



# Love Letter



Volume 38 Issue 12  
December 2021

Dearest Children of God,

Please allow me to tell you again, **I love Christmas!** If you have watched the video or were in service Thanksgiving weekend, you know that I am a huge fan of everything to do with Christmas; less the secular stuff. Even when Doug and I had young children made Santa was a side note as much as possible. **Christ our Lord is having the birthday party and is the reason for our RELIGIOUS holiday. So, smile with joy and sing out in Christ's name!** This year we are reading, and the sermons are being based upon parts of Max Lucado's book *Because of Bethlehem*. If you wish to read along with us and join in Al's study on Monday nights, or just read and enjoy on your own, please order it from Amazon so to have it as we enter the Advent season.



We are so happy to have started services again for The Gathering in the chapel, with new lighting and a sound system that makes our band come alive when singing our praise music! We had virtually everyone that is in services each Sunday come to our picnic a few weeks ago! We have had great turnouts for our missions Mission Possible gathering of goods for non-profits of all types that are in our city. Now, 2022 is aiming to be a fantastic year! We will add onto our services in and for the community, have a new webpage built, perhaps be looking to add a Communications Director for our events, services, and community building times to be seen and attended by many more people, and the list could go on. We will start to look at where our future may be in and around the campus, the neighborhood businesses, City Hall, and we will do some fun and different studies together. **In January, we will be reading a short novella that is a suspense thriller yet involves a church very similar to ours and to what Christ Church hopes to do in the future as we connect with our neighbors as the children of God amongst us. (Yes, that is a teaser, so look for the title and for a Christmas gift from Pastor Dawn in the near future, for all who wish to join in!)**

I am so happy to have some time to reach out to our people who have been housebound for a while, either by Covid or other health concerns. I will be aided by Erin and a couple of lay people in the near future to create a list of those who I can come and see. I hope that after visiting individually with people, we will be able to have lunches set up for future meetings, so that we all see each other and chat about what is happening with you all and with Christ Church, as well as visit with each other. Carol Paton is going to be aiding me in visitations after that, so no one is overlooked with all that is going on at the church and in life in general. Her background in counseling and mine in Stephen's Ministry, will provide a path as we move forward to help people when they need us the most. (This goes hand in hand with the services of help that our Christian Counselors give at the church and anyone can call upon when needed at CC.)

As we come closer each day to Christmas itself, we hope to aid you in the spirit of the season with our special service/concert, on December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30am, and then with our Christmas Eve Service at 5-6:30pm this year. We are specifically leaving it open so that you can join family and friends for dinner afterwards, then even attend a friend's service for the holiday if it is later in the evening. You can't get enough of absorbing all that God has given us when he came to us that precious night! We also know that family and friends who join together in Christ's name make the finest and most recalled of memories in the end!

May you and your loved ones recall all that the birth of our Lord gave to us, so to start the celebration that culminates in His resurrection and ascension at Easter. For what starts now is the birth of our Lord, our faith, our Church, and our unending times to be with God forever...here and now....now and forevermore!

With blessings and prayers for you all, Pastor Dawn

Music Ministry Notes . . . .

## *'Tis the season*

Have you heard that expression before?  
Of course, you have! And you know that it is usually followed up with  
*'to be jolly, fa, la, la, la, la \_\_\_\_\_ la, la, la, la!'*

As people of faith, we also know that this *'Tis the Season of Advent.*  
The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus' which means 'coming'. And  
so, we come or journey through the weeks of  
Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love as we seek Christ, the Light.

Come, take this journey with us and be filled with the anticipation and  
expectation of the promise of Christmas, the birth of the Christ Child!



O Come, O Come Emmanuel, God with us!

We look forward to sharing Christmas music and message with you throughout  
this season. Christmas Concert on December 12 at 10:30am with Choir, Bells  
and Gathering band and on Christmas Eve at 5pm.

Blessings and Joy,  
Carol

# Hortin Child Development Center

Can you believe it's already December? We can't either! Although we can't say where the time has gone, we're very thankful to say this year has been a great one! Our month is filled with fun activities and we are excited for the last month of 2021!



There will be gingerbread day, candy cane hunts, magic shows, a visit from Santa, our annual Christmas performance and so much more, this is going to be a fantastic month!



While our month is filled with fun and excitement, we are also taking time to learn the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year! May 2022 be a little less hectic and bring you nothing but happiness and love.

Jessica Passman  
Hortin Preschool, Director





The Youth Ministry is on the grow, both deep and wide. Our hope is that God is known and made known in BIG ways through our ministry at Christ Church in this

coming season. We appreciate our parents and grandparents who are encouraging and providing transportation to and from Youth Group and special events! We couldn't do this without you. Please help us spread the word and keep praying for continued growth.

**BIG THANKS** to the L.D.T., Staff, and our church family for our **NEW YOUTH SPACE!!!**

We love it and are so grateful.



**WAS A BLAST!**



**Sunday, December 19th 10:15am-12:00pm(noon)**

**Christmas Party!** – Join us for a Christmas brunch (pancakes, honeybaked ham, chocolate pie, etc.), gifts, games, competitions, a short talk and more. Be sure to bring a friend! Email Jerry @ [jsmith@christchurchstpete](mailto:jsmith@christchurchstpete) for more information.

# **MISSION: POSSIBLE**

**"But with God All Things are Possible." Matthew 9:26**

## **for December**

For December, we are adopting the residents at the Gulfport Rehabilitation Center. We picked this facilities because the residences are mostly alone for Christmas and we can share a little of God's love with them.

We are getting a list of what items the individual residents would like Santa to bring them. The information will include size and color. You will be able to pick an ornament (actually will look like a gift tag) from the tree and purchase the item, wrap it up in festive Christmas paper, and then tape the "ornament" on the package so we know who gets what. Mark and I will be delivering them Christmas morning so we will need them by Christmas Eve.

Just imagine the looks on their faces when they receive a gift especially purchased for them. Now that will be our way of showing the Jesus is a gift especially designed for us.

Your mission, if you decide to accept it, will bring holiday smiles to some of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers. This offer will self-destruct on December 24.

*"This is your mission should you choose to accept it! This mission opportunity will self-destruct in 30 days or November 30."*

## **Ramp-up-for-Christmas Service**

Join us as we build towards Christmas with a service full of great songs, music, a short homily by Pastor Dawn, and all of us together in one service.

**December 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am**



## A Christ Church Ministry Outreach—The Laundry Drop-In



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, volunteers start at 8:30 am to assemble gift bags for recipients at various laundromats. We pack detergent, dryer sheets, face masks, hand sanitizer, water, health information, and money in red tote bags. Then at 9:30 am, those that wish to go out to the laundromats drive up to the church's back entrance and are given the address of a laundromat along with 6-10 bags to distribute. Volunteers who do not drive can go with someone who is driving. It is preferable to have a team of at least two people going together.

But with the pandemic, and fewer volunteers most of us went singly.

Christ Church is fortunate to be partnering with WellCare in giving out health information to people at the laundromats we visit. A WellCare representative sets up a table at one of the laundromats at the same time we are there. This serves both our organization's mission of providing for health equity in the St Pete community. Know this: that even during the pandemic when many businesses were closed and people were sheltering in place, people were still needing to wash their clothes. People were still needing healthcare. I am so thankful for the Christ Church task force that helped reimagine our laundry ministry to comply with the Covid safe standards so that we could continue this ministry.

If you have not yet taken part in this worthwhile ministry, please consider giving an hour or two of your time this month. You can either come to pack the totes or come to hand out totes at the laundromats.

**Saturday, December 11th**

**8:30 am to pack the gift tote bags**

**9:30 am to distribute the tote bags**

**Advent**  
**SMALL GROUP STUDY**  
Mondays at 7 PM during Advent  
Dec 6—Dec 13—Dec 20  
Via ZOOM  
Meeting #: 87824638819 PassCode: ADVENT  
Email [admin@christchurchstpete.org](mailto:admin@christchurchstpete.org)  
or see Al Paton for more information.

The advertisement features a study guide cover on the left and a row of five lit candles at the bottom. The candles are purple, white, and pink. The background is a warm, golden bokeh.

**STUDY GUIDE**  
GROUPS / INDIVIDUALS | FOUR SESSIONS FOR ADVENT

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR  
**MAX LUCADO**

BECAUSE OF  
*Bethlehem*

LOVE IS BORN  
HOPE IS HERE

Available through Amazon

Because of *Bethlehem*

Love Is Born, Hope Is Here

By Max Lucado

**Study Guide** - Four Sessions

New Paperback \$9.99

Used from \$3.24

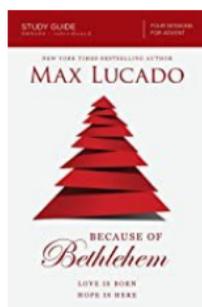
Kindle \$6.99

**Complete Book**

**New** \$11.69

Used From \$7.11

Kindle— \$9.99



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You shop. Amazon gives.

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How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Christ Methodist Church Inc" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

# Making a Joyful Noise with Loose Change



Psalm 100:1 *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.*

You can make a *joyful noise* by dropping your loose change into the Noisy Coin bucket. This collection will go to one of these local charities: **The Salvation Army, We Help / St. Pete Clinic, St. Vincent de Paul, and Daystar Life Center.**

Offering collected in this container will go to one specific charity throughout a three-month period. Proceeds from the Noisy Coin Offering are donated to the following organizations in the following months, each one for 3 months at a time.

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, January, February, March: **Salvation Army**

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, April, May June: **We Help/Free Clinic**

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, July, August, September: **Daystar**

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, October, November, December: **St. Vincent de Paul**

We are now in the 4th quarter with the collection to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul. So look in your furniture cushions and gather your loose coins. Make that joyful noise with your loose change and drop it in the bucket.



## Staying Connected

Please check out Christ Church on all our Social Media platforms.

Visit our website [www.christchurchstpete.org](http://www.christchurchstpete.org)

Like us at [facebook.com/ChristChurchStPete](https://facebook.com/ChristChurchStPete)

Follow us at [Instagram.com/ChristChurchStPete](https://Instagram.com/ChristChurchStPete)

Subscribe to YouTube.com and search Christ Church St Pete Florida

Also, be sure to use the hashtag #christchurchstpete when posting to social media so that everyone can see what you added.

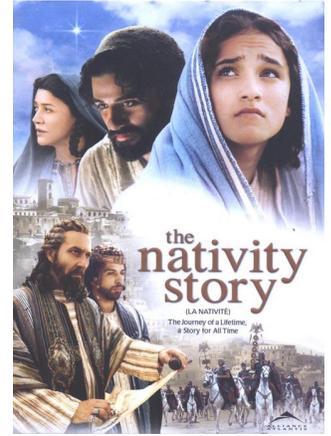


## LUNCH AND A MOVIE!

The Heavenly Friends Sunday School class invites you to join us for a covered dish lunch followed by the Christmas movie, "The Nativity Story", Saturday, December 11th, noon in the Asbury Room. Meat will be provided, so just bring your favorite side. Any questions, call Cindy or Joe Fish at 727 894-0105.

Laundry Drop angels are exempt from bringing food since you're doing God's work that morning!

Shared meals are an important component in our life together as the body of Christ.



## Heavenly Friends Bible Study

Join The Heavenly Friends Bible Study. Class meets every Sunday, 10:15-11:00 am in the Asbury Room - ending in time to attend our worship service at 11:15 am.

Enter in the back across from the playground and take the stairs or elevator to the basement. You may be surprised how rewarding (and fun!) it can be to study God's Word in a format that relates the scripture with today's world. See you there.



### Order Your Poinsettias Today

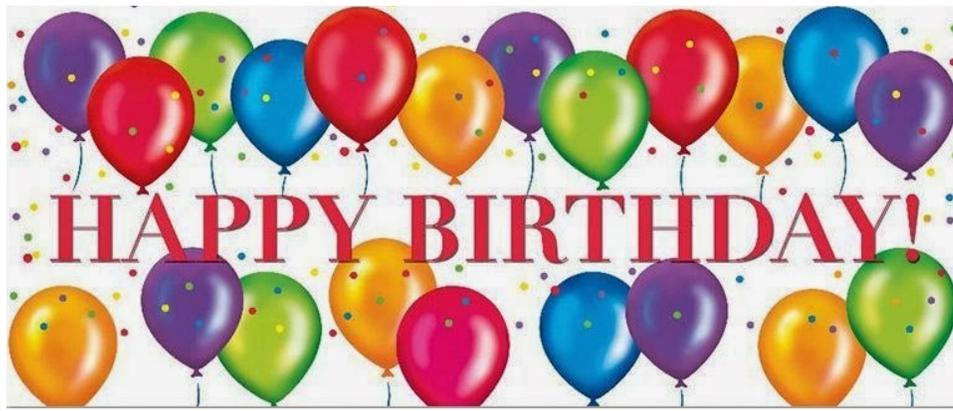
It is time to order poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas. If you would like to order one or more plants in honor or in memory of a loved one or a friend, please fill out the form below and place it along with your check in the offering plate or return it to the church office by **December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. The cost of each plant is **\$8.00**. Please make checks payable to Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) with poinsettias on the memo line. You may pick up your plants following our service on Christmas Eve

Name:		Phone:	
In honor of (if living)	In memory of (if deceased)	Mr. and Mrs. Jim Smith	\$8.00



# DECEMBER 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 7:15am Band of Brothers Bible Study@ Cracker Barrell	2 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	3	4
<b>5 Communion Sunday</b>  9:30 Gathering Service 10:15 Social Hour in Courtyard Heavenly Friends Bible Study 11:15 Traditional Service  Sunday Worship on YouTube. Search Christ Church St. Pete to find our channel	6  10:00 Princess Martha Bible Study 4:00 Harmony Ringers Rehearsal 7:00 Bible Study via Zoom	7	8  7:15am Band of Brothers Bible Study@ Cracker Barrell	9  7:00 Choir Rehearsal	10	11  8:30 Laundry Drop packing  9:30 Laundry Drop
<b>12</b>  10:30 Combined Service  Sunday Worship on YouTube. Search Christ Church St. Pete to find our channel	13  10:00 Princess Martha Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study via Zoom	14	15  7:15am Band of Brothers Bible Study@ Cracker Barrell	16  7:00 Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19  9:30 Gathering Service 10:15 Social Hour in Courtyard Heavenly Friends Bible Study 11:15 Traditional Service  Sunday Worship on YouTube. Search Christ Church St. Pete to find our channel	20  10:00 Princess Martha Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21	22  7:15am Band of Brothers Bible Study@ Cracker Barrell	23	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b>  5:00pm Special Music  5:30pm Christmas Eve Service  Church Office Closed	<b>25 Christmas</b>
26  10:30 Combined Service  Sunday Worship on YouTube. Search Christ Church St. Pete to find our channel	27  10:00 Princess Martha Bible Study	28	29	30	<b>31 New Years Eve</b>	



## December and January 1st - 15th

12/1 Pam Wiegel

12/2 Jonathan Burr

12/6 Dr. Janice Swartz

12/7 Destiny Passman

12/8 Marianna Bortner

12/10 Clarissa Powell

12/13 Telisha Davis

12/17 Stephen Fish

12/22 MaryAnn Taranto

12/24 Peggy Jeffcoat

12/26 Reed Gregory

12/28 Carol Hughes

1/9 Bob Bortner

1/12 Mark Dillman

Dorothy Eviota

1/13 Alice Pfeifer

1/14 Betty Martin

Louise Strouse



## Happy Anniversary

12/31 Jerry & Tiffany Smith



## *In Memoriam*

Robert "Bob" Rehman, Sr.

*Our Birthday and Anniversary lists will now include the first 15 days of the upcoming month. This is to ensure that everyone will not miss any important dates. Thank you.*