

Worship the Lord with Us!

Sunday Worship

Traditional Worship Service: 8:30 am

Sunday School for all ages: 9:40 am

Contemporary Worship Service: 10:45 am

*Listen to our service online at
www.fumccollingswood.org.*

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is published by:

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**Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
(Closed for lunch 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm)**

***FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is online at
www.fumccollingswood.org and is available via
e-mail. Send an e-mail to
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The submission deadline for the
March issue of Windows is
February 10th.

***THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!***



From The Pastor's Heart

Sharing God's Love In 2019

Wow, it is hard to believe we are already thinking about February, the month of “LOVE” and Valentine’s Day and candy and more snow and Super Bowl! For those diehard Eagles fans, it’s bittersweet not having our team playing this year.

However, I want you to think about the greatest expression of love that comes to your mind. Maybe your mind may go to a time when puppy love came on the scene, or you can reflect on those in your life nearest and dearest to you. However, the greatest demonstration of love I find in my life is Jesus, when he was willing to sacrifice everything for me and love me unconditionally...that changed my life!

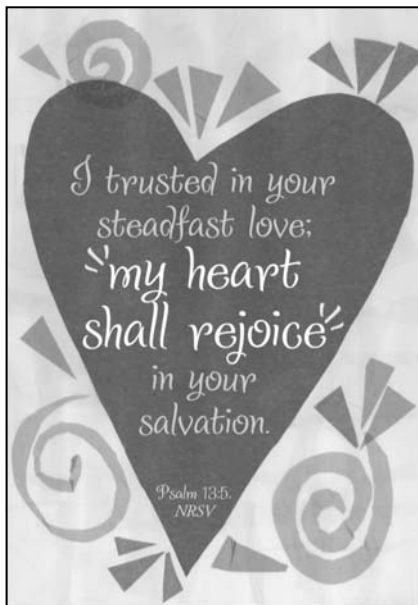
Now Jesus calls us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and to have a deep love for others that calls us to love our neighbor in new and transforming ways. As we look to 2019, a year of “SHARING GOD’S LOVE,” our heart’s prayer is to allow Jesus’ love to guide us through this all-important calling in our lives. There are clever ways that provoke our thinking about who Jesus loved. Jesus was about the last, the least and the lost. I’m so glad for that focus because that’s how I got included in His love and grace.

How we live that relationship by listening and growing in our relationship with God that makes a difference is what counts. I was reading an article by Dr. Jim Denison this last week about growing in our faith and thought I share it with you as we grow in faith together:

How can we experience more of God? Psalm 13 is David's plea for help in a hard place. He begins with transparent honesty: "How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ... How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?" (vv. 1-2) He needs help immediately "lest I sleep the sleep of death." (v. 3b)

Despite God's apparent silence, David continues to pray: "Consider and answer me, O LORD my God." (v. 3a) Why? Note the tenses of his answer: "I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation." (v. 5) Then he reverses the order: "I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me." (v. 6)

David learned from God's faithfulness in the past to trust his faithfulness for the future. Because the Lord's nature does not change (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8), all that he has done, he can still do.



"The issue of faith"

You and I can follow David's example today. Name a need you need God to meet. Find a time in your experience and/or Scripture when he met it. Ask him to do so again and trust that he hears you and will answer you in whatever way is best.

Your trust will position you to experience your Father's grace. And your faith will be a powerful witness to a culture that often doubts faith.

R. C. Sproul: "The issue of faith is not so much whether we believe in God, but whether we believe the God we believe in." Do we?

May each of us take the opportunity to experience God's love so we might share it in the places and space we live.

*In His love and Grace,
Pastor Sam*



In case of inclement weather, you can find
updated service and event information
at the following locations:

- ◆ Call the church at 856-858-1186.
- ◆ Visit our website at www.fumccollingswood.org.
- ◆ Visit the Collingswood FUMC Facebook page.

WEE SOCCER

Grades K-3
Saturdays, February 2, 9, 16 and 23.
Times assigned to each team.



SUPER SUNDAY 2019 - February 3rd

Join us for this special Sunday as we celebrate how God does super things in our lives. We will have Jason Ostrander, a national speaker this morning. He has a unique story of God's grace you won't want to miss!

Later than day we will be celebrating and enjoying the Superbowl as members and friends are invited to various homes within our church family. More info coming!

FEBRUARY SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES



February 3	Super Sunday - Jason Ostrander (Healing of the Blind Man) Communion	John 9:1-6
February 10	Seeing God's Plan (Healing Blind Bartimaeus)	Mark 10:46-52
February 17	Let's Get Going (Healing at the Pool)	John 5:1-15
February 24	God Supplies (Jesus Feeds the 5000)	John 6:1-14

Seeking God's Face Week ***March 3 – March 10***

We are putting aside this week for a special time of prayer, meditation and fasting to God so we might know God's mind intimately, know His will for our lives and our church, and for the future. We'll seek Him through...

- Daily prayer – challenging each to devote 30 minutes a day to prayer for God's will.
- Wednesday evening prayer – meet in the sanctuary from 6:00 - 7:00 pm to pray (Holy Wednesday.)
- Friday and Saturday - for 24 hours of prayer (sign up in the church office.)



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE (WNL)

Something for Everyone!

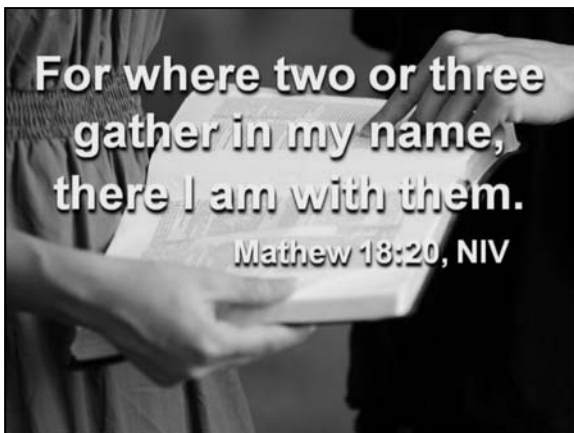
WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE (WNL) is back, starting January 30th!! Bring the whole family for an amazing, home-cooked dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by gatherings for all ages at 7:00 pm. Reserve your spot for dinner by signing up on the tear off on Sunday mornings or call or email the church office by 10 a.m. on Tuesday mornings. Kids will join with others their own age each week for exciting activities and relevant Bible lessons, led by our wonderful children's team. Check out the kids classes, which begin at 6:45 PM so parents can sign in their children and still arrive at their own 7:00 PM Bible study class right on time.

WNL Preschool (Room 202)

WNL Kindergarten – 2nd Grade (Room 106 – off the gym)

WNL Grades 3 – 5 (Room 105 – off the gym)

Youth (grades 6-12) and adults will gather for a rich variety of meaningful experiences through this semester, including monthly “First Night” prayer gatherings, solid Bible teaching, inspiring missionary stories, and hands-on service projects. These classes will be held in the parlor. More information coming soon!



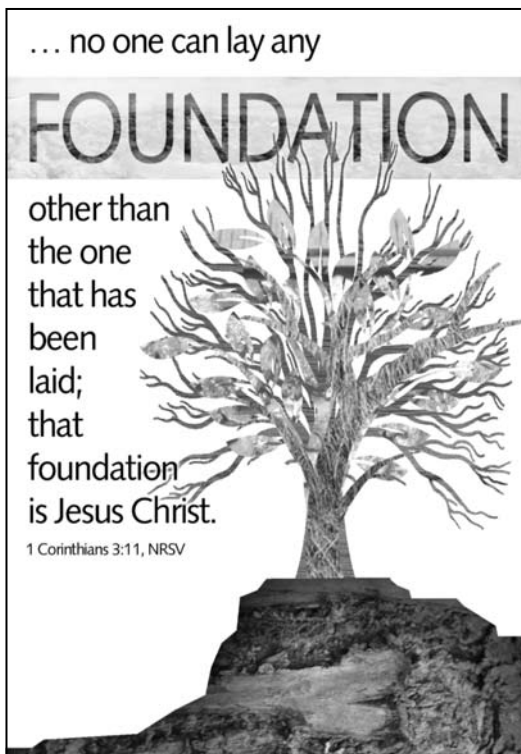
FOUNDATIONS CLASS

Foundations: An exploration of our Christian faith. The class will answer questions such as Who is God? Why is there sin? And more. This class will offer a broad view of God's work throughout history and NOW and will transition to what it means to be a Christian. Join us to explore God's work in the people He made and loves. This class is open to all adults!

Who is it for?

- Seekers – those who are curious about God, Jesus, the Bible, or Christianity
- Starters – those who have just begun their relationship with Jesus Christ
- Returners – those who have some church experience, but have been away for a while

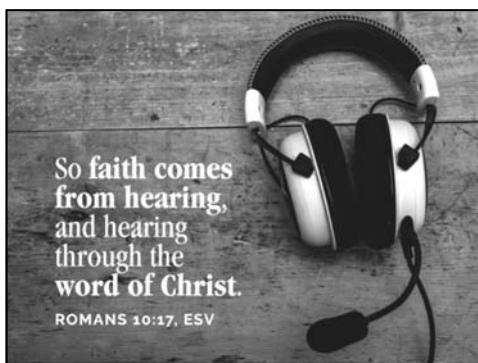
Where and when? Room 305 at First United Methodist beginning Sunday, February 3, 2019 during Discipleship Hour 9:45 - 10:25 am.



Opportunities for Serving in 2019

**Looking for a resolution to make for the new year?
How about serving in one of our behind-the-scenes ministries?**

We are always looking for volunteers to expand our Technical Ministries team (including the laptop team.) Each Sunday, we are responsible for the lights and sound for our services, recording and editing the service for streaming from our website and for running the projection system in the Sanctuary. We serve the Lord by enabling His message to be seen and heard by others. You don't need any experience - just a willingness to learn. If you are interested in helping us out, you may contact Phil Boswell.) or you are also welcome to drop by the sound booth or control room and talk to any of our operators.



We are also looking for new faces for our Nursery teams. Each week we staff the nurseries at both the 8:30 and 10:45 am services. No experience is necessary, just a love of children. Please contact Kathy Boswell if you are interested in helping in this vital ministry.

Can YOU Help?



LAPTOP MINISTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Do you enjoy learning new things? Do you like working with computers or would you like to learn to work with a computer? Would you like to be part of the praise team but don't sing or play an instrument? You might be the right person to join the laptop ministry. There is a need for more people to work with the laptop ministry. The laptop ministry assists Pastor Sam as well as the praise team in providing a positive worship experience for the congregation.

Details: The person scheduled to run the laptop for the contemporary service attends praise band practice which is usually on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and again on Sunday at 7:30 am. The service itself is at 10:45 am. The person running the laptop starts at 10:30 am. on Sunday. Programming is done by the person running the laptop. Training will be provided. See Jonathan Schwehm for more information.

TREASURER HELP NEEDED

Can you balance a checkbook?

While it may be on a slightly larger scale, that is how Ted Robb often sums-up what he does as our current Treasurer of Local Ministries & Operations. After many years of dedicated service, Ted will be stepping down from that role in early 2019, and the church welcomes all applications from members who may be called to serve in this area. This is a critically important opportunity to serve the Lord and His Church through the faithful administration of the finances of the church. If you are interested in applying for the position, or even hearing more about what the role entails, please indicate that desire on the tear-off pew registration form, speak with any of the Pastors, or any member involved in the Finance Committee or Church Council - all of whom can properly direct your inquiry to the Finance Team. **THANK YOU!**



FEBRUARY			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver	5 Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Church Council	6	7 6:00 PM WNL 6:45 PM Mast
11 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver	12 Church Office Closed Seeking God's Face 7:00 PM Discipleship Meeting 7:00 PM Missions- Evangelism	13 Seeking God's Face 7:00 PM Finance Round table	14 6:00 PM WNL 6:45 PM Mast 7:00 PM WNL Studies VALENTINE'S DAY
18 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver PRESIDENTS DAY	19 Church Office Closed	20	21 6:00 PM WNL 6:45 PM Mast 7:00 PM WNL Studies
25 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver	26 Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	27	28 6:00 PM WNL 6:45 PM Mast 7:00 PM WNL Studies

RY 2019

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	2	3 9:00 AM Wee Soccer Games
Dinner er's Men	8 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice 7:00 PM Finance Round table	9	10 8:00 AM Women's Breakfast 9:00 AM Wee Soccer Games 6:00 PM Game Night
Dinner er's Men Bible	15 6:30 PM Handi*Vangelism Support Group 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	16	17 9:00 AM Wee Soccer Games
WOMEN'S DAY			
Dinner er's Men Bible	22 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	23 7:00 PM Grace Cafe	24 9:00 AM Wee Soccer Games
Dinner er's Men Bible			



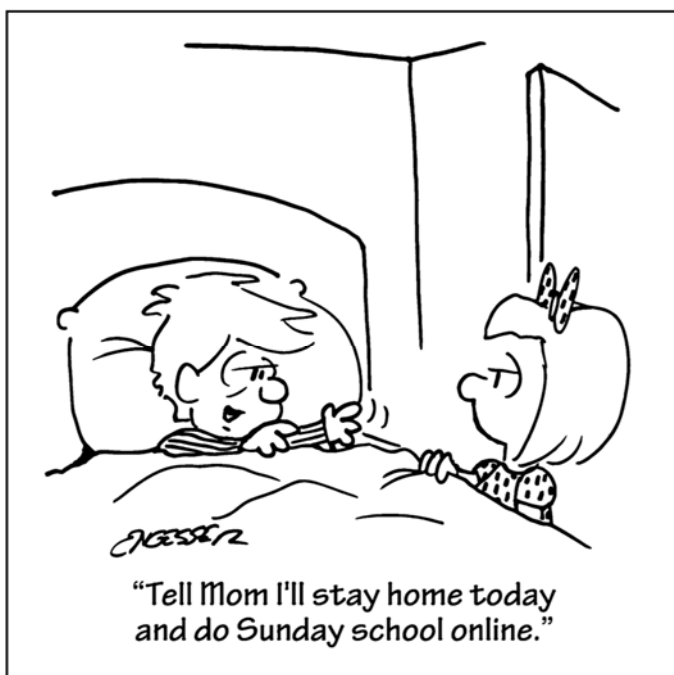
GAME NIGHT – held the 2nd Saturday of every month from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in Stokes Dining Room. Feel free to bring your favorite game or come and learn a new one! Also, bring your favorite snack to share. Hope to see you there. Any questions, please See Emily Davis or Susan Gibbins-Davis.

GRACE CAFÉ
Open Mic Night
February 23, 2019



Join us on the last Friday of each month for an evening of entertainment! Sign-up starts at 6:30 pm. Entertainment from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. We welcome all performers to share their love of music, poetry, comedy, etc. All generations welcomed! There is a PA system, stage lighting, amps, keyboards, drum kit and a large stage area to enhance your performance. Coffee and assorted food items will be served. If you would like to bring a tasty treat to share, that would be great! Bring your entire family! For additional information contact John Vernon or check us out on Facebook - Grace Cafe!

SING SONGS OF PRAISE.
James 5:13





Neale and Barbara Goetch, SC and England

Thank you for praying as we delivered the 2019 Chinese Scripture text calendars in South Carolina. We were met with knowing smiles at each restaurant and take-away. Because the Chinese New Year doesn't begin until February 5th, we combined our New Year wishes with Christmas greetings. There is an interesting story from Chinese lore about the approaching 'Year of the Pig'; When the Jade emperor had invited all the animals to a feast, the pig arrived very late. Some think he overslept while others suggest that after the wolf had blown his house down (western culture has a similar tale, doesn't it?) he was delayed, being preoccupied with making repairs. In retelling the advent of the Savior, we related that God is never late—that in the fullness of time—the time He had purposed and planned in eternity past—Jesus came, and the challenge is that His invitation to come to Him by faith is not to be put off. Pray with us that those who have not trusted Christ will see their need of Jesus, and that many who we sense are believers will be encouraged by the message on the calendars. Since we will be in England in February, we are taking calendars along with us to give out there as well.

The list of Chinese friends that want to get together while we are in the UK is growing. Pray that the Lord will strengthen for those travels and give eternal significance to those visits. Some are not yet trusting the Savior.

Walt and Pat Stuart, France

This was primarily written by Harry Walker, Pat's nephew, and a Crossworld missionary as well.

The past four weekends have seen huge protests (and in some cases riots) in major French cities. The protests started against the hike in taxes on fuel. But in reality, the malaise goes deeper than a new gas tax.

“Fixing” Climate Change

The French solution to pollution was to hike the price of energy. However, with the French already paying \$6.50 a gallon, another 6% was huge. The protests began through “social media” (namely F.B.) and grew to huge proportions. Walt and Pat have been blocked often by “gilets jaunes” on the 1st weekend of the

protests. (See photo from our car.) After 4 weeks of protests, the president backed down on the tax increase, But it was too late! The retirees wanted their tax increase rescinded, and the minimum wage people wanted their share of the action. All three groups got what they wanted. When will the protests end? No one seems to know.

The Solution....

There is not one easy solution. The protests degenerated into riots, destruction, and anarchy. President Macron promises to “get in touch” with the working class. He plans to survey the French mayors to see what people are really thinking. (France has 36,500 mayors!)

Sadly, France is a cameo of the world. Many people are angry, depressed and prone to violence. (See Habakkuk 1:1-5) We ask that you pray for peace in France, but also in the rest of the world. Maranatha, Lord Jesus come.

Strasbourg Christmas Market

Yesterday, a lone wolf terrorist attacked France's largest Christmas market. Three dead and a dozen people were wounded. Twenty-four hours later, the gunman, screamed “allahu akbar” as he was shooting. The terrorist was caught and killed last night. Please pray the God would move in this day of mourning. This is the city Famille Je t'aime has a Biblical Counseling training in session. We are convinced that prevention and healing is essential in the inner man to prevent anger from overflowing inside and outside the church. Let's know our calling and be faithful to it wherever we are!

May you all have a most meaningful Christmas and a New Year filled with many opportunities to share Christ!

Don and Norma Toland, PA

Seeing the manger scene once again, reminds me so much of the time in Papua New Guinea when Dasi, our Rawa language helper who had come with us back to Ukarumpa, our linguistic Center, turned to me as he was looking at our manger scene, and asked, “Norma, was Jesus really born in a rough house like that which was made for animals, and was he laid on a bed of grass like



(Continued on page 21)



Wings of Prayer

Called to Prayer



There are many reasons people are drawn to pray: need, habit, praise, obedience, gratitude, desperation, comfort. No matter the reason, God wants us to come to Him. He wants to give us our heart's desires. (*"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it*

will be done for you." John 15:7) We may be worried about our eloquence, but He is much more interested in what our hearts have to say than our mouths. (*"And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words."* Matthew 6:7) Just be intentional. Be honest. He will meet you where you are and he will accept whatever you can offer him.

Sometimes we can't find the words. Our emotions are too great. I have often found myself wanting to call out to God, but being too overwhelmed by fear or pain to put my thoughts together. One of the most comforting scriptures for me personally tells us that when we are not able to find the words, the Holy Spirit prays for us, taking what is in our hearts directly to God. (*"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."* Romans 8:26) How amazing is that! God wants to hear our prayers so much that He gave us the Holy Spirit so we could always have a direct connection to Him, especially at the times when we need Him the most.

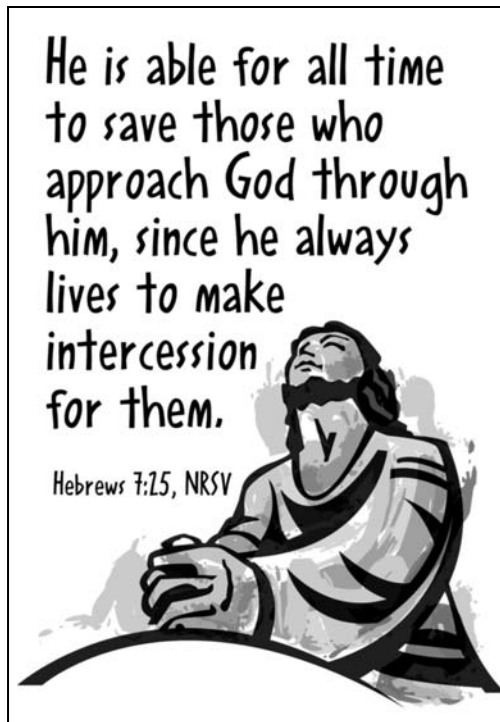
There are particularly sacred prayers that are barely audible, a single utterance that floats out under your breath, from the depths of your soul. *Help me... I can't... Jesus... Thank you...* These prayers are as deeply felt and important as a prayer of 1,000 words, and I believe God receives these prayers with extra tenderness.

Sometimes a prayer is a long conversation. Sometimes we do a lot of fist shaking and yelling. Sometimes we share our joy and thanks. A song can be a prayer. Sometimes we just sit in His presence. We pray for our own needs, and sometimes for others.

God wants to hear all of these. Praying is a way for our heart to connect with God's heart. His deepest desire is for his children to know him and become more like him. When we spend time getting to know people the conversation becomes easier and more natural. In the same way, the more time we spend with God, the easier it is to have a conversation. So pull up a chair or a park bench with God. Talk to Him. Do it while you take a walk, or wash the dishes. He is waiting to hear from you.

And when you pray, please remember the special needs of the following people in our church family: *Paul Gibbons, Carol Shropshire, Carolyn Alexander, Tim Sheetz, Bea Williams, Jantzen Aurig, Audrey Diehl, Arnie Arnold, Cheryl and Tom Averell, David Shropshire, Holly Gibbons.*

Marion Wertz





If you have not already done so,
please give your dates (birth dates
and anniversary dates) to the church
office in writing or by e-mail:
maria@fumccollingswood.org.

Feb. 1	Grant Knudson	Feb. 17	Tom Thompson
Feb. 2	Sandra Wright		Lou VanPelt, Jr.
Feb. 6	Jim Doyle	Feb. 18	Marva Wallace
	Marilyn Ellis	Feb. 20	Jennifer Schwehm
	Sherry Rappe	Feb. 22	Cheryl Aversa
Feb. 7	Stan Sheaffer	Feb. 23	Barb Oliver
Feb. 8	John Vernon	Feb. 24	Barbara Edelman
Feb. 9	Ruthmarie Weinberg		George Hemphill
Feb. 10	Carol Vernon Grant	Feb. 25	Lori Vernon
	Will Jungclaus	Feb. 26	Jane Doyle
Feb. 11	Julie Ross	Feb. 27	Megan Bickel
Feb. 14	Vienna Knudson		Jennifer Kennedy
Feb. 15	Juliana Atkinson		
Feb. 16	Jadon Hamilton		
	Rose Hamilton		



THANK YOU - As one year ends and a new year begins, it is not uncommon for us and for others to look back at what has happened in our lives. As we look back, we see the loss of our beloved son Matt. We also see the many ways the members and friends of First Church sustained and supported us during Matt's life and after his death. Your prayers and expressions of love helped us get through many challenging months. We are grateful for all you have done for our family last year and for many, many years. Thank you for all the kindness you have showered on us. Thank you for your willingness to be God's hands and feet in sharing His love with us. We are blessed to be part of this church family and are truly grateful. Again, thank you.

Jean and Ted Robb

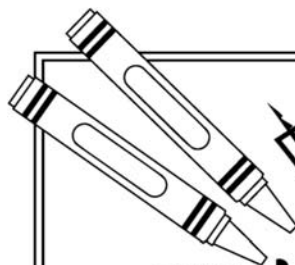


(Missionary Messages - Continued from page 17)

that?" I replied that, yes, that's right because the town of Bethlehem was so full of people at that time that there was no other place for them to go. He then said, "this house for animals was not as strongly made and nice as even our houses are in the village. When I get back home again I'm going to tell everyone that Jesus was born in a roughly-made house that they used only for animals. They don't know that."

We'd appreciate much prayer backing as Don and I are in the process of writing up our memoirs into a book called, "Instruments in God's Symphony." Thanks!

Our deep gratitude to those of you who continue to help us financially to help meet our retirement expenses. We're deeply grateful! Many, many thanks!



PUZZLE

WITH LOVE FROM ABOVE

The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.

Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below.



God is our _____ and _____,
an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

“Surely I am with you _____.” Matthew 28:20

And the _____ of God ... will guard
your hearts and your minds in
_____. Philippians 4:7

Whoever lives in _____ lives in God,
and God in them. 1 John 4:16

_____ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Answers: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect

A MESSAGE OF *Love*

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.



What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

What you do:

1. Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
2. Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
3. Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
4. Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
5. Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.

Bible Quiz

In Luke's account of Jesus calling the first disciples from their work as fishermen to follow him and "fish for people" (NIV), which disciple is not named?

- A. James
- B. John
- C. Simon
- D. Andrew



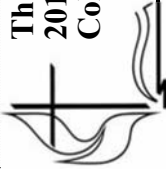
CHI RHO

"Chi" and "rho" are the first two letters in the Greek spelling for Christ (XPICTOC, pronounced "Christos"). The blending of these two letters into one symbol formed a "sacred monogram." Early Christians created many such symbols as codes to indicate their discipleship while avoiding detection by Roman persecutors. Many variations of the Chi Rho symbol exist, incorporating a cross, a shepherd's crook, the Greek letters alpha and omega, an anchor and other images.



Answer: D (See Luke 5:1-11.)

The First United Methodist Church
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*To see all people **WORSHIP** God, **CONNECT** with His people,
and join His **MISSION** in this world.*