

THE HERALD

December 2020

The Gift of Christmas

Christmas is coming. Christmas is coming in spite of 2020. 'Matter of fact, ***because of the darkness*** of this drear year... the Light of Christmas is all the more bright and promising!

The gift of the Christmas scene was designed by God to be anything but ordinary. What happened in Bethlehem at that cow manger was not designed to put us in a holiday mood but rather to shake our souls and awaken our minds to a new Light....coming into the world.

When I was a child I thought like a child. I loved Christmas for the toys it brought. ...For the joy of being 'firstborn' and the authority that gave me entering the cedar scented living room at Triangle Ranch. Then, running to the tree, I viewed the splendid banquet of silver wrapped gifts for my siblings, parents, and grandmother. Still today....and maybe for you too, the golden memories of Christmas are lit 'round the recollection of children's smiles. And hopes. And joy!

Now that I am a man I have not put away all that hope and promise; my heart still glows with the light in children's eyes and the smiles on their red puckered cheeks. But it is tempered...

Tempered with the truth that God sent Heaven's only perfect son so we might embrace Jesus, the Gift sent into the trouble and turmoil of our lives to bring us true peace. Christmas comes not when we get excited over the dinners and tinsel, not because of the joy of receiving but, more than anything, because of how it changes us. *CHANGES* us...in our hearts...to see lasting joy which comes in justice for all. Finally, in the end, this is the only power to bring peace on earth.

Beloved, I wish for you this Christmas....all the best memories of yesteryear. But, more than anything, I wish you Hope, a hope that will never disappoint us, in the New Life to come.

Merry Christmas.
God is born...in our hearts!
Amen.

Jeff



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

08 – Scott Helvie
 09 – Jennifer Dierks
 12 – Piper Mason
 12 – Jemma Mason
 14 – Pris Kliewer
 16 – Barb Shaeffer
 17 – Bev Traudt
 20 – Earl Robinett



HERITAGE BIRTHDAY CLUB

Anyone may join or renew their membership in Heritage's Birthday Club. Donations (usually 1 dollar per year of life) is made to our endowment fund.

Please notify the church office if your birthday or anniversary was omitted or incorrect so we can make the necessary changes.

RANDOLPH PANTRY

If you have items for the Randolph pantry please leave them in the tote inside the back door. If you don't have access to the church for delivery let Ron know and he will meet you there. We need just about everything at the moment: cereal, soap, canned tomatoes, ramen, tuna, canned fruit, laundry soap, toothpaste, pasta sauce, canned vegetables, tooth brushes, mac & cheese, box potatoes, pasta, chicken, toilet paper, canned soup, cereal, peanut butter.

GOOD NEWS!

Congratulations to Earl Robinett on his new great-grandson! Pastor Jeff spoke with Earl and said that Earl sounds delighted and happy. He sends his best to all of you saints and his faith family.

REACH OUT TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

During this time of social isolation, please take a few minutes to pick up your phone and call members of our church family who are self-isolating to protect their health. Or send a card to let them know that someone is thinking of them.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School is ZOOMING! Age 3 through 5th grade are welcome to join us at 9:15 am on Sunday mornings for a 20-30 minute session. Please check the Facebook group for the Zoom meeting ID.

If you need the worksheets, please contact any Sunday School teacher or Leanne Miller (pip_pb@yahoo.com) to have them emailed to you.

PRESBYTERIANS TODAY ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Presbyterians Today Advent Devotionals are being published in an exclusively online format this year. They are available free at: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/advent2020/>

ADULT ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Starting November 29, Pastor Jeff will be hosting an Adult Advent Bible Study – check your emails for additional information and Zoom links. For questions, contact Pastor Jeff.

POINSETTIAS

For those of you that would like to make a donation towards Poinsettias honoring a loved one, please send the request and donation to the church. We will save your donation until we can get together again and purchase at that time. We will include the names during Christmas Eve service.

HAT & MITTEN DRIVE

Thank you to all who donated the mittens, gloves, and hats for the children of Randolph Elementary School. They will help keep the children warm during the cold and snowy winter weather! A very special "thank you" to Marilyn McDonald for the hand knitted items!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

As we sadly cannot be together in person, we decided that this year would be a fantastic opportunity to showcase the musical talents of our congregation outside of the choir! In addition to music performed by our dedicated Chancel Choir and exceptionally talented pianist/organist Pris Kliewer, we are looking for volunteers to submit performances of their own. Play the cello? Great! Secret clarinet virtuoso? Please, grace us with your talents! Duets/Trios/Quartets? The more the merrier! Contact Michael O'Brien for additional information.

SHARING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

Due to the pandemic, we have decided to make changes to our annual Christmas project. Instead of asking people to go shopping for presents for a local family or families, we are asking for gift cards. These cards will then be given to church members in need or given to Randolph School administration to distribute to families in need. Please drop off or mail donated gift cards to the church office. Thank you helping to share the joy of Christmas with others in our church and neighborhood!

FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS

Now that the days and nights are getting cold, don't forget your Fair Trade coffee and tea products! Tea, coffee, oil and/or chocolates are available for pick-up or delivery! Please call your order to either Karen Griffin Sieber (402-470-3669) or Pat Zink (402-560-0917). We will either deliver to your home or arrange a time for pick-up from the church office. The following products are available:

- Teas (\$2.50/box): Mint Green, English Breakfast, Irish Breakfast, Peppermint, Green tea with Ginger, Earl Grey, Chamomile, Chai
- Coffees: French Vanilla, Bright Day Brew, Toffee Caramel, Breakfast Blend, Love Buzz, French Roast (price varies \$6.50 - \$7.50)
- Chocolate bars: Dark chocolate minis (5/\$1)

THE PERFECT GIFT

One of the most powerful things that Christians claim is that God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift in response, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. **God's perfect gift -- Jesus Christ.**

During these past months, many of us weren't able to be together in person, but we have always been together in spirit, and in faith. We have missed seeing faces we love — up close and personal, but the physical distance has also revealed, for us, the importance of those things which bring us together, even when we are physically far apart.

We offer our gifts during this Advent Season to the Christmas Joy Offering because God shows us the power and importance of being together, of "being with." We might not be able to meet face to face with those who need the support that our gifts provide, but we are very much still together. We see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be together with them. And we see church workers who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist them — we are with them. We thank God for being "with us" through the gift of Jesus and for joining us together as the Church and, through our gifts, with those who have need.

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings. The donations from this Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs to retired church workers and to the Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges.

The Mission Committee has set a goal of \$500.00, so please give generously and joyously.

HERITAGE MAIL FROM OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Heritage Mission Committee,

Wow! What a wonderful surprise to find the “goodie” bag hanging on our back door after we returned from our doctor’s office visits.

We are still enjoying the contents; yummy on the little bars, popcorn and I love doing word search puzzles.

The avon hand cream is wonderful and I use it every day! (Wonder what it would do for my face wrinkles? Ha!)

Sorry our thank you is so late coming and bless you all – with love,

Sharon & Larry Baker

P.S. Thanks for the nice note that was included – it means a lot to us!

Heritage Church and Mission Committee:

Thank you SO MUCH, for the goodie bag! We love it and thank you for thinking of us! We are blessed!

Prayers!

Carolyn and Jim Pester

To whose who planned; to whose who shopped; to whose who delivered; my many thanks for the goodie sack and for remembering me.

Ilah Harmon

Mission Committee:

Just a “thank you” note. What a nice surprise! Such a great assortment of things. Thanks to all of you.

Patty Kouba

To Heritage Mission Committee:

Just wanted to thank you for the “goody bag.” It really brightened my day. Also want to thank all who sent me birthday cards. It made my 92nd birthday very special. Thank you and God Bless.

LaVerne Whitmarsh

Thank you so much for your generous monetary donation to the HFA home visiting program at the health department. During the current pandemic donations help now more than ever. Donations like yours help us support families in need of food, diapers, gas, and other basic needs. We truly value your ongoing support!

- The HFA Team

Heritage received a thank you note from Calvin Crest for a donation of \$300. *Thank you for this gift and including us in your mission giving this year. It is much appreciated.*

THE HERALD

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Heritage Presbyterian Church

880 South 35th Street

Lincoln, NE 68510-3499

402-477-3401

www.HeritagePres.org

**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**

December 25, 2020

Items received after this
date may not be included!

Heritage Presbyterian
 880 South 35th Street
 Lincoln, NE 68510
 402-477-3401
pastorheritagepc@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	30	1	2	3	4 10:30 AM Al-Anon	5
6 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	7	8	9	10	11 10:30 AM Al-Anon	12
13 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	14	15	16	17	18 10:30 AM Al-Anon	19
20 10:30 AM Worship	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service / Communion	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Deadline</i>	26
27 10:30 AM Worship	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	1 <i>New Year's</i> <i>Day</i>	2

Please refer to the online calendar for updated/changed events.