

The Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2024
Sandy Creek United Wesleyan Church
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A Prayer To Love

God, Grant me the courage to love those who are difficult to love, and to see the good in others, even when they may not see it in themselves. Help me to extend grace and compassion to those who may not deserve it, and to forgive those who have wronged me. Teach me to love others selflessly, without expecting anything in return. Help me to put the needs of others above my own, and to serve them with a loving and open heart. Thank you for your endless love and grace and for the example you set for us through your son, Jesus. I pray that through your guidance, I may learn to love others unconditionally, as you do.
In Jesus' Name, Amen

Today: Children's Christmas Play

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR

Ron Latella
Patty Griffith • Deb Reitz
Carol Miles • Lewis Carter
Marilyn's Brother • Deb Reitz
John Ridgeway • Wayne Greenfield
Heather Whaley • Bev Commings
Kevin Bellville • Carol Merritt • Dan Conway
Mary Hesford • Annie Grant • Gary Peterson
Shaun Hull • Elaine LaCelle • Mark Freeden
Burt Goodnough • Dick Bryant • Stanley Kepner
Stanley Perzan • Beverly Snyder • Phoebe Wheeler

MISSIONS: The Food Pantry—Town of Sandy Creek
ALL MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL

NEXT WEEK: SUNDAY, December 29, 2024

Greeters: Bill Butman / Kelly Blair

Security: Tim Redden / Brian Derby / Steve Berkman

Monday, December 23: No Ladies Bible Study until Jan. 6

Tuesday, December 24: No Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, December 24, 6:00 PM: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25, 10:00 AM: Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 29, 11:15 AM: Security Meeting

The Heart of Christmas: God's Love Revealed

One of the most beautiful aspects of Christmas is the humility of Jesus' Birth. Born in a manger, He came not as a conquering king but as a servant.

Christmas is the celebration of the greatest gift ever given: Jesus Christ. At the heart of the Christmas story is the profound truth of God's love for humanity. John 3:16 declares, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." This act of love was not out of obligation but out of God's deep desire to reconcile us to Himself. Christmas is a reminder that love took on flesh and entered our broken world to bring, hope, peace and salvation.

The story of Christmas begins with God reaching out to ordinary people—Mary, Joseph, shepherds and wise men. These individuals weren't extraordinary by the world's standards, yet they were chosen to be part of God's incredible plan. This demonstrates that God's love is inclusive, reaching every person regardless of status or background.

Christmas is also a story of light overcoming darkness. Jesus is the Light of the World, illuminating the path to hope and salvation. Even in the darkest moments of our lives, His light shines, reminding us that God's love is steadfast and His promises are true. This light is not meant to be hidden but shared with others, spreading the joy of Christmas to a world in need.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us not lose sight of its true meaning. God gave us the ultimate gift in Jesus—a gift that brings eternal life, transforms hearts and restores relationships. This Christmas, may we truly experience the heart of God and reflect His love to the World.



LOVE

I WILL DECLARE
THAT YOUR **LOVE**
STANDS FIRM FOREVER,
THAT YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED
YOUR FAITHFULNESS
IN HEAVEN ITSELF.

PSALM 89:2