

Real. Faith. Living Hope.

December 2020/January 2021
The BAGPIPE

*The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness did not overcome it.*

John 1:5

As we approach winter's edge, this year's change in season seems to be only amplified by the pandemic we face. As the virus spreads ever further and draws ever closer, so too does the darkness, full of loneliness and suffering, death and mourning, scarcity and anxiety, fear and division.

It's in the midst of that darkness that we fix ourselves on the hope of our savior, Jesus Christ. In the infant born in a lowly manger, crucified on a cross and risen from the grave, we know the One who has broken in and redeemed our lives will bring his work to completion as sure as his light shines in the darkness.

And the need to share that light could not be more acute.

By now, I hope you have heard of the all-ages Advent/Christmas Bags that are being provided for all who request them in our church family (see next page) if you haven't signed up for one, I urge you to do so today. It's only \$5 to defray the cost, and the shared experience is worth so much more.

But in this time of darkness that will bring so much isolation on Dec. 24, it's my guess that there's at least one person or household in each of our respective circles for whom the celebration of Christ's birth and the hope it brings would be especially meaningful and appreciated this year. Can you help share the hope?

If you're willing to deliver it, simply register for an additional Advent/Christmas Bag, using the appropriate field to indicate who and how many will be receiving the gift, and it will be ready for you when you pick up your own. The cost of the bag will be covered with an allocation from the Andrews Evangelism Fund.

There is no doubt that everyone's Christmas will be different this year. Regardless of what it looks like or where it takes place, may it be our joy to share the enduring truth that we celebrate in the birth of Jesus Christ, our light that *forever* shines in the darkness.

Your partner in ministry,

Share your Photos

We want to see your creativity!

Share photos of your Advent Bag activities

Facebook
@fpcholt

Email
office@fpc-holt.org



Real. Faith. Living Hope.

FPC Holt

2021 N. Aurelius Rd.
517-694-8151

www.fpc-holt.org

2020

Advent Bag

First Presbyterian Church
of Holt

DEVOTIONAL

This year's Advent devotional's theme is "Let There be Color". It includes scripture, journal reflections, and a coloring page for each day.

COMMUNION ELEMENTS

Save your communion elements for the Christmas Eve service.

GIVING

Your pledge cards have been included for 2021 as well as the Christmas Joy Offering envelopes.



"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

John 1:5

Content Guide

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

SKY LANTERNS

Save your sky lanterns for the Christmas Eve service. They will play an important role as we share Christ's light with the world!

CYANOGRAPHS

Cyanographs are an old way of developing film and making blueprints, but we're using the technique reflect upon Christ's light in our lives. Follow the instructions from our very own, Cheryl Gamber.



ORIGAMI NATIVITY

Each week, we'll be folding a new figure in the origami nativity set. By the end of Advent, the scene will be set. Make sure you tune-in to the children's sermon to know which figure to fold.

ADVENT CANDLES

Each week, a new candle will be lit at the beginning of worship and you'll be invited to add it to your growing nativity scene. Save the taller white candle for Christmas Eve!

Advent/Christmas Bag Sign-Up!

For this year's socially-distanced Advent and Christmas celebrations, our Congregational Life and Worship Committees are preparing Advent bags for everyone in the church who is interested. Bags will cost \$5 each and contain:

1. devotional coloring books for all ages
2. this year's congregation-wide Advent liturgical art project "Light in the Darkness"
3. resources to prepare your own Advent candle display and keepsake Nativity scene at home
4. Candles, communion elements and a sky lantern for Christmas Eve

In order to prepare the right quantity in time for Advent, [please click here](#) to request yours TODAY.

NOTE: Because production is a "just-in-time" process, please watch your email for notice of when your bag is in the cloister cabinet and ready to be picked up. Thanks!

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Please note that the church office will be closed on:

Dec. 25

Dec. 31

Jan. 1

Jan. 18

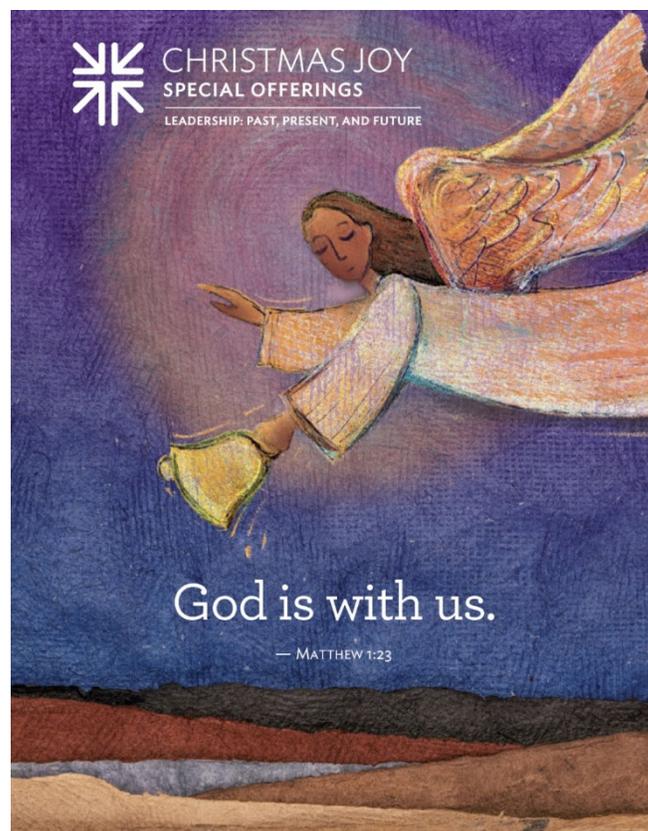


2020 Poinsettias: Order by Dec. 11!

Flowers in honor or memory of someone special in your life (or simply as a gift) can be ordered now through Dec. 11 by [using the form at this link](#). Plants are \$10 each and they will be white in gold foil pots this year.

Plants will be available for your Sanctuary at Home after Christmas Eve through pick-ups pre-arranged with the church office or through our new Deacon-led ministry of the "Presbyterian Flyers" (they make deliveries to your house!).

Any remaining plants will be on display during FPC-Holt Livestream through the celebration of Epiphany on January 3.



THE FPC-HOLT 2020 ADVENT THEME IS "LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS." While our Christmas Eve services will be necessarily distant and different this year, it is our hope to make them as meaningful and inclusive as ever.

We need your help! And we need it fast! (Deadline is next Sunday at midnight!)

Our music staff is creating multiple virtual choir videos for the celebration and would like to feature "live action" shots of each of you to go along with the beautiful music of our choir. We've given you some ideas below, and the idea is to capture the moments of light in the darkness that each of us creates individually – so that we can unite the individual pictures as if we're all sharing the moment together.

Find your phone and find a couple of photos this week to help us capture the essence of this most holy of nights as the *one* body of Christ, shining his light to the world!



Christmas Eve Video Production

Thanks for being willing to help connect our congregation as we celebrate the birth of our savior!

If using a phone to make your recordings, please frame your picture in "landscape mode" (horizontal rectangle, □) instead of a portrait frame (⊠). Simply start the video a few seconds before your target moment and film a few seconds after it's over as well.

All recordings may be uploaded to: <https://bit.ly/3mqliWo>, emailed to office@fpc-holt.org, texted to (517) 231-4609, brought into the office on a card or stick, or, if you prefer to use Drop-Box, iCloud or any other service, that's ok too – just let us know. Regardless of the method, all video must be received by Dec. 6.

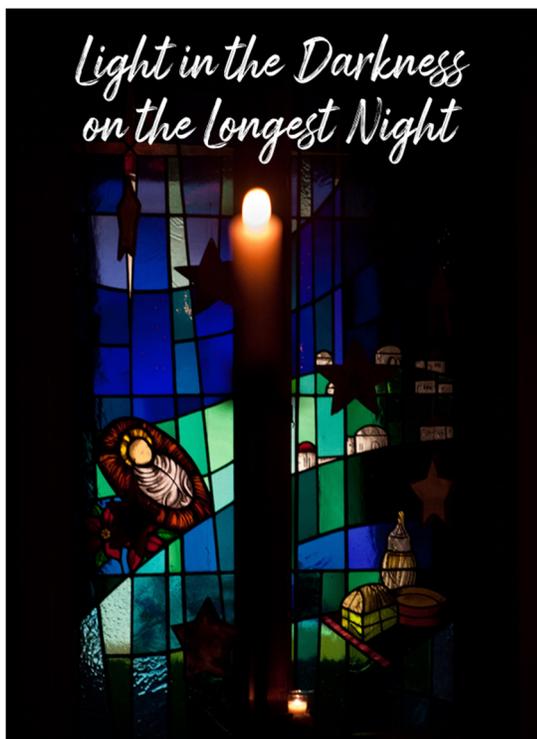
The basic idea is to capture moments of lights coming on in the darkness, such as:

- Lighting the Christ candle from your Sanctuary at Home
- A close-up shot of you lighting any candle or turning on a light
- A close up shot of a Christmas tree being turned on in the dark
- A full shot of your house in the dark as your outdoor Christmas lights are turned on
- A recording of your front door as the porch light is lit

For those who have Advent/Christmas Bags (or a different advent wreath you're using), we welcome clips of:

- Lighting your Christ Candle
- Lighting the 4 advent candles (maybe in the midst of your origami nativity?) and then the Christ candle. (Hint: for those who have never done it before, the first two Advent candles are purple, the pink candle is for the third Sunday, the fourth candle is purple again, and then the white candle is for Christmas Eve.)
- Lighting your Christmas Eve candles (candles in a cup) from the Christ candle and passing it to the members of your household

In addition to uploading them to the Google drive, if you're willing, please also post them on the FPC-Holt Prayers and Posts Facebook page. You'll be inspiring others to share the light!



Longest Night, Dec. 21

Our time of prayer and meditation on the Longest Night will necessarily look different this year as it will be a livestream service on Zoom. The service will begin at 7pm and breakout rooms will be available for those who wish to meet and pray with someone separately.

Christmas Eve on the FPC-Holt Livestream

These descriptions of the services are intended to sound very familiar as we'll do our best to extend the love and warmth of our church sanctuary to your Sanctuary at Home with two distinct Christmas Eve services.

7:00pm

Intended for all ages (but especially those with early bedtimes) with candlelight, Scripture and music from our Chancel Choir, Ringers of the Kirk and special Christmas Ensemble, we gather from afar to celebrate the Christmas story as we build the nativity scene in each of our sanctuaries.

10:00pm

In the candlelit sanctuary of your home, through the preaching of the Word, celebration of the Sacrament and additional music from our virtual choirs, we welcome the Christ-child into our hearts - and bear his light to the world!

If you have not yet placed an order for your Advent/Christmas Bag to enhance your worship at home, [click here](#) to order one by December 20.

FPC-Holt

Congregational Meeting

Nov. 8, 2020

Here are some highlights of the Congregational/ Corporation Meeting:

- Elder Paul Schmidt provided an update on our 2021 stewardship campaign and pledges received to date
- Members voted to approve the 2021 Terms of Call for Rev. Miller and Rev. Rumbaugh.
- The congregation approved the Nominating Committee's recommendation to elect
 - Nancy Coppernoll, Kara Fisher, Mike Malone, Steve Pingston and Lazara Stanfel to a 3-year term as elders;
 - Mike Carr and Ellen Parrott to a two-year term as elders;
 - and Audra Carr, Zach Fisher, Cherry Hill, Thomas Malone and David Sizoo to a 3-year term as deacons.
- The Nominating Committee will continue its work to select next year's Nominating Committee members at-large for presentation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in February.
- HUGE thanks to our 2020 Nominating Committee: Mavis Edwards, Beth Gleason, Heidi Hill, Sharon Neal, Paul Schmidt, Lazara Stanfel and Mona Tropf.

The 2021 Per Capita is \$35.23

Beyond our giving to the specific missions of our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, we give a designated amount for each of our members (a.k.a. "per capita") to those same organizations, to support the administrative costs of those organizations who support our ministries in so many ways.



Stewardship 2021

Thank you to all who have responded so generously and faithfully to our 2021 Stewardship Campaign with your ongoing pledge to the ministry of FPC-Holt. For those who utilize giving envelopes, we will be offering 3 options for a "touch-free" distribution this year. Contact the church office if interested in either.

1. Simply order an Advent/Christmas Bag and we'll include it alongside all the other supplies that proclaim your faith
2. Door delivery through our Presbyterian Flyer ministry (deacons who volunteer to make deliveries)
3. United States Postal Service

Of course, you're welcome to pick them up yourself at the church as well. Just let us know and we'll leave yours on the shelf above the mailboxes.

FPC-Holt's Seminarian: Heather Thum-Gerber!



Greetings Church Family!

The pendulum swinging between joy and sorrow feels to be moving through its motions faster these days. There are moments of breath-taking excitement; yet, just as quickly moments of despair. I experienced moments of grief and regret when the news broke that the remainder of my second year in seminary would be online. That moment of disappointment dissipated as I had the opportunity to preach my first sermon at South Frankfort Presbyterian Church from the "pulpit" of my desk at home

on Reformation Sunday (above). It was a gift to know that the faithful are still gathering after months away from the church building and that we are reforming how to do worship in such a time as this. There is heartbreak in not being able to meet the congregation I am serving now, but at the same time through my leading an adult Bible study on Zoom I have confirmed my sense of call to specialize in Christian Education. I felt anxiety over my ordination exams; yet, have currently passed all three I have taken with flying colors. And the pendulum keeps on swinging.

I'm guessing many are feeling this same kind of perpetual swing. This motion over the past couple of months has taught me to be kind to myself and those around me. In all likelihood we are all experiencing the same pattern of highs and lows; however, our syncing may be different. It was out of this kindness for self that early in the semester I decided to switch my classes to pass/fail. I'm still submitting A-level work, but I'm not allowing stress to build over arbitrary grades.

Over this past month, I've spent some time organizing the Presbyterian Student group on campus in partnership with the General Presbyter of the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery which has been a great opportunity to connect with the larger church. My family and I recently went on a weekend adventure to Cumberland Falls (also known as the Niagara of the South) to explore the beauty of God's creation as we are all trying our best to find peace.

The words that have stuck with me the most during this time come from none other than Fred Rogers. "Anything that's human is mentionable, and anything that is mentionable can be more manageable." I hope you all are finding ways to mention your experiences of this time in ways that are helpful and bring you closer to the One who longs to hear from you. I miss you all and pray for your safety and wellbeing.

Peace in Christ, Heather



Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Mitchell Eithun, Ringers of the Kirk

Suggested reading: Psalm 137, Lamentations, Isaiah 61

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12:1)

In August, Cera and I met on Zoom to select music for Christmas Eve. We have been slowly working on this music throughout the fall to be able to produce meaningful videos for online worship. After creating “back-tracks” to guide the recording process, our instrumentalists, handbell ringers, singers and narrators submit video clips on Google Drive. You could say that we are surrounded by so great a *cloud of virtual witnesses!*

This verse from Hebrews takes new meaning in our time. Much of our life has been moved to the cloud, the vast computer architecture that holds up the internet. It’s a strange place to live and it has been a *race*. I am inspired by the way our church (and many others) have adapted to an online format, but it is also exhausting. We have a new phrase for it: “Zoom fatigue.”

One of our most beloved songs for this season begins: *O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.* The Old Testament tells the story of how the political and religious structures of Israel came crashing down after a foreign nation invaded and led the people into slavery. Their traditions, culture and history were destroyed. “How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations!” (Lam 1:1) The scriptures attest to the human reality of deep pain and loss. Like the Israelites, we mourn in *our* lonely exile, lamenting sickness and political upheaval.

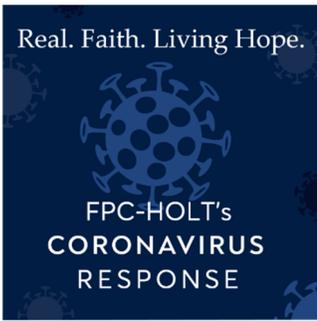
And yet, the Son of God will appear! God comes into a broken and divided world and offers his life for us! God comes to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. *Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you O, Israel!* I hope you can join us for worship on Christmas Eve as we present “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” and as we rejoice in the coming of our God.

Meijer Triple Match Days Return!

Just in time for the holidays, Meijer is selling Simply Give cards in all of its stores through Jan. 2. But the best news is that *Triple match days* will be here in December!



From now until then, we’re taking orders for \$10 Simply Give cards — [click here](#) to make your pledge. Then, on Dec. 12 (the “triple day”), we’ll take our pooled resources to the Meijer in Mason and buy as many cards as we can. For each \$10 we spend, Meijer will match it with \$20 and the Holt Community Food Bank receives the bounty!



Pandemic Food Drive

Here's the Need:

- Throughout the pandemic, Holt Public Schools has been serving hundreds of families every week, but will not be able to do so during Christmas break
- The Holt Community Food Bank will be closed for a remodel at the same time

Here's the Solution:

- In partnership with Holt Public and the Food Bank, FPC-Holt is sponsoring a community-wide Pandemic Food Drive and Distribution
- Non-perishable donations will be received from now until Christmas Eve (see list that follows)
- One distribution will take place on 12/18 at Holt High School, one on 12/28 at FPC-Holt

Here's Our Part:

- Sorting and packing all the food delivered to the fellowship hall

Here's the Challenge:

- COVID
- In order to make this as safe as possible, all packing and sorting must be done in isolation by individuals or single households
- Beginning 11/27 there will be 1.5 hour shifts available to be reserved by individuals or households to sort and pack in the fellowship hall following all COVID mitigation protocols, [click here to reserve your shift\(s\)](#)
- The Food Drive team of Linda Cwiek, Gail Spitz, Gena Sizoo, Susan Brown and Diana Stubig already have an organizational plan that will make your contribution of time as **safe**, easy and efficient as it is meaningful

Here's the gift:

- Being able to be with our neighbor in need, shining a light in the darkness, celebrating the Emmanuel-truth that God Is with Us!

Thank you to the faces of "Real. Faith. Living Hope"

If you've watched any news clips showing miles of cars waiting for food, maybe you've imagined what it would be like in that position. Or, for some of us, we imagine being one of the volunteers loading up the trunks with food.

Fortunately, our food crisis isn't miles long but it can be a steady stream of cars with the same need: food for themselves and their families. And thanks to the Food Bank, FPC-Holt was able to meet their needs last spring, summer and most of the fall.

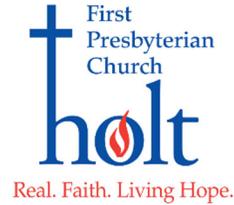
Throughout that time, Linda Cwiek, Gena Sizoo and Gail Spitz were the volunteers who stepped out of the newsclips and into action – bagging up food on Tuesdays and Thursday and then hefting them into trunks as people drove up to our doors.

When you get a chance text or email a thanks to them – or give thanks to God in our prayer chat on Sundays that we see the real faith of our members meeting vital needs with living hope!



Neighbors Helping Neighbors Pandemic Food Drive

November 23-December 24
Sponsored by



Collection Centers

Holt High School Main Campus (outside main doors)
8am-2pm until 12/17

Holt High School North Campus (outside door 29)
8-4:30 until 12/17

First Presbyterian Church of Holt 2021 N. Aurelius
9-5pm until 12/24

Distributions

12/18 Holt High School Main Campus from 11am-1pm

12/28 First Presbyterian Church of Holt from 3-6pm

Requested Donations

Canned stew	Oatmeal	Dried beans	Fruit snacks
Canned tuna	Canned vegetables	Dry milk	Granola bars
Canned chicken	Canned fruit	Canned pasta meals	Pringles
Crackers	Dry pasta	Hamburger Helper	Baking mix
Ramen noodles	Canned soup	Tuna Helper	Cake mix
Mac n cheese	Rice	Tortillas	Canned frosting
Cereal	Canned beans	Muffin mix	Bread mix
Granola	Boxed rice or pasta side dishes	Individual apple sauce cups	Cookie mix

Please no glass containers • Please no bags of food that would be crushed easily • Please no peanut butter, peanuts or tree nuts



Dear Friends of ACT:

Residents in the U. S. and in Muko Sub-County have been working together now for over 15 years and so much has been accomplished. And in 2020, a year like no other, many of you have come through to help minimize health effects and keep spirits uplifted. In the U.S., donations came through to help with emergency supplies of food and personal care items,

and our HEAL team has worked hard educating residents of Muko Sub-County regarding hygiene and COVID avoidance strategies. In Uganda, the women of MEP sewed hundreds of face masks for the community and the ACT Staff worked with local government on distribution of masks and the donated food and personal hygiene supplies, and also worked with local radio stations to help disseminate helpful hygiene guidelines. It's great to be part of such a caring group of individuals.



And while we share this information with you on a regular basis, it's sometimes hard to actually understand the impact that your caring provides. Below is the very personal story of Phoebe Atukwase. Phoebe is our ACT MEP (handcraft program) Sewing Quality Inspector in Uganda. Her story is as follows ...



Phoebe was born on February 23, 1985, in Matakara, Ikamiro Parish. She is married and her family is blessed with two boys and a one girl. She joined MEP In 2015 when she was sought for recruitment because of her sewing skills. She had high hopes that she would acquire more skills from the American sewing experts who were training MEP sewers during their Team visit to ACT.

After the training, she attained more sewing skills and from that time on she has been able to create many sewn crafts including stuffed animals, place mats, table runners, draw-string bags, bags for walkers, aprons, crib mobiles, African dolls and washable sanitary pads. When ACT Management developed an idea of appointing quality inspectors for all the MEP departments, Phoebe was unanimously chosen as the quality inspector for sewers because of her unequalled art. She was quoted *"I feel privileged for that honor that was bestowed on me and appreciate the allowance that I receive each time I sit with the sewers to evaluate the sewn crafts"*.

Due to the outbreak of COVID 19, Phoebe, together with other sewers, have been engaged in making face masks. They learned the art of making face masks by studying the design that was shared by their ACT US partners. Phoebe said making these masks has been a great benefit to her. In addition to being a source of income, the mask-making skills she obtained also now allow her to make her own masks for sale – another source of income.

With the funds that she has earned from Sewing with ACT, Phoebe was able to purchase three sheep that produced others. She sold some and used the money to buy home utensils and supplemented

their family income. She has recently started a rabbit project and currently has nine rabbits. Additionally, both the rabbits and sheep have provided the family with manure to improve on the fertility of their soils/ gardens.

Phoebe's message to all the people who will get an opportunity to read her story is that everybody should be patient while learning new ideas. She says that when the sewing program began there were many women who were not patient enough. They left because they didn't want to keep trying to reach the required quality standards the crafts would have to meet. But those who persevered are appreciative of the benefits that they have so far gained from the MEP sewing program.

Phoebe says that she has the enthusiasm to continue serving this ministry as a sewer and as a quality inspector for all the time that this program exists.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about just one of the individuals in Muko Sub-County who benefits from ACT. With Thanksgiving coming soon, we give thanks for all of you and for the opportunity to work with such a great group of people - here and in Uganda. And as is the custom lately here in the U. S., the Tuesday after Thanksgiving is designated Giving Tuesday. As you are making your lists and giving thanks, we ask that you please keep us in mind. Visit our website (actuganda.org) for more information on how you can help. THANK YOU!



Christmas Shopping in Uganda!

After worship on Dec. 6, you have the chance to shop "in Uganda" with a special Zoom showroom of crafts, sewn items, fair trade coffee and chocolate (click here for the Zoom link).

Presented like a QVC, all of the items you buy will be delivered to your home during the following week (Dec. 7-10) and payment (check or cash) will be received at that time.

Proceeds will go back to support the craftspeople and their families.



30 Day Mustard Seed Challenge

“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20)

God can use even a small act of faith to create a large impact on you and on your world.

This ongoing contribution to the Bagpipe by one of our members, is a call to see the world through the lens of scripture – a verse or two at a time.

“Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Heb. 4:12)

When you are obedient to the Bible’s words of wisdom, it can help change your heart and mind.

It is common belief that a new habit takes 30 days to create. So – if you MEMORIZE one verse of scripture AND accept the challenge to APPLY it every day, what changes will happen in your life and in the world around you? This is your invitation to take this 30-day challenge and see what God will do with your Mustard Seed of Faith.



Fruit of the Spirit – Peace

Memory Verse: John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.”

Thoughts:

“Peace” is described as a state of tranquility, quiet, and harmony. That certainly is not a description of the community, nation, or world where we reside. One has only to tune into media to hear about all the reasons we have to be angry or afraid... to say nothing of our own issues. It is abundantly clear that we need to protect the gift of peace that Jesus gave us from the consistent threats of fear and worry we face. Jesus warned us about this world: “I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world.” (John 16:33) And Jesus’ prayer at the end of his life here on earth reminds us that we “do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.” (John 17:16) Because of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, we belong to God. John 1:12-13 says “to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave the power to become the children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12-13) Ephesians 1:13 tells us “In him also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;” meaning that we are sealed by and belong to God. We need to live as a member of God’s family and trust that God will guide and care for us. Remind and immerse yourself in the blessings you have been given. Connect with God daily in prayer and receive the comfort and peace that only God can give. Read scripture. Communicate with your other brothers and sisters in the faith. Participate in church activities as you can. Peace resides in the sense of belonging and trusting that the power and authority of our God reigns in this world and the next. “Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

Challenge:

Memorize John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid." This is the season of celebrating Jesus' birth. He was born into a different century but it was also a world in turmoil, longing for peace. of world turmoil, but the world is always in turmoil, since "the whole world lies under the power of the evil one." (1 John 5:19). For this Advent season, be intentional about being a member of the family of God. Let it be a rebirth of Jesus into your life in a new way. Pray and think about what draws you closer to God and your family in Christ. Do you attend church tune into worship on the livestream each Sunday? Do you connect with God through daily prayer? Do you read the Bible to learn more about what it means to be part of your faith family? Do you serve in ways that care for others? During this season, cultivate habits will bring more peace to your heart and peace on earth.

Prayer:

Oh Faithful God, you are the giver of life, author of my being, and you love me more than I can ever understand. I know I need to be more faithful in being with you and letting your love warm my heart, nourish my spirit, and direct my path. It is inside the circle of your love that I feel the calming peace and knowledge that no matter what happens, I am your child, sealed by your Spirit, and you will always be with me. Help me to be the instrument in your hand, that I may shine your light to others that they may see your love and find the peace that passes all understanding that can only come from being a beloved child in your family. Let there be peace in this blessed season of Advent and may I do my part to be God's your peacemaker. I pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Ideas for implementing the Mustard Seed Challenge and making it work in your life:

- When memorizing the verse, go at your own pace. Write it on a sticky note and put it where you will see it daily. Break it into segments. Repetition is the key. Give yourself time and grace.
- Begin a Mustard Seed Journal where you write the memory verse and what you discover about yourself as you implement it in your life. Set some reasonable goals for yourself in order to meet the challenge and record your journey of growth.
- Ask someone to do the challenge with you as a prayer and accountability partner. Share with each other the challenges that you have as you implement the Bible verse into your daily life. Encourage and pray for each other.
- Begin with smaller goals – like creating certain time segments where you concentrate on the challenge; then add more time segments. Or concentrate on how you think about one area (like yourself) first – then expand it to other areas in your life.

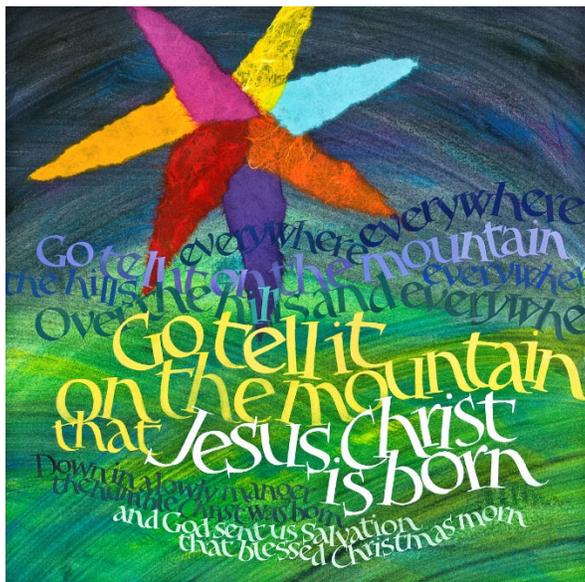
WINTER BIRTHDAYS

- 2-Dec Jean Seward
- 3-Dec Tina Croley, Emma Kandler, Kara Fisher
- 4-Dec Steve Weinberger
- 7-Dec Bob Darbor
- 8-Dec Katie Youatt
- 9-Dec Derek Fratzke
- 10-Dec Scott Harvey, Aaron Rustem
- 11-Dec Jesus Mendez
- 12-Dec Betty Holmer
- 13-Dec Audra Carr
- 15-Dec Zachary Rathbun
- 16-Dec Jim Stewart, Heather Gerber
- 19-Dec Mark Polzin, Sandy Smucker
- 22-Dec Jim Tropf
- 25-Dec Lee Parks, Lazara Aragon Stanfel, Susan Land
- 26-Dec Lyndsay Bowling
- 27-Dec Nancy Brock, Nicholas Bet, Ophelia Plotnick
- 28-Dec Brianna Rupert
- 29-Dec Dorothy Westerhof, Henry Guzzo
- 30-Dec Ben Brand
- 1-Jan Paw Hser, Tha Mee Nger, Steve Akright
- 2-Jan Andy Ingraham, James Horgen, Matthew Hetrick
- 5-Jan Bob Brown
- 7-Jan John Rudd
- 8-Jan Madeline LaFond
- 9-Jan Sara Bet, Melissa Harvey
- 10-Jan Matt & Ben Lyth, Sophie Miller, Susan Celsor
- 11-Jan Breanna Carr, Phil Knapman, Thomas Heilman, Theran Lloyd
- 12-Jan Pamela Brown
- 14-Jan Charlee Woodward
- 15-Jan Paul Schmidt, Rob Woodward
- 17-Jan Lori Weismantel
- 18-Jan Annika Hultin, McKenna Sutterlin
- 21-Jan Clementine Horgen
- 25-Jan Allison Bodell
- 26-Jan Cathy Rauchholz, Teresa Larson, Lexi Guardiola
- 28-Jan Kathleen Goodrich, Kristin Lindeen
- 29-Jan Roger Stubig
- 30-Jan Lois Furry
- 31-Jan January Paw

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/3 Tim & Christine Heilman
- 12/6 Steven & Kim Lyth
- 12/7 Denis & Betsy Zietlow
- 12/13 Leo & Judy Holmes
- 12/16 Andy Ingraham & Beth Gleason
- 12/18 Heather & Tim Gerber
- 12/18 Paul & Lois Schmidt
- 12/20 Derek & Flor Fratzke
- 12/28 Tom & Beth Byerley
- 1/6 Matt & Allison Turner
- 1/15 David & Gena Sizoo
- 1/28 Stuart & Kathleen Goodrich





First Presbyterian Church of Holt

We are an ordinary people, welcoming all into our family
of faithful worship,

compassionate service and
love for our extraordinary God!

Rich in tradition, yet open to the leading of the Spirit...

We believe that by the power of the Holy Spirit,
the transforming love of Jesus Christ
is working through us to do the unimaginable!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of HOLT
2021 N. Aurelius Rd.
Holt, MI 48824

Address Service Requested