

December 2019

The Courier



Called To Share God's Grace
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Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, 'Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's

city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, 'Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.' When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, 'Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.' They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger."

I'm not so sure what I would have done at such a sight - an angels story - a choir of angels singing. I can relate to the fear of the shepherds upon seeing the angels, but I'm not so sure if I would have dropped everything to go and see for myself what I was told. Perhaps though, my curiosity would have gotten the best of me and I would have gone?

Every time I read this story I am always struck by the fear of the shepherds. There they are - just doing their thing. An ordinary night watching the sheep. Maybe they were telling stories around a fire? Maybe they were keeping warm with a fermented beverage of some sort. And then, that random night, their lives are changed forever! In a moment God calls them - come and see for yourselves! I suppose I get hung up on the "supernatural" side of the story! Yet - it is our story - a story of calling and a story of relationship and acceptance!

Today and everyday God calls to us - Come and see! Come and see love! Come and see acceptance! Come and see hope! Come and see promise! Come and see!

My prayer for you this Christmas, is that when you come and see for yourself - your lives will be changed and transformed! When you come and see for yourself - I pray that you will know love and experience the hope. When you come and see for yourself - I pray that you will come to understand that God keeps God's promises!

Not only are you invited to come and see each Sunday at 9:30, you are invited to come and see and experience for yourself on Christmas Eve either at 5:00 or 7:00. Maybe you will come and see at both times?? What you can expect is excitement - a child is born..that we know changes everything! What you can expect is gathering around the common table and sharing a meal together of bread and juice remembering God's love for each and every one of us. What you can expect is finding a common hope and maybe some curiosity as well.

Each and every one of you is invited to come and see!

May God's peace be with you all!
Pr Chris

Christmas Joy THE CHRISTMAS SEASON at Grace Presbyterian Church

Sunday December 15: 9:30a - A Service of Christmas Music
Grace Adult Vocal Choir, Directed by Avedis Manoogian
Accompanist, Kristie Estervig

Sunday December 15: 1:00p - Come Christmas Caroling!

Sunday December 22: 9:30a - Children's Christmas Program

Monday December 23: 7:00p - Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve Worship: 5:00p Worship with Children's Moment & Choir; 7:00p Lessons & Carols
Communion at both services

JOIN US!





You're invited to a Christmas Time of Fellowship / Open House at Pastor Davis's Home On December 22nd from 2-4p, 430 Campus Drive.

Welcome, Avedis!

The Personnel Committee is pleased to announce that Avedis is our new Choir Director! Please join us in welcoming him! Avedis Manoogian grew up in Madison and is a graduate of Madison West and UW-Madison. He comes to GPC after twelve years in Cincinnati where he served as pianist and coach for the Cincinnati String Cooperative and music director for Montgomery Presbyterian Church. He is ecstatic to be here and looks forward to getting to know everyone!

Give Back this Advent Season



Small gifts have a big impact on the lives of others.

This Advent season, Grace has two opportunities to help those in need both locally and around the world.

During Advent, Grace Church will be participating in a reverse advent calendar. A reverse advent calendar works by individuals "giving back" by donating a non-perishable food item daily from Dec 1-24. The donated items are then given to a local food pantry to help those in need at Christmas time. The reverse advent calendars are available on the Christmas tree in Narthex. You are invited to take a calendar home. Each Sunday in December, and again on Christmas Eve, you can bring your collected items to donate to Grace and drop them off in the Narthex. All items donated will be delivered to the Beaver Dam Food Pantry on December 26.

On a global level, Grace Mission Committee has generously been given a monetary donation from a Thrivent grant toward the purchase of an animal and water through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. To give you a better idea of the impact we can have, the purchase of one cow can provide a family in need with a reliable source of income and nourishment. The Mission Committee is asking the congregation to participate in this global mission project by helping match this generous grant donation. Starting December 1, there will be Cow and Water ornaments on the Christmas tree in the Narthex that individuals and families can take and designate their monetary donation to this mission. Donations will be accepted through January 5th. Our small gifts have a big impact on the lives of others.

Please consider participating in these local and global Mission projects this advent season!

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church has called for the Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, December 15, 2019 - directly following worship.**



Agenda

- Approve Pastor's Terms of Call
- Receive the 2020 Budget and present approved formation of Grace Church as a corporation.
- Receive new Elders



Come Caroling!

Join us as we sing Christmas Carols to our friends at the Charleston House, Hillside Manor and Stone Terrace on Sunday, December 15th at 1:00pm. Let's meet at the church and then carpool to our destinations. I know! I know!! A Packer game is scheduled. I know the Packers are playing the Bears! Record it! Enjoy the game later!! Christmas Caroling means so much to those we visit with! So, join us on the 15th at 1:00!

Makers — Gardenistas - Wanna bees

You are cordially invited to a Christmas Brunch Thursday morning at 9:30 a.m. December 12 at Pat Lyon's home, 300 South College Avenue, Fox Lake. Bring a dish to pass and a wrapped white elephant gift. RSVP or weather questions: Call Pat at 414-313-2977.



SECOND TUESDAY BOOK CLUB The Second Tuesday Book Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 9 AM in the Conference room across from the kitchen. For more information, contact Ann Peck. We welcome visitors.

Our December 10th selection is *Women of the Silk* by Gail Tsukiyama. In rural China (1926) a group of women become close as they work among the machines in a silk factory from dawn to dusk.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER (Meditation) meets Wednesday mornings from 8:45-9:45 in the chapel. Join this group that meets to nurture and sustain spiritual vitality in contemporary life.



Please join your Christian Education Committee

We would love your ideas and interest in joining us in serving youth, adults and new members in Christian Education and Faith Formation. The holidays are an especially active and fun time for us and volunteers at Sunday School, special presentations and programs are always very appreciated. For more info, contact Patrice at 920-858-9468; cedirector@bdgracechurch.org.

Our next meeting is Thursday, December 5, 4 p.m., in the Conference Room focusing on our December 22 Children's Christmas Program, "Unfrozen" and upcoming children and youth events.

"Illuminating Advent" Adult Bible Study

December 1-22 following worship Reception Room

Through the blessed themes of Advent--hope, love, joy, and peace--*Illuminating Advent* invites you to connect with this sacred season amid the busy-ness of other holiday celebrations. The meaning and mystery of Christmas and Epiphany are also explored. Participant Guides provided at no cost. Please take a peek at the Guide with sign-up in the narthex!



Annual Children's Christmas Presentation

December 22 during Worship

Presenting our 2019 Christmas Program, "Unfrozen", a Christian interpretation of the popular "Frozen" and "Frozen II" musicals

DO YOU WANT TO MEET A SAUTOR?

Final rehearsal December 21, 9:30-11 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Grace kids of all ages and families, please note we are rehearsing our music and speaking parts during Sunday School following worship. And, we love grown-up volunteers, too!



Mark your holiday calendars for a Birthday Party for Jesus!

December 22 following worship

Hosted by Fellowship Committee and Sunday Schoolers, let's join together in Kindy Hall for a birthday party complete with party hats, horns, and cake and ice cream. Please feel free to share your Christmas treats and goodies, too!



Gracie's Closet & Second Harvest Food Pantry: Saturday December 14

Gracie's Closet is open to the public 8:30-11:00 a.m., at the east end room in the CE wing featuring our fall/winter selection of no-cost clothing. Second Harvest food distribution is managed at Moraine Park Technical College 8:00-11:00 a.m. Volunteers at both sites always welcome!



Help Support our Missions

PAVE Wish List: For the month of December, PAVE shares its 12 Days of Giving, starting Dec. 1-12. 1) paper towel, 2) laundry soap, 3) peanut butter & jelly, 4) toilet paper, 5) body wash, 6) conditioner, 7) juice, 8) cereal, 9) snack foods, 10) copy paper, 11) gift card for milk & eggs, 12) \$75 to sponsor a night of shelter

Beaver Dam Food Pantry – See Reverse Advent Calendar!

PAVE & Food Pantry bins are located next to the main parking lot entrance at the Church.

A Big Thank You to All of Grace Community Meal Team!



Community Meal Coalition

On Monday, November 18, Grace prepared and hosted the Community Meal at the Watermark. Twelve mighty volunteer members served over 120 grateful folks from throughout the Beaver Dam area. What's better than food, fun and friendship all wrapped into one busy day? Thank you all so much!

WINE AT 5 ANYONE?

Had a busy day? Looking for some soft music & casual conversation in a relaxing environment?

Join us downtown Beaver Dam at the *Riverfront Wine Bar and Gift shop*.

When: **Any time after 5pm (5-7:30pm)**

Wednesday November 27th at 227 Front Street

Questions?...Contact your Fellowship Committee Elder Tracy Hauke at (920) 296-0568



ShopWithScrip®
Powered by Great Lakes Scrip Center

Buy Your Gift Cards for Christmas Gifts through Scrip!!!

We encourage families to shop with Scrip and help support Grace Presbyterian Church in the process. Order forms are at church or on-line on our web page www.bdgracechurch.org.
Thank you to all who support Grace Presbyterian Church by purchasing Scrip!

INCOME & EXPENSES:



Stewardship
Update

<u>October Income</u>		<u>October Expenses</u>	
Offering Envelopes	\$ 29,412.34	Missions	\$ 1,386.33
Loose Offerings	\$ 323.00	Session	\$ 93.78
Per Capita	\$ 155.00	Worship	\$ 2,357.57
Building Rental	\$ 150.00	Christian Education	\$ 1,741.46
Interest Earned	\$ 4.25	Administration	\$ 6,779.10
Housing Allowance	\$ 500.00	Property	\$ 2,718.44
Scrip Program	\$ 98.04	Deacon	\$ 0.00
Fellowship	\$ 81.68	Pastoral	\$ 7,807.51
Peace & Global	\$ 445.00		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 31,169.31	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$22,884.19



Join the members and friends of Grace Presbyterian Church who are
“Called to Share God’s Grace”

If you have not returned your 2020 Pledge and the Time/Talent Sheet to the church it is not too late! We are still looking for a few of you that pledged this year but have not returned a pledge for 2020.

For those who usually don’t like to pledge, we invite you to consider making a commitment this year and see how it improves your relationship with the church and with Christ.

Are you interested in signing up for our electronic funds transfer (EFT)? Please contact the church office for a form to fill out.

Thank you to those who have already returned their 2020 Pledges!

Direct Contribution Plan or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

For Your Sunday Offerings

The advantages to you would be:

- You never have to worry if you “forgot” your offering each Sunday.
- You will always be up to date and never behind with your offerings.
- One less check/payment you have to deal with.
- You decide how much and when the transfers will occur.

An authorization form will have to be set up and signed for those who are interested.

If you are interested in learning more, please call the church office (885-3198) and ask for our bookkeeper, Paula, or email her at bookkeeper@bdgracechurch.org.

2020 PLEDGING SUMMARY



Through pledging, we make a regular commitment to support the church. It causes us to be more connected and more attached to the activities and programs of the church.

2020 Pledge Summary @ 11/18/19

	<u># Units</u>	<u>Total Pledged</u>	
Pledge cards NOT returned	85	\$0.00	42%
Returned card with \$0 Pledge	10	\$0.00	4.9%
\$1 - \$1,040	55	\$26,689	27.1%
\$1,041 - \$3,120	35	\$66,678	17.2%
\$3,121 - \$5,200	9	\$37,100	4.4%
\$5,201 - & up	9	\$102,018	4.4%
Total Pledge Units	203	\$232,485	100.00%

Thank you to those who have already returned your Pledge and Time & Talent Sheets!



The 2020 Expense Budget was approved by the Session on November 13, 2019.

The Stewardship Committee worked diligently to come up with a “balanced” budget but did not succeed. Even though there were cuts to the 2020 expenses from the current 2019 budget, we have also incurred loss of pledges for next year due to deaths, relocations, etc. We will go forward with this faith based budget for 2020 in the hopes that our finances will balance out before year end.

Qualified Charitable Distributions For Charitable Giving

Due to the tax law changes this year, why not consider making a contribution to Grace Presbyterian Church through a Qualified Charitable Distribution.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. A QCD can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions for the year.

In addition to the benefits of giving to Grace Church, this distribution excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may generate other income tax benefits.

QCDs don’t require that you itemize, which due to the recent tax law changes, means you may decide to take advantage of the higher standard deduction, but still use a QCD for charitable giving. One of the requirements is that you must be 70 ½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD.

If a QCD would seem right for you, contact your financial advisor for more information.

11th Annual Red Kettle Concert

Free concert to benefit the Dodge County Salvation Army.
Donations accepted.

Sunday, December 8, 4:00p

at the Beaver Dam High School



Featuring: Beaver Dam HS string quartet, Trinity Church UM choir and handbells, **Grace Presbyterian Choir**, St. Katharine Drexel choir, Loco Vocals, Saxophone Quartet, Kiwanis Choir and the Ecumenical Choir. Special guests: Connor Klavekoske & John Landdeck



Death in the

Our condolences to his wife, member Renaté, the rest of their family and friends on the passing of member **James Campbell**. Jim died November 16 and a memorial service will be held here at Grace Church on Friday, December 27, 2019. Visitation from 10a-12p, service at 12p.

Blue Christmas Service December 23, 2019 7:00pm



Blue Christmas

The season of Advent and Christmas is a time of expectation, waiting, and celebration. Parties and “merriment” are the “norm.” Yet, not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. For some, the season of Christmas is not the most

wonderful time of the year. Many within our congregation are dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations. This is a blue time of year - a time of feeling out of sorts and disconnected.

With this in mind you are invited to join us in the sanctuary on December 23rd at 7:00pm for a time of reflection, prayer, readings, and listening. This will be a time of “being with each other in a sacred space.” All are welcome.

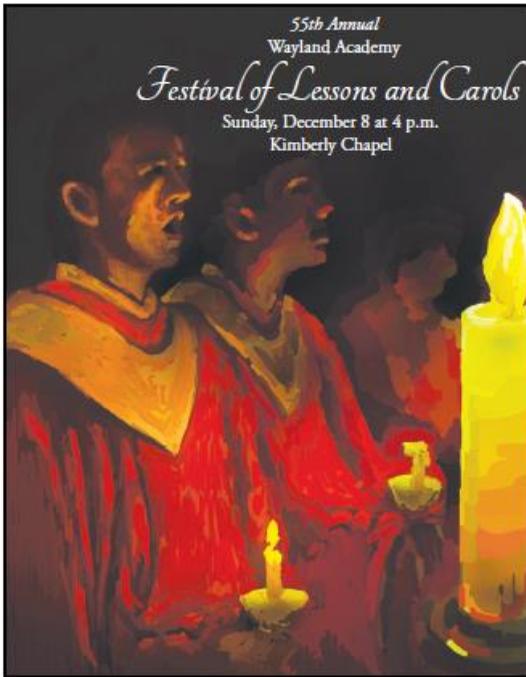


From **PAVE**: We are so grateful for your recent gift of hygiene products— Thank you! Thank you for your continued faithful support of our programs and our mission to empower those affected by violence. Your generosity inspires us; we know we couldn't do it without you.

December Birthdays

- 1 - Chris Cole
- 4 - Tracy Haucke
- 7 - Kathi Gallus, Molly Wissell
- 8 - Dan Bird, Jenny Wolc
- 10 - Jeremy Slayton
- 11 - Violet Buchda
- 12 - Stacy Beaudry, Rita Schram
- 13 - David Walter, Jr.
- 14 - Jessica Soblewski
- 16 - Shirley Bird, Mackenzie Schraufnagel
- 17 - Ashley Bird, Sheila DaValt, Shirley Maas
- 18 - Ted Meekma, James Schultz, Madeline Westergaard, Joe Wilson
- 19 - Evelyn Westergaard
- 20 - Holly Bartholmai, Rick Eckes
- 21 - Norm Klug, Richard McMahon
- 23 - Craig Hummelmeier, Susan Janssen, Barb Rheingans
- 24 - Joy Kikkert
- 25 - Peter Brodzeller, Ava Henriksen, William Snell
- 26 - Mya Gartland
- 27 - Ronda Schuett
- 29 - Tom Willihnganz
- 31 - Doug Mathison, Liz Wilson





We would like to invite you to the
Wayland Academy 55th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols.

The service will be Sunday, Dec. 8 at 4:00pm in Kimberly Chapel on the Wayland Academy campus. Lessons and Carols is a music service celebrating the birth of Jesus and is based on the original King's College service dating back to 1918. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music. The service is free and open to the public. For more information please contact Andrew Estervig at 920-356-2120 x25 or aestervig@wayland.org

Please be attentive to your weekly email announcements for updated & new information!

Next newsletter deadline is Monday December 9 for the December/January issue. (Last one until February.)

Don't Miss the DEADLINE!



Office Hours – The church office hours are currently 7a-12p, 1-4p Monday-Thursday. However, as a small onsite staff, there may be instances where the church offices are closed if all staff have to be away. If you'd rather not risk coming to the church without knowing, please call ahead. During the holidays be especially aware of office hours.

Grace frequently uses images from church activities and events on our website, Facebook page, in the newsletter, and for promotional purposes. If you do not wish for us to use your image please contact the office.

Like **Grace Church Beaver Dam on facebook !!**

Poinsettia ORDERS

Grace Church is coordinating the purchase of Christmas poinsettias for sanctuary decoration and as memorials for our loved ones.

If you would like a memorial poinsettia, please mark your donation (\$13.00) for "Christmas Poinsettia" including the name(s) of the person(s) to be listed in memory.

Or you may purchase your own poinsettia and bring it to the church.

Be sure to fill out this form with the name(s) of the person(s) to be remembered or honored and return it to the office.

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Please check one below:

I am purchasing a plant through the Church, attached is \$13.00

I am purchasing my own plant and will bring it to church.

I will take my plant after the holidays.

Give my plant to a shut-in after the holidays.

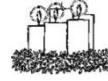
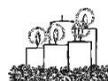
Please turn in your donation and this form to the church office no later than Sunday, Dec. 1.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

November 2019

- Communion Report: 10/6/19 worship – 101; Charleston House on 10/9/19 – 5 were served with Sue Reifsnider assisting. Hillside Manor on 10/21 – 9 were served with Amy Rochester assisting.
- The Presbytery has approached Grace Church about becoming a corporation. Jim Olson came to discuss what that would entail.
- Committee made a motion to have youth from 5th-12th grade visit the Dodge County Humane Society on December 7th to present bandanas for dogs made by our Makers group.
- Committee made a motion to have the youth who are preparing to confirm their faith go to a worship service at Pres House in Madison, WI on December 1st.
- Sunday School Christmas program will be December 22nd during worship.
- “Illuminating Advent”, an adult education program, is taking place December 1 - 22.
- Mission Committee made a motion to sponsor a reverse advent calendar in which members of Grace Presbyterian Church will participate in collecting canned goods/food for the Beaver Dam Food Pantry. Items will be collected Dec 1-24, with delivery scheduled on December 26.
- Mission Committee made a motion to sponsor “donation ornaments” in which members of Grace Presbyterian Church will participate in raising money in attempt to match the grant funding that is being donated to purchase animal and water out of the Presbyterian Catalog.
- Mission Committee approved that a care package to be sent to Michelle Miller in Mozambique be funded through mission line item “Giving Tree Fund”.
- Little Free Pantry dedication will occur in Spring, given the early Winter weather.
- 1/22 Wine at 5 social gathering.
- Fellowship committee is looking for new people to join their committee. If interested, contact Tracy Haucke.
- 30+ graceful Grace folks participated in our annual fall work day. Money from a gift by Ki and Kay Whang was used for 40 new plantings across the front of the building. A special thank you to Tim Eilbes (member) from K & B for his expertise and equipment in clearing out the prairie.
- Oliver Shier and his Boy Scout counterparts sanded, repaired and painted the four Grace picnic tables as part of an Eagle project.
- Tim Eilbes has agreed to become the lead person in regards to the care and feeding of our prairie garden. More discussion will occur regarding what it will become in the future (walk ways, benches, size, etc).
- A new compressor for the building heating system will be installed. The old one has been chugging along way too long.
- Snow removal sign up has been posted. As with many other things, we struggle to get volunteers for this. K & B currently clears snow when there is more than 1". Volunteers clear the walks when it snows 1" or less. Volunteers sign up for a one week commitment. Depending on involvement, we may be in a position to ask K & B to do all the snow removal causing a significant increase in costs.
- Rich Zeman made a motion to change two session meetings due to calendar conflicts. Move from January 8, 2020 to January 15 and move September 9, 2020 to September 16.
- Session needs to revise Grace Manual of Operations (previously Session bylaws) for each committee.
- Session approved the 2020 budget. A congregational meeting will be December 15th.
- Next regular meeting of the session: Wednesday December 11, 2019 at 6:00 pm.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p>  <p>8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship – Communion 10:30a Illuminating Advent Class 10:40a Sunday Classes Confirmation Class to Pres House Madison</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30a Senior Coffee 6:00p Worship Committee 6:30p Red Kettle Concert Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:45a Meditation</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:00p Men’s Study Group 4:00p Christian Ed Meeting 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship 10:30a Illuminating Advent Class 10:40a Sunday Classes 5:00p Confirmation Class 4:00p Red Kettle Concert at BDHS</p>	<p>9</p> <p>January Newsletter Deadline 5:00p Stewardship Committee</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00a Second Tuesday Book Club 9:30a Senior Coffee</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:45a Meditation 1:30p Charleston House Communion 6:00p Session Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30a Christmas Brunch at Pat Lyon’s home 1:00p Men’s Study Group 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30-11a Gracie’s Closet</p> 
<p>15</p>  <p>8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a A Service of Christmas Music / Congregational Meeting 10:30a Illuminating Advent Class 10:40a Sunday Classes 1:00p Christmas Caroling! 5:00p Confirmation Class</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>1:30p Hillside Manor Communion</p>	<p><i>Courier</i> 17</p> <p>9:30a Senior Coffee</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:45a Meditation 6:30p Personnel Committee</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:00p Men’s Study Group 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30-11a Christmas Program Rehearsal</p> 
<p>22</p>  <p>9:30a Worship – Children’s Christmas Program “UnFrozen” 10:30a Illuminating Advent Class 10:30a Birthday Party for Jesus! 2:00 – 4:00p Christmas Fellowship Open House at Pastor Davis’s Home</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00p Blue Christmas Worship Service</p>  <p>Blue Christmas</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>5:00p Worship with Children’s Message - Communion 7:00p Lessons & Carols - Communion CHRISTMAS EVE</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Merry Christmas</p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>  <p>9:30a Worship – Hymn Sing 10:40a Sunday Classes</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30a Senior Coffee</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>