



DECEMBER



PeacePress

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

www.peaceucc.com

Volume 30, Issue 12

A Global Mission Church

December, 2017

Inside this Issue:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Pastor's Perspective | 2 |
| Schedule of Advent Events | 2 |
| Music Director | 3 |
| Hands On Christmas Luncheon | 3 |
| Advent Bible Study | 3 |
| December Missions of the Month | 4 |
| Women's Fellowship | 5 |
| Men's Fellowship Christmas Dinner | 5 |
| Welcome New Members | 6 |
| Peace Church Recipe Corner | 6 |
| PeaceCare Coping with Holidays | 7 |
| Kids' Activity Page | 8 |
| Prayer List, Birthdays, Financials | |

The mission of Peace United Church of Christ is to reach our community for Christ, develop disciples, and empower all people for ministry.

Peace United Church of Christ
 2714 W. Market St.
 Greensboro, NC 27403
 Phone 336-299-8663
 Fax 336-299-9730
 www.peaceucc.com

Church Email:
 peaceucc2714@gmail.com

STAFF

Rev. Tom Warren

Pastor

Direct Line 336-553-9730

Email:

reverendtom65@gmail.com

Ms. Elisabeth Penry

Minister of Music
and Organist

Mrs. Sherri Vestal

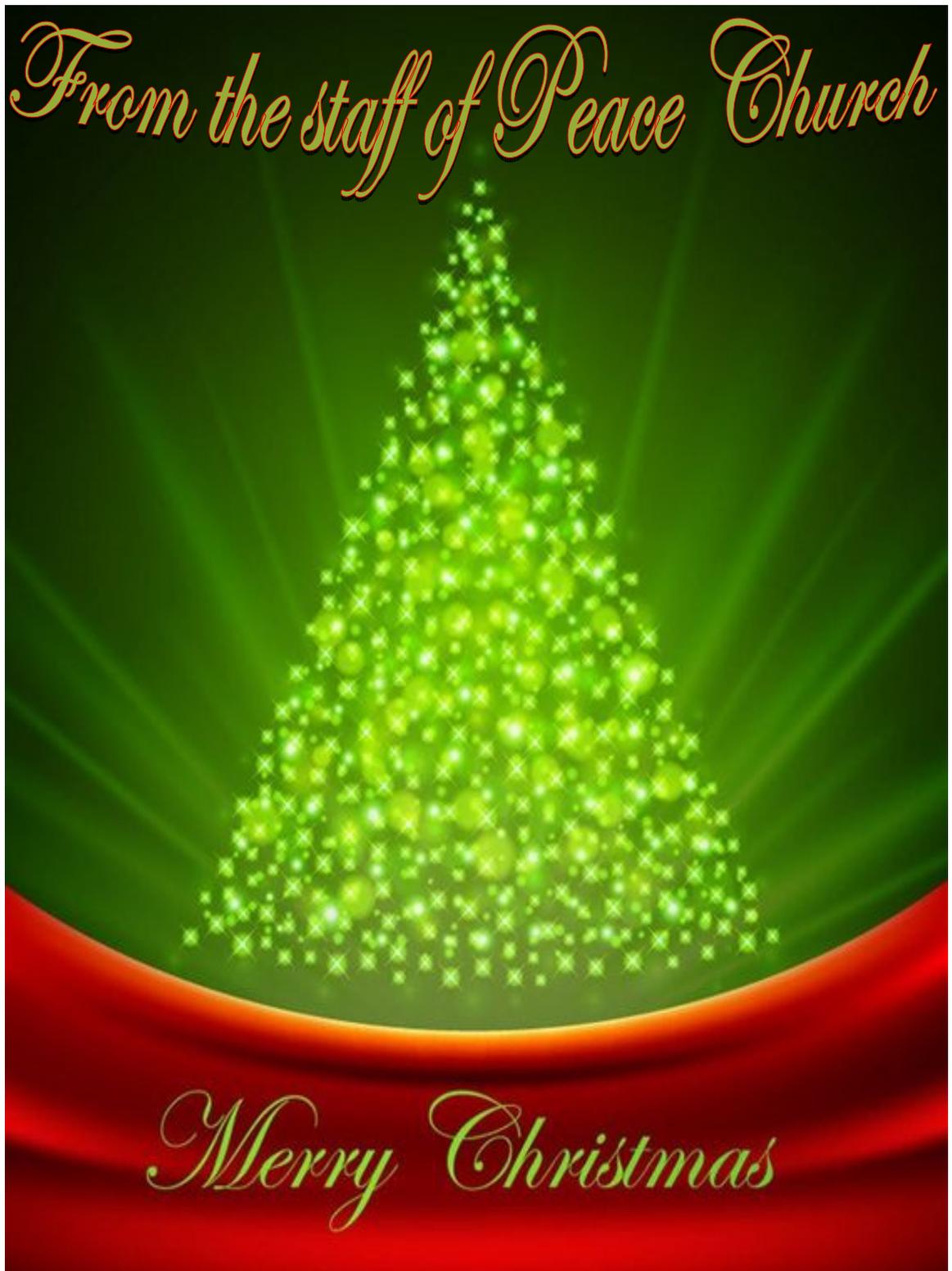
Secretary

Ms. Abigail Miller Warren

Nursery Attendant

Mr. Russ Haver

Consistory President



Pastor's Perspective

The holiday season is here once again! For Christians this is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Below I have shared a historical description of the seasons of Advent and Christmas from the United Church of Christ Book of Worship.

Advent means "arrival," and it is the season of *anticipation* and *preparation* that precedes Christmas in the churches in the West. It was first identified in the fourth century by the Roman Catholic Bishop Hilary of Poitiers who indicated that it was initially observed for a three week period in Gaul, France. In some instances the season was related not to Christmas but to the older Eastern feast of Christ's birth, Epiphany. In the Middle Ages, the Western church gradually reduced the period from an eighth-century pattern of six weeks to four weeks.

Now the first Sunday in Advent is the fourth Sunday before December 25th. The focus of the season includes not only preparation for the anniversary of Christ's birth but also the anticipation of Christ's return at the close of history. The early festal nature of the season has been rediscovered in this generation. Consequently, the penitential (confession for sin) emphasis no longer dominates. The seasonal color, purple, announces Christ's royalty. In some traditions blue is used, jointly symbolizing royalty and hope.

Although the exact date of Jesus' birth is not known, Christmas, the festival day of the birth of Jesus Christ, falls on December 25th in the church in the West. This date in the ancient Roman calendar was observed as a winter solstice holiday associated with non-Christian rituals of light. By the year A.D. 354, the church in the West had transformed the day into the annual festival of the one born to be the Light of the World. White, the color of the Christmas season, is appropriately used from Christmas Eve through at least the first Sunday in epiphany (January 6th).

So, once again in this year of 2017, we await the advent of our Lord...

~ Pastor Tom

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

Season of Advent
Awaiting the Arrival of Christ

Schedule of Advent Events

First Sunday of Advent (December 3rd) our Heifer International Living Gift Market officially opened and will remain open throughout the month of December. (More information can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.) We lit the candle of **HOPE**.

Second Sunday of Advent (December 10th) we will light the candle of **PEACE**. The Heifer Living Gift Market continues, and GUM Honor Cards are available.

Third Sunday of Advent (December 17th) we will continue offering Heifer Project "gift animals" for purchase, and this will be the last day to purchase GUM Honor Cards. We will light the candle of **LOVE**.

On **Thursday, December 21st**, First Christian Church will host a **Longest Night Service** at 7:00 p.m. This is a service for those who find the Christmas season difficult due to loss of loved ones, personal struggles, the stress of the season, or any other reason. This is a service to acknowledge those struggles while living in the ultimate hope of the season. Peace Church, Congregational UCC, First Christian Church (DOC), and other neighboring churches will be joining together for this service.

Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 24th) We will light the candle of **JOY** in our regular morning worship service.



Christmas Eve worship service will begin at **6:00 p.m.** We will light all the candles of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy with a special lighting of the **CHRIST CANDLE**.





A note from Elisabeth...

We have arrived at Christmas and cantata month!

The choir has been working for quite a while to learn a new cantata, *The Song Heard 'Round the World* written/arranged by Joseph M. Martin and just published in 2017. **We will be singing in worship on Sunday, December 17th.** This cantata is a celebration of the birth of Christ using music from several different nations. Many of you will probably be familiar with some of the melodies you hear. This work focuses on our unity in Christ around the world yet at the same time recognizing differences in sounds and music in various cultures. We have discussed in choir rehearsal that this is one Christmas cantata that does not end with the choir at full volume. Instead we end with *Silent Night* with choir and congregation joining together in quiet peace declaring that Christ is born. It is a moment for us all to prayerfully seek peace in our hearts, our church, our community, our nation, and our world and to thankfully remember that Jesus is our peace.

Christmas Cantata



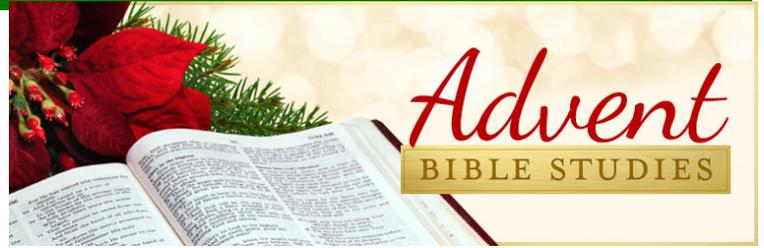
Also, December 31st is a fifth Sunday. We will be having our **fifth Sunday hymn sing** during the anthem time, and it will be Christmas carols. Be ready to suggest your favorite carol, and we will sing together proclaiming Jesus's birth.

Let's all take the time to remember for Whom we are singing and truly celebrate His birth and His presence in our lives.

The community events that I have heard about so far occur very early in December. The Greensboro Oratorio Singers' annual presentation of Handel's *Messiah* is Saturday, December 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church on Holden Road. Our own Doris Yeattes and John Dieterly sing in this group. That same weekend, West Market

United Methodist is presenting *A Jazz Nativity* on both Friday and Saturday.

It is definitely the season of music and the season of being busy. Let's all take the time to remember for Whom we are singing and truly celebrate His birth and His presence in our lives.



All members and friends of Peace Church are invited to an Advent Study Series focusing on the Gospel readings for the four Sundays in Advent. These scriptures will be the same ones we will focus on during worship. We will be meeting in the church library at 9:30 a.m. and focusing on the following scriptures:

Sunday, December 3rd: Mark 13: 24-37

Sunday, December 10th: Mark 1: 1-8

Sunday, December 17th: Luke 1: 47-55

Sunday, December 24th: Luke 1: 26-38

Everyone is welcome!



**HANDS-ON
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
FRIDAY, DEC. 15TH, 12:00 NOON**

Put a note on your calendar! Hands On invites everyone to attend! Guests do not have to bring a dish. Just come and enjoy the fellowship. We always have a great time! **Contact Theo Scott for further information.**

Hands-On members, please note: The luncheon will be followed by our December work session. We will not meet on our usual Wednesday. Guests may choose to leave after the luncheon or just "hang out" a bit and enjoy our company.



Peace United Church of Christ

MISSION OF THE MONTH

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL LIVING GIFT MARKET

Make the Holidays More Meaningful!

This Christmas, give a life-changing gift to Heifer International in honor of friends or family. It is a gift that brings promise to hungry families and the opportunity for a better life to the less fortunate. Giving a Heifer gift takes the stress out of Christmas shopping while putting the meaning back into giving. For each \$10 toward the purchase of an animal, you will receive a card to send to those on your gift list showing that a gift was made in their honor. Every family who receives livestock agrees to pass on one or more of its animal's offspring to another neighbor in need. Gifts of chicks, cows, sheep, llamas, water buffaloes, honey bees, fish, goats, rabbits, pigs, or tree seedlings provide milk, cheese, eggs, wool, fruit, nuts, firewood, or fertilizer to help families generate income as well as provide for their own nutrition.

Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3rd, we will open our Living Gift Market, where Heifer Honor Cards may be purchased in the Narthex. Gifts to Heifer International will accepted through the end of December. **William Mangum Greensboro Urban Ministry Honor Cards** will also be available through Sunday, December 17th.



“Rise Up” is a challenge to the entire community to come together to address homelessness in the greater Greensboro area. The Greensboro Urban Ministry Honor Card is available to purchase in the Narthex each Sunday through **December 17th**. Cards are \$5.00 each and benefit the Greensboro Urban Ministry. See **Cindy Spillers** to purchase your cards.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.

"It wasn't easy picking up the telephone to share with you my present situation. In fact it was one of the most humiliating experiences of my life although it reminded me that grace still happens. Sometimes we as clergy persons lose sight of God's grace when the negative stuff comes into our lives."

"..thanks so much for sharing your time and ministry with me. Your most gracious gift is appreciated more than words can say as I continue to live in the 'meantime.'"

These eloquent words are from a pastor who is the recipient of the caring and concern of those who contribute to the Christmas Fund Offering.

We have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through our participation in this year's Christmas Fund Offering.

Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors like the one above, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provide Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to low-income retirees.

Gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is an opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.

Please give generously to The Christmas Fund.

Women's Fellowship Notes



It is hard for many of us to believe December is here already, but for those in Women's Fellowship (WF), our year is just getting started. Our calendar begins with our September meeting and we began our new devotional lesson plan then. We are studying the book of Hebrews and are fortunate to have Doris Yeattes as our study leader. This will be our first year of meeting as one large WF group rather than dividing up into Circles, and our meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Sunday at 10am in the Parlor. We welcome all ladies in the church.

The WF is responsible for the flower calendar for our altar each Sunday. We feed the Family Shelter an evening meal as often as once a month and do refreshments in the Narthex on the fourth Sunday. We donate to a mission each month; these vary depending on need and can be as far away as Haiti or as close as our own "Love Fund". Shut-ins get a card monthly and we plan to do more personal contacts like phone calls or visits where possible. The WF plans the Mother, Daughter, Friend Banquet each year and handles the collection of names and money for the Mother's Day Bulletin and Father's Day Bulletin.

Of course, Fellowship is our name and we enjoy each other as we meet once a month and many of us go out for lunch on meeting day. Please join us for these and other new projects we hope to include as we go through the year! We need your fresh ideas! If you have questions, contact Debbie Shiner or Abbie Wheeling.



Volunteers are needed to help in the nursery each Sunday. We have a full-time nursery attendant, but our insurance requires an assistant as well. Please see Yvonne Smothers to volunteer.

Churchmen's Fellowship

Churchmen's Fellowship Christmas Dinner Monday, December 11th Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

We will host our annual Christmas dinner for the ladies of our church in appreciation for all they do for the church. Everyone is invited and you don't want to miss this!



Dear friends and colleagues,
We are thankful to God for your friendship and the many blessings that through our work together for Christ and for His Kingdom we have been able to share. We pray you will be blessed in a special way today as you celebrate this Day of Gratitude and please relay to PHCC and PeaceUCC our special greetings.

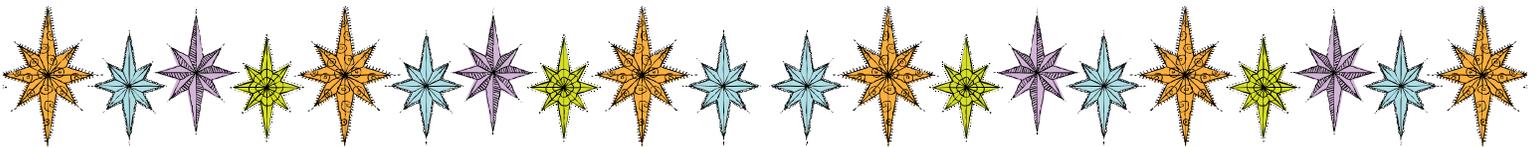


In Christ's love, Gisela and Elmer Lavastida



Thank you so much for the cards, calls, food, flowers, and every kindness extended to us during Dale's recent sickness and ongoing recovery. We are just so very thankful for every single thing that was done for us. People have asked the girls about us at church and we are just so blessed by the kindness of our church family.

Love, Dot & Dale Benschhoff



WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS



We are happy to welcome these new members who joined our Peace Church family on Sunday, September 24, 2017! Pictured (L-R) are Beth Troy, Jennifer, Kairi and Michael Miller, and Holly and Michael Williams (parents of Amy Williams). Please extend a hand to them when you see them and introduce yourself so they can get acquainted with everyone here.



We rejoice in the baptism of **Kairi Miller**, which was held on Sunday, November 12, 2017. Pictured from left to right are Kairi's god-parents, **Trish Larimer** and **Sue Brittain**, **Pastor Tom Warren**, **Kairi Miller**, her parents, **Michael and Jennifer Miller**, and **Glen Hutchinson**.

Peace on Earth
GOOD WILL TO MEN



Peace Church Recipe Corner

CRANBERRY CHEESE BALL BITES

12 oz. cream cheese, softened
3/4 c. shredded white Cheddar
1/4 c. shredded Parmesan
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
2 c. dried cranberries, roughly chopped
Rosemary, cut into 3" pieces, bottom leaves removed



Directions:

In a medium bowl, combine cream cheese, cheddar, Parmesan, Worcestershire sauce and garlic powder. Season with salt and pepper and stir until all ingredients are evenly incorporated. Form into 18 small balls and refrigerate until firm, 1 hour.

Roll balls into cranberries and insert one sprig of rosemary into each ball. Serve. (If not serving right away, loosely cover with plastic wrap and return to fridge. Let sit at room temperature 15 minutes before serving.)

For another tasty and more traditional option:

Make the cheese balls as above. Then make this topping:

8 slices bacon, cooked and finely chopped
1/3 cup finely chopped fresh chives
1/3 cup finely chopped pecans
18 pretzel sticks

In a shallow bowl or on a plate, stir together cooked bacon, chives, and pecans. Roll balls in bacon-chive-pecan mixture and insert a pretzel stick in each ball.



Coping with Loss Over the Holidays



The holidays are in full swing, and it's an exciting time to be thinking about all the wonderful memories that will be made with close friends and family members this season.

But perhaps this year, you are feeling an empty space in your heart for a loved one who has passed away and no longer will be a part of your holiday traditions.

Though grief is a normal part of life, it can be especially difficult to cope with loss during what, for many, is one of the most joyful times of the year.

- ♥ As the holidays near, acknowledge that there will be hard times ahead. Remember, everyone grieves differently, and that it's okay to not feel okay.
- ♥ If there are children in the family who are coping with loss, focus on their needs and help them process through their grief.
- ♥ Make a conscious decision when it comes to carrying on holiday traditions, or considering starting new ones. Continuing the old traditions may help keep a loved one's memory alive, but setting new ones may help you to move on.
- ♥ Honor a loved one's memory, whether through a beloved holiday tradition, or by sharing stories about the person with friends. Remember that although they are gone, their memory will always live on in your heart.
- ♥ Don't forget to take care of yourself by getting enough sleep, eating healthy foods, and exercising, but without forcing too much of your energy. Taking care of your body will help alleviate stress and improve your overall well-being.
- ♥ Surround yourself with a supportive community that will be with you as you cope with your grief. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

(Article written by *Caitlin Trude* for *Hospice of Santa Barbara*.)



The Playground Work Crew: (L-R) Yvonne Poffenbaugh, Rick Owen, UNCG Professor Linda Hestenes and her son, Daniel, John Syster, Harold Poffenbaugh, and Mick McGrogan.

NAI Thanksgiving Feast



Prayers at the NAI Thanksgiving Feast by Rev. Dale Starr (Christian), Uzinn Nandawantha (Buddhist from Myanmar Buddhist Temple in Greensboro), and Doha Altaki (Muslim).

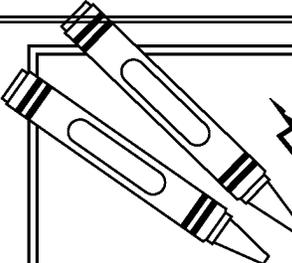


Pastor Tom Warren will be on vacation beginning Thursday, Dec 28 through Tuesday, Jan 2, 2018. **Rev. Dr. John Syster** will be preaching on Sunday, December 31st.



Peace United Church of Christ
2714 W. Market St.
Greensboro, NC 27403

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



PUZZLE



A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|
|  $7+6$ strength |  $9+1$ shepherd |  $30-5$ the |  $7+5$ ends |  $50-26$ live | |
|  $21-10$ will |  $27-24$ reach |  $10+7$ flock |  $40-20$ stand |  $15+4$ securely |  $8+8$ his |
|  $35-31$ LORD |  $17-3$ greatness |  $10-3$ earth |  $10+5$ will |  $5+1$ will | |

"He _____ and _____ his _____
15 20 10 17

in the _____ of the _____ And they _____
13 4 11 24

_____, for then _____
19 16 14 6

_____ to the _____ of _____."

3 12 25 7

MICAH 5:4, NIV

SAVIOR ORNAMENT

This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

What you do:

1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

Please keep these members of our church family in your thoughts and prayers:

Lois Bell; Dale Benshoff; Dot Benshoff; Bertie Bowman; Nan Buchanan; Richard Graber; Ramona Griffin; Millie Harmon; Laura Langley; Jim Lillie; Buddy Lippard; Sally McGrogan; Sharon Mitchell; David Murray; Mary Ann Murray; Marcy Neal; Gertrude Radford; Kelly Savage; Pansy Slate; Lucille Waynick; Betty Webster; Buddy Webster; Marjorie Wegner; Doris Whitley; Kelly Wyrick.

Remember these wider church family and friends:

Lyn Ann Bailey (niece of Harold Poffenbaugh); **Chris Barnes** (nephew of Harold Poffenbaugh); **Katie Bowen** (daughter-in-law of Cynthia Bowen); **Cindy Brown** (sister of Sherri Vestal); **Eric Chapman** (nephew of Jane Ford); **Janet Faucette** (sister-in-law of Yvonne Smothers); **Donna Green** (friend of Maria Smith); **Theresa Grill** (neighbor of Sue Smith); **Butch Holt** (brother-in-law of B.J. Blocker); **Betty Larimer** (aunt of Trish Larimer); **Ann Moran** (friend of Susie Cressman); **Beatrice Rosenthal** (mother of David Dole); **Annette Sarty** (sister of Yvonne Poffenbaugh); **Michael Shoffner** (grandson of Edith Sink); **Tom & Rhoda Taylor** (niece & her husband of Harold Poffenbaugh); **Lindsay White** (great-granddaughter of David & Nancy Peeler).

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER

| DATE | SUNDAY SCHOOL | WORSHIP | REGULAR OFFERING | OTHER OFFERING |
|-------------|---------------|---------|------------------|----------------|
| November 5 | 17 | 72 | \$4,934 | \$94 |
| November 12 | 10 | 65 | \$2,429 | \$30 |
| November 19 | 15 | 72 | \$10,121 | \$25 |
| November 26 | 7 | 53 | \$981 | \$530 |

PEACE CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

(Through October 31, 2017)

| | Current Month | Year to Date | YTD Budget | Amount Over (Under) Budget |
|---|---------------|--------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Contributions from Members & Friends, Plus Other Receipts | 14,931 | 146,603 | 152,180 | (5,577) |
| Disbursed in Support of Ministries, Programs & Facilities | 14,718 | 163,803 | 183,437 | (19,634) |
| Neighbors In Need, Hands On, CROP | 912 | | | |



December Birthdays



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Tommy Haithcock | 4 Rachel Bennett Jeff Wyrick | 5 Rosina Whitfield | 6 Laurie Baker | 7 | 8 | 9 Ian Myers |
| 10 Bruce Griffin | 11 | 12 Dave Dole | 13 John Patterson | 14 Lianne Clapp Tripp Vockel | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 Ramona Griffin Daniel Warren | 19 Landis Vockel | 20 | 21 | 22 Alexa Dole | 23 |
| 24 Lib Patterson | 25 | 26 Russ Haver Olivia Jolliff Laura Small | 27 | 28 Don Wheeling | 29 | 30 Evan York |

31
Debbie Shiner