 PM
- 23 FLC in use (Taylor Griffin)
- 31 Youth Snow-tubing at Paoli Peaks, 12-8 PM

#### **FEBRUARY**

- 2 Red Cross Blood Drive, 3-8 PM
- 2 Choir Practice begins for Easter Cantata
- 4 CCA ABMen's Quarterly mtg., 7 PM
- 7 Last day to bring in canned goods for EMCC
- 7 Deacon's mtg., 12 PM
- 7 Bowling outing to Scottsburg Lanes, 2-4 PM
- 9 Canned goods delivered to EMCC

#### **Christmas Greeting Booklet**

We will again be doing our Christmas Greeting booklet for our church family. If you would like to put a greeting in the booklet, please give it to Pastor Tyler or Leah no later than December 13th. These will be passed out on Sunday December 20th. Because many will be staying home this holiday season, we also plan on mailing them out to members unable to attend worship in person.

We will NOT be passing out Christmas cards this year, to help eliminate the chance of spreading the virus. I know this has been a tradition for many years, however this is not a normal year. Instead, I recommend sending a greeting to have put in the Christmas Greeting booklet that will be given to all members. If you have any questions, see Pastor Tyler. Thank you.

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timohon@yahoo.com Office Hours: MonThurs. 9 a.m12 PM						
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	Email address for the church					
kimberlincreek@outlook.com						
Mailing Address:						
4756 E. St. Rd. 356, Scottsburg, IN 47170						
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Church Secretary Office Hours:						
Tues., Thurs., Fri. 10 a.m3 p.m.						
(times do vary)						
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2020-2021 YTD needed: \$42,156.00 2020-2021 received: \$28,725.00 (September 1, 2020-November 22, 2020)

World Mission Offering Goal - \$1300; Received to Date - \$923.00 Here we are, entering the last month of the year 2020. This has been a year like no other. We are still in the midst of a pandemic, and no one is certain of what the future may hold. As we enter the last month of the year, I can't help but be excited because this is the month that we celebrate our dear Savior's birth. The Christmas season is one of my favorite seasons, and I love to sing and hear the old Christmas hymns all throughout the season. One hymn that I have had on my heart lately is 'I Heard The Bells on Christmas Day'. As

Christmas carols go this is not one that makes the line up for choirs and Christmas caroling, however I think it is very fitting with what we have experienced this year. The song started out as a poem written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow during the American Civil War. The world was in an uproar and he had personally lost a son. As he was out one day he heard the old familiar Christmas Bells ringing from the town church. Upon hearing these bells he wondered why even play them with the darkness and uncertainty that was plaguing his day and time, and it caused him to have feelings of resentment and bitterness toward God and his fellow man. However as the days rolled on and the bells kept ringing God started working on his heart until he was able to find joy, hope, and a knowing that God was not dead or sleeping but had everything under control, and it turned his bitterness and resentment into joy and happiness. So as we enter this Christmas season if you have let the negativity of the current goings on in our nation and our world, I encourage you to listen closely for the bells and see what they may be saying to you.

I Heard The Bells on Christmas Day by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"I heard the bells on Christmas day their old familiar carols play and mild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth good will to men.

Then in despair I bowed my head there is no peace on earth I said for hate is strong and mocks the song of Peace on earth good will to men

Then peeled, the bells more loud and deep, God is not dead nor doth he sleep, the wrong shall fail the right prevail of peace on earth good will to men.

Then ringing singing on its way the world revolved from night to day, a voice, a chime, a chant sublime of peace on earth goodwill to men."

So as we enter this Christmas season and it seems there is no peace ON earth, remember you can have peace IN earth, that is, peace within our earthen bodies God created us with. Merry Christmas y'all.

**Perry Stainbrook** 

### **DECEMBER EVENTS**

Choir practice will continue on Tuesday nights, December 1st, 8th,  $15^{\rm th}$  at 6:30 PM and on Saturday, December  $19^{\rm th}$  (time to be determined by the choir). "Majesty" is the name of the Cantata this year and will be performed on Sunday, December  $20^{\rm th}$  at 10:30 a.m.

Zoom Bible Study will continue in December on Thursday nights at 7:00 PM. It will be just on the first 3 Thursdays because of Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve falling on a Thursday night. If you haven't been joining in, please join us as we have a lot of fun and are learning a lot about John studying 1 John. Some nights we only get through 3 or 4 verses, as we only study for about an hour.

Carols & Choirs will be at Kimberlin Creek this year on the first Sunday night in December. It will start at 6:00 PM and we will not be having any food following the service. EMCC will be coming, so we ask for frozen turkeys & unwrapped gifts to be brought that night. We are hoping several churches will bring special music.

We will be going Christmas caroling on Friday, December  $18^{\rm th}$  in the church van for all those wish to attend. There are a lot of people who are not getting out that we hope to go sing to outside their homes. We will leave the church at 5:30 & return around 8.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Rev. Timothy Mohon
- 1 Joseph & Sandy Lucas, 1990
- Whitley Whitten, Brenda Yount, Abby Walsh
- 3 Melissa Hill
- 4 Lilly Blevins, Ethan McNeely, Donna Stewart
- 8 Danny Snelling, Holly Armstrong
- 9 Joyce Ann Beckelheimer, Raegan Goode, Beth Nowlin
- 12 Ash Armstrong
- 13 Pat Smith, Larry Parks
- 14 Jason Middleton, Harper Petty, Lily Petty, Pauline Prewitt
- 15 Alyssa Hublard
- 17 Roger Lawson
- 18 Bradlev Koehler
- 19 David & Martha East, 1970
- 19 Cinderella Roberts
- 20 Ianet Wells
- 21 Angie Riley, Chris Jeffries, Aaron & Andrew Stainbrook. Emma Johns
- 22 Doug Gross, Kim Lucas
- 24 Carol Gibson, Cindy Gibson, Roger Robison
- 25 Jim & Hazel West, 1953
- 26 Lawrence & Linda Parks, 1965
- 26 Sharon Davis, Mark Braden
- 29 Thelma Noble, Joe Lucas
- 30 Carolyn Nowlin
- 31 Bob & Louann Calder, 1981
- 31 Jim Berna

