



La Habra United Methodist Church

Vista

December 2017

Are you ready for the holidays? The question comes regularly this time of year. I'm not entirely sure what it means to be "ready". We buy presents, put up lights, decorate the house and tree, and plan a party, and then are we "ready" for the holidays?

Christian faith has a different understanding of preparation. We are asked to recall the history of God's salvation among us, acknowledge our separation from God, and look around for surprising births among forgotten people in out-of-the way places.

One of the Bible passages I have been using in meditation and prayer comes from Isaiah 64. The line that jumped out at me was this: "If only you [God] would tear open the heavens and come down!" The passage goes on to describe a rather powerful sense of God's coming. "Mountains would quake and nations will tremble..." at this coming of God. So says the prophet.

The birth of Jesus is not that dramatic. It is quiet and almost unnoticed. A young woman hears a revelation about her impending pregnancy. She shares the news with only one other person, an older relative who happens to be experiencing her own unusual birth. In fact, one of the telling lines in Luke's version of the story comes after the shepherds wander to the place of birth sharing their own experience of divine intervention.

The shepherds tell their astonishing story. Everyone is amazed not because it confirmed their own understanding, but because it was truly bewildering. Mary has an opportunity to clear all of this up. She is the only one present who knows the truth. Instead she "treasures all these words and ponders them in her heart."

We ready ourselves by pondering in our hearts the wonder of God's love being born in Jesus. We prepare by knowing that the man he will become offers himself in complete obedience to God's will. We truly celebrate the holidays when we share this good news with others.

If only God would tear open the heavens and come down, that was the prayer of Isaiah. He has, he does, and he will. Buy presents, decorate homes, and plan the gatherings. Also be ready for an amazing indwelling of God's love.

Christmas Blessings

Pastor Doug

Out to Lunch Bunch

Out-to-Lunch Bunch meets every third Wednesday of the month. We get together

for a nice meal and fellowship. Come join us for this month's event on Wednesday, December 20th, at 1:00pm. We will be meeting at "Sizzler" on Harbor Blvd. Hope to see ya there!

happy birthday

December Birthdays!!

<i>Archie Collette</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Lois Evans</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Andria Hastings</i>	<i>4th</i>
<i>Pearl Martino</i>	<i>6th</i>
<i>Mary Cox</i>	<i>7th</i>
<i>Pumpkin Bantrell</i>	<i>11th</i>
<i>Marie Chandler</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Wes Shaw</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Barbara Broese</i>	<i>22nd</i>
<i>Kurt Deniz</i>	<i>26th</i>
<i>Pam Bellomy</i>	<i>27th</i>
<i>Emily Rose Lowe</i>	<i>28th</i>
<i>Melissa Szekunda</i>	<i>28th</i>

Preschool News...

**Happy Holidays from the
Preschool Staff!!!**

The preschool will be having our
Christmas Program Friday, December
8th at 6:30pm

The preschool will be closed
December 25th – January 1st
during our Christmas Holidays!!



...if we have forgotten your birthday, Please contact the church office.....



Thank You...

*Dear Shani, Stella, Matthew and the Sunday School Teachers:
 Many thanks for the beautiful Thanksgiving napkin and for the Valentine Coaster.
 How thoughtful of you!!! I miss the Sunday worship services and seeing you there. I
 do attend a worship service here at Assisted Living, but it's not the same. I hope I can
 get back to La Habra for worship soon.
 May God keep you in His Love,
 Oscar Janeway*

Thank You!!

What an amazingly generous congregation you are!
 You've helped with the disaster relief and have brought a great amount of
 feed for those in need.

Thanks to all who have helped in any way.
*May God continue to bless you,
 Rev. Peggy Rubel*



Thank You, LORD!





Fall Food Collection

We again participated in the Catarina's Club "Pastathon"

This organization feeds some 3,300 young people at 48 locations across the Southland. We collected pasta, sauce, paper napkins, plates, bowls, and plastic ware.

Also during that time, we collected specific items for La Habra's Community Care Resource Center.

All of these food items will help people in need. Thank you all for your participation.

Greetings from the Giving Tree Elves

This year our Giving Tree outreach is in support of two mothers and their children who have left abusive situations and are establishing new lives. These families have only minimum necessities. We are asking that you:

1. Take a tag from the tree
2. Purchase a gift card from **Target** or **Walmart** in an amount of your choice.
3. Return the gift card to church in the envelope provided by **December 10th**.

The cards will be given to the mothers to shop for clothing and gift for their families. Please return the cards no later than December 10th. Thank you for giving hope and for sharing the joy of Christmas with these families. You will make a big difference in their holiday!



Christmas Eve Services

10:30am – Morning Worship
5:00pm – Family & Children's Service
8:00pm – Candlelight Service



shutterstock · 91265921