



Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

9:30 am Worship w/Communion
6:30 pm Worship w/ Communion
Candlelight Service
10:30 pm Worship w/ Communion
Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 26

Wednesday, December 27

Thursday, December 28

7:30 pm NA

Friday, December 29

Saturday, December 30



CLOSED – Christmas Day – Monday, December 25, 2023

8:30 am – 3:30 pm – Tuesday, December 26 – Thursday, December 28

8:30 am – 12:00 pm – Friday, December 29

CLOSED – New Year's Day, January 1, 2024

8:30 am – 3:30 pm – Tuesday, January 2 – Thursday, January 4

8:30 am – 12:00 pm – Friday, January 5

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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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Finding Peace in Christ

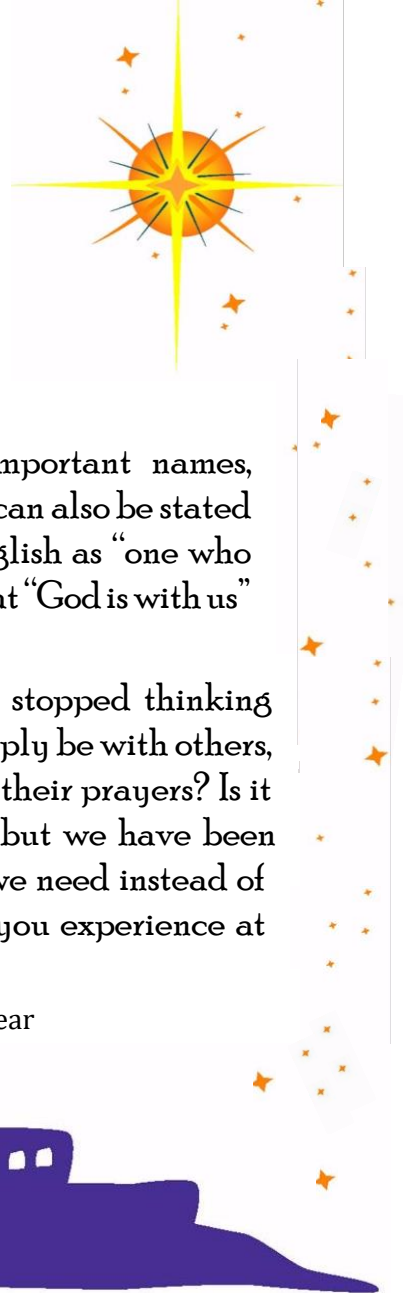
One hymn that is almost always sung in Advent is **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**.

Listen closely to the words, it appears to be a prayer that God will once more come into our lives and make everything new again. It contains a whole list of “things” which we feel have been lost throughout the ages, ending with a request that God would “Fill the whole world with the heaven’s peace.”

In **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**, there are two important names, Emmanuel and Israel. Both of them are names, but they can also be stated as complete sentences. Israel can be translated into English as “one who wrestles with God,” while Emmanuel is an affirmation that “God is with us” always.

What might happen this Advent season if the world stopped thinking about getting things, and started looking for ways to simply be with others, to stand with them, and to listen to them as they lift up their prayers? Is it possible that heaven’s peace has been here all along, but we have been looking in all the wrong places, seeking what we feel we need instead of simply doing what we have been created to do? May you experience at least a glimpse of the peace of Christ this week.

Christmas Devotion by Faith Not Fear Blog, © 2022 by Faith Not Fear



December 24, 2023

Service Assistants	9:30 am
Ushers	Chuck Luppert, Larry & Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon
Lay Assistant	Janet Stroble
Communion Assistant	Candy Watkins
Acolyte	Ray Demarest
Altar Guild	Rita Strickler, Betty Fenstermacher
Greeters/ Presenter	Mary Schultz, Doris Butt
Flower Delivery	Susan Bryan
Cantor	David Bausinger

Sunday, December 17; Attendance: **106**; Offering: **\$3,314.25** Cap. Campaign: **\$30.00**.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Baby Jesus

The Basket of flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving and living memory of Susie, David, Annamary and George Hutchinson, by the Hutchinson and Nancarrow families.

The Basket of flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Peter L. Sinibaldi Sr., and Lillian Sinibaldi, by their children and their families.

The Bud Vase is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Karen Hockman Thomas by Linda Smith and Laurie, Matthew and Michael.

The Outdoor Wreaths are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Susie and David Hutchinson by Gary Hutchinson.

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023

Service Assistants	7:00 pm	11:00 pm
Ushers	Dave & Rita Strickler, Jean Nolan, Carl Gee	Mike Larson, Arch Watkins, Larry & Donna Britton
Lay Assistant	Georgette Copp	Anita Bair
Communion Assistant	Rhonda Koch	Sherri Holtzman
Acolyte	Alyx Taylor	Owen Sherman
Crucifer	Alyx Taylor	Owen Sherman
Torchbearer	Karrah Bair, Jordan Morris	Dylan Sherman, Weston Sherman
Altar Guild	Alice Morrison	Alice Morrison
Greeters/Presenters	Doris Butt, Patty Heether	Mike and Dianne Larson



Pastoral Care Number: Please call (570) 326-9171. (Available 24 hours a day)
 During work hours the office staff will assist you. After hours, please press "3" for a Pastoral Emergency to be connected directly to the Pastor.

Food Pantry Needs: Macaroni & Cheese, Spaghetti, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned Tuna, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Pudding Cups, Microwave Popcorn, Microwavable Dinners, Pop Tarts.

Bible Reading

Sunday, December 24 – 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Monday, December 25 – Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20

Tuesday, December 26 – Psalm 148; Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15; Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60

Wednesday, December 27 - Psalm 148; Exodus 33:18-23; 1 John 1:1-9

Thursday, December 28 – Psalm 148; Jeremiah 31:15-17; Matthew 2:13-18

Friday, December 29 – Psalm 148; Isaiah 49:5-15; Matthew 12:46-50

Saturday, December 30 - Psalm 148; Proverbs 9:1-12; 2 Peter 3:8-13

The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Family - **Make a Christmas Memory - Simple things you can do to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas** - these easy-to-do activities provide creative ideas for families that want to build lifelong Christmas traditions. Each idea focuses children and parents on the celebration of Christ's birth, and most can be done at the kitchen table. Book is in the Christmas section of the library.

Pledge cards and Time & Talent forms will be accepted through January 1st

If you give to the church through **Simply Giving/Vanco/Automatic deduction**, after your December donation, you will need to update your pledge. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE This is for those members who are changing there amount of tithes or who would like to give to the church in this way. If you are keeping your pledge as is there is no need to contact us.



Poinsettias are to be picked up after the 11:00 pm worship service on Christmas Eve or on Tuesday, December 26th at the church office.

Daniel's Closet



Clothing for Daniel's Closet is accepted year-round at Messiah.

Daniel's Closet is currently in need of children's clothing. The boys' table is especially thin at this time and is in dire need of donations. Donations for may be placed in the large blue bin inside the church in the alcove near the Chapel. The next Closet will be held on January 27. ***Thank you for your support!***



Thank you to everyone who came and stayed after church on Sunday to help decorate the Church. A special thank you to Emily Bausinger who made all the bows for the wreaths and garland and to Gary Hutchinson who helped spruce up the ushers area with a tree and Joy sign.



Pastor LeCrone will be offering a New Members Class sometime in January. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the church office.

