



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEBASTIAN, 1405 LOUISIANA AVE., SEBASTIAN, FL 32958
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*“And the Word
became flesh...”*

John 1:14

Out of the Woodwork

By Pastor Jeff Wood

I was born on December 20th and was brought home on Christmas Day. It’s probably because of that, and it’s probably true of others with birthdays near or on Christmas, that I like how when the wise men bearing gifts to the Christ child told him, “Now listen, these are for your birthday *and* Christmas!”



That’s cute and when any child comes to a home, regardless of the time of year, so much changes, doesn’t it? My parents’ lives became about feedings, keeping me safe, savings bonds, Little League games, my fender-benders at age 16, and on and on. Their space needed the extra bedroom; their furniture now included the crib and playpen; their car’s trunk needed room for the stroller. It’s hard to think of anything much more life-affecting than a child coming to a home.

My parents certainly knew about children. And other people had them. Neither of these alone, or these together, affected them in the same way as a child actually coming into their very own home.

The simple story of Christmas is God in love coming into the human home, the home of this planet, and we can only hope that we’ll make a way for God in love to come into each of our personal homes. Just knowing there is a God or that God is in others’ homes is not the same thing as God in love coming into **our** homes. If that can happen for you and for me, then things change in a big, and good, way. May you know the blessing of Christmas in your own life this year.

I love being your pastor and hope these holidays are very good and special for you.

Pastor Jeff

Advent/Christmas Services

BLUE CHRISTMAS?

There are a lot of colors for Christmas, especially red and green. We sing of wanting a "White Christmas." But blue? There are folks who are not quite ready for a full bore Christmas Eve celebration for one reason or another. It could be as simple as not wanting to be out after dark or as difficult as going through the holidays for the first time without a spouse. Whatever the reason, we are offering a simple service with song, scripture, and sermon on **Dec. 24 at 3 p.m.** If this fits for you or someone you know, please share the information, please come.

TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

When it comes to Christmas, don't we all like to hear "traditional" and "candlelight"? At **7 p.m. on Dec. 24** we will have both! The church will be all dressed up. Musicians will be welcoming us as we walk up to the church. Sparkling lights, too. Our choir will be joined by special guest artists. Come. And remember that there are those who would welcome an invitation to church on Christmas Eve. Will you invite them? Or, better yet, bring them?

CHRISTMAS DAY SUNDAY WORSHIP

Every seven years we end up with Christmas morning being on a Sunday morning. We'll be offering public worship on that first day of the last week of the year! Come join us and make it fun by wearing something you got for Christmas (unless it is a fruitcake; don't wear that!) It'll be a shorter service with some friendly singing. Worship Ministry Team even has one more present to give *you*. So add in something different this year on Christmas morning: **10 a.m. church!** (No cafe' ahead of time.)



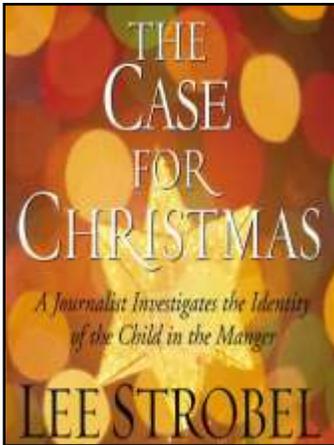
Original artwork by Ellie Gregory, 2016



ADVENT POT-LUCK

Please, no reindeer steaks or mistletoe stew. Get out your Christmas tie, your red sweater, and your appetite, too. Think of all the yummy desserts our friends will to it bring. Can't you hear, even now, the carols that our lips will sing? Feasting and fun, laughter and cheer, Let's all be at the Advent Pot-Luck this year!

Dec. 4, Sunday, 5 p.m.



Pastor's Bible Study

The Case for Christmas. It's a well-done video with journalist Lee Strobel as to why the Christmas story is intellectually plausible. Lee was once an atheist and worked as an investigative reporter for the Chicago Tribune. Come and hear what convinced him to become a Christian.

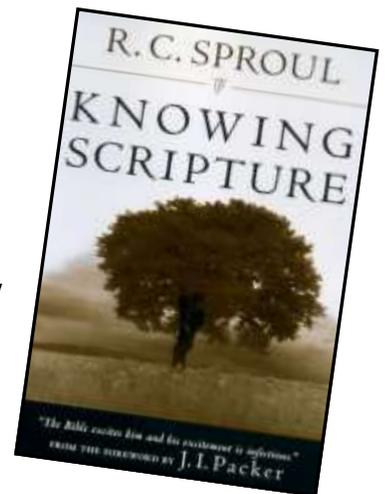
Wednesday, Dec. 7th, at 9 a.m.

(You may also view this video at the **Sunday Morning Bible Study** at 9 a.m. on Dec. 11th , as well as the **Monday Night Bible Study** at 7p.m. on Dec. 12th.)

Sunday Morning Bible Study

By Clark Brillhart

Starting **Sunday, Dec 18th** the bible study class will be studying a new subject called – “*Knowing Scripture*”. It consists of twelve 25-minute DVD lessons by R. C. Sproul, followed by a discussion period. Interpreting Scripture, like all sciences, is governed by rules. Dr. Sproul lays out the basic guidelines for correctly understanding, interpreting, and applying Scripture, using time-tested principles from Scripture to show how to find the true meaning of its contents. Plan to join us at 9:00 on Sunday mornings for Christian edification and fellowship.



The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents,
but in His
presence



The Poinsettia

The Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) is remarkable in that in just 75 years it has become THE Christmas plant. This roadside weed from Mexico has been bred (largely by the Ecke family in Southern California) to the point that nearly 100 million of them are sold worldwide every Christmas. This in spite of the fact that more than 60% of the public incorrectly believes them to be poisonous! The showy part of the plant is a bract, which is a leaf, and the flowers are the small yellow parts in the middle.

Care during the holidays: Make your house like Mexico! The Ecke Ranch website (www.ecke.com) states "if you are comfortable, so is your poinsettia." Poinsettias definitely don't like to be below 50F, and don't like drafts or cold winds. The brightest room in your house is best. Water just when they go dry, and tepid or warm water is better than cold tap water.

After the holidays: Poinsettias will begin to drop leaves in February, and then will go dormant. You can reduce watering at that time, and as soon as frost is unlikely (late February) you can move the pot outdoors. Cut them back 50%, repot in a larger pot, and start watering. Start feeding with Miracle-gro or similar fertilizer as new growth begins.

Getting them to bloom again is tricky. From late September Poinsettias need 14 hours of complete darkness (not even exposure to a simple incandescent light bulb!) for several weeks to trigger blooming. ANY disruption of that photoperiod requirement will prevent blooming!

Kind of a hassle! What did you pay for this plant??? Just buy a new one next year!

Memorial Poinsettias are a special way to remember loved ones. You can use this form to mail in your request/order, or pick one up at the church on Sundays or during the week in the church office.



MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS 2016

Poinsettias will be added to our Sanctuary decorations for Christmas week. These colorful blooms may be ordered "In memory of" or "In honor of" loved ones.

Please complete the form below and leave it at the special **Poinsettia Table** in the Narthex, or take it to the Church Office during the week.

Cost is \$8.00 for these 6" plants. A **Memorial List** will be published for inclusion in the Bulletin on Christmas Eve, December 24th. Poinsettias may be picked up following the worship service. Any that remain will be taken to shut-ins.

Please include in the Memorial Listing:

In Memory of: _____

By: _____

In Honor of: _____

By: _____

Please make checks payable to
First Presbyterian Church of Sebastian,
 with 'Poinsettias' on the Memo Line.

Order deadline is December 13th.



From the Music Department

by Charlene Peacock

Our search for an organist/accompanist continues, and a committee has been formed to hopefully find a qualified person. We are blessed to have Doris Brown in our congregation, and she is doing a wonderful job playing our service music. Doris has agreed to do this only while we search.

Community musicians are invited to participate in a Christmas Eve Carol event and service. The First Presbyterian Church of Sebastian is bringing the true meaning of Christmas through music played and sung by local musicians. This Christmas Eve musical experience is open to all instrumentalists. Rehearsals are planned for 2:00 PM on Wednesday, December 7th and 14th and at 4:00 PM, Saturday, December 24th.

The musicians and singers will perform carols from 6:25 PM to 7:00 PM Christmas Eve. The Christmas Eve Service, which is open to the community, begins at 7:00 PM., featuring Ruth Medinger who will play solo marimba and accompany the Sanctuary Choir as they present Pepper Choplin's Christmas composition, *Fall On Your Knees*.

Instrumentalists, please remember to bring your music stands. You can receive music and register in advance by calling 321 480 4714.

Charlene Peacock, Director of Music



Pictures and more information about our music programs and events can be found on our webpage:
www.welovefirst.org/music



Photos: World Communion Sunday and Charlene with granddaughter, Natalie Kitts, Guest Violinist

Outreach/Evangelism Team

by Joan Giltinan



'RED' DECALS TO BE 'READ!'

We need **your** help advertising 'FIRST' throughout our community. By your willingness to place a **RED DECAL (R-E-D to be R-E-A-D)** in the rear windshield of your vehicle, you will be helping us make FIRST known as you are out and about through the week.

When you stop for a traffic light or stop sign, the vehicle immediately behind you will see your decal; when you park your car in the parking lot of a **GROCERY STORE, MEDICAL OFFICE, GOLF COURSE or RESTAURANT**, your **decal** will be visible to folks walking by.

If you do not yet have a **red decal**, please stop by the Church Office between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Mon. thru Thurs., to pick up your **decal**. (They're free!) *Or*, you may see Joan Giltinan following worship any Sunday morning.

NEW CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

For folks photographed in October: Those of you who had *Directory* photos taken in October **and placed a photo order** with *Lifetouch*, should have received your photo order (complete with your complimentary 8 x 10 portrait) which was sent to your home address. If you have not yet received your order, please call the *Lifetouch* 'Guest Services' toll-free number provided with your order receipt. Otherwise, call Joan Giltinan (581-0392).



Those of you who had *Directory* photos taken in October **and did not place a photo order** with *Lifetouch*, can expect your complimentary 8 x 10 portrait to arrive at the church shortly. You can then pick yours up in the **Narthex** following a Sunday morning worship. Watch for an announcement or check our website for information: www.welovefirst.org.

Next photography dates: For our returning Snowbirds, any **new folks** worshipping with us and anyone who was unable to schedule photography in October, please mark these **February dates on your calendar:**

Tues. Feb. 7th, 1 – 8 pm

Wed. Feb. 8th, Thur. Feb. 9th, Fri. Feb. 10th, 10 am – 5 pm

On-line photo appointment scheduling will be available, beginning Monday, January 16th (a very easy way to make your appointment). You will also be able to make your photo appointment following worship in the Gathering Rm. on the Sundays of **Jan. 15th, 22nd and 29th**.

Remember, our new *Directory* will not be complete without **YOU** ... so, please mark the above dates on **your calendar NOW!**

From Presbyterian Women

by Carol Wise, Martha Circle

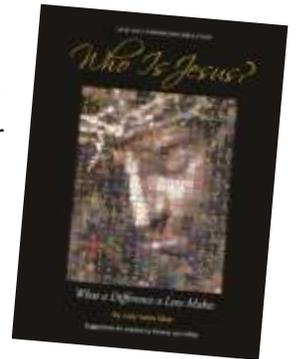
PW ELECTS TO COMBINE CIRCLES At the PW Coordinating Team meeting held on November 3rd, our circles were discussed as to participation. It was agreed to try to have one circle meet on the **third Wednesday** of the month. The circle would get together for lunch at 11:30 with the business meeting and study lesson to follow at 12 noon.

On **Thursday, December 1st, at 10:30 a.m.** there will be an **Installation of Officers** followed by a luncheon at Sharky's Café at 12 noon. A sign up sheet is on the Literature Table and everyone is welcome to attend.

Joan Giltinan attended the Central Florida Presbytery PW meeting where the 2017 study book was introduced *"Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes."* Joan has the DVD, and it is available for your review. I will be ordering the study books, just let me know. As a reminder, as Presbyterian Women *"we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study"*. I am hoping many of us will take the opportunity to do so. Looking forward to sharing prayer, lunch, Bible study and fellowship with my Sisters in Christ, beginning Wed., January 18th.

Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes by Judy Yates Siker

*Halfway through the Gospel of Mark, as Jesus and his disciples are on their way to Caesarea Philippi, Jesus turns to his disciples and asks, "So, what's the word on the street? Who do people say that I am?" It seems like a reasonable question to ask the people who travel with you and who have the opportunity to hear what folks in their towns and villages are saying about their teacher. "Well," they answer, "some say you are John the Baptist (back from the dead); others think you are one of the prophets, maybe Elijah, maybe another one." Then Jesus looks them squarely in the eyes and asks, "Yes, but who do **you** say that I am?" Now that's a good question! The author's prayer is that, through the course of this study, you will find your own voice, your own answer. When Jesus turns and looks you squarely in the eyes and asks, "Who do **you** say that I am?" What will **you** say?*



MARTHA CIRCLE CHRISTMAS POT-LUCK



Martha Circle will have a Christmas pot-luck luncheon on **Wednesday, December 14th**, commencing at 11:15 a.m., so make your favorite dish and come out and share it with your Sisters in Christ. The lunch will be followed by a short meeting and study lesson *"River of Life - Hope"* given by Joan Giltinan. This lesson will complete our 2015-2016 Bible Study *"Come to the Waters"* which gave us all a wonderful insight of the rich imagery of water throughout the Bible and helped us understand and articulate our faith. Just as water nourishes our bodies, so the scriptures on water nourish our souls. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

When most people see these words, they think of the popular holiday song. What many don't know is that the song actually began as a teaching to instruct young people in the Christian Faith. From 1558-1829, Roman Catholics in England were not able to practice their faith openly, so they had to find other ways to pass on their beliefs. This song is one example of how they did it.

Here's how it goes:

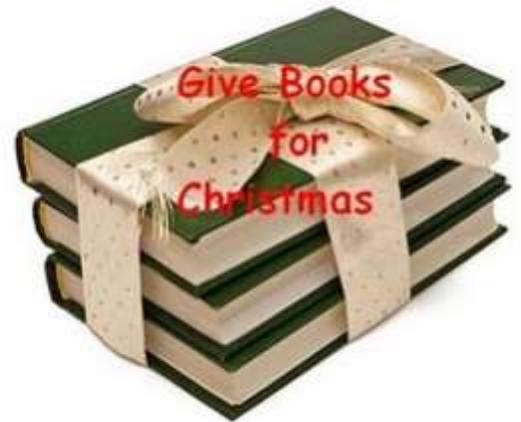
- ◆ On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me...."
The "true love" represents **God** and the "me" who receives these presents is the **Christian** (John 3:16)
- ◆ The "partridge in a pear tree" was **Jesus Christ** who died on a tree as a gift from God (Philippians 2:5-11)
- ◆ "Two turtle doves" were the **Old and New Testaments** (II Timothy 3:16)
- ◆ "Three French Hens" were **faith, hope and love**—the three gifts of the Spirit (I Cor. 13)
- ◆ "Four calling birds" were the **four Gospels**, singing songs of salvation (John 20:20-21)
- ◆ "Five gold rings" were the **first five books of the Bible**, also called the "books of Moses" (Deuteronomy 34:5-12)
- ◆ "Six geese a-laying" were the **six days of creation** (Genesis 1:1-13)
- ◆ "Seven swans a-swimming" were **seven gifts of the Holy Spirit**, the seven sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church (Romans 12:6-8)
- ◆ "Eight maids a-milking" were the **eight beatitudes** (Matthew 5:3-10)
- ◆ "Nine ladies dancing" were the **nine fruits of the Holy Spirit** (Galatians 5:22-23)
- ◆ "Ten lords a-leaping" were the **Ten Commandments** (Exodus 10: 1-17)
- ◆ "Eleven pipers piping" were the **eleven faithful disciples** (Matthew 10: 1-4)
- ◆ "Twelve drummers drumming" were the **twelve points of the Apostles' Creed**.



Lit Lovers Book Club

By Mary Keogh

The Book Club will meet next on **Monday, Dec. 12th at 1:00 pm** in the Meeting Room. The selection for **December** is *Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier who also wrote *The Girl With The Pearl Earring*, which is also an excellent book. *Remarkable Creatures* is based on a true story. When Mary Anning uncovers an unusual fossilized skeleton on the cliffs near her home, she sets the religious community on edge, the townspeople to gossip, and the scientific world alight with both admiration and controversy.



Books may be obtained at the library or purchased at a bookstore. You can also access them on your Kindle or similar device.

Come join us for interesting and lively discussions. Questions? Call Mary Keogh at 772-332-5205.

December Birthdays



- 12/01 Patricia Adkins
- 12/01 Joan Giltinan
- 12/01 Phyllis Keith
- 12/03 Evelyn Barrett
- 12/07 Thelma Andresen
- 12/08 Joan Helmacy
- 12/10 Dorothy Davis
- 12/10 Wilma Kaelin
- 12/15 David Pierson
- 12/18 Dorothy Restum
- 12/20 Pastor Jeff
- 12/25 June Atta
- 12/28 Katrina Norberg
- 12/29 Gene Bonchu
- 12/31 Kirk Woolery



A Call to Prayer

Concerns This Week:

Cheryl Anderson's friend, Karen
Joyce Anderson's daughter, Robin, her
brother-in-law, Bruce Day, and her
friend Arlene's sister, Janet
Judy Baysinger's daughter, Melanie
Al Berni
Betty Berry's granddaughter, Emily
Doug Boyd
Bob Brown's cousin, Ann Marie Glenn
Jamie Clark
Gloria Fennell
Shirley Gill's husband, Barry
Dave Huffman
Arnold Kimmel's sister, Martha Kimmel
Kraftchaks' friend, Don Masessa
Betty Letrick's nephew, Tim
Stan Linder
Nancy Marine
Anne McBride's husband, William
Jan Rapacke's sister, Marlyne
Dot Restum's cousin, George
Carol (Dick) Roy
Debbie Sladen's sister, Doreen Powers
Jean Valentine's son, Jamie
Carol Wise

Current Prayer Requests:

Rosemary Abma's son, Hank
June/John Atta's friends, Frank & Alice
Harriet Beatty
Bernis' friend, Maria Debonis
Betty & Jack Boardman
LuAnn & Steven Borsse
Bob Brown's cousins Suzanne and John
Schlichter
Doris Brown
Doris Brown's friend, Joann Langevin
Pat Carroll
Sally Clark's friend, Adele
Judy Clement
Judy Clement's granddaughter Taylor,
and niece, Audrey Kurtz
Elsie Colwell
Sandy Doughty's daughter, Melissa King
Michael Glick
Eleanor Hakes' son-in-law
Barbara/Wayne Harding
Mildred Hartman
Josie/John Jaynes
Jerry Jessup
Ron Kelly
Kelly's grandson, Luke
Kellys'/Bells' friend, Jack
Joan Killian

Killians' granddaughter, Rebecca
Arnold (Joan) Kimmel
Bill Kraftchak
Juanita Leioatts' grand-niece, Paisley
Linder
Donna Lemon's brother, Bobby, & sister,
Alice
Gerry Lewis
Nancy Loichytz's friend's daughter, Kristin
Norm Lopez
Sylvia McFadden's sons, Philip and Daniel
Myra Mende's grandson, Kyle
Mary Jo Morrow
Rene Mucci
Dick Nafziger
Pat Nelson's granddaughters, Megan &
Molly
Jan & Bob Rapacke
Pam Richardson's sister-in-law, Robin
Bess Scholten's granddaughter Jamey's
aunt
Bill (Bess) Scholten
Pastor Jeff Wood's friends, Ed Walraven,
and Nathan and Bonnie Thom
Pat Vilardi's step-grandson, Jake

Continuing Prayer Requests:

Roe Abma's friend Rina
Thelma Andresen's sister, Sharon
June (John) Atta
Jack Ayers
Katelynn Bauer
Judy Baysinger
Bells' grandson Taylor, & friend, Norman
Roxie Buhr
Brad Crowther's cousins, Freda & Bill
Gertrude Dinnany
Elliot's neighbors, Doug & Rachel Plasman
Bertha Golle
Phil & Ellie Gregory & daughter, Andrea
Eleanor Hakes
Sam Harpley
Bob Keith
Bill Kraftchak's brother, James, & friends
Bernie & Jinja
Kellys'/Bells' friends, Dave & Donna
Leioatts' neighbor's son, Tom Thompson
Juanita Leioatt's sister, Sue
Donna Lilga's daughter, Myra, & friend,
Carol
Nancy Loichytz
Nancy Loichytz's daughter, Suzanne
Norm Lopez's daughter, Liz, & friend,
Norma
Don MacLean's son, Don, Jr.

People whose lives and homes continue to be impacted by floods, fires, & tornadoes
Dave Pierson
Carol Plummer's son, Flavio Pierri, &
friends, Fiona Atwell, Joe Cruz &
Joan Boulay
Jan Rapacke's friend, Anna
Mary Rawn
Audrey Reed's sister, Maryanne
Dot Restum's granddaughter, Loriel
Rockledge Presbyterian Church
Mabel Rohr
Marge Royce
Bob & Georgette Shambo
Sam Spear
Bob Wannop
Don Wilson's son, James
Ronda Wilson
Mona Wood
Kirk Woolery's sister, Midge Engle

Grieving:

Dorothy Davis and family on the death
of her husband, Cary (11/2/16)
Family and friends of Don MacLean, on
his death (11/13/16)
Family and friends of Gail Crowther, on
her death (11/14/16)

Missionaries:

Dan & Elizabeth Turk
Rodney & Sharyn Babe



If you have a prayer request,
you may email it to:
office@welovefirst.org
or call the office: 772-586-5656

DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Elder of the Week: CAP: Joan Giltinan</p>	<p>12/4: Dick Sladen 12/11: Ron Kelly 12/18: Mary Keogh 12/25: Joan Giltinan</p>			<p>1 7am B & G 9-3 Thrift Shop 10:30 PW Officer Installation 12pm PW Luncheon</p> 	<p>2 OFFICE CLOSED 9-3 Thrift Shop 1pm Bridge</p>	<p>3 9-3 Thrift Shop</p>
<p>4 8:45 Cafe 9 Bible Study/Choir 10 Worship 11 Coffee 5pm Advent Dinner Pantry: Toilet Paper</p>	<p>5 10:15 PW Board 1pm Bridge 7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>6 9-3 Thrift Shop 9am CAP 1pm Admin Team 2:30 Stew/Fin Team</p>	<p>7 9am Pastor's Bible Study 10:30 O/E Team 4pm Choir 2:30pm Mission Team</p>	<p>8 7am B & G 9-3 Thrift Shop</p>	<p>9 OFFICE CLOSED 9-3 Thrift Shop 1pm Bridge</p>	<p>10 9-3 Thrift Shop</p>
<p>11 8:45 Cafe 9 Bible Study/Choir 10 Worship 11 Coffee Pantry: Canned Pumpkin</p>	<p>12 1pm Bridge 1pm Book Club 7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>13 9-3 Thrift Shop 9am CAP 3pm Session</p>	<p>14 9am Pastor's Bible Study 11:15 Martha Circle 12 pm Potluck Luncheon 4pm Choir</p> 	<p>15 7am B & G 9-3 Thrift Shop</p>	<p>16 OFFICE CLOSED 9-3 Thrift Shop 1pm Bridge</p>	<p>17 9-3 Thrift Shop</p>
<p>18 8:45 Cafe 9 Bible Study/Choir 10 Worship 11 Coffee Pantry: Fresh Produce</p>	<p>19 1pm Bridge 7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>20 9-3 Thrift Shop 9am CAP</p>	<p>21 9am Pastor's Bible Study 4pm Choir</p>	<p>22 7am B & G 9-3 Thrift Shop</p>	<p>23 OFFICE CLOSED 9-3 Thrift Shop 1pm Bridge</p>	<p>24 Thrift Shop Closed 3pm Blue Christmas 4pm Musicians Rehearsal 5pm Choir Rehearsal 6:25pm Carol Event 7pm Christmas Eve Worship</p> 
<p>25 CHRISTMAS 9 Bible Study/Choir 10 Worship Pantry: Canned Fruit</p> 	<p>26 1pm Bridge 7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>27 9-3 Thrift Shop 9am CAP</p>	<p>28 9am Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>29 7am B & G 9-3 Thrift Shop</p>	<p>30 OFFICE CLOSED 9-3 Thrift Shop 1pm Bridge</p>	<p>31 9-3 Thrift Shop</p>



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To know Christ and to make Christ known.



Remember these dates:

*December 1st—PW Installation of Officers 10:30am
and PW Christmas Luncheon at Sharky's, 12pm*

December 4th—Advent Dinner, 5pm

December 14th—Martha Circle Christmas Potluck Luncheon, 11:15am

December 24th—Blue Christmas Service at 3pm, Christmas Eve Carols at 6:25pm,

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service at 7pm

December 25th — Christmas Worship, 10am