

BAY VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# CONNECTION Newsletter

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.™



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Siblings in Jesus Christ,

This year Christmas will be different. As like Thanksgiving, many dinner tables with family and friends around them will be not happening this year. I admit, I did not really feel like setting up Christmas tree at first. Why? It did not feel like Christmas was coming. Like many this year, I feel dazed. What did we encounter this year? Was this all a dream? Are we still sleeping?

Yet, we live in reality that this year has been a difficult year. Admitting this is the first step in the grief process. Being sad that this has been a different year is also part of the process. When we get short fused or frustrated more than we usually would, this too is part of the grief process. As we end the year of 2020, we can be like Charlie Brown by saying, "Good grief." Yes, this too is part of the grief process. Sadness, anger, frustration, acceptance is all at work this year in our lives.

When I did think of the Christmas season, I could close my eyes and see once again the memories of the past. The Christmas Church pageants I was a part of in Sunday School class; the time I tripped on my wiseman robe and fell into the Christmas tree which almost landed on the pastor. All good memories. Or the time as a pastor when a brother and sister played Mary and Joseph and they

ended up getting into a mini fight with Mary whacking Joseph with baby Jesus. Good memories.

Just because this is 2020 does not mean that we cannot still have good memories. I find myself sitting in the dark living room with just the Christmas lights on the tree lit. I sit and I ponder. I sit and I pray. I sit and I praise God. I sit and I remember how God has been active in our world this year. I reflect how God has been a part of my life this year. It is a critical relationship that I am thankful for and I rejoice.

Over 2000 years ago, on a quiet night, we can remember the shepherds and their encounter with the host of angels. Listen to the words...

*"Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" (Luke 2:10-14)*

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The angels brought Good News! What if the shepherds were like us in 2020, longing for something to change, now finding hope in the times of hopelessness, now finding peace in times of strife? What if God's message of Christ's birth came just at the right time in history? What would it mean for us to remember this Good News of the angel's proclamation again in the year 2020?

If you look at Eugene Peterson's interpretation from *The Message*, we read, "The shepherders returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen." When was the last time you "let loose" because you were so excited on Good News you just heard? What event would have to happen in our lives to empower us to "let loose" and glorify God for everything that God has promised to us in Christ Jesus?

I invite you as we prepare now for the Christmas season to 'let loose' and glorify God because all the time God is good and God is good all the time. We find this in the Christ child, our Emmanuel—God with us in human flesh!

Merry Christmas!  
Pastor Kevin

## Upcoming Events

### Wednesdays

Weekly Bible Study on Zoom; Wednesdays at 3pm  
Study the weekly lectionary scriptures with us on Zoom!  
*Zoom link:* <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83173053327>

### Sundays

Sundays at 9:45am: Facebook Live Service of Worship  
*Facebook Live:* [www.facebook.com/BVUMC](http://www.facebook.com/BVUMC)  
Virtual Coffee Half-Hour will be held AFTER worship at 10:50am  
*Zoom Coffee Hour Link:* <https://bayviewumc.org/wordpress/events/>  
Meet us at 9:45am on Facebook Live for our service of worship, then hop over to Zoom after worship for a half an hour of coffee-time fellowship! If you would like to be e-mailed the bulletin and hymns, please e-mail: [officeadmin@bayviewumc.org](mailto:officeadmin@bayviewumc.org) to be added to our weekly email list.

### 12th Annual Cookie Sale

Sunday, December 13th from 9am -11am  
BVUMC: Outside only  
Pre-packaged, 1lb. assorted cookies will be for sale at \$9.00/box at the Clement Avenue double doors. Masks are required. Cash or check will be accepted.

### Blue Christmas

Monday, December 21st at 7pm on Facebook Live  
*Facebook Live:* [www.facebook.com/BVUMC](http://www.facebook.com/BVUMC)  
Join us for our Blue Christmas service on Facebook Live.

# Bread & Jam

We are handing out bagged lunches every Sunday from 2:30pm-3:30pm at the Pryor Avenue Door. We need volunteers to help assemble and pass out bagged lunches. Please don't hesitate to reach out for a date where we could use your help! If you are able to donate, please drop your donations at the church during office hours or email [kelly.heipel@bayviewumc.org](mailto:kelly.heipel@bayviewumc.org) to make arrangements.



## “Giving Wholeheartedly”

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)*

Is Giving Wholeheartedly a minor stewardship theme OR, is it the whole point of being a follower of Christ? Is giving wholeheartedly the essential to having a relationship with the Creator? Is presenting our gifts to God not just an important part of Sabbath worship, but is it the central and most important part and the true reason for our worship? “Giving Wholeheartedly” means committing ourselves entirely to the mission and ministry exemplified by the life of Jesus Christ. This means that every bit of time, every bit talent and every bit of treasure, even that which we spend on ourselves and our families, is for God’s purpose. “Giving Wholeheartedly” means that when our hearts are open, our arms are open as well. When we are practicing our discipleship, we are sharing the love and grace with our neighbors near and far. We live out our love by reaching out to those in need, for example, Ruby’s Pantry food distribution that served 380 families and individuals this week. Finally, “Giving Wholeheartedly” means a willingness to give to the church so that whatever ministry unfolds, it is funded. Giving wholeheartedly provides opportunities for our local churches to be ready, willing and available to serve in whatever manner Christ calls us to serve.” [Source: Think Greater, Wisconsin Conference UMC] What we can conclude from this is that you need to give for your own spiritual benefit. Not selfishly because it makes you feel good, but because it fulfills your need to be a faithful follower of Christ.

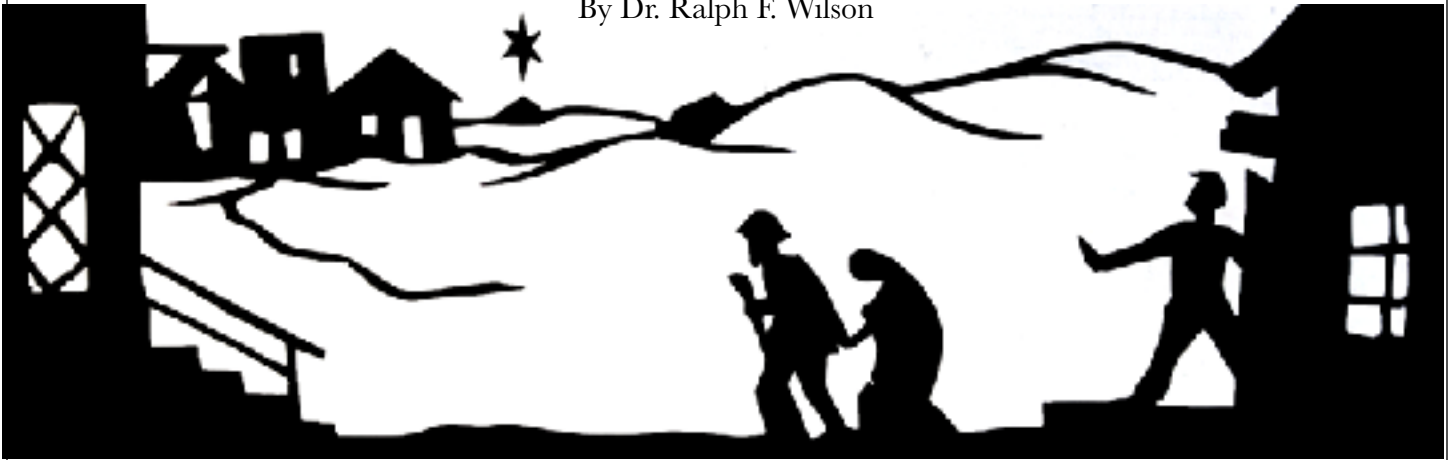
## 12th Annual Cookie Sale

Sunday, December 13th: 9am - 11am

Buy your Holiday Cookies on Sunday, December 13 from 9am to 11am! Pre-packaged, one pound boxes of assorted Christmas cookies will be available for purchase for \$9.00 / box. Drop-off for bakers is Saturday, December 12th at 8:30am. You cannot pick out your choice of cookies because of Covid, but we guarantee a wonderful assortment! Pick up will be at the Clement Avenue main double doors. Please wear a mask. Check or cash will be accepted.

# The Innkeeper's Tale

By Dr. Ralph F. Wilson



They think I'm some kind of cruel, heartless landlord. Someone must have told them that. But they're wrong, just plain wrong, and it's time to set the record straight, once and for all.

People say I'm an innkeeper. I suppose you'd call it an inn. To us it's just a big house. My grandfather, Joshua ben-Yahoudi, built it back when his trading business was at a peak. And he built it big enough to fit all fourteen kids.

Well, a few years ago, the missus and I were just rattling around in that big house--kids grown up and all--and we were thinking, maybe we could take in a few travelers. Rachel has always been mighty good in the kitchen, so we just let out word that we'd take people in, and they started to come. Every night we'd have a person or two, sometimes more. People would always come back when they came to town again, intent on another bowl of Rachel's lamb stew.

Then came that blankety-blank census the governor thought up. Taxation, pure and simple! People from all over the province flooded into town that week. Filled us clean up. Rachel and I slept in the main room where we always do, and we started putting guests in the other three rooms. They kept coming. Then we doubled up two or three families to a room. They kept coming. Finally, when we had filled the main room with four families plus Rachel and me, we started turning people away.

I must have gotten in and out of bed ten times that night, stumbling over bodies to get to the door. "No more room, sorry folks. No more room. Come back in the morning. We have a couple of families leaving then." They'd mutter something and head back to their party, and sleep somewhere next to a house under the shelter of a blanket. I just couldn't make any more room. That's the honest truth.

But I did make room for one more couple. Joseph was a burly man with big arms and strong hands, down from Nazareth, I think he said. He wouldn't take "no" for an answer. I would say, "No, I'm sorry," and he'd tell me about his "little Mary." Well, when I saw "little Mary" she wasn't very little. She was just about as pregnant as a woman can get, and awfully pale. While Joseph was pleading, I saw her grab her tummy in pain, and I knew I couldn't let her have that baby outside in the wind and sleet.

*(Continued on next page)*

The barn. That would just have to do, I told myself, and led them and their donkey out back. Now it was pretty crowded, so I shooed several animals into the pen outside to make room in one dry corner. Joseph said, "We sure are grateful, sir." Then with a serious look, he asked me, "Do you know where I can find a midwife in these parts? We might need her tomorrow or the next day."

That man didn't know much about having babies, it was plain enough to see. I ran to Aunt Sarah's house and pounded on the door until her husband came. "One of the travelers is having a baby," I told him. "I'll wait while Aunt Sarah gets dressed." I stopped a moment to catch my breath. "And tell her to hurry."

By the time we got back to the barn, Joseph had "little Mary" settled on some soft, clean hay, wrapped up in a blanket, wiping the perspiration off her brow, and was speaking softly to her as she fought the waves of pain. Aunt Sarah sent me to get my Rachel, and then pushed Joseph and me out of the barn. "This ain't no place for men," she said. We waited just outside in the shelter of the barn for hours, it seemed like. Well, all of a sudden, we hear a little cry. "You've got a baby boy," Aunt Sarah was saying as we peeped around the corner. She hands the young-un to Rachel, and she wraps it up in those swaddling bands she had saved. Cute little thing, I tell you.

Well, Joseph goes over to Mary and gives her a big hug, and a kiss on the cheek, and Rachel hands Mary the baby, and then comes over to me and takes my hand. "Remember when our Joshua was born?" she whispers.

The lantern was blowing almost out, the cattle were lowing softly, and baby Jesus was asleep in his mother's arms. That's how I left them as I walked Aunt Sarah home. Chilly wind, though the sleet had stopped.

By the time I got back, Rachel was in bed, and I was about ready to put out the light, step over sleeping bodies, and get under the warm covers, when I heard some murmuring out by the barn.

I'd better check, I told myself. When I peeped in, I saw shepherds. Raggedy, smelly old shepherds were kneeling down on the filthy barn floor as if they were praying. The oldest one was saying something to Joseph about angels and the Messiah. And the rest of them just knelt there with their heads bowed, some with tears running down their faces.

I coughed out loud, and Joseph looked up. I was almost ready to run those thieving shepherds off, when Joseph motioned to me with his hand. "It's okay," he whispered. "They've come to see the Christ-baby."

The Christ-baby? The Messiah? That was when I knelt, too. And watched, and prayed, and listened to the old shepherd recount his story of angels and heavenly glory, and the sign of a holy baby, wrapped in swaddling bands, to be found in a stable-manger.

My Lord, it was my stable where the Christ-baby was born. My manger he rested in. My straw, my lamp, my wife Rachel assisting at his birth. The shepherds left after a while. Some of them leaned over and kissed the sleeping Christ-child before they departed. I know I did.

I'll always be glad I made room in the barn for that family-- that holy family. You see, I'm not some mean inn-keeper. I was there. I saw him. And, you know, years later that boy came back to Bethlehem, this time telling about the Kingdom of God. Oh, I believe in him, I tell you. I was there. And, mark my words, if you'd seen what I've seen, you'd be a believer, too.

# DIY Candy Cane Recipes



## Candy Cane Creamer

### **Ingredients**

- 1/2 cup powdered non-dairy coffee creamer
- 1/4 cup finely crushed candy canes
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar

### **Directions**

Combine the non-dairy creamer, candy canes and sugar in a jar with a lid or a sealable plastic container. Put on the lid and shake well to combine. Store in an airtight container. To use, stir into hot coffee or hot cocoa and enjoy.

## Candy Cane Mousse Cups

### **Ingredients**

- 8 ounces white vanilla candy melts (or almond bark)
- 1/2 cup white chocolate baking chips
- 1 cup plus 3 tablespoons heavy whipping cream
- 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
- 2 drops red or pink liquid food color
- Crushed candy canes
- Peppermint spoons

### **Directions**

Have ready 6 paper cupcake liners. Melt the vanilla candy melts in the microwave at 30 second intervals until smooth. Using a pastry brush, coat the inside of each paper cupcake liner. Refrigerate until set.



Meanwhile, in a small bowl, heat the vanilla baking chips, uncovered in the microwave for 1 minute at full power. Stir in 3 tablespoons heavy whipping cream. Heat for an additional 30 seconds, or until chips are melted and can be stirred smooth with the heavy cream. Stir in the peppermint extract and food color. Let the mixture cool to room temperature.

# Easy Christmas Gifts **DIY**



## Mint Sugar Scrub

### Ingredients

- ½ cup coconut oil
- 1½ - 2 cups sugar
- 1 tablespoon peppermint extract
- 1 drop green food coloring

### Directions

Place coconut oil in a bowl and microwave on high for 15-25 seconds until softened.

Start by adding 1½ cups sugar to the oil, along with the peppermint extract and green food coloring. Mix until ingredients are well combined and food coloring is evenly distributed. If mixture is too wet, add another ½ cup sugar until scrub is to desired consistency.

## Scrap-Ribbon Christmas Tree Ornament

### Ingredients

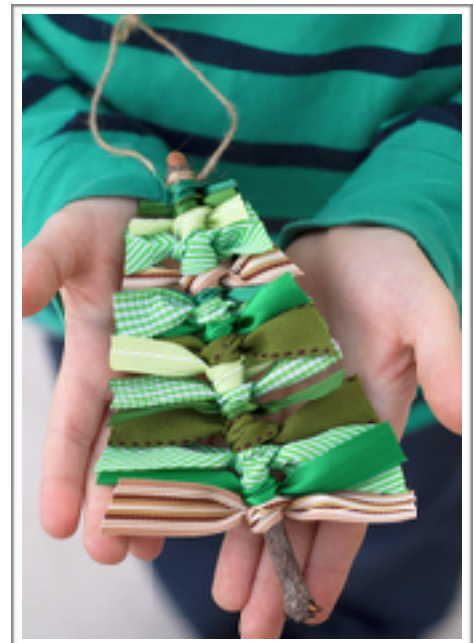
- Straight sticks or cinnamon sticks, 6-inch
- Ribbons
- Hot glue gun
- Twine
- Scissors

### Directions

After gathering supplies, invite kids to tie the scraps of ribbon down the twig or cinnamon stick.

For best results, bunch the ribbons close together. The ribbons will bend and slightly overlap. Gently tug them into place until you are satisfied with their placement.

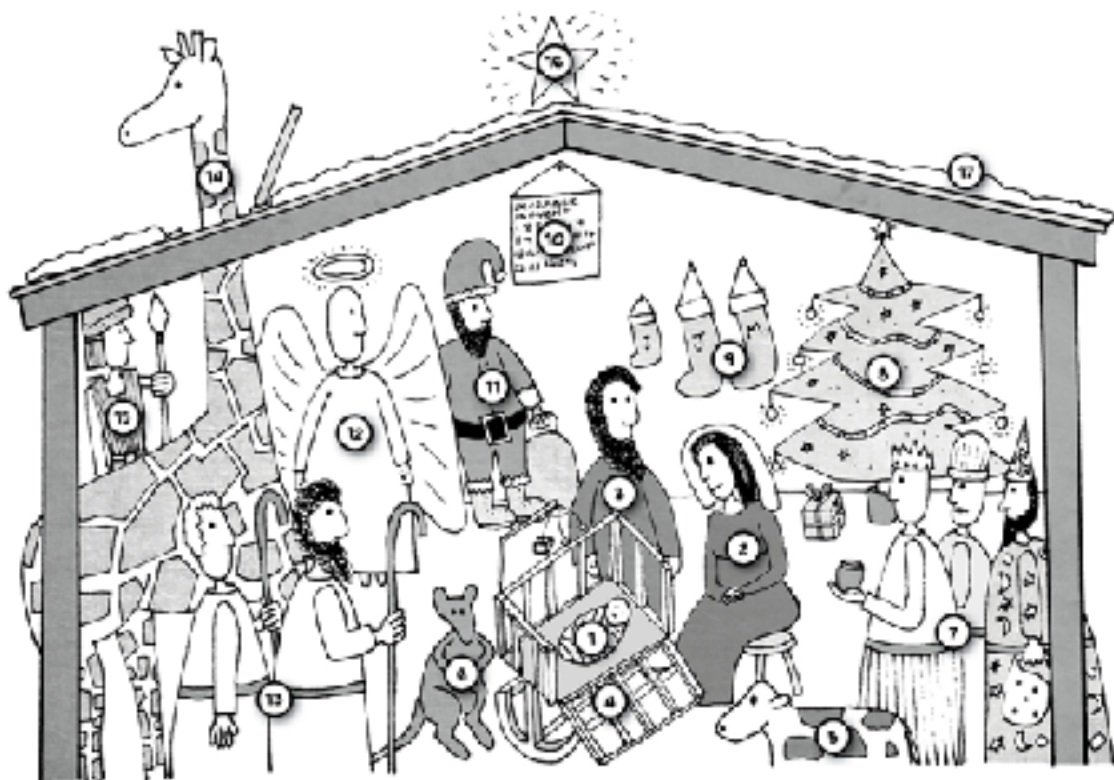
Use sharp scissors to trim the ribbon scraps into the shape of a tree. If desired, melt the edges of the ribbons with a match so the ribbon doesn't fray.



# CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker

## A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CARTOON PUZZLE



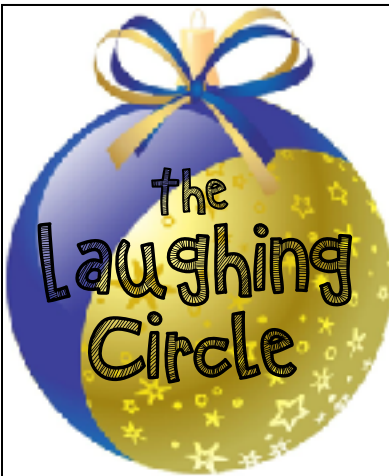
**TRUE OR FALSE? WHICH OF THE NUMBERED  
ITEMS OR FIGURES WERE AT THE ACTUAL NATIVITY?**

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_

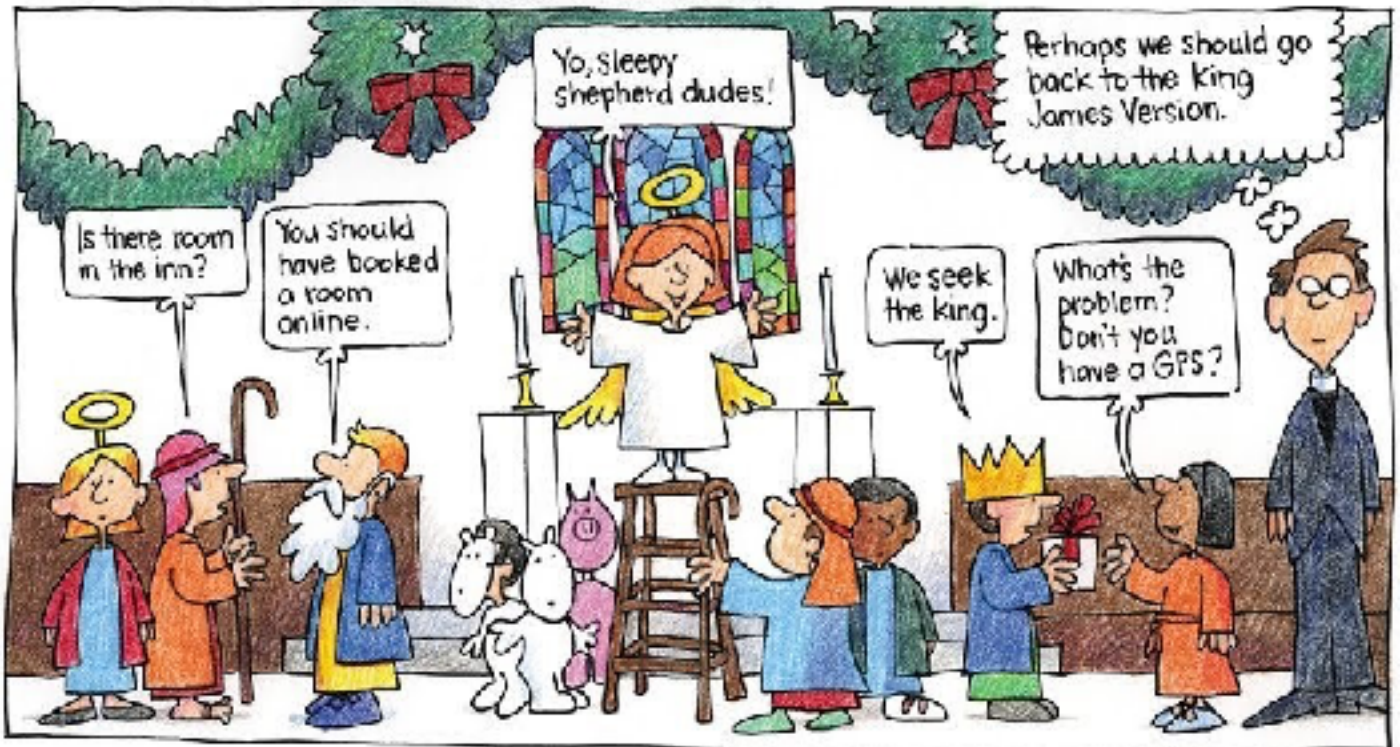
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_
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- 17 \_\_\_\_\_

[source: the bible]





THE RECTOR DROPS IN ON THE PAGEANT REHEARSAL

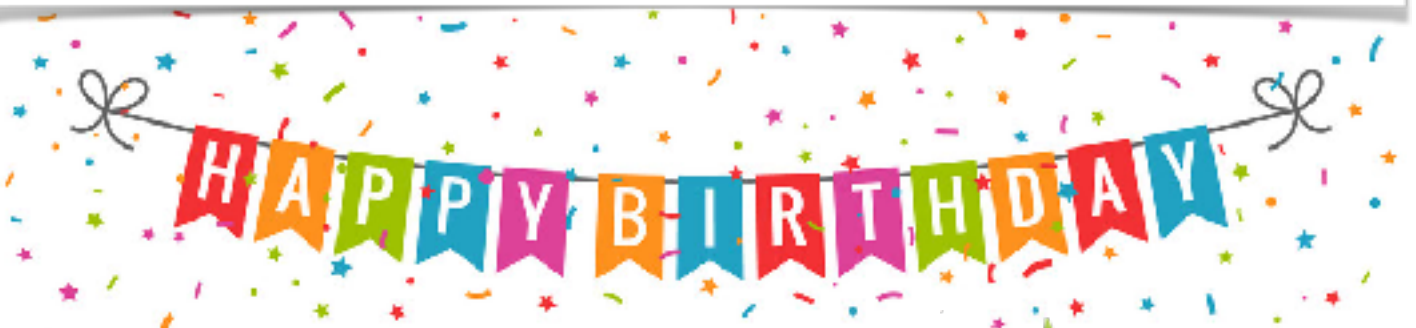


For the safety of our children, families and staff, Loving Start Preschool will remain closed for the first semester. We will continue to monitor COVID safety regulations and meet with the preschool board in December. In the meantime, we decided to record ourselves and send out fun videos to our families once a week. These videos contain some of our most popular songs and stories which can be enjoyed by the whole family.



We want to extend our thanks to Bay View United Methodist Church and all our dedicated families for their continued support! We hope everyone stays healthy and safe!

Miss Annie, Miss Karen and Miss Mary



**December 2**  
Wendy Boedecker  
**December 3**  
Andrew Kosanke  
**December 4**  
Carl Kucharski  
**December 6**  
Linda Balfanz  
**December 8**  
Magdelana Bernal

**December 11**  
Jose Bernal  
**December 17**  
Christy Smith  
**December 18**  
Maya Elliot  
**December 19**  
Mitch Wagner

**December 22**  
Arnold Balfanz  
Rodge Taylor  
**December 24**  
Kirsten Decker  
**December 29**  
Melissa Barber



# December 2020

**KEY:** AA: Alcoholics Anonymous  
 ALB: Accountable Leadership Board  
 FB Live: Facebook Live  
 FSF: First Sunday Forum - Missions  
 LSP: Loving Start Preschool

MLCS: Main Level Concert Series  
 NA: Narcotics Anonymous  
 PEP: People Enjoying People  
 SECA: South East Clergy  
 SPR: Staff Parish Relations  
 WBC: Wesleyan Bell Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>JOIN US ON FACEBOOK LIVE: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/BVUMC">www.facebook.com/ BVUMC</a></p>	1	2 3pm Bible Study on Zoom	3	4	5	
	6 9:45am Worship Service on FB Live 10:50am Coffee Hour on Zoom 2:30pm Bread and Jam Bagged Lunch Ministry	7	8	9 3pm Bible Study on Zoom	10	11
 <b>13 Cookie Sale!</b> 9am Cookie Sale at Clement Ave Doors 9:45am Worship Service on FB Live 10:50am Coffee Hour on Zoom 2:30pm Bread and Jam Bagged Lunch Ministry	14	15	16 3pm Bible Study on Zoom	17	18	19
20 9:45am Worship Service on FB Live 10:50am Coffee Hour on Zoom 2:30pm Bread and Jam Bagged Lunch Ministry	21 7pm Blue Christmas on FB Live  <b>1st Day of Winter</b>	22	23 3pm Bible Study on Zoom	24  <b>Christmas Eve</b>	25  <b>Christmas</b>	26
27 9:45am Worship Service on FB Live 10:50am Coffee Hour on Zoom 2:30pm Bread and Jam Bagged Lunch Ministry	28	29	30 3pm Bible Study on Zoom	31  <b>New Years Eve</b>		

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**Pastor Kevin Dembinski**

Phone: 920-255-2402  
Email: [pastorkevin@bayviewumc.org](mailto:pastorkevin@bayviewumc.org)



December  
2020

We're on the web:  
[bayviewumc.org](http://bayviewumc.org)



Hope is here. Love is here. Family is here.

WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAYS  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BVUMC](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BVUMC):  
9:45am Worship



OFFICE HOURS:  
Tuesday,  
Wednesday  
9:30am - 1pm  
Friday  
9:30am - 3pm