

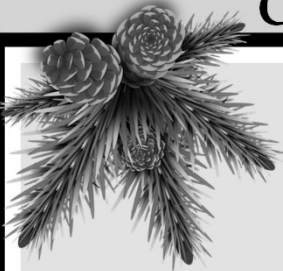
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DECEMBER 2019



# MESSENGER

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



## What's Inside:

- Annual Meeting
- Evangelism Highlight  
*Angel Tree*  
*Thanksgiving Baskets*
- Education Highlight  
*Library Volunteer*
- Mission Highlight  
*C2C Ministry*
- Worship Highlight  
*SS Christmas Program*
- Finance Highlight
- Upcoming Events
- Birthdays and  
Anniversaries
- Kids' Corner
- Calendar



*"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."  
1 Cor. 15:58*

## *From the Church Office...*



*One of my favorite Christmas stories is about the old shoe cobbler who dreamed one Christmas Eve that Jesus would come to visit him the next day. The dream was so real that he was convinced it would come true. So the next morning he got up and went out and cut green boughs and decorated his little cobbler shop and got all ready for Jesus to come and visit. He was so sure that Jesus was going to come that he just sat down and waited for Him.*

*The hours passed and Jesus didn't come. But an old man came. He came inside for a moment to get warm out of the winter cold. As the cobbler talked with him he noticed the holes in the old man's shoes, so he reached up on the shelf and got him a new pair of shoes. He made sure they fit and that his socks were dry and sent him on his way.*

*Still he waited. But Jesus didn't come. An old woman came. A woman who hadn't had a decent meal in two days. They sat and visited for a while, and then he prepared some food for her to eat. He gave her a nourishing meal and sent her on her way.*

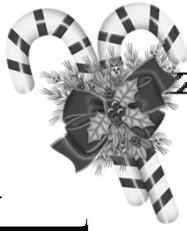
*Then he sat down again to wait for Jesus. But Jesus still didn't come. Then he heard a little boy crying out in front of his shop. He went out and talked with the boy, and discovered that the boy had been separated from his parents and didn't know how to get home. So he put on his coat, took the boy by the hand and led him home.*

*When he came back to his little shoe shop it was almost dark and the streets were emptied of people. And then in a moment of despair he lifted his voice to heaven and said, "Oh Lord Jesus, why didn't you come?"*

*And then in a moment of silence he seemed to hear a voice saying, "Oh shoe cobbler, lift up your heart. I kept my word. Three times I knocked at your friendly door. Three times my shadow fell across your floor. I was the man with the bruised feet. I was the woman you gave to eat. I was the boy on the homeless street."*

*Jesus had come. The cobbler just didn't realize it.  
— by Melvin Newland*





SPREADING JOY TO OTHERS

# ANGEL TREE

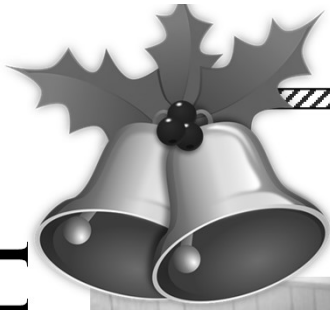


An Angel Tree has been set up in the church foyer to support IAG (Individual Advocacy Group), a nonprofit organization that helps those with special needs. Please consider taking an angel from the tree and purchasing some Christmas gifts for those in need. Any questions, please see Georgia or Amber. Thank you!



Thank you, thank you!  
Because of the generosity of all of you, we were able to deliver seven Thanksgiving baskets to families in need in our community. Thank you Don Vickroy and also Georgia Cullison for organizing this effort and to all who donated food or money towards the turkeys. You are a blessing!

*"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God." – C.S. Lewis*



# OUR CHURCH LIBRARY



*Do you love to read or love to encourage others to read? We are looking for a volunteer for the library. Please see Cathy Lotz if church librarian is where you would like to serve!*

### What Children Hear

I was reading the story of Jesus' birth to my day-care children one morning. As usual, I stopped to see if they understood. "What do we call the three wise men?" I asked. "The three maggots," replied a bright 5-year-old. "What gift did the Magi bring baby Jesus?" I corrected. "Gold, Frankensteins and smurfs!" the same 5-year-old replied.



### Heavenly Peas

*A little boy and girl were singing their favorite Christmas carol in church the Sunday before Christmas. The boy concluded "Silent Night" with the words, "Sleep in heavenly beans." "No," his sister corrected, "not beans, peas."*

*– Michael P. Green*

*"The coming of Christ by way of a Bethlehem manger seems strange and stunning. But when we take him out of the manger and invite Him into our hearts, then the meaning unfolds and the strangeness vanishes." – C. Neil Strait*



## MISSION HIGHLIGHT: Christ to China

*In September, 2018 the Mission department decided to add, Christ to China, (C2C) to the missions supported by Countryside. In April Wing Wong came to the Faith/Promise rally and presented his mission work C2C, in New Hampshire and also in China. Wing Wong has worked for many years in China presenting the message of Christ to the people and also to the Chinese in New Hampshire. The work in New Hampshire is under the partnership of Restoration House Ministries.*

“Just a few hours ago, the Hong Kong police bombarded the Chinese University of Hong Kong with over a thousand tear gas canisters, and numerous rubber bullets after an unarmed young man was shot in the stomach by a traffic cop with a live bullet at close range yesterday. Over 60 students and teachers needed emergency medical treatment in the university. Even the president of the university and legislators could not stop the police from entering the campus.



Since the CEO of Hong Kong met with President Xi in Shanghai and Vice-Premier Han Zheng in Beijing last week, the police have intensified their forces to crack down the protests. The police’s irrational, uncontrollable, and excessive use of force provoked even the most peaceful protesters and citizens. Many said yesterday (Nov.11) was the worse day of Hong Kong.

*“The simple shepherds heard the voice of an angel and found their Lamb; the wise men saw the light of a star and found their Wisdom.” – Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen*

Sadly, we probably haven’t seen the worst yet. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November the Hong Kong people had their first taste of evil from Communist China!

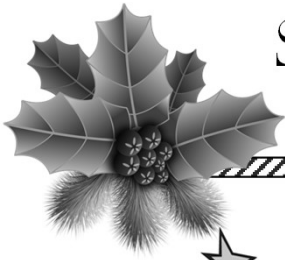


Please pray that justice, humanity and love will be restored in Hong Kong. Without that, there will be no peace. Pray also that the Hong Kong government will not become the extension of the iron wrist of the communist party in China. Pray that the Lord will bring hope back to the young people in Hong Kong and they will find a better way to encounter the police brutality and unfairness than violence.” (Newsletter Nov. 12, 2019)

*“What will the next generation of Christians in China be like if we sit back and take the easy road? Will God be pleased?”*

*“The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory or ever and ever. Amen” II Timothy 4:18*

Pray for Wing Wong as he brings the message of Jesus Christ to the Chinese people in New Hampshire and in China and for an end to the violence in Hong Kong.



# SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



## Sunday School Christmas Program

*December 15<sup>th</sup> during Worship Service*

Our Sunday School Children's Program is called:

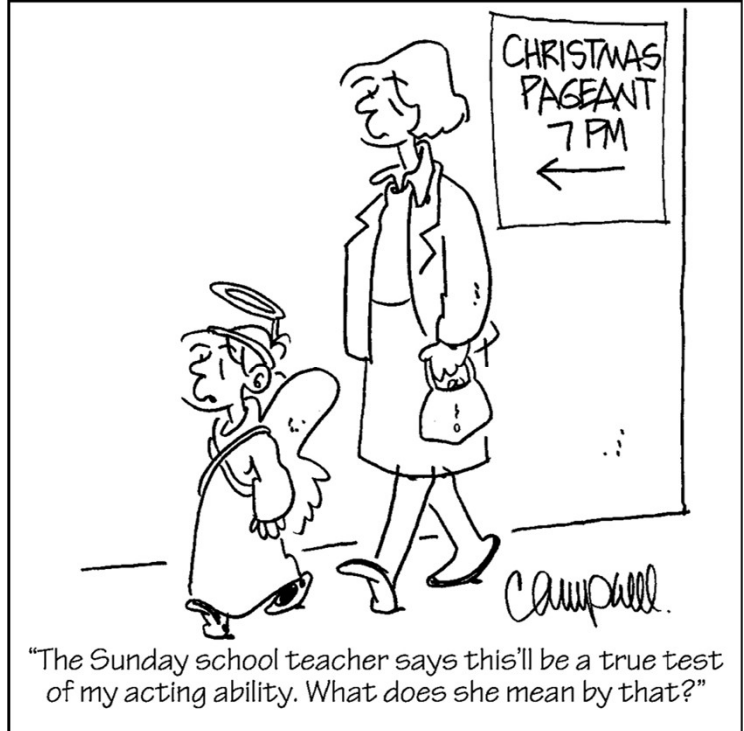
**"Journey to Bethlehem: Follow the Star"**

*All children are welcome! The parts will be easy to learn and familiar songs. We will also have one Saturday rehearsal closer to the Christmas Program.*



WORSHIP HIGHLIGHT

Please see Laura if your child didn't receive a part during Sunday School class. There are still parts available!



"The Sunday school teacher says this'll be a true test of my acting ability. What does she mean by that?"

*"God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is love; the radiance of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas which is Christ." – Wilda English*

# OUR GIVING THIS MONTH



*A careful reading of 2 Corinthians 9 is quite eye-opening. One of the things we see is a cycle of giving that includes the gracious giving of God, the generous giving of those who have received from God, and the giving of thanks from those who have received from God through others. The abundant giving of God is prominent (v. 8). His giving is evident in nature and other areas (v. 10). He enriches us so we can be generous (v. 11), and His gifts include grace that cannot be measured (v. 14). His ultimate gift (the gift of His Son) is “indefinable”—words are inadequate to communicate its worth (v. 15).*

# FINANCE HIGHLIGHT



## YTD Offering Income

Budget: \$20,000

Actual: \$13,977



## YTD Faith Promises

\$23,713

### MY FAITH PROMISE TO WORLD MISSIONS

*After a period of much prayer and discernment, I/WE promise to support the worldwide missionary program of the Countryside Christian Church over the next year. In total dependence upon God for HIS provision, it is our promise that “As God Gives, So Shall We Give.” By faith, I/We promise the following amount of money:*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Annual Total**

*Note: This is a faith promise, a covenant between myself and God. It is my voluntary offering for the evangelization of the world.*

*On the way home from church, my daughter sat in the backseat enjoying Goldfish crackers as my other children implored her to share. Trying to redirect the conversation, I asked the hoarder of snacks, “What did you do in class today?” She said they made a basket of bread and fish because a child gave Jesus five loaves and two fish that Jesus used to feed more than 5,000 people (John 6:1–13).*

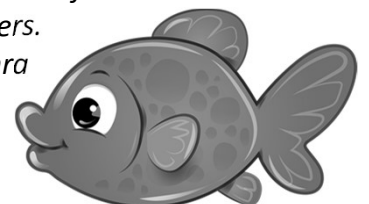
*“That was very kind of the little boy to share. Do you think maybe God is asking you to share your fish?” I asked. “No, Momma,” she replied.*

*I tried to encourage her not to keep all the crackers to herself. She was unconvinced. “There is not enough for everyone!”*

*Sharing is hard. It is easier to hold onto what we see in front of us. Perhaps we do the calculation and reason there is simply not enough for everyone. And the assumption is that if I give, I will be left wanting.*

*Paul reminds us that all we have comes from God, who wants to enrich us “in every way so that [we] can be generous” (2 Corinthians 9:10–11). The math of heaven isn’t a calculation of scarcity but of abundance. We can share joyfully because God promises to care for us even as we are generous to others.*

*By: Lisa M. Samra*



*“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.” (2 Corinthians 9:10)*

# COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Upcoming Events

**12/2**

### MONTHLY DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

Evangelism/Missions (6:30pm)  
All Departments (7pm)



**12/8**

### DDS CLASSES

Our next set of DDS classes will be held on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 3-7:30pm. See what will be covered in each class and sign up in the church foyer for the next class in your sequence.



**12/12**

### ELDERS' MEETING

Monthly meeting for Elders at 7:30pm



**12/15**

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Children's Sunday School classes will present a program during our Worship Service at 10:45am.



**12/22**

### ELDER/DEACON BIBLE STUDY

Monthly Bible Study at the church at 8am



**12/24**

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 5pm.



**12/29**

### FAMILY SUNDAY/POTLUCK FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Immediately following the Worship Service



*"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1*

# BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



- 2 – Curt Knapp
- 5 – Mary Green
- 10 – Dorothy Newton
- 11 – Grace Wheeler
- 11 – Sophia Wheeler
- 23 – Kathy Kohrt
- 23 – Wyatt Green
- 31 – Noah Green
- 31 – Brock Coverdill

## Christmas Humor

### **The Three Wise Firemen**

There was an art contest held in a local school one Christmas season a few years ago in East Texas. One of the prize winners was a picture drawn by a nine year old boy showing three men, offering gifts to the baby Jesus in his manger. What made the picture unique is how the three gift presenters arrived—there was fire truck on the side of the picture.

The principal asked the boy about his decision to draw the truck and the boy, in his heavy East-Texas accent, was quick to reply: "Well, the Bible says the wise men came from a-far."



- 12 – Arlys & Curt Koepping
- 26 – Bill & JoAnn Courter
- 30 – Joanne & Louis Wiklund



"Yes, it's beautiful — but can we talk about its placement?"



# SERVERS THIS MONTH



**Can you help??** Sign-Up Sheet in the Church Foyer

Communion Prep  
Scripture Reader  
Greeter  
Donut Dandy



## Children's Church:

- 1st – Sarah Denekas & Dottie Seitz
- 8th – Connie Curry
- 15th – Connie Curry & Cathy Lotz
- 22nd – Cathy Lotz & Jane Noyd

## Sunday School Nursery Workers:

- 1st – Cathy Lotz
- 8th – Jane Noyd
- 15th – Teresa Holt
- 22nd – Becki Winger
- 29th – Kathy Kohrt

## Worship Nursery Workers:

- 1st – Kati Jo Chasek
- 8th – Jady Collis
- 15th – Becki Winger
- 22nd – Georgia Cullison
- 29th – Sarah Denekas



## Worship Servers:

### December 1st

- Roger Curry (Meditation)
- Teresa Garcia (Communion Prayer)
- Don Vickroy (Offering Prayer)

### December 8th

- Wayne Lotz (Meditation)
- Jim Kaecker (Communion Prayer)
- Roger Curry (Offering Prayer)

### December 15th

- Don Vickroy (Meditation)
- Teresa Garcia (Communion Prayer)
- Ryan Schmidt (Offering Prayer)

### December 22nd

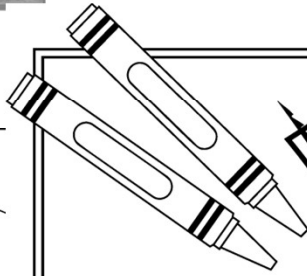
- Roger Curry (Meditation)
- Jim Kaecker (Communion Prayer)
- Wayne Lotz (Offering Prayer)

### December 29th

- Wayne Lotz (Meditation)
- Teresa Garcia (Communion Prayer)
- Don Vickroy (Offering Prayer)

## Building Cleaners

Roger & Connie Curry  
Don & Donna Vickroy  
Sandy Lawrence



# PUZZLE

## Symbols of the *season*

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

*Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.*



shepherd's staff      \_ \_ \_ \_

tree that keeps its leaves    \_ \_ \_ \_  \_ \_ \_ \_

shines to lead the way    \_ \_ \_ \_

green for eternal life,  
red for Jesus' blood     \_ \_ \_ \_ & \_ \_ \_ \_   \_ \_

sounds to announce  
good news     \_ \_ \_ \_

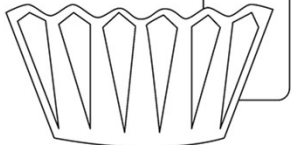
has no beginning or end    \_ \_ \_ \_  \_

Th   ks b  to  od fo   is  
indesc   ba  le gif  !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

# Light the way

Make some Christmas candles to remember Jesus, the Light of the world.



### What you need:

- Unlined white notecards
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Yellow tissue paper
- Mini muffin liners
- Clothespins

### What you do:

1. Roll a notecard from side to side into a "candle" tube. Secure with glue.
2. Insert a piece of tissue paper "flame" in one end.
3. Glue the other end to a muffin liner. Then glue the liner to a clothespin.
4. Repeat to make many paper candles. Pin them to the branches of a Christmas tree.

Answers: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath; Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV

"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."

—C.S. Lewis

2019	December					
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01	02 Evangelism/ Missions 6:30 All Depts. 7:00	03 Men's Study 9am  Pastor Search Meeting 6:30pm	04 Worship Team – 4:00pm  Small Group Studies	05 Gym in Use 5:30-8:00pm Basketball	06	07
08  DDS 3 – 7:30pm	09 Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm All Depts. 7pm	10 Men's Study 9am  Pastor Search Meeting 6:30pm	11 Worship Team – 4:00pm  Small Group Studies	12 Elder Mtg 6pm  Gym in Use 5:30-8:00pm Basketball	13	14  Gym in Use 11am – 5pm
15 <b>Sunday School Christmas Program 10:45am</b>	16	17 Men's Study 9am  Pastor Search Meeting 6:30pm	18 Worship Team – 4:00pm  Small Group Studies	19 Gym in Use 5:30-8:00pm Basketball	20	21
22 Elder/Deacon Study 8am	23	24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 5:00PM</b> 	25 <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b> 	26 Gym in Use 5:30-8:00pm Basketball	27	28
29 Family Sunday & Potluck Lunch  Food Pantry Collection	30	31  <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>				

**Perfect as is**

*Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that he gave his only Son. The only requirement is to believe in him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.*

—Corrie ten Boom

