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The Outreach

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Sinner's Prayer

Heavenly Father, I know that I have sinned against you and that my sins separate me from you. I am truly sorry. I now want to turn away from my past sinful life and turn to you for forgiveness. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ, died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

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3. We believe that mankind was created in the image of God, and because of Adam and Eve's sin, and the continuing sin of every member of the human race, we deserve nothing but death and eternal damnation.
4. We believe in the deity and humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning sacrificial death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the Father, and in His soon coming return in power and glory.
5. We believe that salvation consists in the forgiveness of sins, the imputation of Christ's righteousness, and the gift of eternal life received by faith and not by works.
6. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling we are called and empowered to live a godly life, and spread the good news of Jesus Christ.
7. We believe the true Church is composed of all believers in Christ, regardless of denominational affiliation.

Pastor/Writer

Date

A note from the editor...



Julie L. Schultz
New Philadelphia, OH
Publisher/Editor

Driving up Interstate 77 is difficult for me when entering Canton. I rarely leave Tuscarawas County because I rarely need to do it. I'm not a 'gotta run to Canton to go shopping' type girl. That day was a special occasion though. I made connections with a childhood friend and we wanted a great restaurant. We sure found a good one, too!

But back to the driving issue. I was blasting along to some great worship music to calm myself and all of a sudden through my earpiece I hear "Caution, object in the road ahead!" How did my GPS know? Since that lady in my earpiece knew about the object why wasn't the object removed yet? Or was it? Eagle eyes full alert! I kept looking for the object and watching cars in front, beside and behind me. Did they get the same warning through their GPS? As a vehicle was passing me, I carefully slowed down so we would both have the option to change lanes if we needed. It turned out that the orange barrel (yes this is Ohio) was smack dab in the middle of the passing lane.

So GPS, in the vernacular, is the acronym for Global Positioning System. In the Christian life we call it God's Positioning System or God, People and Self. So now I'm getting off track because I'm thinking of the Sunday school song JOY, Jesus and Others and You. Google also mentions God's Protection System. I sure was protected when navigating up the highway with all the traffic that I'm not used to handling!

I am thankful for the gift of God's protection. I can't imagine how I would deal with fears, concerns, sadness and all those negative feelings if I didn't have Jesus in my heart. Knowing that Jesus was born to save me is the best gift ever! Having friends and family who love Jesus and having a church family is such a blessing. If you feel like you're missing out, please visit a church so you can enjoy the gift of Jesus and His love for you! If you've never invited Him into your heart look at page 2 and read the Sinner's Prayer. If you ask Jesus into your heart and agree to follow Him you will have received the best gift ever. The back of this magazine lists dozens and dozens of churches. Find the church that will help you build your life around our God and Savior.

The Best Gift Ever!

Wishing you
a blessed Christmas season
and praying that you have received
the best Gift ever!



A Birthday Blessing for December

From an Old Rough Cradle

December is when we celebrate Christ's birth, and that is a blessing for all of us. The real birthday blessing for us is being born again.

Christ left His throne in Heav'n above
To walk a man on earth;
This was His act of perfect love
So we could be born again.
While the whole wide world was bound in sin,
God's Son became a man;
He died on a cross, then rose from the grave;
This was Redemption's plan!
God showed His grace at Calvary
When the Son hung on the tree,
So that when we put our trust in Him,
From sin we are set free.
Some day the sky will split apart;
God's Son will come again;
We will rise to stand before His throne
As He judges the hearts of men.
From an old rough cradle to the old rugged cross,
From a manger of hay to mansions of glory,
From Heaven to Earth to Heaven again,
Flows the stream of Redemption's story.



Wesley Vaughn
Dover, OH

Jesus said, "You must be born again."
~ JOHN 3:7

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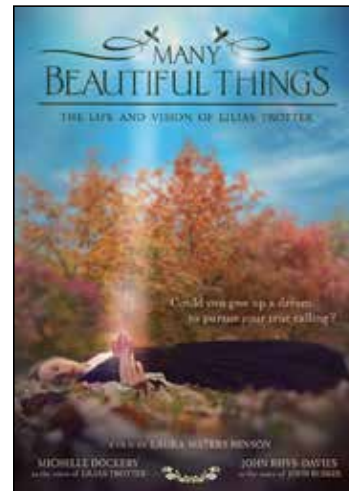
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MOVIE REVIEWS



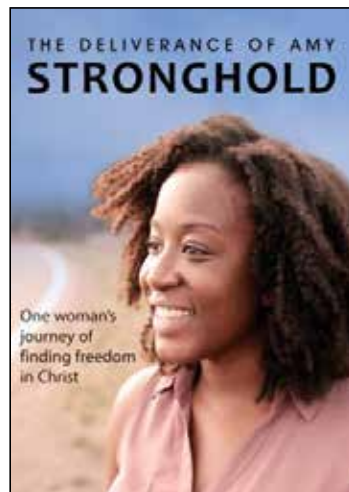
Hidden Blessings

Hidden Blessings will captivate audiences of all ages as it brings the parable of the Prodigal Son to life before your very eyes! This award-winning, feature-length inspirational drama is shot in the innovative and pioneering style of a documentary. The story of famed artist Gregory Davidson is told through the eyes of a skeptic filmmaker, Lydia Drake, as she embarks on an incredible journey of discovering faith, family, and art. Lydia and Gregory learn to see the hidden blessings in life as God restores their families as only He can do, bringing them from death to life.



Many Beautiful Things

Many Beautiful Things tells the story of Lilius Trotter, a 19th century British painter who sacrificed artistic fame in order to serve God as a missionary in Algeria. Featuring the voices of Michelle Dockery (*Downton Abbey*) and John Rhys-Davies (*Lord of the Rings*, *Indiana Jones*).



The Deliverance of Amy Stronghold

Amy Stronghold, a tough and resourceful woman hardened by years on the streets as a hustler, faces a life-altering challenge: reunite with her estranged daughter, Kia. The catch? Amy must clean up her act, get a job, and embrace a suburban life she despises, all before Kia gets permanently placed in foster care.

Navigating the unfamiliar world of suburbia, Amy clashes with the picture-perfect facade and struggles to hold down a job while confronting the demons of her past. The journey forces her to confront not just her external circumstances, but also the internal strongholds that have kept her trapped. As she grapples with faith, forgiveness, and the possibility of redemption, Amy must decide whether she can truly change and become the mother Kia needs before it's too late.

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My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes,
in undisturbed places of rest. ~ Isaiah 32:18

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Elizabeth Morris
Age 16
Uhrichsville, OH

Jesus is the reason for the season. This phrase holds deep significance for many Christians. It reminds us that during the busy holiday season, the center of our celebrations should always be Jesus Christ. Amid the hustle and bustle of gift-giving, decorating, and festivities, it's vital to reflect on

the true meaning behind Christmas. Jesus came into the world as a gift from God, embodying hope, love, and redemption. In our hearts, let's keep Him at the forefront as we embark on this journey through scripture. As we explore these verses together, may our understanding of His birth and the joy it brings deepen in meaningful ways.

When we think about *Jesus is the reason for the season*, we can't help but reflect on the incredible gift that His birth represents to us as Christians. It's a gift of love and grace that was wrapped in humanity and delivered by God. This season reminds us to appreciate this divine gift, not only on Christmas but every day of our lives. As we celebrate His coming, let's embrace the message that through Jesus, we have been given a new chance, a fresh start, and an everlasting hope. This wonderful gift encourages us to spread love and joy just as He has done for us.

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

As we recognize that *Jesus is the reason for the season*, it's also a joyful time to celebrate His birth. Each year, we come together with family and friends to remember the momentous occasion of Jesus entering our world. It's a period filled with songs, decorations, and traditions that help us focus on the joy that Christ brought to humanity. Instead of merely participating in the

festivities, let's ensure our hearts are full of praise and gratitude for this miraculous event, knowing that through His birth, the hope of the world came into existence.

But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.' Luke 2:10-11

In the recognition that *Jesus is the reason for the season*, we are called to embrace our faith more deeply. Our belief in Christ's miraculous birth strengthens our relationship with God and helps us navigate through life's challenges. It's through faith that we find hope during tough times and reassurance that we are never alone. As we reflect on His birth this season, let's invite the Spirit of faith to fill our hearts, believing that God is always with us, and He has a great plan for our lives through Jesus.

As we celebrate this Christmas season, let it remind us that this season is all about love. Love was the very reason for His coming: a love so profound that it extends not just to those close to us but to everyone around us. By embodying the love of Christ during this season, let us remember our commitment to live out His love, making the love of Jesus alive during this holiday season.

The Heart of Christmas:

**Embracing
the Birth
of Our Savior**

Merry Christmas



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this Christmas season.*

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ACROSS CLUES

1. Works, which were _____ in you. (Matt. 11:21)
5. Him and _____.
8. Kimberly (nickname).
10. This...sinful _____. (Mark 8:38)
12. Her countenance was no more _____. (1 Sam. 1:18)
13. Set it up there under an _____. (Josh. 24:26)
14. Whose waters cast up mire and _____. (Isa. 57:20)
17. Emergency Medical Technician (abbr.).
18. _____ and mercy shall follow me. (Ps. 23:6)
20. Shed _____ blood. (Gen. 37:22)
21. There shall be _____ poor among you. (Deut. 15:4)
22. Ye have _____ portion...in Jerusalem. (Neh. 2:20)
25. Audiovisual (abbr.).
26. Large tree, largely destroyed by blight.
28. Though now ye _____ him not. (1 Pet. 1:8)
29. From my youth _____. (Luke 18:21)
30. They that handle the _____. (Judg. 5:14)
31. Love is the _____ of the law. (Rom. 13:10)
36. Not out.
37. Support group for those who quit drinking.
38. Prefix meaning *new*.
39. Coming to him and _____ him vinegar. (Luke 23:36)
43. I...quieted myself, as a child, _____ weaned child. (Ps. 131:2; 2 words)
44. Actual.
45. Saint (abbr.).
46. Tenant farmer in the Middle Ages.
47. Esau _____ Jacob. (Gen. 27:41)

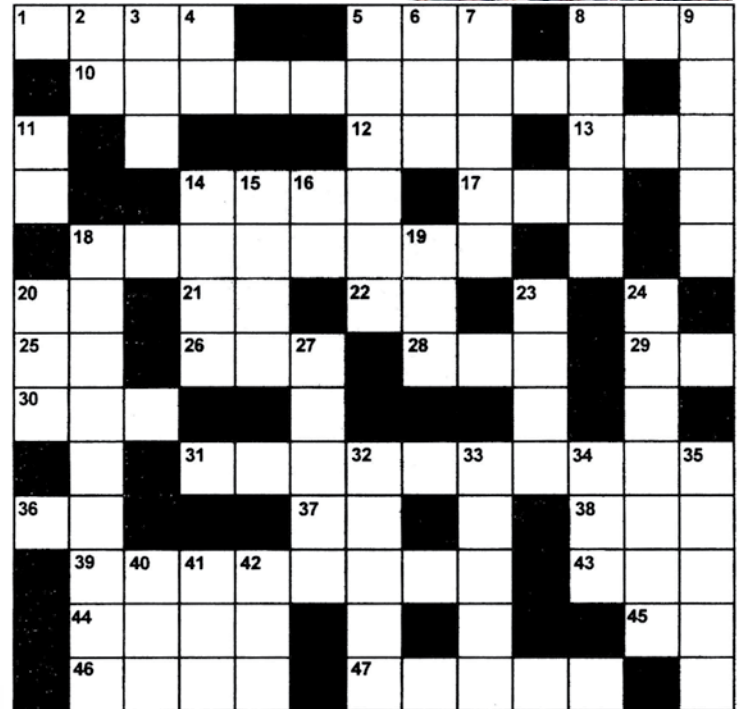
DOWN CLUES

2. Bashan was ruled by king _____. (Deut. 3:1)
3. Bring the offering...of the _____ wine. (Neh. 10:39)
4. Printer's measure.
5. See that ye _____ the matter. (2 Chron. 24:5)
6. Estimated Time of Arrival (abbr.).
7. Jumps on his horse and _____. (Isa. 60:22)
8. Something a sailor is good at.
9. Maketh (mod.).
11. Go on before _____. (1 Sam. 25:19)
14. He that is mighty hath _____ ... great things. (Luke 1:49)
15. Set...the _____ in the house of God. (2 Chron. 33:7)
16. Registered Nurse (abbr.).
18. Ye shall be brought before _____ and kings. (Matt. 10:18)
19. Ship's cry of distress.
20. To sleep for a little while.
23. Stretching forth thine hand to _____. (Acts 4:30)
24. In thy presence is _____ of joy. (Ps. 16:11)
27. Tooth.
32. The unfeigned _____ that is in thee. (2 Tim. 1:5)
33. But if we walk in the _____. (1 John 1:7)
34. "Are you coming?" "_____ minute" (2 words).
35. He shall set the _____ on the left. (Matt. 25:33)
40. Charge for professional services.
41. To be with Christ; which is _____ better. (Phil. 1:23)
42. Small imaginary being.

crossword

PUZZLE

ANSWERS ON PAGE 27



JOY
 TO THE
 WORLD



More Christmas



Joey Rudder
Sherrodsville, OH

A short story

Sheila brought her aging uncle to the doctor's office for bloodwork, holding the door for him as he maneuvered his walker. While he checked in at the front desk, she took a seat and found Nat King Cole serenading the waiting room with "chestnuts roasting on an open fire," transporting her back to her childhood home where roasting chestnuts hissed from a cast iron skillet resting on the wood stove.

Brushing the memory away, Sheila pulled out her phone. She scanned the calendar for the following two weeks: *Uncle Paul's follow-up appointment, take cookies to school, make dentist appointments for the kids while on break, drop off car to garage, Tom's work party, church dinner, final date to mail cards.* She started to sweat, wondering if the simpler times of roasting chestnuts had been someone else's memory.

Before Uncle Paul made his way to the chair beside her, an assistant called out his name. Slowly, he turned and followed her. Sheila exhaled. They'd gotten there just in time. She returned to her phone, swiping away the calendar and logging into her Amazon account

to do some Christmas shopping. *There's always more to do*, she thought. She wished *more* would morph into more time at the beach they'd visited that summer.

While wishing for salty air, she got a whiff of wet soil and cow manure. Glancing up, she spotted a man with muddy boots using a cane. His clothes sagged and hung loosely from his body as if they belonged to someone much bigger. As she returned to her son's online wish list, the man sat beside her. Sheila shifted away, not to be rude, but wanting to keep a little space—a little air space—between them.

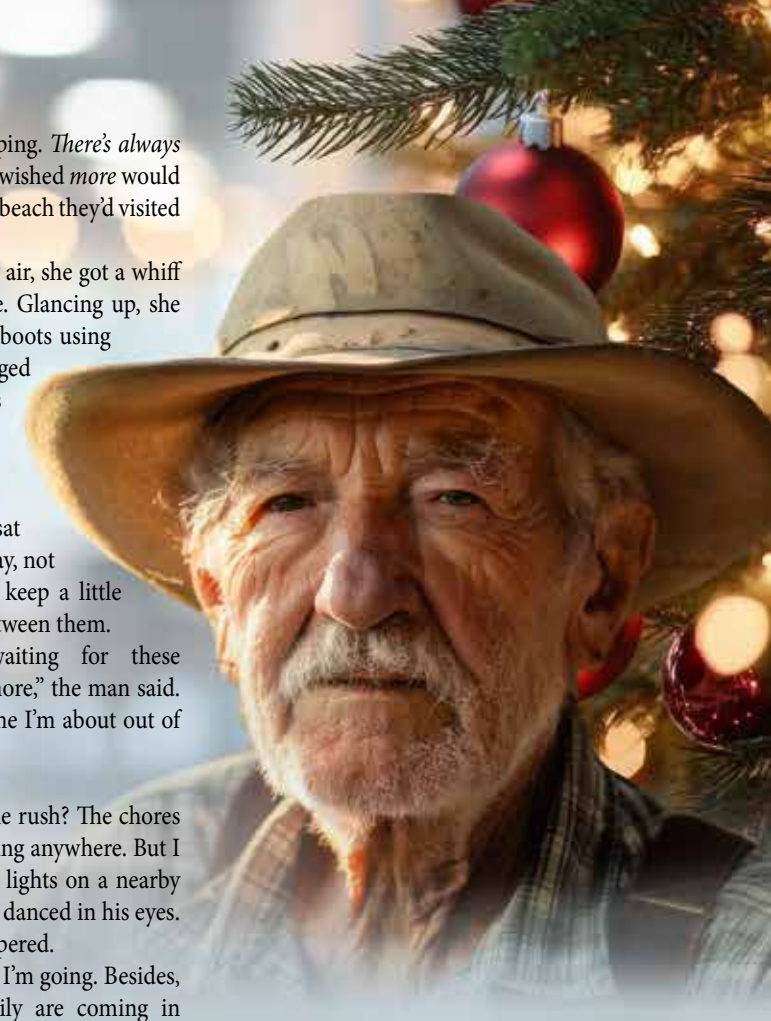
"I used to hate waiting for these appointments, but not anymore," the man said. "Not since the doctor told me I'm about out of time."

Sheila looked up.

"Now I think, what's the rush? The chores can wait. The cows aren't going anywhere. But I will be." He chuckled as the lights on a nearby Christmas tree reflected and danced in his eyes.

"I'm sorry," Sheila whispered.

"I'm not. I know where I'm going. Besides, my daughter and her family are coming in



for Christmas. It's been years. She could never get time off from work, so she said." He scratched his head. "Everyone is so busy, staring at phones, or working to get more stuff. Not me. I've had a full life. I've had more joy hearing the crunch of snow under my boots than the sound of cell phone alarms shouting at me all day."

Sheila inwardly cringed as she slipped her phone into her purse, hoping it would keep quiet.

"How I see it," the man continued, "the world has run off and forgotten God and lost Christmas in the shuffle. The miracles. The moments. The Babe, born in a stable surrounded by livestock. His momma, holding Him. Shepherders out of breath from running hard after Him. The gleam of angel visions still swirling in their eyes and—" He stopped and glanced around the room at the heads down, eyes fixated on phones. "Seems to me, angels could show up in this room and no one would even notice."

Sheila's cheeks burned as she realized she'd been oblivious to the

crowd in the waiting room. She wondered if an angel sat among them.

"Sad, really," he said. "Everybody wants more out of life, but they don't understand what their kind of *more* is costing them."

He leaned over as the earthy scent of muddy fields and dusty barns reminded Sheila of a stable where a virgin held her newborn Son, the Savior of the world.

"Take it from an old farmer," he said. "You want more of Jesus than anything this world can give you. He is more than enough."

"Why is everyone hungry for more? 'More, more,' they say. 'More, more.' I have God's more-than-enough, more joy in one ordinary day than they get in all their shopping sprees. At day's end I'm ready for sound sleep, for you, God, have put my life back together."

PSALM 4:6-8 THE MESSAGE



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Hope Darst's Journey of Faith & New Album 'In the Mighty Name'

Hope Darst's journey is one marked by surrender, faith, and an unwavering belief in God's perfect timing. Her album, *In the Mighty Name*, is more than just a collection of worship songs—it's a testament to her years of trusting in God's plan and stepping into obedience. With the release of her powerful single, "Mighty Name of Jesus," Darst continues to deliver music that not only uplifts but anchors believers in the unshakable truth of Christ.

Darst initially hesitated to record *Peace Be Still*. "I dragged my feet for a year," she admits. "I didn't think it needed to be done again. But my co-writer, Mia Fieldes, was so persistent. She told me, 'I think the Lord has saved this song for you, for this moment.'" That moment of conviction led Darst to take a leap of faith and the song has reached worshippers around the world.

The song has also become a source of comfort for those battling fear, anxiety, and uncertainty. "So many moms have told me this is the only song that brings peace to their kids at night," she shares. "I've heard from people in hospital rooms, facing the hardest seasons of life, who say this song is their anchor. That's the power of Jesus—it's His name that brings peace, not the song itself."

Darst's path to becoming a recording artist wasn't a straight line. At 19, she had a life-altering encounter with God that shifted



her entire perspective. "I was running from the Lord, saved but not surrendered," she recalls. "But then I had that moment where I was arrested by the Spirit, and I knew—I had to give my whole life to Jesus."

From there, she moved to Nashville, not with a music career in mind, but simply to follow God's leading. "I thought I'd just sing in a restaurant bathroom, someone would hear me, and I'd get a record deal," she laughs. "I had no idea how the industry worked." Instead, she spent years serving faithfully in her local church, eventually becoming a worship leader and later, a songwriter for The Belonging Co.

Her story is a powerful reminder that success in God's kingdom isn't about chasing dreams—it's about obedience. "I remember being 25, thinking, 'This is it—I'm going to pursue music full-

time.' And God said, 'No, that's not my plan for you right now.' I had to lay that dream down."

Years later, after stepping into songwriting, Darst found herself in rooms with worship leaders who saw potential in her before she saw it in herself. "Henry Seely pulled me in and said, 'I see something in you. There's gold here, and we're going to pull it out.'" That mentorship and community shaped the songs she writes today—songs birthed in the presence of God and written for the church.

Unlike her first two albums,

which balanced artistry with worship, Darst's latest project is a full-fledged live worship album—something she knew in her spirit was the right direction. "I kept praying, 'God, I don't want to just make another record. What are You asking me to do?' And I kept hearing, 'Go back to the beginning. Do this the way I created you to do it.'"

Darst and her husband made a decision: "We're going to make this album as an offering to the Lord, regardless of what success looks like." The result is an album that Darst describes as the most honest representation of who she is. "If albums are like children, this one looks the most like me."

With *In the Mighty Name*, Darst is inviting listeners into a worship experience that is both deeply personal and profoundly congregational. "When you write as a worship leader, you're writing songs everyone can sing, not just songs for one person to deliver." That heart for collective worship is woven into every track, creating a project that encourages believers to lift their eyes to Jesus, even in the hardest moments.

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SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE
EVERLASTING LIFE.

JOHN 3:16

A Christmas Feast



Sarah Heaston
New Philadelphia, OH

Christmas brings feelings, memories, traditions and food to all of our minds. Thoughts include the yearly cookie baking, craft creating, or house decorating during Christmas. Just like my own mama, I try to create beautiful traditions during this season that will be remembered and recreated in the years to come. Christmas is about the gift of Christ being born, I would be remiss to not realize that God is in the details of it all. Maybe He isn't about the perfect present from the store, but in the making our homes beautiful, special moments with loved ones, taking time to make recipes that evoke welcome, thanksgiving, and celebration. The Christmas season is a time for feasting and celebrating the goodness of God. And where do we do most of this feasting? At our tables that often become the center of our homes.

In Psalm 23:5 we are reminded *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.* ESV Holy Bible. We are God's guests at a meal; our enemies are powerless to prevent us from enjoying God's generous hospitality. What a blessing. That could sum up this season during which we celebrate the birth of Christ..... God's generous hospitality. We can be hospitable by welcoming those who come to our door to a seat at the table. To share in God's blessings, to feast in His goodness, to remind us even in sadness there is a gift to be celebrated, that God is with us. A favorite author of mine, Sally Clarkson, said, "The lifegiving table isn't really about furniture, after all. It's about making our homes centers of nourishing comfort and acceptance, places where we invite others to come, just as they are, and share life with us. It's about being willing to see all who come to our tables through the lens of how we might serve them." What better time to implement this type of love than at Christmas. My prayer is that you would welcome those who God puts at the "door" of your life to have a seat at your table.

I am sharing two favorite recipes, a breakfast for Christmas morning, and a festive dessert that was served at my wedding. May you feel the love of Christ during this Christmas. Enjoy!

Cheese Pie

1 cup each shredded Cheddar, Mozzarella, Monterey Jack

1 medium onion chopped

2 Tbsp flour

Mix all three, spread in greased pie plate (10inch)

Beat 4 eggs, ½ tsp salt, 1 cup milk, ½ tsp dry mustard & Worcestershire sauce

Pour over cheese mixture, bake at 350 for 35-40 minutes until set. Once done, arrange tomato slices over the top and serve. You can add whatever



mixture of meat and veggies you would like to the cheese mixture to enhance the breakfast pie. I also serve with a salad during the spring/summer for a nice light supper.

Chocolate Candy Cane Cake

Beat 1 chocolate cake mix, 1 (4 serving) instant chocolate pudding mix, 4 eggs, 1 (8oz) container sour cream, ½ cup oil, ½ cup water until mixed. Beat for 2 minutes on high speed. Stir in 4 squares semi-sweet chocolate chopped up, and 2 Tbsp (18 total mini candy canes) crushed. Pour into greased bundt pan, bake at 350 for 35-40 minutes. Cool 10 minutes and invert cake onto plate. Top with a glaze of 1 tsp vanilla, 1 cup powdered sugar, 2 oz cream cheese and 2 Tbsp milk all mixed. Use rest of crushed candy canes as topper.

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December

01 Ezekiel 40-41 ; 2 Peter 3
02 Ezekiel 42-44 ; 1 John 1
03 Ezekiel 45-46 ; 1 John 2
04 Ezekiel 47-48 ; 1 John 3
05 Daniel 1-2 ; 1 John 4
06 Daniel 3-4 ; 1 John 5
07 Daniel 5-7 ; 2 John
08 Daniel 8-10 ; 3 John
09 Daniel 11-12 ; Jude
10 Hosea 1-4 ; Revelation 1
11 Hosea 5-8 ; Revelation 2
12 Hosea 9-11 ; Revelation 3
13 Hosea 12-14 ; Revelation 4
14 Joel ; Revelation 5
15 Amos 1-3 ; Revelation 6
16 Amos 4-6 ; Revelation 7
17 Amos 7-9 ; Revelation 8
18 Obadiah ; Revelation 9
19 Jonah ; Revelation 10
20 Micah 1-3 ; Revelation 11
21 Micah 4-5 ; Revelation 12
22 Micah 6-7 ; Revelation 13
23 Nahum ; Revelation 14
24 Habakkuk ; Revelation 15
25 Zephaniah ; Revelation 16
26 Haggai ; Revelation 17
27 Zechariah 1-4 ; Revelation 18
28 Zechariah 5-8 ; Revelation 19
29 Zechariah 9-12 ; Revelation 20
30 Zechariah 13-14 ; Revelation 21
31 Malachi ; Revelation 22

PAGES WITH PURPOSE

A CHRISTIAN BOOK REVIEW

The Christmas House

By Beverly Lewis



Book Review By
Roseanne
Impellizzeri
Irwin, PA

Once again, the Amish find me desiring the beauty, the love, the simple and the most honorable way of living. There's always some higher way that I might learn when I read a story about them, even though fiction. Why? Because it's true to their way of living. Their family life, the way they interact and respect one another, the cooking and eating together, their work ethic, their praying together, all of it is so inspirational. I wonder just how many of us still regularly pray together and read the Bible together as a family.

Reading about how they celebrate their holidays as explained during the buggy rides is so interesting. There are so many similarities as well as vested differences from the English. It's such a fun culture to study and read

about and as always, Beverly Lewis does a superb job bringing that to light.

"Trustin' people can sometimes be good practice for trustin' God." A word to the wise. Their sweet interactions with one another will captivate your nature and pull on your heartstrings.

Throughout the story you'll experience the beautiful art of being and acting neighborly and the end product of a positive perspective.

Christmas is a time to be especially thankful for the ones God has placed in our lives and a time to be thankful for God's intervention in and through them. *The Christmas*

House will inspire and challenge you to be a light this Christmas, to be thankful for the small things, which often are the most important things.



Beverly Lewis, born in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country, has more than 19 million books in print. Her stories have been published in twelve languages and have regularly appeared on numerous best seller lists. Beverly and her husband, David, live in Colorado, where they enjoy hiking, biking, making music, and spending time with their family. Visit her website at beverlylewis.com

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Last month's Bible was hiding on Page 14
CAMP WANAKE

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MIRIAM MILLER FROM
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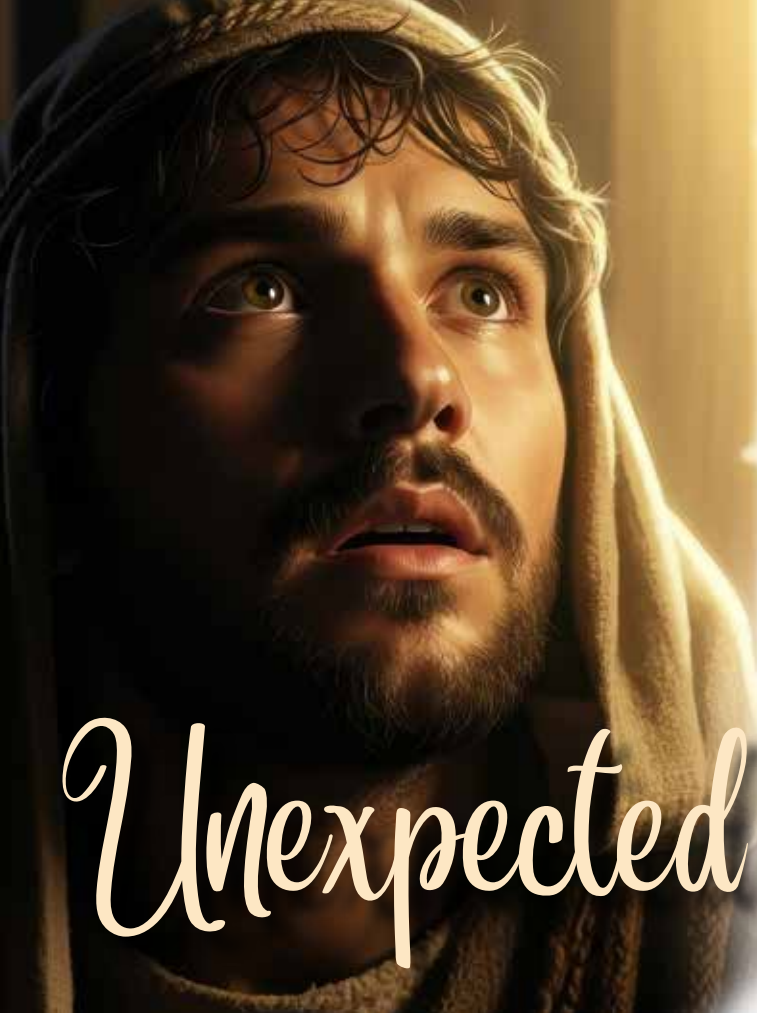
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JOHN 1:9

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Unexpected



Marilyn Borgia
New Philadelphia, OH

She sat patiently on the ground while I fastened the last of our provisions onto the donkey. Once finished, I held my hand out to help her stand. Watching her struggle, I pondered again if I was doing the right thing to take her with me. Yet I couldn't leave her here to face our neighbors' wagging tongues and knowing looks.

"Will you be all right to walk?" I asked. "Do you think you should ride?"

"I will be fine walking," she said with a smile. And, indeed, but for her protruding belly, Mary appeared childlike, lithe, and strong.

The time was inconvenient for us to travel anywhere, much less as far as Bethlehem, but when Caesar Augustus speaks, the world must listen. And so, we began our journey, joining one of the caravans passing through Nazareth.

We passed the hours quietly, lost in our own thoughts. I am an ordinary man, a poor carpenter. I follow the Almighty God. I worked hard at my trade until I could support a wife and family. Everything had fallen into place. My hopes for the future were well within my reach. Until the unexpected happened: humiliation, scandal, betrayal—or so I thought.

I have dreamed a thousand dreams, always to have the memories fade with the light of dawn. But the dream that came after the unexpected—the words spoken in it—will be forever etched on my heart. "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:20-21 NKJV

Do not be afraid...what is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. The words brought

confusion, wonder, and finally, a deep peace. My betrothed was exactly the woman I had believed her to be: pure and trustworthy.

Hear O Israel; The Lord our God is One. And if my God has seen fit to give me, an ordinary carpenter, a task in His eternal plan, so be it—even the unexpected.

I know that Mary will have a son, and we will call him Jesus. He will save His people from their sins. That is enough for me to know for today, for only God knows what lies ahead.

He will continue to guide and strengthen me in all that has been appointed for me to do. I will trust, follow, and listen carefully in the days to come.

**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 (NKJV)

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Mary Brought Forth Her First-Born Son

LUKE 2:1-7

When Jesus was born our salvation would get its start. It would be accomplished thirty-two years later when Jesus would walk out of the grave and make it possible for each of us to be reborn or born again.

We celebrate the birth of the Savior. Let's pour everything we have into the celebration. Let us give thanks to God our Father, through His Son Jesus, by His Holy Spirit in a big way this year.



Mike Goldsmith
Proctor, MN

Our eternities are saved because of what Jesus Christ did on the cross and completed when he would walk out of the grave. Let us each rejoice because of what Mary was willing to do being the mother of Jesus Christ. Let us all enjoy our families that our Father in Heaven, through His Son Jesus, by His Holy Spirit has given us.

Merry Christmas to all and go in peace.

Make Some Room



Sharon Smart
New Philadelphia, OH

It is time to make some room to put the Christmas tree somewhere. Shall it be in front of the window? Should it be in the corner of the room to get more gifts under it? Next, I need to make some room in the extra refrigerator for more needed food such as fruit trays and cookie trays along with Egg Nog and Soda Pop.

So "making room". That rings a bell, A certain Christmas bell. What I am thinking about and praying for is all people that don't know our Lord will "make room", in their hearts for Him this Christmas. Lives would be changed for the better.

People will be so busy with Christmas parties, get-togethers and shopping they will forget it is Our Savior's birth. Children will be thinking of Santa Claus instead of Baby Jesus.

We will focus on our church services and reading the Gospel of Luke chapter 2 and the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 1 and 2 is what brings us such blessed love, joy and peace. Those three gifts are more rewarding than a fruit cake, crazy looking tie and something you'll never use. It is up to all of us to introduce Jesus to friends and family that need Him.

Every human being God gave life to knows deep down in their heart there really is a God that loves them and all He ever wanted is for us to love Him and except His Son Jesus Christ as our Savior. It is like they have to activate that hidden love in their hearts.

Would you please this Christmas consider opening your heart and let Our precious loving Lord in?

Christmas blessings in the name of Jesus and blessings for the New Year.



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BIBLE TRIVIA QUESTION

Who visited Joseph, Mary and Jesus on the night He was born?

Answer & Scripture Reference - Different translations give different answers.

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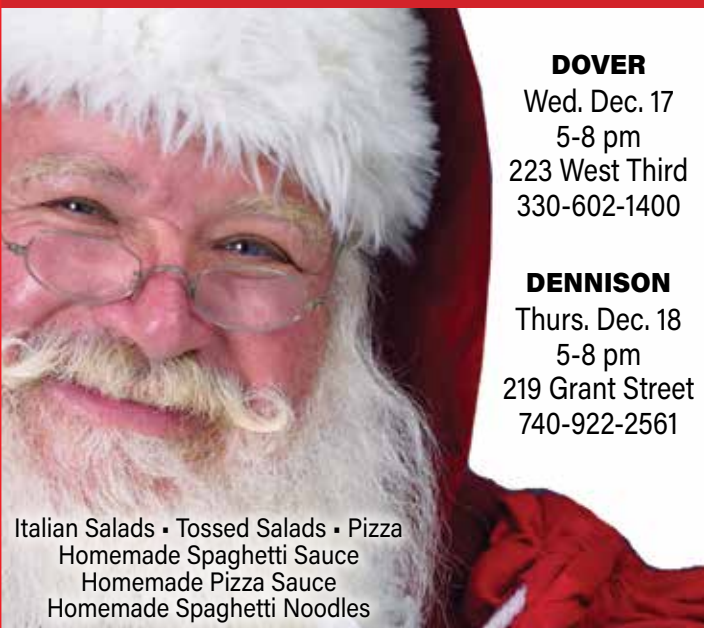
Last Month's Question & Answer

Jesus healed ten lepers. How many were made completely whole because they returned to thank Jesus? One. Luke 17:11-19

LAST MONTH'S WINNER

LAURA LADRACH FROM FRESNO, OH

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The Day Jesus was Born



Matt Ritzert
Dover, OH

Boy, is it good to be back home. I've been on the road the last couple of weeks and let me tell ya, I saw some pretty weird stuff that I'm still trying to figure out. I'm talking about life changing stuff.

You know Caesar Augustus sent out that order to have everyone enrolled and counted. What a pain. Maybe he's desperate for money and wants to make sure everyone's paying their taxes. Whatever. I did like I was told, closed up the shop, and hiked to Bethlehem.

The roads were jammed with people going this way and that. Everyone was trying to get back home for the count. When I finally got to Bethlehem, the place was a mess. Every room in every house was full. Finally, I found a guy on the edge of town who was letting people set up camp and crash on his property, right next to a little cave and shelter where he kept his livestock. It stunk. It was dirty. And it was noisy.

Now, right by me was this young couple. The woman was about to give birth. They told me they were from Nazareth. Can you imagine trekking across that rough country with a baby on the way! If it was me, I would've been whining and complaining and feeling sorry for myself. But, let me tell ya, there was something different about these two, something peaceful and calm, something, I don't know, just different, kind of special.

Not long after they got settled in, the woman, Mary was her name, gave birth. Easy as pie. No long, painful labor. All of a sudden, there was this baby. Just like that. And then everything changed and started getting weird. It got real quiet around them like the noise had been chased away. Even the light changed. It was like there

was this warm glow around the family as if a star was casting its light just on them, the baby, Mary and the husband. He was kind of quiet; I think he said his name was Joseph. Then suddenly, a bunch of shepherds came rushing over, all excited to see this baby. How did they even know about it? They claimed angels had appeared telling them to look for a baby in a manger, that this kid was special, a Savior even, the Messiah.

I swear that's what happened. Shepherds, of all people, showing up out of nowhere claiming the baby was the Messiah, the Lord. I mean, those shepherds were so sure about what they were saying, showing no fear at all. They were just excited and downright joyful. Mary, she just smiled and took it all in, all peaceful like. Then she looked up and saw me staring, wondering what in the world was going on. She told me the kid's name was Jesus. She held out her arms, and asked me if I wanted to hold him. Understand, I haven't held a baby in years and I just met this lady an hour ago. But, I reached out and took him in my arms, held his tiny body against my chest. I felt His warmth and I swear I could feel His heartbeat. And I somehow knew what those shepherds were carrying on about. And I knew my life would never be the same.

(Based on the Gospel of Luke.)

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

LUKE 2:6-7



REVELATION 1:8, 22:13
CHRONICLES 29:10-20
PSALM 24:1, 104, 113
DEUTERONOMY 10:14
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Molly Pfeiffer
Stone Creek, OH

We all have these “Only God” moments in our lives...things that have happened which can only be attributed to God’s grace. A miraculous healing. A divinely appointed meeting. Marriages saved. Finances working out. Help showing up when we needed it the most. A text of encouragement at just the right time. A verse. A song on the radio. Our messiest seasons, becoming our greatest blessings. “Only God.”

Every time I read Luke, I am amazed at Mary and her complete trust in what the angel Gabriel said to her. “Hey Mary - God sees you! He sees who you are and He is so pleased with you. In fact, He wants you to give birth to His Son - the Savior of the world!”

Here is Mary’s response:

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.” Luke 1:34-37 NIV In previous NIV translations, verse 37 reads: *“For nothing is impossible with God.”*

They continue to have some conversation, but today, I read that first statement of Gabriel over and over again: “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.” This is how God would birth His Son into Mary and ultimately, into the world.

And as I considered the language used, I pondered, “If I let the Holy Spirit fully come on me and let the power of the Most High overshadow me...maybe I too can ‘birth’ Jesus into a world who needs Him so much.”

In order to truly radiate the love of Jesus into this world...we need both. We need the Holy Spirit. We need to allow His will, purpose, and plans to overshadow our own. For Him to truly overshadow us. When we get to this point, people may begin to see Christ in us...the hope of glory! The hope of Christmas. They may be able to see that no word of God has EVER failed, and it won’t start now.

We may all begin to have more of these “Only God” moments – as we witness that nothing is impossible with our God.

May our prayer today, look something like Mary’s did some 2000 years ago:

*“My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.”*

LUKE 1:46B-49 NIV

Oh Jesus, you have done great things in me and for me and through me...and You won’t stop now. May the power of Your Holy Spirit fill me up to overflowing. May it stir in me a desire to birth Your love, compassion, healing, forgiveness, mercy, grace, joy and peace, each and every day. May Your power overshadow me - bring to light the truly important things and help me courageously walk wherever You lead. I am Your servant; may it be to me as You say and as You purpose...because I know Your plans are always good. Lord, thank you for being trustworthy and reminding me today that Your word never fails.

Amen.



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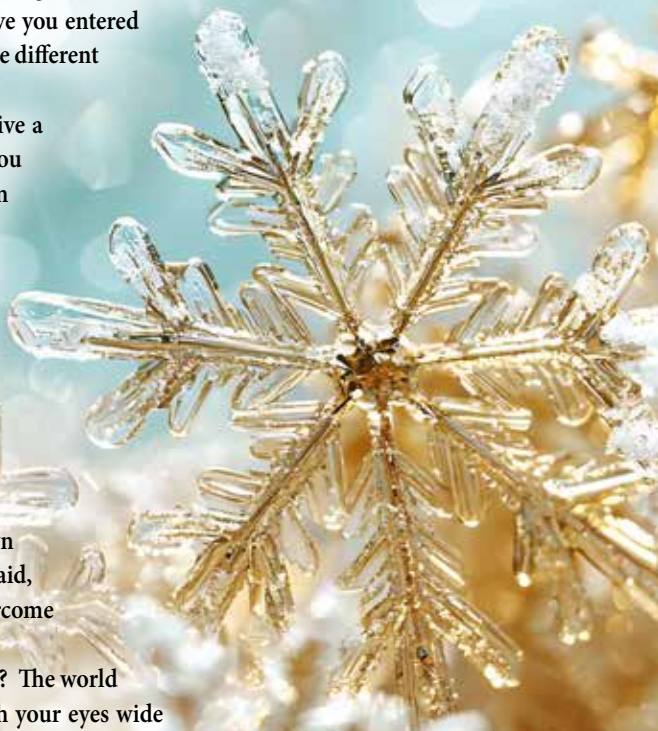
Carolyn Lee
Peerman
Lynchburg, VA

You are precious. Just as there are no two snowflakes alike, so there is no one else in the world exactly like you. You are one of a kind. You possess highly individualized gifts that no one else possesses. That is why there will never ever be another you. Have you entered into the treasures of the snow? You are like a snowflake because you are different in your own beautiful way from anyone else in the world.

Focus your life on making contributions. This is how to stay alive a long time. Why not do what you can, with what you have, where you are? Your happiness will be the joy you feel striving after your own potential. Doesn't that make sense? Why neglect self-responsibility for your own health and happiness? Don't ask for good fortune; let yourself be your own good fortune. What makes you come alive? You move forward in life by being bold. If you don't see a clear path before you, make a path. Moreover, plant yourself indomitably on your own keen instincts and stay there while the whole wide world comes round to you. Plant yourself a long time because no great thing is ever created suddenly.

Do you know how incredibly lucky you are if you know what you want to do in life? Furthermore, you are incredibly lucky if you are able to do it while earning your own living. Until you know what you want to do and accomplish it, you do not know your own identity. With accomplishment you will know who you are. After all, as Golda Meir said, "Nothing in life just happens. You have to have the stamina to meet obstacles and overcome them. To struggle."

Life is so short. Don't you want something to remain as proof that you ever existed? The world around you will belong to you as you are endlessly curious. Experience the world with your eyes wide open and never stop exploring, discovering, and evolving. Here's to uncovering every possibility the world holds for you day by day. Remember, there will never ever be another you.



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The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-20 (NLV)

¹In those days Caesar Augustus sent out word that the name of every person in the Roman nation must be written in the books of the nation. ²This first writing took place while Quirinius was ruler of Syria.

³So all the people went to their own cities to have their names written in the books of the nation. ⁴Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in the country of Galilee to the town of Bethlehem. It was known as the city of David. He went there because he was from the family of David. ⁵Joseph went to have his and Mary's names written in the books of the nation. Mary was his promised wife and soon to become a mother.

⁶While they were there in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to give birth to her baby. ⁷Her first son was born. She put cloth around Him and laid Him in a place where cattle are fed. There was no room for them in the place where people stay for the night.

The Shepherds Learn of the Birth of Jesus

⁸In the same country there were shepherds in the fields. They were watching their flocks of sheep at night. ⁹The angel of the Lord came to them. The shining-greatness of the Lord shone around them. They were very much afraid. ¹⁰The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. See! I bring you good news of great joy which is for all people. ¹¹Today, One Who saves from the punishment of sin has been born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord. ¹²There will be something special for you to see. This is the way you will know Him. You will find the Baby with cloth around Him, lying in a place where cattle are fed."

¹³At once many angels from heaven were seen, along with the angel, giving thanks to God. They were saying, ¹⁴"Greatness and

honor to our God in the highest heaven and peace on earth among men who please Him."

The Shepherds Go to Bethlehem

¹⁵The angels went from the shepherds back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see what has happened. The Lord has told us about this." ¹⁶They went fast and found Mary and Joseph. They found the Baby lying in a place where cattle are fed. ¹⁷When they saw the Child, they told what the angel said about Him. ¹⁸All who heard it were surprised at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary hid all these words in her heart. She thought about them much. ²⁰The shepherds went back full of joy. They thanked God for all they had heard and seen. It happened as the angel had told them.



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Says Who?



Doug Frautschy
Dover, OH

In the last several installments, I have emphasized the need for us to read and understand the Scriptures.

The question then arises, "What books and letters do we accept as Scripture?" During Jesus' time on earth and in the first years of the Church the only scriptures they had were the Jewish Scriptures, more or less what we Christians call the Old Testament.

The relevant question for the early church was which writings and letters from the time of Jesus forward should be considered Scripture. Marcion of Sinope decided that he had the answer. Marcion was born on or about 85 AD the son of a Christian Bishop. Somewhere around 140 AD he moved to Rome where he began teaching a version of Christianity that was influenced by the Neo-Platonists and the Gnostics.

Marcion read the stories in the Jewish Scriptures, and he believed that God was at times portrayed as an inconsistent, jealous, angry, genocidal, vengeful God of judgement. He also thought that a good God would not have created a messed up, corrupt, and sinful world. He equated the God of the Jewish Scriptures with the neo-platonic and gnostic Demiurge, an evil being that created the material world.

Marcion said that the God of the Jewish Scriptures was not the same deity as the hidden and secret God who sent a kind and merciful Jesus into the world. Of course, Marcion had a problem as there are lots of references in what we call the New Testament that build on and refer to the Old Testament. Consequently, Marcion claimed that most of those books and letters should not be considered Scripture. He rejected the entire Old Testament, most of the Gospels, and quite a few New Testament books. The list of books he accepted as Scripture include parts of Luke which he renamed the *Gospel of Marcion*, and ten of Paul's letters. He attempted to remove all vestiges of Jewishness and their imperfect God from the Scriptures.

Marcion's extreme rejection of most of the Scriptures caused many of the leaders of the Christian Church to counter with their own list of books and letters which they considered to be Scripture. Tertullian (150-220AD) who lived in the Latin speaking west named all the books of the New Testament except II Peter, James, & II & III John. Origen (185-253AD) who lived far away in the Greek speaking east named the same books as Tertullian. Clement of Alexandria (150-215 AD) named all the same books as Tertullian, save Philemon. Athanasius of Alexandria (293-373) named all 27 of the books of the New Testament as we have it today.

There were other books



around during this time that the church rejected. Some were considered totally false, such as the *Gospel of Peter*, *Gospel of Barnabas*, *Gospel of Judas*, and the *Epistle to the Laodiceans*. If you actually read these books it is pretty obvious why they were rejected. Other books were considered valuable but not necessarily rising to the level of Scripture. Many of these were from the Old Testament period but there were a few from the New Testament period such as the *Didache* and the *Shepherd of Hermas*. These books make up a group that are included in the Catholic Bibles but not in the Protestant Bibles.

Some people incorrectly think that the Canon of Christian Scripture was decided at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD under the influence of Emperor Constantine. The truth is that there was a nearly unanimous consensus of what books and letters constituted Scripture hundreds of years before that Council. Ironically, one of the reasons we know about this consensus is due to Marcion. What books do we consider Scripture? Says who? One rogue teacher? It's actually the nearly unanimous consensus of the Christian Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

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Paula Hixenbaugh
New Philadelphia, OH

The last place I wanted to be was in the hospital. My husband, a few friends and I had planned to visit the Ark in Kentucky. That was our plan, but not God's.

All seemed fine until the early morning of October, the twenty-third, the day before the trip. I was awakened with severe chills and the inability to get warm, no matter how I tried. I was extremely weak and nauseated.

I prayed, "Dear God, please help me to get up and get my heating pad." Unfortunately, it was in the living room closet. I was so nauseated, I could hardly stand. The fatigue was overwhelming. I knew that I was extremely sick.

I had just been in for a yearly check-up with my doctor the day before and was given an antibiotic for a UTI. I had taken

two tablets that day, but I was allergic to it.

After I made it to the couch, I asked my husband to get me some Pepto-Bismol. The minute I swallowed, I threw up, and that continued until I was taken to the ER.

I knew the Lord was with me when I did not have to wait long in the lobby. The ER attendant wheeled me back to a room where I was helped into bed. The immediate care that I was given by the staff felt as though it came from angels in human form. The care and concern were top-notch. The warmth and laughter from the emergency room nurse were comforting.

The love did not stop there but was continued by a young lady who transported me to my room, 2924. She was warm and gentle. I was comforted and felt God's peace. Room number 2924 would be the place where God's love for me would continue for the next three days.

Love Came Down

**For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on His shoulders.
And He will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

ISAIAH 9:6 NIV

Once in my room, I was helped gently to my bed by my first angel in disguise. I soon was told that I had sepsis. My blood pressure, at one point, was ninety-six over forty-nine. I was closely monitored, and antibiotics were administered each day.

Since most antibiotics give me terrible migraines, I wanted to cry from the pain all over my head. My kind and patient nurse assured me she would ask the doctor for a one-time pain medication and soon, I felt relief.

I was placed on a liquid diet, and since I had nothing to eat all day, I thought maybe I could eat, but nothing tasted good. My dietary aids were amazing. Their words were soft and kind. One of the aids carefully opened each container on my tray and then asked if she could get me anything else. The only thing that sounded good at all was vanilla ice cream and when I asked her if I could have some, she was quick to comply.

When Friday evening came, in popped the house-keeping aid smiling as she let me know she would be cleaning my room. Her eyes were jet black and her personality inviting. We had a warm conversation while she did her work.

Thinking of my experiences in room 2924, I think of God's love for each of us. It was His love that came down that Christmas morning. Jesus, the Savior of the world, was gently wrapped in swaddling clothes and then placed in the manger. Jesus, the only begotten Son of God would give His life for all mankind, so that anyone who believed in Him would not perish but have everlasting life.

I want to take the time, as each one has taken the time to care for me in my time of sickness, to say thank you to each person who showed me love in little and big ways. May God bless you richly.

PaulaHixenbaugh.com

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Lord, I'm Coming Home

*The night is far spent, the day is at
hand: let us therefore cast off the
works of darkness, and let us put
on the armor of light.*

ROMANS 13:12

As I have heard the story, it was 1902 and William Kirkpatrick was song leader in a tent revival. There was a soloist who had a great gift and who many times moved the folks to tears with his singing. But Kirkpatrick's heart was hurting because this singer would leave after singing and didn't stay for the revival messages. With a heavy heart, he began to pray and asked the Lord to give him a song that would touch the singer. He asked for words that would change the singer's heart. While praying for the soloist, the words suddenly came to Mr. Kirkpatrick. When the singer sang the song, he changed and began singing from his heart. He stayed for the revival message and that night gave his heart to Jesus. God had used the new hymn to convict him of his sin and his need for Christ. Hear are those words:

Lord, I'm Coming Home

*I've wandered far away from God Now I'm coming home
The paths of sin too long I've trod Lord, I'm coming home*

*Coming home, coming home Nevermore to roam
Open wide Thine arms of love Lord, I'm coming home
I've wasted many precious years Now I'm coming home
I now repent with bitter tears Lord, I'm coming home*

*Coming home, coming home Nevermore to roam
Open wide Thine arms of love Lord, I'm coming home
Open wide Thine arms of love Lord, I'm coming home*

Gary Fisher
Sugarcreek, OH

Bring Jesus up in the Conversation

*But whoever disowns me
before others, I will disown
before my Father in heaven.*

MATTHEW 10:33



**Pastor
Cathy Hawkins**
Dover, OH

While we are busy in our holiday preparations, do not forget this time of year is a good time to bring Jesus up in the conversation,

and give a testimony about Him.

Be a blessing to others and their families by letting them know what Jesus has done in your life, and let them know that He wants to do good things in their life too. Blessings in Jesus name.



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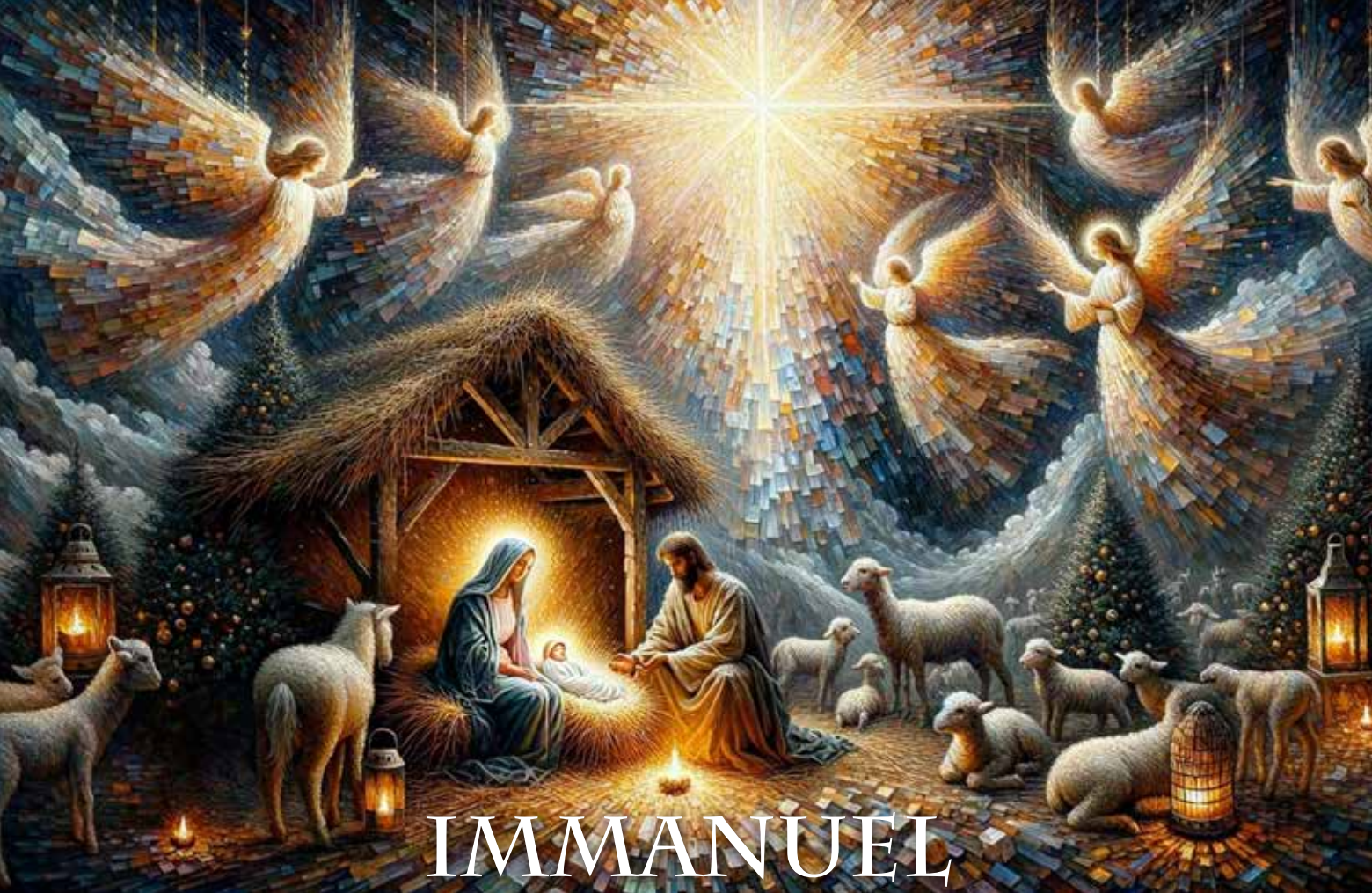
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IMMANUEL



John Tindor
Dover, OH

It is Christmas time, and we will again celebrate the birth of Christ, the Gift of God to all mankind. We may also give gifts to others and attend parties and Christmas services at church. Our children especially, will live for weeks in anticipation of gifts they expect to receive. We will make cookies and bake turkeys. We may drink eggnog with our pumpkin pie. Figgy pudding, anyone? Many of us will read what we call The Christmas Story, which is found in the early chapters of Matthew and Luke.

As I read through these chapters, I am impressed with the activity of the Most High God, as He is called. It is almost dizzying to take it all in, to fathom the greatness of God, the manifestations of supernatural beings, and the frequency of miraculous interventions. I am impressed with how many times the Holy Spirit is found to be an influencer and director of the paths of lowly mortals. Dreams are mentioned at least five times in Matthew's account, whereby God communicated with individuals, mainly Joseph. Others, in Luke, met with God or a

representative of His in dreams as well. In these dreams, vital instructions were given by an angel or by the Spirit of God to the recipients. God conveyed His will through visions too. It is said many times that someone was filled with the Spirit of God or that the Spirit was upon them. Of the virgin Mary it was said that she was *found with child of the Holy Spirit* (Mt.1.18), and that the power of the Most High overshadowed her. (Lu.1.35). That makes me think of Gen.1.2, where it is written that *the Spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters*. The Spirit hovered over many lives and events in these chapters.

Angels were employed throughout these accounts of Jesus' birth as well, giving instructions in dreams and visions and even direct contact. Among the shepherds who were watching their flocks at night, there appeared a *multitude of the heavenly host praising God...* Lu.2.13. The Magi were led to the Child by a star, a star that only they managed to see.

In these passages, we are reminded that our God and His realm are supernatural. He does what no one else can do, and He often defies what we call nature. He is above nature. He is above what we consider normal. One

supernatural or abnormal event after another occurs in the preparation for the birth of the Christ. A person can go through the whole Christmas season without really considering this. We can celebrate these events of two thousand years ago without ever thinking or expecting that God might intervene in our own lives in a supernatural way today.

This story is more than a historical one. It is the beginning of the opportunity for us to find life in Christ, and become new creations. If we accept Him as the Savior that the Word of God says He is, we begin to live in Him and He in us. Matthew, quoting Isaiah, called Jesus *Immanuel* (God with us). This is spectacular! The living, eternal Lord Jesus, always with us, wherever we go and whatever we do. Will you believe that? Jesus told His disciples in Jn.14.18, *I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you*. We are children of God, not orphans. He will never leave us. Let us take Him at His Word, and may our expectations of Him fulfilling that Word increase greatly! He is the same God that He was that first Christmas, and the Spirit is still hovering.

Scriptures NKJV

In One Holy Night a Precious Gift was Given

In one Holy Night the entire world would change,
When a precious Gift was given from Heaven's highest range.
The valleys and fields became quiet and still,
As a baby Savior was born upon a hill.

None had seen a miracle like this so grand,
As this "Good News" was spread across the land.
His name would be Emmanuel, Messiah for all,
"God with us" would be the beckoning call.

This Baby was special because the angels had announced,
"Good Tidings of Great Joy!" were their words pronounced!
The shepherds who saw this glorious sight,
Fell to their knees because the angels were so bright!

They witnessed something no one had ever seen,
Angels beholding an announcement so keen!
I'm sure the shepherds were trembling but the angels said, "Fear not!"
Their news was of God's grandeur about this Baby heaven brought.

With awe they were surrounded and with their unspeakable words
After all, they just saw a part of Heaven as they stood amongst their herds.
They left in a hurry to go find
This baby in a manger with peace in mind.

The zealous shepherds told others this glorious news while on their way.
I'm sure they ran to find the place where baby Jesus was lying on the hay.
As they drew near they were able to see and look upon the Savior..
Can you imagine? First the Heavenly Host and then seeing God's favor!

The peace that was felt there that night had to be surreal,
Standing in the presence of God made everybody bow and kneel.
The love they felt made their hearts overflow,
Seeing Jesus, God's Son sent for the world to know!

"That every knee should bow and tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord",
This is the Word of God, let us behold Christ the One to be adored!
Let's give God praise and all glory everyday,
He sent His Son Jesus to take our sins away.

Look to Christ, God's heavenly atoning Gift,
Ask Him for forgiveness and your burdens He will lift!
Remember that one holy night in your heart,
Jesus gave for you so in heaven you'd have a part.

Emmanuel was born that day,
God's Precious Love has the last say.
No one could ever love you more than Jesus our King,
Let Him be your Savior today as your sins to Him you bring!



Angie Chapman
Millersburg, OH

Once Upon a Time



Dr. Lyman O.
Baier, Sr
Walnut Creek, OH

The story I am going to tell you actually happened. America had a mission and it sights were set for reaching the helpless. For myself it was a Christmas sermon based on a Guidepost rendition in response. "Babies on Board" for December of 1996. No one knows this better than my friend Charlie Seashore.

Charlie had been working in Minneapolis-St Paul. Bumped on two flights when suddenly a seat opened for him on standby. His new flight had been fogged in for four days in Seattle. Whatever. He would still be home for Christmas. He boarded the plane, put his bag into the overhead and squeezed into the middle seat in row 4. As he sat down, he saw them. Five babies in a row. He watched three adults juggle bottles, blankets and babies. Charlie shook his head. "It's going to be a long flight." As the plane raced down the runway, the babies began to cry. And cry. And cry. He buried himself in his book, but all five were crying at once. The inevitable happened. Someone snapped and shouted, "What's wrong with your children?"

The answer that came back was completely unexpected. "I'm so sorry, replied the oldest adult, we've come all the way from China so they could be adopted". Suddenly the plane got very quiet. There was a slow murmuring as

the message was passed from passenger to passenger. Soon there were offers to hold the babies, who quieted down as they were passed through the rows. Charlie found himself holding a little baby girl in a fluffy white blanket. The man next to him remarked, "What a perfect Christmas gift she is going to be." Charlie, who's not all that sentimental, thought "Christmas, the season to celebrate the coming of a baby who changed the world."

When they landed in Boston, the babies were reluctantly returned to their guardians. Even with a limo to catch, Charlie was smitten. He joined the rest of the passengers at the gate waiting to see the conclusion of this Christmas event. The babies came off last. There was an explosion of flash bulbs as their arrival was recorded for history. Five babies who would change the world of their new parents and in some small way had changed the world of Charlie and his fellow passengers.

The little Children and Jesus: *People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have Him touch them. When the disciples saw this, He rebuked them. "Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter in to it."* Luke 18:15-17

Disciples Bible
Homan Publishers 1988

KJV



Mary Ann Lauber
Dover, OH

Mary and Joseph's arduous 90-mile trek from Nazareth to Bethlehem is a story of faith, endurance and divine purpose. Through their obedience, they fulfilled God's plan, bringing Jesus into the world in a lowly stable amongst livestock, with no creature comforts. No hospital, nurses and an environment unfit for a King.

My first baby, born in 1982, was born in a naval hospital at Cherry Point, North Carolina. Six hundred miles away from my family, at age 20, I had no idea how to raise an infant. Especially a tiny, blond baby girl with colic. As a sleep-deprived, nervous new mother, I was doing my best to

breastfeed my baby and keep her alive. The weight of the world was on my shoulders.

My second baby girl, born on a Sunday morning in 1985, was no less miraculous. She looked like a perfect baby doll, a full two pounds bigger than her sister at her birth. They were three years apart in age and I thought I was getting the hang of motherhood. I wasn't. My friend Karen gave me sage advice; "Before

you leave the house for the birth of your second child, look at what is behind you as the difference between one and two children is not proportional." It was much more difficult, each different as night and day, but I never doubted my purpose to mother.

I can only imagine how Mary must have felt. The song, "Mary, Did You Know?" is so authentically poignant and brings me to tears each Christmas season.

So Joseph also went up from Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, since he was from the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her Child to be born.

~ LUKE 2:4-7

Humble Beginnings

This narrative and beautiful song continues to inspire believers, reminding them of God's faithfulness and the beauty of humble beginnings. To all the new mothers out there, God is with you and will give you the tools needed to do the very best you can.

As a mother, our job is to raise babies that will make a difference, big or small, in our world. Teach

them about Jesus and the rest will follow. God's grace and mercy sustained me and gave meaning to my life. And, if you are really blessed, someday, you'll earn the magnificent title of "Grandma," like I did.

He is Lord of all creation and we will forever celebrate His birth. You did well, Mary.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

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Sugarcreek * 2p and 4p

1019 W Main St | Sugarcreek, OH 44681-9318

Millersburg * 2p and 4p

1667 S Washington St | Millersburg, OH 44654-8902

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Fleeing Iran



Diane Kalajainen
New Castle, PA

Tensions between Iran and Israel have affected Iranian Christians. Christians leading underground (secret) churches are especially in danger as

they are considered to be an ally of Israel. Many have escaped to Turkey seeking asylum.

Artin and Parsa are two Iranian Christian men who have fled their country. Artin has been a believer in Jesus since the age of 13. He and his wife have been leaders in youth ministry. Their ministry was under surveillance by authorities. His wife's parents, also being Christian leaders, were arrested and tortured and remained under surveillance. Consequently, Artin and his wife believed that remaining in Iran would put them in danger; imprisonment or even execution.

They had no choice but to

escape to Turkey to seek asylum. However, when they arrived there, they were denied asylum. They had no jobs or legal status. They are in a desperate situation. If they return to Iran, they could be subjected to the worst imaginable life or death.

Parsa is another Iranian believer. He went to Turkey on a short trip to be baptized. However, unknown to him at that time, this would be a permanent exile for him. After being introduced to the ministry of Iran Alive, he became active in this ministry. His passion was to make God known through discipleship and creative ministries. The night before he left for Turkey, he discovered that several friends from their house church had been arrested. Parsa knew immediately that he had to flee Iran and not return. Therefore, he knew that he would have to remain in Turkey. Soon after his departure from Iran, the government's sponsored television put his picture and name labeling him as a criminal. Of

course this put his family in danger. To return to Iran would mean imprisonment, torture or even execution.

In Turkey, life is overwhelmingly difficult for Parsa. His bank account has been frozen, and he has no basic medical care. He is forced to work illegal jobs. Working 12-16 hours a day, he does not earn enough money. He lives in constant fear of deportation, and fears that he will have a mental collapse. He greatly misses his family. He believes that he needs to relocate or he may not survive.

Dr. Hormoz Shariat, president of Iran Alive Ministries states, "Since the Iran-Israel conflict in June, the government has intensified its crackdown on Christians, accusing them of espionage, and the danger for these leaders has grown even more severe. We have found a pathway to help them immigrate to Canada, where churches are ready to help them. PLEASE STAND WITH US AS WE BRING THESE



INDIVIDUALS TO SAFETY."

This Christmas, instead of buying unnecessary gifts, wouldn't it be an eternal blessing to give to help Artin, Parsa and many other Iranian Christians to escape to freedom.

Source: Iran Alive Oct, 2025 Newsletter
If you would like to give: Iranalive.org
Phone: 469-982-0000
info@iranaliveministries.org



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Rainbow Connection is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit health charity dedicated to assisting Tuscarawas County's disadvantaged and disabled and the schools and organizations that serve them. Founded in 1950, the organization has hosted its annual telethon every year since 1973 and raised a record-breaking \$352,000.00 in 2025. It will be held March 8, 2026.

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JACK'S HOUSE OF HOPE



We hope to have our new 20,000 sq. ft. facility open by the end of January featuring a chapel, counseling center, rooms for men, women and families as well as a courtyard.

Our goal at the shelter is to find our guests permanent housing and employment within five months.

We would like to thank everyone who's contributed. We still need to raise over \$1.2 million to complete construction cost as well as funds for our annual operating budget of \$735,000.

Other members of the building campaign are Calvin White, Jack Ream, Matt Ritzert, and Connie Clark. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and will accept any

Jack's House of Hope is Progressing Nicely!

donation no matter the size. You can even donate stock and use it as a tax deduction.

Thank you for helping us help the less fortunate and give them hope. The meaning of Hope is "better things are ahead". Please stop by our new Center at 211 East High Avenue and will give you a tour of our facility. We are so grateful for this community and they're caring hearts.

If you are willing to make a tax deductible contribution to our building fund or operating fund, please contact Calvin White at the shelter 330-602-6100, Jeff Mathias at 330-827-1038, or Matt Ritzert at 330-827-5710.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas. Amen

Jeff Mathias, Campaign Coordinator

Ad paid for by Jeff Mathias



Calvin White
Executive Director



Jeff Mathias
Fundraiser/Coordinator



Friends of the Homeless Testimonials

Excellent! The shelter staff was very helpful and caring. I was able to gain employment while here. Everyone was very kind and I appreciate been able to stay here.

~ Joseph F.

Staff was wonderful, very helpful, very caring but also the tuff love when you needed. Love all you guys and thank you for everything you have done to help me help myself.

~ Justin H.

I appreciate the hospitality and all the help I had mentally and emotionally. Grateful for the extra time allowed.

~ Julia C.

FRIENDS of the Homeless OF TUSCARAWAS COUNTY

The Friends of the Homeless Shelter in New Philadelphia helps to provide a safe and reliable place for Tuscarawas County residents who have no reliable shelter. We have a 36-bed capacity and waiting list of people from the community in need of our services. Our goal is to assist individuals in achieving stable, safe, and reliable housing to anyone experiencing any type of housing insecurity.

We have a volunteer program which helps our daily operations. We are currently in need of individuals, service organizations, and churches who can provide a nightly meal on a monthly basis or can volunteer their time in our offices. Anyone interested in providing a meal, or volunteering their time can contact our volunteer coordinator, Maria Rila, at 330-602-6100 for more information.

We also rely on donations from the community to help keep our shelter programs running.

**Please consider donating today
by visiting
www.fohtusc.org**

Tusc Against TRAFFICKING

The 3rd Tuesday monthly 530-7pm at Park Place Youth Center inside Tuscora Park. "SnackChat" enjoy a free meal, free family activities, and have access to hygiene, cleaning, and self-care items. Open to all. 330-339-2504

tuscagainsttrafficking.org

HEART OF OHIO DIAPER BANK DISTRIBUTION

TCHD has partnered with the Heart of Ohio Diaper Bank to help distribute diapers to Ohio residents. Each family is eligible to receive 2 packs of diapers per child, 1 pack of wipes, and 1 tampon or pad pack each month (month is not based on number of days just on month served). Specialty diapers, such as pull-ups, swim diapers, and adult diapers, are also available. This is not an income-based program for eligibility. For more information contact Abigale Raber (araber@tchdnow.org or 330-343-5555 ext. 1110).



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

DOVER/NEW PHILA FOOD PANTRY

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109 N. Water St, Uhrichsville
740-922-6276

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please help the TCCSC to continue to serve families and individuals in the area with necessary food items. We're asking for monetary donations. Also volunteers to help in various areas of responsibility in the food pantry. The TCCSC is open Tues and Thurs 9:30-12:30pm and Wed 2:30-6:30pm or you can call 740-922-6276.

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330-339-9734

MONETARY DONATIONS are needed, as we are expecting to serve many more this year! Open Thursdays from 2pm-4pm. **Prayers are always offered to anyone and everyone.** Volunteers are needed to help unload the truck early Thursday mornings. Please consider sending your donation to the address above.

Cleveland Clinic

Union Hospital Community Health & Wellness Events

To Register Call 330-602-0779

*Appointments preferred.
Walk-ins accepted on a limited basis.*

Visit [www.unionhospital.org/](http://www.unionhospital.org/events)
events for full list of
UH community events.

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Monday, Dec 8 | 10 a.m. - Noon
Bolívar Public Library

Monday, Dec 15 | 8 - 10 a.m.
Cleveland Clinic Union Hospital
Orthopaedic Surgery Office

Wednesday, Dec 17 | 8 - 10 a.m.
Buehler's Fresh Foods
3000 N Wooster Ave., Dover

CHOLESTEROL SCREENINGS

*This is a five-minute instant screening for total cholesterol, good (HDL) and bad (LDL) cholesterol, as well as triglycerides and blood sugar. Most accurate results with a 12-hour fast. **Cost \$9 (cash or check only)***

Wednesday, Dec 3 | 7:30 - 11 a.m.
Buehler's Food Market
New Philadelphia

Thursday, December 11 | 9 - 11 a.m.
Tuscarawas County Public Library
New Philadelphia

ALZHEIMER'S SERIES

We also have invited a guest from the Alzheimer's Association who will be providing a series this fall. The events will be held at the hospital and those who would like to attend should RSVP by calling 330-602-0779.

Tuesday, December 12 | 10 - 11 a.m.
Understanding Alzheimer's &
Dementia

*Jesus is the Light of the world
and the Hope of our world*

*Christmas Eve
Services 3:00 & 7:00*



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CROSSWORD ANSWERS FROM PAGE 6



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WBTC 101.9 FM and 1540 AM
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UHRICHSVILLE 11TH ST CHURCH OF GOD

A Moment in the Word
WBTC 945am Daily

WHAT SAITH THE SCRIPTURES

WJER 100.9FM/1450AM
Sunday 7-715 - Minister Paul Pryor
New Phila Church of Christ

CHURCH EVENTS

NEW PHILADELPHIA

New Philadelphia
First United Methodist Church
201 W. High Ave
• Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service 11:00 pm

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OF COSHOCTON**
Faith Based
FREE MEDICAL CLINIC
for the Uninsured
(740) 622-6223
Open Thurs Evenings • Doors Open 5 pm
131 S. 6th Street • Coshocton, Ohio 43812
Donations: Hope Clinic of Coshocton
P. O. Box 1088 • Coshocton, Ohio 43812

Dennison Foursquare Church
A Place Where Hope Abounds
~ JEREMIAH 29:11

SUNDAY SERVICES
9 am Sunday School | 10:30 am Morning Worship

DECEMBER EVENTS
Christmas "Expectations"
Christmas Dinner Dec 14 at 6pm
Call church for ticket information (Mon and Thurs am)
Christmas Eve: Refreshments served at 5:30pm
Candlelight service at 6pm

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." LUKE 2:15

Pastor Rod Phillips
7325 US-250 • 740-922-4433
www.dennisonfoursquare.com

We would like to invite everyone to
**Preach the Word
Ministries**

Sunday Service 10 AM
Nursery & Jr Church Available

**PROPHETIC/HEALING SERVICE
DECEMBER 19 • 7 PM**
Every 3rd Friday of each month.

Preaching the Word with Signs & Wonders and miracles following.
Proclaiming the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Jesus Saves, Jesus Heals,
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

327 Beaver Ave. N.E., New Philadelphia, Oh | 330-440-2855
Founder/Senior Pastor, Lisa M. Meese
and a 12 member Team that God has directly ordained to help Lisa in this Ministry.
Hope to see you all there! God Bless!

IS YOUR CHURCH LISTED HERE?

Our goal is to have accurate information of churches in our community. If we are printing errors please update us by emailing theoutreacher@hotmail.com. If you don't receive a response it means that we didn't receive your email. Thank you!

BALTIC

Baltic Zion United Church of Christ
203 N. Butler St. 330-897-6855
Rev. Dr. Jim Henniger
• Sunday Worship 9 am

The Branch Church at Countryside
2236 SR 93 Baltic - 330-401-6643
Campus Pastor: Eric Schrock
www.thebranchchurchohio.com
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

St. John Lutheran Church
206 S Butler St. | 330-407-3949
Minister: Barb DeBord
• Sunday Worship 8:30 am

BOLIVAR

Bible Baptist Church
11150 Glenpark Road NE 330-316-7096
Pastor Doug Kilchenman
BelieveTheBible.org
• Sunday Worship 10:15 am

Bolivar Community Church
241 Pine Street | 330-874-3104
Pastor Aaron Rae
• Sunday Worship 10 am

Bolivar United Methodist Church
256 Poplar Street | 330-874-2930
www.bolivarumc.org
Rev Gordon Furbay
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Faith Baptist Church
9481 SR 212 NE | 330-874-3014
Floyd Stanfill, Sr. Pastor
www.faithbaptistbolivar.com
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

St. John United Church of Christ
409 Park Ave SE
www.stjohnbolivar.org
Pastor Don Perks
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, NALC
156 Poplar Street S.W. | 330-874-4540
Pastor Michael Pozzuto
stpaulbolivarpastor@gmail.com
• Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Starting Sept 14 8 & 1030am

DENNISON

Dennison Foursquare Gospel Church
7325 US 250 SE | 740-922-4433
Pastor Rod Phillips
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

First Church of God
403 N. 3rd Street | 330-204-1511
Pastor Jim Wallick
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

First Presbyterian Church
301 Grant St. | 740-922-5743
Pastor Carolyn Behrendt
• Sunday Worship 11 am

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist
123 S. 7th St. | 740-922-5471
Pastor Dr. William J Blake
• Sunday Worship 11 am

Burning River Church
420 W 3rd St
www.burningriverchurch.net
Pastors Dode Overton & Hombre Liggett
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Church of the New Hope
3735 Schneiders Crossing Rd NE
330-343-7980 | Pastor Daniel E. Legg
• Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Dover Alliance Church
228 E. 3rd St | 330-364-3113
Sr. Pastor Rev. Bruce Sexton
www.doveralliance.com
• Sunday Worship 8 & 10:30 am

Dover Baptist Temple
2896 State Route 800 | 330-364-5228
Rev. Christopher Rhodes, Sr Pastor
office@doverbaptisttemple.org
• Sunday Worship 11 am

God's Family Church
3573 Mt Pleasant Rd NW
330-407-5879
Pastor Bill Johnson
godsfamilychurch3@gmail.com
• Sunday Worship 10 am

Grace Bible Fellowship
310 Main St | 330-451-6878
Pastor - Dan Branch
www.gbftusc.com
• Sunday Worship 10:45 am

Grace Lutheran
216 N Wooster | 330-343-6915
Rev. Bonnie L. Grimaldi
• Sunday Worship 10 am

LifeBridge Community Church
301 N. Wooster Ave.
Pastor Eric Miller
• Sunday Worship 10 am

New Life Church of God
115 South Ave. | 330-987-4032
Co-pastors Larry Gross & Brett Hughes
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

NewPointe Community Church
3950 SR 39 NW | 330.602.5600
Lead Pastor Dwight Mason
www.newpointe.org
• Sunday Worship 9 & 11 am

Reformed Fellowship Church
454 E. Front St. | 330-432-0295
Pastor Michael Thomas
www.rfcdover.com
• Sunday Worship 10 am

Ruslin Hills Church
5839 Ruslin Hills Rd NW
330-343-7682
Pastor Bill Breon
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

St. John's United Church of Christ
409 N. Wooster | 330-364-4458
Sr Minister Rev Dr. Cassandra Granados
www.doverstjohns.org
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

St. Joseph Catholic Church
613 N. Tuscarawas Ave. | 330-364-6661
Fr. Jimmy Hatfield, Pastor
• Services: Sat, 4 pm,
Sun 8:30, 10:30 & 11 am

The Summit-Dover
302 E. Slingluff Avenue | 330-343-6142
Pastor Rob Coburn
www.thesummitdover.org
• Sunday Worship 10 am

Winfield Community Church
5247 SR 516 NW
330-343-1494 | winfieldchurch.org
Pastor Josh Davis
• Sunday Worship 9 am

Wish your church listing had

**MORE
DETAILS?**

Up to **FOUR** more lines for \$25 per month.
Payment in advance for 6 months or a year, please.
Contact Julie at 330-827-1603 or
theoutreacher@hotmail.com

Park Christian Church
236 Miller Ave. | 740-922-4118
Sr Pastor: Scot Caley
www.parkchurchonline.com
• Sunday Worship 10 am

New Hope (Formerly Pleasant Valley)
4195 Pleasant Valley Rd.
Pastor Jerralyn A. Myers 330-987-1259
• Sunday Worship 11 am

Roxford Methodist Church
771 Roxford Church RD
www.roxfordchurch.org
330-343-5359
Pastor Bro James Manbeck
• Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Strait Gate
501 N. 2nd St. | 330-407-0862
Pastor Michael O'Guin
• Sunday Worship 11 am & 6 pm

DOVER

Bisel Church
3108 Bisel Church Rd. | 330-893-2474
Pastor Roger Warnes
• Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Dover Bible Church
4173 Minard Rd NW | 330-343-3413
Pastor Mark Britton
doverbiblechurch.org
• Sunday Worship 10 am

Dover Faith Global Methodist Church
420 N. Wooster Ave. | 330-343-9224
Pastor Shelly Nordine
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Dover First United Methodist
1725 N. Wooster | 330-343-1322
Pastor Wes George
www.doverfirst.org
• Sunday Worship 10:20 am

First Baptist Church
140 Regent Street 330-364-2010
Rev. Rasheed As-Samad, Pastor
• Sunday Worship 11 am

First Moravian Church
319 N. Walnut Street | 330-364-8831
Part-time Pastor:
The Rev. Dennis G. Rohn
Drohn1945@gmail.com
• Sunday Worship 10 am

DUNDEE

Dundee Church of God
8027 SR 516 | 330-852-2045
dundeeecog@outlook.com
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Dundee United Methodist
6764 St Rt 93 | 330-852-1324
Deacon Randy Lewis
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Lakeview Baptist
10202 St Rt 93 | 330-878-7966
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

GNADENHUTTEN

Gnadenhutten United Methodist
220 N. Walnut St. | 740-552-0413
Lee Ann Dunlap
Sunday Worship 10:30 am

John Heckewelder Memorial Moravian
133 S Walnut | 740-254-4374
Pastor Dave Geyer
• Sunday Worship 10:45 am

Restoration Centre
7550 Wolfes Crossing | 740-552-0413
Pastor Sandra Mann &
Pastor David Rudder
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

MIDVALE

Midvale Methodist Church
4383 E State St. | 330-339-2087
Pastor Kory Rowland
• Sunday Worship 10 am

MINERAL CITY

Atwood Lake Ministry
Nondenominational
Atwood Lake Park
Chaplain—Mike Wells
• Sunday Worship 9-10 am,
May 25–Oct 5 (Cancel if heavy rain)
Notify Park if attending church
services at entrance

Church of the Nazarene
4705 Center St. | 330-859-2724
Senior Pastor; Pastor Karma Burton
www.mcnazarene.org
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Mineral City Methodist Church
4821 Davis St. | 330-859-2011
Pastor Bob Smith
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

St. Paul's Community Church
8733 1st St | 330-859-2337
www.stpaulsohio.com
Pastor Mark Gross
• Sunday Worship 9 am

Tabor Ridge Community Church
3398 Tabor Ridge Road NE
330-602-9765
Pastor John Dunn
jdunn19@roadrunner.com
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

NEW CUMBERLAND

Lake Drive Fellowship
8168 Lake Dr. NE | 330-364-6559
Lead Pastor: Rev. Larry G. Stitt
email: larrystitt@yahoo.com
• Sunday Worship 10:45 am & 6 pm

New Cumberland Methodist Church
4058 New Cumberland Rd NE
330-343-0029 | Pastor Jon Campbell
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

NEW PHILADELPHIA

Broadway Global Methodist
120 Church Ave. SE | (330) 339-1082
Pastor Harley Wheeler
www.thebroadwaychurch.org
• Sun Traditional Worship 8:30 am
• Sun Contemporary Worship 10:45 am

Calvary Baptist
1507 Oldtown Valley Rd | 330-339-1035
Pastor Donald Snow
calvarybaptistnp.com
• Sunday Worship 11 am & 6 pm

Crooked Run Valley Church
Crooked Run Road | 330-364-4900
Pastor Shelly Nordine
• Sunday Worship 9 am

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
202 East High Ave | 330-364-7571
www.emmanuelnp.com
Email: office@emmanuelnp.com
Pastor Rob Eller
• Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Emmanuel Church
1434 South Broadway
Rev. Scott Lawton 205-514-3044
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am & 7 pm

Faith Christian Church
2012 Pleasant Valley Rd NE
330-602-6008 | www.faithchristians.org
• Sunday Worship 9 am & 10:30 am

First Baptist Church
878 Commercial Ave SW | 330-339-1141
Troy Stogsdill | www.firstbaptist.church
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

First Christian
104 3rd St NW | 330-339-6715
Lead Pastor: Jim Borton
www.fccnewphila.org
• Sunday Worship 10 am

First Church of the Brethren
700 Fair Ave. NW | 330-339-5998
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

First Church of God
824 Tuscarawas Ave NW
330-343-3501 / www.npfccg.org
Pastors Billy and Leanna Roe
• Sunday Worship 10 am

First Church of the Nazarene
233 Fair Ave. NE | 330-343-7144
www.npnaz.org
Pastor Scott Jones, Lead Pastor,
• Sunday Worship 10 am

First Presbyterian Church
217 E. High | 330-343-7114
www.newphilapc.org
Rev Joseph Svancara
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

First United Church of Christ
201 Fair Avenue NW, 330-339-6412
firstuccnp.com | Pastor Jill Lovett
• Sunday Worship 9 am

First United Methodist Church
201 West High Avenue | 330-339-6411
Pastor Ryan Cockrill
npfirstumc.org
• Service time 930am

Fry's Valley Moravian
594 Fry's Valley Road SW
(740) 254-9373
sharedmoravianministryohio.org
• Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Goshen Community Church of the Nazarene
2501 David Rd SE | Ph: 330-339-3770
Pastor Lee Randolph
• Sunday Worship 1030 am

Holmes Church
Holmes Church Rd. | 330-893-2474
Pastor Roger Warnes
• Sunday Worship 10:45 am

Jerusalem Church (Evangelical)
1417 Stonecreek Rd SW | 330-339-2242
www.jcnp21.com | Rev Tom Hendershot
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Lifeway
742 Cookson Ave. SE | 330-339-9734
Lead Pastors Travis & Leslie Wright
• Sunday Worship 10 am

Legacy Church
233 Front St | 330-440-2539
Pastors Tommy and Shanda Miller
www.legacychurchclm.org
• Sunday Worship 10 am

New Life Center Ministries
1865 Roxford St (Barnhill)
330-339-5873
• Sunday Worship 10 am

Otterbein United Methodist Church
156 Beaver Ave | 330-343-4131
Pastor John Armstrong
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Preach the Word Ministries
327 Beaver Ave. NE | 330-440-2855
Pastor Lisa M. Meese
• Sunday Worship 10 am

Revive Church
335 Union Ave NW | 330-243-8544
Pastor Thomas Cunningham, D.Min., Ph. D.
reviveohio.church
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Schoenbrunn Moravian
2200 E High Ave | 330-339-1940
Pastor Ben Lippert
pastor@schoenbrunnmoravian.org
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

St. Peter's Church
3640 Oldtown Valley Rd. SW
stpetersoldtownvalley@gmail.com
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

The Branch Church
140 West High Ave 330-401-6643
Campus Pastor: Josh Nims
www.thebranchchurchohio.com
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

The Restored Church of Jesus Christ, Dover Restoration Branch
1440 5th St NW
330-440-7066
Pastor: Tim Levensgood
• Sunday Worship 11 am

The Salvation Army
809 Emmet Ave. NW | 330-364-3811
Lt's Andrew & Amanda Allen Corps
Officers/Pastors
• Sunday Worship 11 am

Trinity Episcopal Church
122 3rd St. NW | 330-339-6439
• Sunday Worship 10 am

NEWCOMERSTOWN

Calvary United Methodist
149 W State St.
740-498-8534
www.newcomerstowncalvaryum-charge.org
• Sunday Worship 9:45 am

Christ Methodist Church
648 Oak St. 740-498-8134
www.christnct.org
Sr. Pastor: Bracken Foster
• Sunday Worship 9 and 1030am

Church of the Nazarene
363 Neighbor St. | 740-498-7588
Pastor John Kohr
nazarene.nct@sbcglobal.net
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Churches of Christ in Christian Union (CCCU)
560 W. State St. | 330-827-5587
Pastor Sonny Easterday
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

First Baptist
135 S River St | 740-498-6589
Pastor Wayne Baker
office@firstbaptistnct.com
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Hartwood Community Church
14206 Hartwood Rd | 330-933-9744
Dr. Dorsey Davisson, Pastor
igoforhim@gmail.com
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Kings United Methodist
5651 Kings Ridge Rd | 740-498-8534
http://web.tusco.net/kingsumc
• Sunday Worship 11:15 am

- CHURCH DIRECTORY
continued on the next page

New Beginnings Church of God

309 W. Church St. | 740-492-1211
Pastor Queen E. Williams
• Sunday Worship 10 am

St. Paul Lutheran Church

121 South College St., 740-498-6682
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Victory Assembly of God

311 South College St. | 740-498-6547
www.victorynct.org
Pastor Jimmy Lewis
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Wesley Community Chapel (WCC)

17333 Chapel Rd | 740-610-4986
Pastor Rocky Tidd
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

PORT WASHINGTON

Countryside Baptist

4283 Shoemaker Rd SW
740-498-5500
Pastor Paul Harvey
www.countrysidebc.com
• Sunday Worship 11 am & 6 pm

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

114 North High St | 740-492-4158
Pastor Jim Shamel
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

West Union Church

13679 Gilmore Rd
Pastor Garry Marlatt
• Sunday Worship 10:30

SANDYVILLE

Church of the Open Door

10984 Sandyville Rd NE
330-866-4523 | Pastor: Lisa L. Elliott
e-mail: elliottray@sbcglobal.net
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Sandy Valley Church of God

11281 SR 800 NE | 330-866-9014
Pastor Joel Donahue
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

STONE CREEK

Grace Community Church

229 W. Jefferson St | 330-339-5007
Pastor Bill Mallernee
www.GraceChurchStoneCreek.org
• Sunday Worship 10 am

Salem Evans Creek Lutheran Church

9030 Deibel Rd. SW
Pastor Jean Coleman
• Sunday Worship 9 am

Zion Lutheran Church

204 W Jefferson St 330-339-5423
Pastor Jean Coleman
• Sunday Worship 10:30am

STRASBURG

Community Bible Church

201 2nd Street NW (Cross Café)
330-634-6187 | Aaron Minard-Pastor

First Lutheran Church

211 8th St. SW | Ph: 330-878-5581
www.firstlutheranstrasburg.com
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

St. John United Church of Christ

516 N Wooster Ave | 330-878-5113
Pastor Jason Rissler
stjohnuccstrasburg@gmail.com
• Sunday Worship 9:30 am

United Methodist

206 2nd St NW | 330-878-5179
strasburgumcoho.org
Pastor Matthew Wald
• Sunday Worship 9:30 am

SUGARCREEK

Alpine Bible Church

719 Dutch Valley Rd. NE | 330-852-3300
Pastor Byron Stewart
office@alpinebible.org
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Barrs Mill Church of God

4677 St. Rt. 93 NW | 330-852-2508
Pastor Josh Wilson
www.barrsmillchurch.org
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Church of the Brethren

144 Yoder Ave | 614-507-4435
Pastor Nelson Brown
nelson.brown87@icloud.com
• Sunday Worship 10 am

First Mennonite

113 Main St. | 330-852-2822
Pastor Michael Gehman
firstmenno@tusco.net
• Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Grace Church

1019 West Main Street 330-893-3110
Campus Pastor Chad Stutzman
allaboutgrace.org
• Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:30 am

Ragersville Zion Church

8831 Crooked Run Rd SW | 330-897-3151
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Shanesville Lutheran Church

SR 39 & 93 intersection | 330-407-3949
Minister Barb DeBord
bdebord50@aol.com
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Sugarcreek United Methodist Church

212 North Broadway | 330-852-2885
Rev Randy Lewis
• Sunday Worship 9 am

Union Hill of Sugarcreek

7877 Union Hill Rd NW | 330-852-4449
Pastor: Jeff Calkins | unionhillumc.com
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

TUSCARAWAS

Emmaus Chapel, IPCC

221 S. Main Street | 740-922-9269
www.emmausipcc.org
Pastor: Sam Brown
• Sunday Worship 11 am

Sharon Moravian Church

4776 Moravian Church Rd SE
740-922-5507
www.sharonmoravian.org
Pastor Lloyd Gooden
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

215 Church St. | 740-922-2356
Pastor Wally Anderson

UHRICHVILLE

11th Street Church Of God

1033-1/2 N. Water St. Rear
234-801-4087
Pastor Dan Millard
• Sunday School 9:30am
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am
• Sun Jr Church (12 & under) 10:30am
• Sunday evening 6:30pm
• Wed Prayer and Bible Study 6:30pm

Bethel Worship Center

634 N. Main St. | 740- 922-9848
Pastor John Stevenson
bwcuhrichsville.org
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am & 6 pm

Cathedral of Praise

480 Morris Street | 330-987-6121
• Sunday Worship 11 am

Christian Temple

4249 Belden Dr | 740-922-2628
Pastors Larry & Janie Hostetler
• Sunday Worship 10 am

Church of the Nazarene

116 N. Dawson St. | 740-922-0456
• Sunday Worship 10:30

First Moravian Church

315 N Water | 740-922-0886
office@sharedmoravianministryohio.org
• Sunday Worship 9:30 am

First Presbyterian

633 Main St Box 50 | 740-922-3692
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Grace Baptist Church

308 East 1st St. | 740-922-6520
Pastor Steve DeLong
sd4gbc@aol.com
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Grace Methodist

524 W 3rd St. | 740-922-4981
Pastor Larry Malterer
• Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Mount Bethel Community Chapel

88605 Bethel Rd
• Sunday Worship 10 am

Newport Methodist Church

8022 Newport Rd. SE
740-922-5564 | Pastor Kory Rowland
• Sunday Worship 8:45 am

Organic Church

1943 N Water St Ext | 740-922-1564
www.ucfoursquarechurch.org
Pastor Michael Brindley
• Sunday Worship 10 am

Pleasant Grove Church

8560 Edie Hill Rd
Jon Kinsey, minister
• Sunday Worship 9am

Rush Community Church of the Nazarene

4941 Rush Church Rd SE | 740-254-9234
Pastor Brett Warkentine
www.rushnaz.org
• Sunday Worship 8:30, 10:45 am & 6 pm

South Side Gospel Chapel

7091 Deersville Ave Ext SE
740-922-6971 | Pastor John Cadwell
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

St. John Worship & Praise Community Church

1030 Cook Street | 740-922-6026
Pastor Henry L. McNeil
www.sjwpc.info
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Uhrichville Christian Fellowship

132 Kutcham Dr | 740-229-7017
Pastor Jimmy Stull, Sr Pastor
www.ucfclm.com
• Sunday Worship 10 am

Uhrichville First Methodist

225 N Dawson St.
740-922-3881 | Pastor Kory Rowland
methodists@att.net
• Sunday Worship 11 am

ZOAR

Church of the Holy Trinity

1835 Dover-Zoar Rd NE | 330-874-4716
Father Jimmy Hatfield
• Masses: Wed 6:30, Sat 4:30 pm & Sun 10 am

Zoar United Church of Christ

142 E. 5th St | 330-874-4641
Pastor Rev Dr Dan Grimminger
• Sunday Worship 9:30 am

ZOARVILLE

Christian Chapel

7439 Main St | 330-859-2891
• Sunday Worship 10:30 am & 6 pm

Good Hope Lutheran Church

3359 New Zoarville Rd | 330-859-2480
Pastor Brian Rossow
• Sunday Worship 9 am

HELP & BE HELPED

CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD BANKS



BOLIVAR

Bolivar St. John United Church of Christ Clothes Closet
409 Park Ave 330-874-2822
Clothes Closet - 2nd & 4th Mon
9AM to Noon (except holidays)
Infant/adult. \$.25 to \$2.00.
All proceeds donated.

DENNISON

HARCATUS Tri-County Family Support Center & Cubby
108 N. 2nd Street, 740-922-3600
Income eligibility & appointment required

DOVER

3rd and Wooster Threads
301 N. Wooster Ave, Dover
Minimal and Need Based Priced Clothing
and Household Goods Tues-Sat 11-4
email: threads301@gmail.com

Faith Global Methodist Church Clothes Closet

420 N. Wooster Ave, Dover
1st & 3rd Sat 11a-1p • Donations welcome
Lunch & clothing at no charge

Hospice Browse and Buy

Minimal Pricing
Heritage Square Plaza | 515 Union Ave
330-365-2026 | Mon-Sat 9-5

Reformed Fellowship Church

454 E. Front St. | 330-447-5167 | 9am-11am
Food Pantry 1st & 3rd Sat. of each month

GNADENHUTTEN

Gnadenhutten United Methodist
220 N. Walnut St. | 740-254-4815
Non-perishable groceries (no charge)
Thurs 10-2pm - Rear entrance-ramp door

NEW PHILADELPHIA

Church of Christ

749 Commercial Ave SW | 330-339-1252
Tues 9am-11:15am | No charge for items

First United Methodist Church

Supper Table- free meals to all
Tues 5:30-6:30 pm
201 W. High Ave. New Philadelphia

Clothes Closet at J.I.M's Place

228 W. High Ave. - Free Clothing
Wed and Sat 9:30-11:30am, Tue 4-5:30pm

FRIENDS of the Homeless

211 East High Ave. | 330-602-6100
No Clothing-Household Items Only
Call Maria Rila at 330.602.6100 and let
her know which date(s) your church or
organization can provide a warm supper meal!

HARCATUS Tri-County Family Support Center & Community Nest

330-343-8770 - 875 Blake Ave SW-lower level
(various non-perishable, taxable items)
Income eligibility required | Call for hours

New Hope

Christian Community Center
223 Front Ave. SW (rear entrance)
New Phila 330-339-8879 • 2nd/4th Sat

Salvation Army

809 Emmet Ave. New Philadelphia
Tues 9:30 - noon | Charge per item is 25¢

Trinity Episcopal Church Jesus Mission Meals

122 3rd St NW | Mon, Thurs and Fri 5-7pm
Dinner 530-630 - In the basement, use the
red door in the front. Follow signs.

SANDYVILLE

Church of the Open Door

10984 Sandyville Rd NE - 3rd Wed 6-730pm
Free Community Dinner games/crafts for
kids, food pantry open at that time.

STRASBURG

First Lutheran Church

211 8th St SW -Used Clothing Drop-Off Shed
Located in parking lot | 330-878-5581
We accept: clothing, shoes, belts, purses,
bedding, drapes & stuffed toys.

Strasburg United Methodist Church

Carpenter's Cupboard Food Pantry
206 2nd St NW | 330-878-5179
3rd Thurs | 9-11am and 530-7pm

EMAIL:

theoutreach@hotmail.com
with updated information.

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CARROLL COUNTY

CARROLLTON

A New Creation • Deli on the Square
Sanders Market
Springvale Health Center

MALVERN

Ron Ruegg Automotive
Kishman's Fresh Market

MINERVA

Yoder's Country Market and Deli

COSHOCTON COUNTY

COSHOCTON

Buehler's • Coffee Connection/Whits
Marilyn's Natural Foods

FRESNO

Pearl Valley Cheese

WARSAW

DariLand • Shop Wise
Gospel Hill Ministry

HARRISON COUNTY

DEERSVILLE

Deersville General Store

HOLMES COUNTY

BERLIN

Walnut Creek Cheese

MILLERSBURG

Dr. Richard Mulcahy

WALNUT CREEK

Der Dutchman Restaurant

Harvest Thrift Store • Rebecca's Bistro

Oak Ridge Inn

Swiss Country Lawn & Crafts

Walnut Creek Cheese

Walnut Hills Living

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY

BALTIC

Baltic Mills • Gerber Feed Store

Oak Pointe Nursing Home

BOLIVAR

Addicts at the Cross Thrift Store

Bolivar Library

Emley Family Chiropractor

Giant Eagle • Hennis Care Centre

No. 1 Kitchen Chinese Restaurant

Wiltshire Laundry

DENNISON

Bloom's Printing • First National Bank

Pangrazio's • Trinity Hospital Twin City

DOVER

Bi-County Foot Care

Big Brothers/Big Sisters • Bob Evans

Buehler's • Country Club Retirement

Dover Flea Market • Dover Library

Drug Mart • Giant Eagle

Gooding's Farm Market • Grove Gift Shop

Guiding Grace Counseling

Hennis Care Centre

Hospice Browse & Buy • H&R Block

Inn at Northwood Village

M & M Market • Magic Mugs

Miller Creamery • Mindy's Diner

Mission Thrift • Missions Café

New Dawn Retirement Center

Pangrazio's Pizza • Park Village

Puretone Hearing • Reeve's Museum

Springvale Health Centers

The Bibliophile • Tusc Co Sr Center

Yoder's Homestown Market • YMCA

DUNDEE

Dundee Marketplace

GNADENHUTTEN

Gnaden Family Store

MINERAL CITY

Nicole Donant Library

Steineck's Bakery

NEW PHILADELPHIA

Adonai Fine Arts Center

Amberwood Nursing Home

Bvd Lanes • Brickyard Dining Co

Buehlers • China Wok

Community Hospice

Daily Grind • Dairy Queen

Dayspring Books • Drug Mart

Friends of the Homeless

Linn-Hert-Geib Funeral Home & Crematory

Medicine Shoppe • Miller's Creamery

Off the Wall Music

Naturally Chiropractic • Park Village

Schoenbrunn Healthcare

Springvale Health Centers • T4C

Tusc Co Public Library

Tusc Co Visitors Bureau

NEWCOMERSTOWN

Garland Inn • Journeys End Ministries

MediWise • Orme Hardware

Riesbecks • Riverside Manor

Tusc Co Senior Center

ROSWELL

Roswell General Store

SANDYVILLE

Crossroads Restaurant

STRASBURG

Cross Café

Helping Hearts Thrift Store

SUGARCREEK

Baltic Bank • Broad Run Dairy

Carlisle Fabric & Quilts

Dutch Creek Foods

Gospel Shop • Moomaw Automotive

Park Street Pizza • Riesbeck's IGA

Smith Funeral Home

Steel's Farm & Market

Sunrise Market and Café

Swiss Country Lawn & Crafts

Swiss Village Bulk Foods

Swiss Village Pharmacy

Tusc Co Sr Center

TUSCARAWAS

Bob's Barber Shop

Love Gas and Car Wash • Tusky Deli

UHRICHSVILLE

Big Bend Golf Course

Dairy Queen • Camp Kaphar

Claymont Health and Rehab

Dollar Market • El Pueblito • Mako's

Pindrop Shop • Rod's Donuts

Save a Lot • Tusc. Co. Sr Center

Twin City Christian Service Center

WILTSHIRE HILLS

Giant Eagle

ZOAR

Zoar Market

"God did not make
a mistake when
He made me."

the voice of a survivor



If you've been following our Hicks Roofing journey, we'd love to take a moment to highlight an organization that is especially dear to us. As we enter this blessed Christmas season, we hope you'll feel inspired to learn more as well. It is our joy and honor to introduce Safe Harbor Ohio...

It is estimated that sex trafficking is a \$150 billion-dollar business and is expected to hit \$300 billion within the next few years. Out of 50 states, Ohio sits in the Top 10 nationwide for the most reported cases of sex trafficking. It has been said that here in the U.S., a child is sold for sex every 2-minutes. With this horrific criminal industry growing, did you know that there are less than 600 beds nationwide for child survivors? But in comparison, we have over 13,000 animal shelters. Located in Holmes County, Safe Harbor provides trauma-informed, holistic care for the girls onsite — and we can accept girls from anywhere in the United States. Our services include onsite medical and physical care provided by local doctors, psychiatrists, and staff therapists, ensuring each girl receives comprehensive support for healing and restoration.



For their education, we have partnered with an accredited school where girls can earn their high school diploma, not a GED. We operate under a least-restriction philosophy, designed for restorative care. Safe Harbor Ohio offers a wide variety of learning, growth, and community opportunities for our residents. We provide integrated services to restore the physical, mental, social, and spiritual brokenness of young girls. Our 30-acre campus includes cottages, each cottage holds four girls and offers each resident individual bedrooms that include a private bathroom. We have a vast walking trail outlined with swings and benches. We also have a small hiking trail. In our Creative Arts building, we offer art, music, a workout room along with a fully stocked boutique; providing brand new clothing items for our residents at no charge. We will soon offer an outdoor sports court (that will offer basketball, volleyball and pickle ball) along with a middle school-sized gymnasium. To learn more about Safe Harbor visit: safeharborohio.org or scan the QR codes. Follow us on social media!

X: @safeharbor_ohio / Facebook: @safeharborohio
IG: @safeharbor_ohio / LinkedIn: @safe-harbor-ohio



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