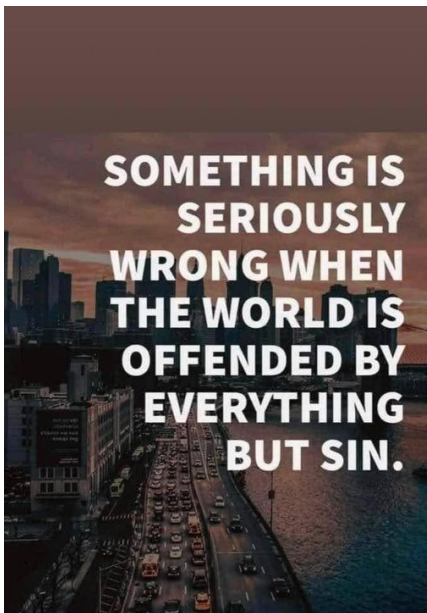




The Twelve Days of Christmas



For those who are not aware, the 12 days of Christmas, or more accurately, of Christmastide, are the twelve days from Christmas Day to January 5, including those days. The song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," which is usually sung in the days leading up to Christmas, is a song that tradition says was a tool to teach Catholic children some of the tenets of the faith. The humorous song's purpose would go undetected by those who were severely persecuting the church and forbidding teaching Biblical truth. Therefore each day's gift had a symbolic meaning. For example, the partridge in a pear tree, symbolizes Jesus on the cross.

Today, January 3, is the tenth day of Christmas. In the song, the gift is **Ten Lords A-leaping**. In the days when the song was written it was the local Lords who established the laws in their own jurisdictions. From a symbolic point of view, the "Ten Lords" stand for the Ten Commandments recorded in Exodus 20.3-17. Although

there are 613 laws recorded in the first five books of the Old Testament, the Ten Commandments are the first ones and are lifted up of foremost importance. Although it is not prudent for us as Christ followers to expect non-Christians or non-Jews even, to accept the first four commandments which address loving God, it is reasonable to expect them to follow the remaining six which address ways we are to love others, beginning with honoring our parents. But, even these laws seem to fall on deaf ears. And so, the saying in the graphic is so true.

But as Jesus taught us, we need to examine ourselves, even before we examine or try to help others with their sin. Where do we stand on the Ten Commandments and on the commands in general to love God and to love others. The two are linked together reminding us that it is nearly impossible to do one without doing the other. If we do not love God, it is hard to fully love others. If we are not loving others, we are not loving God.

And so, on this tenth day of Christmastide, let us receive with rejoicing the gift of the ten lords a-leaping, the Ten Commandments and the whole law of God. But let us also pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct us as we seek to be obedient to them in all that we do and say.

Prayer & Praises



- Jen Miles called to let us know that Pam Smith has passed away. Please keep her family in your prayers.
- Joyce Wagaman who asked for prayer for her sister who is in Hershey Medical ICU called to ask us to pray again for a heart procedure her sister is having done.
- Please continue to pray for Ginny Stiffler to recuperate quickly from salmonella poisoning.
- Galen & Marilyn Julius shared a praise that Frances Kunkle (Marilyn's mother) was able to attend the family Christmas gathering. Please continue to pray for her however as she isn't doing well with her congestive heart failure.
- Darlene Snelbaker requested prayer for Karen who had surgery on Tuesday. Please pray for quick healing and recovery.
- Carol McKinley requested prayer for Mary Stover who has anxiety and restlessness and doesn't want to be alone.
- Tammy Thompson requested prayer for Brenda Eisenhower who is having an outpatient procedure on Friday for her right hip. Please pray this procedure is successful and relieves some of her pain that is going down her leg.
- Kathleen shared a praise that we delivered 200 bags of cookies to Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry. Last year they gave out over 100,000 cookies.
- Sue Deardorff requests prayer for Bob Deardorff who has an illness that doctors have not been able to diagnose and that he is very weak.
- Pam Miller has a praise that her biopsy came back benign.
- Brett & Pam have a praise that Vicki Miller came home from the hospital on Thursday. She will be doing physical therapy 3 times a week. Thank you for all the prayers.
- Please keep the Seroskie family in your prayers as Doug Seroskie who had a stroke and was in surgery for 2 brain bleeds was determined to not have brain function, so he was moved for organ harvest.
- Please pray for Marilyn Julius' mother Francis Kunkle is in the hospital with congestive heart failure.
- Please pray for Victor Riddle, he was having excruciating pain on Christmas Day.

Ongoing Health Concern Prayers

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| *Kathy McWilliams | *Sarah Sabold (Smeltzer) | *Ken Warren | *Mary Fisher |
| *Alyssa Leakway | *Gloria Gerber | *Missy Braden | *Bryce Baublitz |
| *Julie Waggoner | *Bill Barley | *Brandon Little | *Derek Meck |
| *Josh (Bonnie Tyson's Grandson) | *Ruth Cook | *Victor Riddle | *Mark Lipsitz |

Cancer Special Prayers

- | | | | |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| *Julia McCartney | *Greg & Sandy George | *Butch Warren's brother | *Ted Erb (Traci Kauffman family) |
| | *Kathy McWilliams brother-in-law Phillip | *Tom Kimmel | *Bob (Ron Engle, friend) |
| *Sandy Harlacker | *Ellie Basko | *Mark Yonker | *Keith Kauffman (Kerry Kauffman's brother) |
| *Jean Beck | *Donald Moore | *Butch Warren | |

CBC and CBC Region 3 Prayer Requests

Philippians 3:13-14: Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

In line with the CBC theme verses for 2023-24 printed above, pray that God will help us forget whatever needs to be left behind in 2023 and that He will enable each CBC Region, congregation, and member to press on toward the goals of knowing Jesus and making Him known in the New Year!

Please pray for the following congregations and pastors:

- Shalom Geita Congregation in Tanzania, with Pastor Fabian Ayubu Wirtiro.
- Samaria Congregation in Tanzania, with Pastor Jeram Masalim Alfluers.

Important Dates and INFORMATION

This week

Wednesday 1/3

*Life Group 6:30 pm

Sunday 1/7

*9 am Come Worship!

Tuesday 1/9

*Commission Meeting 6 pm

*Board Meeting 7 pm

Next Week

Wednesday 1/10

*Sisters Bible Study 9 am

*Life Group 6:30 pm

Saturday 1/13

*Holiday Dinner

Sunday 1/14

*9 am Come Worship!

*Widows/Widowers Luncheon Noon

You are Invited!

Women's Fellowship will be visiting with the Fruitbelt Farmworkers

Tuesday, January 30th at 5:30.

We will be taking them a small gift to take home to their wives and or moms or children. We will have a time of sharing, perhaps Bible study or having a message as well as some singing hopefully. We will be sharing dinner and dessert with them.

This group of workers will be returning to Honduras in March. We would love for more people men and women to come and join us! We do need to know however if you will be joining us. We will carpool from the church at 4:30. A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board. **RSVP by January 21.** Thank you for your consideration!

Wednesday
January 3rd
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
with Pastor Gary

Life Group

Studying:
The Book of Revelation

Holiday Dinner Saturday January 13th, 2024

5:30 pm at The Gathering Place

Catering by Hughes
Turkey/Ham – Stuffing/Gravy – Mashed
Potatoes – Corn – Green Beans –
Cranberry Relish – Desserts
Whispering Creek Bluegrass Band

Commission Meeting at 6 Pm
Board Meeting at 7 Pm
JANUARY 9TH

MEN'S BREAKFAST

NEXT MEETING
3rd Saturday each month
January 20th, 7 am
Dover Valley Restaurant

Widow and Widowers Luncheon

Sunday
January 14th
At Noon
At
Dover Valley
Restaurant

Please See Nancy
Smith to RSVP

SERVANT OUTREACH TEAM

In the sermons this past October and November we spent some time focusing on how we can outflow, overflow the marvelous blessings of God in Christ to those around us. As we closed that series I gave an invitation to the congregation to be a part of a team who would brainstorm ways that we could reach out to our community with the love of Christ. After some brainstorming, the team would then make the plans, solicit helpers and then implement the outreach ministry. The hope is that this will be an ongoing ministry. We hope many of you will be interested.

We are setting January 25 as the date to gather to begin to organize around this ministry. There will be a gathering at 10:00 AM and a gathering at 6:30 PM on that day.

A sign-up sheet will go up this week for individuals to sign-up for one or both of those times. On the sign-up there will also be a place for those who don't want to be on the team per se, but will be willing to be called on to help. Please, begin now to pray for God's leading in this.

Wednesdays
January 10th & January 24th
All the ladies are invited at
9 am in Shepherd's Hall

Sisters

A Bible Study for Women

The Servant Schedule for the new year is posted on the bulletin board. Please consider volunteering your time and talents by signing up! Thank you!

Nurture Commission

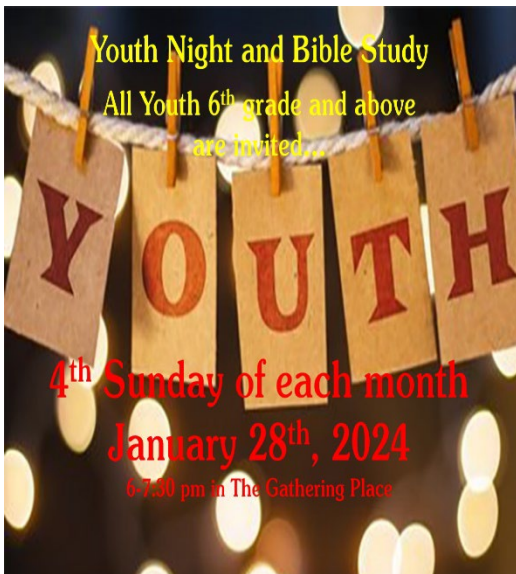
January

- 3 - Amy Staples
- 3 - Dave Titzell
- 5 - Trevor Rosenberry
- 6 - James Kauffman
- 6 - Charlotte Little
- 7 - Tina Good
- 8 - Hazel Gembe



Youth Night and Bible Study
All Youth 6th grade and above
are invited...

4th Sunday of each month
January 28th, 2024
6-7:30 pm in The Gathering Place



Directory Updates

Directories will be printed in early 2024. Please complete one of the forms and put it in the Secretary's mailbox. You can also email the office with the information you have to change.
bermudiansecretary@gmail.com

- Name
- Address
- Phone numbers (cell and/or home)
- Email
- Birthday
- Anniversary

time to
UPDATE



Happy Anniversary

January

9 - Mark & Liz Lipsitz