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# TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

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December 2019

*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DEC 1 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	DECORATE SANCTUARY
DEC 2 -	STUART SZELMECZKI'S BIRTHDAY
	CRYSTAL SPAID'S BIRTHDAY
DEC 7-	PEARL HARBOR DAY
DEC 8 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	APPRECIATION DINNER (SEE ARTICLE)
	DEACONS MEETING FOLLOWING DINNER
DEC 11 -	SHELVA SWITZER'S BIRTHDAY
	JEANIE SPAID'S BIRTHDAY
DEC 15 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
DEC 17 -	SUSAN CLARK'S BIRTHDAY
DEC 22 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	BETTY WINGFIELD'S BIRTHDAY
	CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7 PM
	(SEE ARTICLE)
DEC 25 -	CHRISTMAS DAY
DEC 27 -	STEVEN SZELMECZKI 'S BIRTHDAY
DEC 29 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	HOME MISSION OFFERING
DEC 30 -	JANET FRIES' BIRTHDAY

### CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Our annual Candlelight Service will be held on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm, followed by light refreshments in the basement of the Parish Hall. Please remember to bring a favorite finger food and invite a friend or neighbor. We have had a tradition of placing poinsettias in the Sanctuary for the 11 am service on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and then leaving them for the evening service at 7 pm.

### APPRECIATION DINNER

The Ladies Fellowship will be hosting an appreciation dinner, for all of those who have participated throughout the year on various church events, on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> following the worship service. Everyone is welcome, but we would appreciate your signing the attendance sheet in the back of the church no later than Dec 1<sup>st</sup> if you plan to attend.

### RURITAN HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

The Capon Valley Ruritans will be holding their annual Holiday Party for Senior Citizens on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at the Ruritan Park in Yellow Spring. There will be refreshments, entertainment and door prizes. This is something you do not want to miss!

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendars for the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held following the worship service on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.

### BACPKPACK MINISTRY

Just a reminder that the upcoming dates for preparing backpacks is January 8, 15 and 22.

We welcome any comments and suggestions.  
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(304) 856-3635

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### *PASTOR'S PEN*

#### **Advent**

#### **Celebrating the birth of Christ and looking forward to His return**

As we begin the season of Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, it's an excellent time to remind ourselves that Jesus is the best gift. We are shown, in the account of the birth of Jesus, how the simplest things have the most profound effects. After all, Christmas is about God coming to dwell among His people. As we celebrate the first Advent of Jesus this year, I pray that you will know the joy of the birth of Christ. But I also pray that you will be looking forward to His second Advent. When He comes, the second time we will dwell with Him forever.

#### **Week 1 – The Birth of Jesus Foretold (Luke 1:26-38)**

As Gabriel leaves heaven and travels to visit Mary, he brings a message that God's people have been waiting to hear. The Messiah is about to be born. What's impressive is that the Messiah will be born as a baby. Many would be looking for someone with power and prestige. But Jesus will come to a poor family without fanfare. That's the message of the first week of Advent. The Messiah, the Son of the Most High, the Holy One, is coming into the world. He will reign forever, and His kingdom will have no end. As we begin to celebrate the Christmas season, may your celebration be grounded in the knowledge of Jesus as your Messiah and the sure hope of His impending return.

#### **Week 2 – The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-7)**

After the announcement that Mary would give birth to the Holy one of God, Ceaser Augustus decreed that everyone should return to their birthplace to be registered. Joseph took Mary along and as they traveled the time for the baby to be delivered arrived. It's one thing to hear the message that the baby will be unique. It's another thing altogether to understand what that means for the baby's arrival. As we read in Luke 2:1-7, the baby arrives without any immediate fanfare. The couple rejoices that the mother and baby are safe. As you meditate on the simple birth of someone so great, may the Lord help you to understand that God doesn't need you to look powerful on the outside. Instead, God desires a quiet heart that puts their trust in Him, knowing that one day all things will be revealed.

#### **Week 3 – The Shepherds and the Angels (Luke 2:8-21)**

Although there was no immediate fanfare at the place where Jesus was born, the story in the fields surrounding Jerusalem was just the opposite. As Mary and Joseph laid the baby Jesus in the manger, the sky around the shepherds exploded with light. What was a quiet evening turned into a spectacle of angels rejoicing over the birth of the king of Kings. This month I pray that you will know the Savior in this way. As a Savior who is pleased with you. A Savior who will one day come to bring you to Himself, so that where He is, you will be there too.

#### **Week 4 – Jesus presented at the Temple (Luke 2:22-38)**

When the time was right, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the Temple. Simeon was there waiting for the consolation of Israel. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that Jesus was the Messiah, and Simeon responded with great joy proclaiming that salvation had finally come. The light of God was shining into the darkness of the world. As the Christmas season comes to an end, I pray that you will keep your eyes focused on the future. One day the light of the glory Jesus will appear in the clouds as He descends from heaven to reign on earth. May He find us waiting like Simeon was and ready to rejoice at His arrival.

~ Pastor Mike