

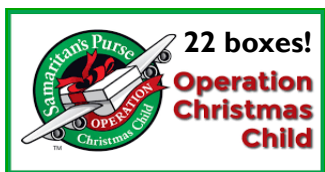


Merry Christmas

Looking Over Jordan

BIRTHDAYS

James Jordan	6TH
Dawn Wyrick	12TH
Jeff Garrett	20TH



One of the best things about the Christmas season is all the singing. This year, I was inside a bank when I heard the first Christmas music of this season. They were playing 99.5 FM, the station that plays all the Christmas music. I asked the bank teller when they began playing the Christmas music on that station. She thought it was on Friday November 1, the day after Halloween. Back in the old days, very much of the music was Christian themed. Many songs mentioned Jesus, Christ, and the stories from the New Testament. To me it has always been important that people hear all these Christian messages, at least one time per year.

While the top 10 Christmas songs may have changed through the years to more sentimental, secular, or materialistic tunes, there is a core of Christmas songs that they keep on playing that have the Christmas message loud and clear! These songs can set the mood of the holidays, if we can pause long enough and hear their message.



As we listen to the music, let's be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas. We want to remember the whole point of it, that God became a man, and lived with us, taught the truth, lived a sinless life, and gave Himself as the sacrifice that takes away all of our sins. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of the Savior.

This true meaning of Christmas is rooted in the Bible. We read so many passages in the Gospels that tell us of the amazing way that God brought Himself into the world. Sometimes I wonder if people realize that all this is actually in the Bible! Matthew 1:1-2:23 gives us the genealogy of Jesus, showing how He is the Son of David, the nativity of Jesus, and the visit of the wise men. We then read of how Jesus was saved when He was taken to Egypt by His loving parents. In Luke 1:1-2:20 we read about the Gospel's promise of John the Baptist's birth, the forerunner



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER



- Income: \$7943
- Expense: \$7406

Thank you
for your gifts!!

Looking Over Jordan

of Jesus' ministry. We see how kind the Lord was in His dealings with Mary and Joseph. We read of Mary's faithful response and song to the Lord on behalf of Israel, beginning at 1:46. And in John 1 we read more about what God was doing, in bringing Jesus the Revelation of God to this world for all to see.



It isn't too difficult to see how all of this fit into the plan of God for salvation. He began in the garden of Eden, when God made the sacrifice of the animals, for clothes for Adam and Eve. Remember the prophesy the Lord God made to Satan? *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."* Many see Jesus as the ultimate Son of Eve, who conquers over Satan in the end, by His sacrifice and resurrection from the dead. Lastly, we must not forget the prophecies of Isaiah, with Chapter 53:6 *"All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."*

At Christmas, we again are called to celebrate the dawning of God's salvation, His Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ, to take away the sins of the world. In the midst of all this we have singing and Scriptures. When we put these together with prayer, we enjoy Christian worship. May we pray that this Christmas those who do not know the Lord might hear His call upon them. We pray that they will hear these "old familiar carols" and realize the truth upon which they are based, and then meet the Lord personally, in a saving way.

Do you believe that Christmas can be a season of salvation for many?

Happy because of Jesus,
Pastor James

Christmas card delivery



December 1 - 29

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

December 1 - December 29

The Lord gave us the **GREAT COMMISSION.**

Matthew 28:18-20

He showed us His vision of the **GREAT MULTITUDE.**

Revelation 7:9

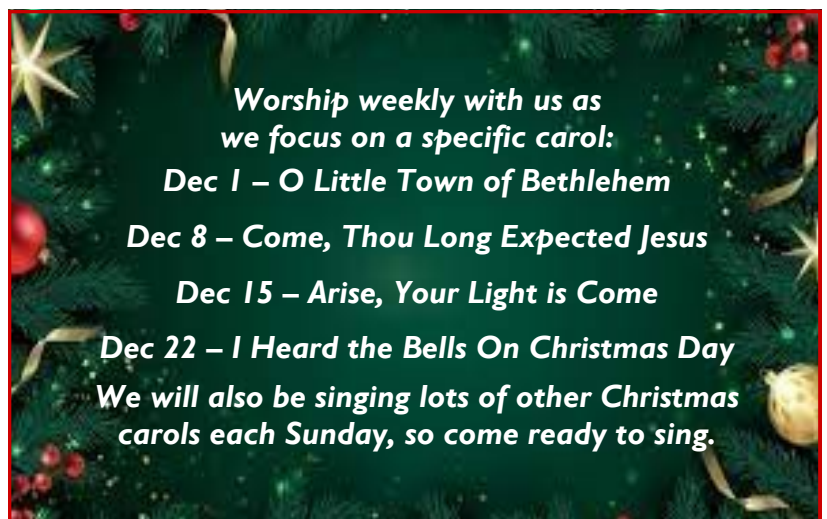
Between the Great Commission and the Great Multitude,
God invites us to **THE GREAT PURSUIT.**

Acts 1:8

Updated Church Family directories are now available! Contact Diane if you need a copy mailed to you.



Thank you to everyone who helped decorate for the Christmas season!



Worship weekly with us as we focus on a specific carol:

Dec 1 – O Little Town of Bethlehem

Dec 8 – Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Dec 15 – Arise, Your Light is Come

Dec 22 – I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day

We will also be singing lots of other Christmas carols each Sunday, so come ready to sing.