

THE MESSENGER



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To **KNOW** Christ,
to **GROW** in Christ, and
to **SHOW** Christ

A MISSION OF LOVE

THE ANGEL SAID TO THEM, "DO NOT BE AFRAID. I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS THAT WILL CAUSE GREAT JOY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE. TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU; HE IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD." -LUKE 2:10-11 (NIV)



As we gather with loved ones, exchange gifts and spread cheer, let us remember the true reason for this joyous season.

Christmas is about a loving Father who sent His Son on a mission, a mission to free us all from sin when we were gone astray, a mission to provide forgiveness for our sins and to bring us into a beautiful personal eternal relationship with the One who loves us with an everlasting love, the One who has a wonderful plan and purpose for our lives that stretches beyond time into eternity. Christmas is nothing less than God's ultimate rescue mission!

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT! - 2 CORINTHIANS 9:15 (NIV)
"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. - JOHN 1:14 (NIV)

FROM THE EDITOR

Jeremy Snedegar



If you have any questions about the Newsletter or you would like to have an article placed in The Messenger, please send the submission to me by the 15th of the month. Feedback is always appreciated.

jesned71@gmail.com
or by phone at 717-332-0203

Did you know we are on Facebook?

Check us out at
Messiah Church of York Facebook, or
www.facebook.com/northyorkmessiah/

You can watch our services and see
current updates.



A LETTER FROM PASTOR MARK WILLIAMS

Sharing the Good News!! Take a moment to read Luke 2:17-18, 20.

When my wife Kelley found out she was pregnant with our first child Matthew (Ben), she and I were so excited! We simply couldn't wait to tell our friends and family. After keeping the secret to ourselves for a short while, we shared this big news on Christmas day with the family all gathered around. There were shouts and tears and hugs all around as we all celebrated together this new life that would soon join our family. As the days passed, our parents told everyone they knew that a new grandbaby was on the way!

After the shepherds left Mary and Joseph there in the stable, Luke shares that these men began to share the news that the Messiah had been born there in Bethlehem and that they had seen Him with their own eyes. They recounted the amazing story of the visit of the angels and finding the baby time and time again.

When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them...The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. Luke 2:17-18, 20 NIV

It is possible that this news was met with some amazement, and also some disbelief.

"Why would the angels tell the likes of you?"

"The Messiah born in a stable!! We doubt it!"

These shepherds were undaunted by any disbelief and returned to their flocks in the fields with hearts full of praise that they had been chosen to find and worship the Messiah the Lamb of God.

The season of Advent is a time when most people are more open to hearing the stories about our faith and to attending Christmas worship services as our guest. Take time today as we approach Christmas to consider who in your life needs to hear the true Christmas story and who may be willing to come along to our church's Christmas services. Reach out and invite them to come and hear about the God who came to redeem us.

Prayer emphasis: Ask God today to give you the courage to share the hope you have found in the baby Jesus who died for your redemption and to invite others to come to worship this Christmas Season.

Who in your life needs to hear the good news about the birth of Christ? Who can you invite to come to church this Christmas season. Take time to invite them this week!

See you all soon!

Pastor Mark

LET'S GET INVOLVED THIS WINTER!

All are welcome!

Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday Mornings at 10am
Adult Bible Study Classroom
(no meeting December 25)

Men's Bible Study

Wednesday nights at 6:30pm, Parlor

Church-Wide Dinner and Bible Study

Wednesday, December 4, 2024
Dinner at 6:00pm
Bible studies at 6:45pm
(\$5/adult, \$2.50/child, \$20 max/family)

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 8, 2024
5:30 pm Caroling
6:00 pm Cookies/Hot Chocolate Competition
with games and Christmas sing-a-long

Lunch Bunch

Monday, December 16, 2024, 11:30 AM
Manchester Diner
4302 N George St. Ext., Manchester, PA 17345

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2024
5:30 pm Communion in Chapel
6:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary

January 2025

Church-Wide Dinner and Bible Study

Wednesday, January 8, 2025
Dinner at 6:00pm
Bible studies at 6:45pm
(\$5/adult, \$2.50/child, \$20 max/family)

Lunch Bunch

TBD - Please check the weekly bulletin
for more information



ALTAR FLOWERS



If you would like to sponsor flowers, please contact Nancy at the church office.

2024 Prices

Sconces \$48.00
Centerpieces \$33.00
Rosebud in Vase \$9.00

Quotes to live by, Dee Gembe

"A life well lived is directly related to a Bible well-read."

"If you want to be rich, count all the things you have that money can't buy."

THE MESSIAH

Yeshua Bar Yosef



The story of Jesus' birth highlights themes of divine purpose and humble beginnings. Born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem, Judea, the town of David. Mary was engaged to Joseph, when visited by the angel Gabriel. He delivered the divine message that she had been chosen to conceive a child through the Holy Spirit, this child would be the "Son of God." Joseph, initially troubled by this revelation, was reassured in a dream and chose to stand by Mary, and raise the child as his own. Joseph followed Jewish customs by naming, circumcising, and presenting him at the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus grew up in Nazareth alongside His siblings. Jesus had a normal childhood and "grew in wisdom and stature, and favor with God and with people" (Luke 2:52).

1. Jesus name was Yeshua Bar Yosef (Jesus son of Joseph) Yeshua translates to Joshua in English. However, the Greek translation is Iesous which translates to Jesus. After his death, he became known as Yeshua Hamashiach, (Jesus the Messiah, the Anointed One), Jesus Christ is from the Greek word Christos.

2. Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem, which means "House of Bread." He frequently referred to himself as the "Bread of Life" (John 6:35, 48, 51).

3. There is no mention of Jesus birthday or year in the Bible. He was born prior to 4 BC. We know this because Herod the Great who tried to kill Jesus died in 4 BC. Our calendar (AD) begins late because of a calculation error in the Middle Ages.



ROYALTY IN A TROUGH THE MANGER'S MESSAGE

BY JOHN PIPER

Luke is the only writer in the Bible to use the word manger in the New Testament. And what he does with this one word — what God does with this one feeding trough — is enough to make us leap for joy. What is Luke's message through the manger?

1. The manger was dirty.

Yes, we may be sure that Joseph and Mary cleaned it up as best they could. They, no doubt, padded it in some way to make a comfy little bed. But there is no way to romanticize this bed into anything other than a feeding trough for slobbering animals. The first bed for the Son of God was not a royal cradle. It was a common feeding trough. It's meant to hold scraps to be eaten.

2. The manger was planned.

At first, you might think it was a fluke of fate — a random misfortune. Because Luke says Mary "***laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.***" (Luke 2:7) But the way Luke tells the story, that won't work.

God had centuries to get ready for this birth. The prophet Micah lived seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus and prophesied that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

So, God had a good seven centuries (and more!) to plan the details of the incarnation and arrange the arrival of his Son in the right place, at the right time, and in the right way. For example, he could have easily arranged that a faithful virgin and a just man, in the lineage of David, be found in Bethlehem in accord with the prophecy. But instead, he chooses Mary and Joseph, who lived in Nazareth, not Bethlehem. And he plans for Mary to get pregnant far from the prophesied town.

To solve that problem — which God himself had created — God could have arranged to get Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem by some personal means, say a relative who needed them urgently or a dream or some private legal or business matter. But he didn't do it that way.

Instead, God moved Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem by means of an empire-wide census. In other words, God arranged that the most powerful leader in the world would order everyone in the empire to go to the town of their origin to register. You might call this providential overkill. He's making a point: "You think you know what I am doing globally? You have no idea. I'm putting things in place exactly as I please. Including the birth of my Son."

In view of that, it becomes ludicrous to think that a God who wields an empire to move one woman from Nazareth to Bethlehem can't arrange for there to be an available guest room. Planning a bed for his Son was easier than planning a global census. Jesus was lying in exactly the place God planned: a feeding trough.

3. The manger was a sign.

The angel of the Lord said something to the shepherds that was almost too good to be true.

Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)

To believe this and bear witness, they would need a sign. The angel gave it: **And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.** (Luke 2:12)

Swaddling cloths? Every baby in Bethlehem was wearing swaddling cloths. That is not the sign. The sign is the manger. In fact, this must have sounded so wildly scandalous, the shepherds probably did not think they heard the angel correctly. This Savior, Christ, and Lord is lying in a what?

This is the sign. No other king anywhere in the world was lying in a feeding trough. Find him, and you find the King of kings.

4. The manger was glorious.

Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, **"Glory to God in the highest!"** (Luke 2:13-14) Glory to God! The Savior is in a feeding trough! "Glory to God in the highest!" From the highest to the lowest! What a God!

5. The manger is the way of discipleship.

The angel of the Lord came to shepherds, not Pharisees.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased! (Luke 2:14)

Not the wise. Not the understanding. But the children. The ones who would take no offense at a baby in a feeding trough. The ones that would expect no better bed than their Savior:

As they were going along the road, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." (Luke 9:57-58)

Except for a manger. Follow me.

6. The manger was step one on the Calvary road.

The Calvary road is downhill. Not because it gets easier, but because it gets lower. The Savior's life starts low and ends lower.

Though he was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant [starting his life lower than servants — in a feeding trough] . . . he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:6-8)

This is how the Savior saves. This is how the Messiah fulfills all the promises. This is how the Lord reigns: from infinite deity, to feeding trough, to final torments on the cross.

We must follow him! **"Any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple."** (Luke 14:33). It is a lowly road. A hard road. But there is no greater joy than to be on this road with this Savior.

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy."

(Luke 2:10) This is no moderate joy. This is Great Joy.

"Glory to God in the highest." (Luke 2:10-14)

Great joy to us. Great glory to God.

THE MESSIAH

Yeshua Hamashiach



Jesus' ministry began when He was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River at age 30. This event signified the start of His mission to preach about the Kingdom of God. Following John's imprisonment, Jesus returned to Galilee, where He began recruiting His disciples and delivering a powerful message of repentance and divine love. Teaching in synagogues and performing miraculous healings, Jesus quickly garnered widespread attention. His growing influence led to opposition from religious leaders, ultimately culminating in His crucifixion at the age of 33. However, His story did not end there; three days after His death, Jesus rose from the grave, symbolizing victory over death and hope and redemption for believers, offering the promise of eternal life to those who embrace Him.

1. Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness and to publicly identify with humanity's sin, setting an example of obedience and humility.

2. Jesus' ministry was notably supported by women who provided for Him out of their own resources. He also showed profound respect for women, including them in His teachings and parables.

3. Jesus was both fully God and fully human. He displayed a range of emotions during His time on earth, such as weeping at Lazarus' tomb, showing compassion for the sick and needy, expressing righteous anger when He cleansed the temple, and being anxious over His death when praying in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Through His birth, life, death, and resurrection the story of Jesus is the greatest story ever told!

MESSIAH'S MISSIONS

Messiah's outreach ministry works with local community partners to help serve the needs of others. Showing and sharing God's love can start right here in our neighborhood.



DECEMBER OUTREACH

The Mitten, Hat & Scarf Tree

For many years, Messiah has been collecting mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to help ensure that the less fortunate in York County are kept warm during the winter months.

In the past, we have been blessed to give to several local organizations such as LIFEPAATH Christian Ministries & Bell Socialization Services.

Wish List

Men's, Women's & Children's Mittens, Gloves, Hats & Scarves.
Adult items are in the greatest demand.

Gifts can be placed on the Mitten Trees or in the box on the Mission's table in the narthex throughout the month of December.

Advent 2024

A Devotional Guide

The Prophecy

Isaiah 7:14

Micah 5:2

Isaiah 9:6-7

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Numbers 24:17

Isaiah 11:1-2

Malachi 3:1

The Messiah's Birth

Matthew 1:18-21

Luke 1:26-38

Matthew 1:22-25

Luke 2:1-7

Luke 2:8-14

Luke 2:15-20

Matthew 2:1-2

The Gift of Salvation

John 1:1-5

John 1:9-14

John 3:16-17

Ephesians 2:8-9

Titus 3:4-7

Romans 5:1-2

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

The Messiah's Return

Acts 1:9-11

Revelation 1:7-8

Revelation 22:12-13

Christmas Day

Luke 2:1-20





SEASON OF GRATITUDE

Dear Messiah Church Family,

As the joyous season of Christmas approaches, we find ourselves reflecting on the many blessings and lessons of the past year. This is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, whose message of love, hope, and peace remains as powerful today as it was over two thousand years ago. Let us embrace this season with hearts filled with gratitude and a renewed commitment to share kindness and compassion with those around us.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our community's success over the past year. To our AdBoard and Leadership Teams, your unwavering dedication and countless hours of service have been invaluable. Pastor Mark, your teachings of the Gospel have inspired growth among us. Our Staff, thank you for your exceptional work in maintaining the church's operations: family ministries, administration, finance, music, and aesthetics. To all our Volunteers, your generosity in sharing your time and talents has made it possible for us to offer a wide range of services both within Messiah and in the broader community. Finally, to our Congregation, your love and support have been the foundation of our journey. We are deeply grateful for each and every one of you, as we could not have accomplished this without your commitment and care.

This Christmas, may we be reminded of the beauty of togetherness, whether through shared worship, fellowship, or acts of service in our community. Let us reach out to those in need, offering support and warmth to ensure that everyone experiences the Spirit of Christmas.

We invite you to join us in our upcoming holiday services and events, where we will gather to rejoice and give thanks. May this season bring you and your loved ones joy, love, and countless blessings.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In faith and fellowship,

Jeremy & Jayne Snedegar
Newsletter Editors



WAYS TO HELP SPREAD CHEER DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

THE DECEMBER OUTREACH - MITTEN TREE

Donate - Mittens, Gloves, Hats & Scarves

MAKE A DONATION FOR GIFT BAGS FOR THE FERGUSON 1ST GRADE CLASSES.

Messiah's Children & Youth are again helping Ferguson's 1st graders celebrate Christmas!

We will be putting together Christmas gift bags for each of the 100 first graders and first-grade teachers.

If you would like to donate funds or gifts to help cover the costs of the Christmas gift bags, please give your donation to Matt Hura.



MAKE A DONATION TO HEIFFER INTERNATIONAL.

Heifer International is on a mission to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities. Based in Arkansas, they gift livestock to those areas in the US and internationally who have lost their animals to natural disasters or war.

If donating by check, please make it payable to Messiah Church, note the Heifer Project. Place it in the box in lobby or offering plate.

WAYS TO DONATE YOUR TIME TO SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER.

1. Come hear the One Voice Choir Christmas Cantata, Sunday December 8 at 3:00 pm. Cookie social to follow.
2. Come join in Christmas Caroling, Sunday, December 8, at 5:30 pm.
3. Volunteer to help light luminaries at the Grande Illumination at Normandie Ridge on Wednesday, December 18 at 4:30 p.m. We will meet in the Manchester Commons Lobby.
4. Join us at our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service December 24 at 6:00 pm. Communion available at 5:30 pm in the chapel for those interested.





CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

Messiah Choir

Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm,
in the upstairs Choir room.

Thank you, Messiah Singers, for always sharing your musical talents!

Thank you to the Messiah Praise Team who enlighten us all with their contemporary worship sounds!

Messiah musicians make beautiful music together! Would you like to join us?
Let your desires be made known to Pr. Mark, Dustin and/or Jan.
We will help you find a place in the Messiah Music ministry programs.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO JAN FREY, MESSIAH SINGERS & PRAISE TEAM!

**Your dedication, passion, and harmonious talents
have made this year truly exceptional.**



Christ Comes to the World

The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

JOHN 1:9-14 (NLT)



BOOK OF THE MONTH

DO YOU ENJOY READING?

HERE'S A SUGGESTION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

Come Home for Christmas

**JESUS IS CALLING YOU BACK TO THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD
BY MATTHEW WEST**

Matthew West, in his trademark creative and engaging style, leads readers through the eyes of a child at Christmastime to come home to greater joy, hope, peace and belonging found only in Jesus. Take time during Advent to immerse yourself in God's goodness and the true meaning of Christmas.

In the midst of what can be the busiest and most stressful holiday season, each chapter of *Come Home for Christmas* points the reader to the kingdom realities that God invites each of us to participate in through the birth of Jesus. Matthew West's humor, Bible-teaching, and storytelling challenge us to embrace this season of Christmas as the homecoming that God intends for it to be.

Through the pages of this inspiring book, you will:

- Feel the wonder of Christmas as you did when you were a child.
- Move beyond the baby in the manger to the Savior of the world.
- Return your heart to the joy, peace, love and hope found in Jesus.
- Restore neglected or broken relationships with family and friends.
- Come home to the life God intended you to experience throughout the year.

There are several copies available in the Narthex for you to borrow, read and return to the table when finished for others to enjoy.

The winter season is upon us!

Inclement Weather

Stay informed and be safe.

Effective communication about inclement weather is vital for ensuring safety and preparedness of our church and congregation. We will always try to have church, even in inclement weather; however, if we need to cancel the service or events, you will be notified or can check the following ways:

- **Email communications**
- **Facebook post (Messiah Church of York)**
- **Website post (<https://messiahnyork.com>)**

Other cancellations are at the discretion of the meeting leader and will be communicated directly to participants. As always, use your own judgment and be safe if there is inclement weather.



DECEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SANCTUARY GREETERS

DEC 1 - BARRY & RENEE MONTAG
DEC 8 - JOYCE POTTS
DEC 15 - JAY & LEANNE DACHEUX
DEC 22 - SHARON MARCH
DEC 29 - OPEN

OFFERING ASSISTANTS

DEC 1 - DIANA PATRIZIO
DEC 8 - DENNY MILEY
DEC 15 - MONTE FOOR
DEC 22 - ROBERTA RISHEL
DEC 29 - SUE MILEY

One Voice Community Choir

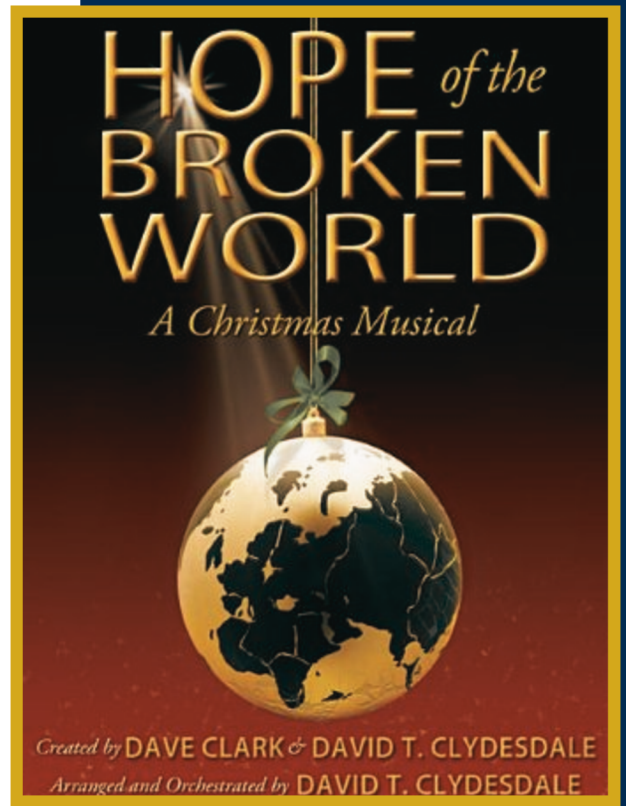
Christmas Cantata

December 8, 2024 at 3 pm

Come join us for an inspiring afternoon with the One Voice Community Choir as they present;

"Hope of the Broken World"
by Dave Clark and David Clydesdale

This moving cantata promises to uplift and inspire, offering a message of hope and unity during the holiday season. Following the performance, we invite you to a Cookie Social Reception in the Parish Hall, where you can enjoy delicious treats and share in the warmth of community spirit. It's a wonderful chance to connect with friends old and new, and to celebrate the season together. Don't miss this heartwarming event!



LOOKING AHEAD

DEC

- 1 First Sunday of Advent**
- 8 Cantata "One Voice Community Choir" at 3:00 pm**
Cookie Social to Follow the Cantata
Christmas Caroling 5:30 pm Hot Chocolate & Cookies to Follow
- 18 Grande Illumination at Normandie Ridge 4:30 pm**
- 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm,**
5:30 pm Communion in Chapel
- 25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed**

JAN

- 1 Happy New Year! Office Closed**
- 6 Epiphany**

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Let's Celebrate!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Janet Shaffer**
Elizabeth Berger
- 3 Tom Foller
- 4 Susan Conley
- 5 Sydney Miller
- 8 Nancy Boyd
Eric Wolf
- 9 Sheri Wolf
- 10 Matthew Waltersdorff
Patrick Chandler
- 12 Ira Shoff
Nicole Fourhman
Kelly Overlander
- 14 Ben Geesey
Ryan Kelley
- 16 Craig Shindler
- 17 Arthur Wert
Bruce Musser
James Schopf
- 20 Mark Wolfgang

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 21 Wesley Richardson
Jim Troxell
- 23 Tim Heilman
- 25 Laura Wetzel
Joyce Troxell
- 26 Evan Patrizio

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 30 John & Diana Patrizio

****Denotes Shut-ins**
Missed Birthday or Anniversary?
If somehow we've missed you, call the church office at 717-843-4574 or email the update to messiah@messiahork.com. We'll be glad to add your name to our list.



2024

DECEMBER

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 Advent Begins 9:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship/ Children's Church	2	3	4 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Church Dinner 6:45 pm Bible Study	5	6	7
8 9:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sun. School 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm One Voice Choir, Cookie Social 5:30 pm Caroling	9	10 6:30 pm AdBoard Meeting	11 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study	12	13	14
15 9:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship/ Children's Church	16 11:30 am Lunch Bunch, Manchester Diner	17	18 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study 4:30 Grande Illumination at NR	19	20	21
22 9:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	23	24 Christmas Eve 5:30 Communion in Chapel 6:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas 	26	27	28
29 9:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	30	31	1 Happy New Year! 2025			



HAPPY New Year

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AND AGAIN I SAY, REJOICE.

PHIL 4:4

New Year's Resolutions

It's that time of the year again to make New Year's resolutions. Do you make a resolution only to give up in a few weeks? As the New Year approaches, many of us will set resolutions related to weight, exercise, and finances. By incorporating biblical principles into these goals, we can enrich our lives with purpose and fulfillment in the coming year.

Lose weight. After eating all those holiday season meals, many people resolve to start the New Year off by losing a few pounds. While losing weight may improve one's health, the Bible speaks of losing "weight" that will improve one's spiritual well-being. Consider Hebrews 12:1: ***"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."*** In this passage, the Christian life is depicted as a race. One who is running in a footrace would not want any extra weight that might hinder his performance. Likewise, the Christian who is running the Christian race must lay aside anything that might hinder his progress for the Lord. Even good wholesome things can become "weights" that hinder one from living the Christian life. A job, recreational activities, pursuing an education, the love of money, or some sin may become a "weight" in our lives.

Exercise. ***"Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."*** (1 Timothy 4:7-8). A regular exercise routine profits the body a "little," but a spiritual workout in Godly living will profit your soul, your family, your friends, and your work associates.

Save Money. Having blown the budget during the Christmas season, many of us will resolve to spend less and save more as we begin the New Year. This will surely put dollars in the bank, but the Lord spoke about how we can deposit money in heaven: ***"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*** (Matthew 6:20-21). To the rich young ruler Jesus answered, ***"If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*** (Matthew 19:21). By giving to the Lord's cause and to those who are in need, we actually "save" ("lay up") treasures in heaven. It would be impossible for us to out-give the Lord. He has richly blessed our lives, and we should give back to Him.

By Mark Lindley

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Let's Celebrate!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Douglas March
- 5 Michael Quickel
- 6 Barbara Gemmill**
- 7 Patrice Poet
- 8 Natalie Graver
- 16 Eugene Frey
David Ensminger
- 17 Levi Christy
- 19 Peggy Wisotzkey
- 20 Matthew Hartman
- 21 William Eyster II
- 25 Matt Fishel
Jared Hartman
- 27 Kayla Chandler
- 28 Larue Olson

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 22 Sterling & Carol Miller
- 29 Jimmy & Stephanie Christy

**Denotes Shut-ins

*Missed Birthday or Anniversary?
If somehow we've missed you, call the
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the update to messiah@messiahnyork.com.
We'll be glad to add your name to our list.*



BIBLE IN A YEAR - ABOUT THE BOOKS

In the last decade of the first century, the apostle John moved to Ephesus to pastor the church founded by Paul. Near the end of his life, John wrote three important parts of the New Testament—first, the Gospel of John, the book of Revelation while he was imprisoned on the island of Patmos, and then, back in Ephesus, he wrote three final letters to the Christian community. He died soon after, around 100 A.D., and was buried in Ephesus.

1 John was written to combat false teachings called "Gnosticism." Gnostics taught that Jesus was a spirit and never really had a body, and other errors. In **2 John**, he is addressing the same issue as before, but not in as much detail. The tone suggests that John is writing a letter to someone who wrote to him first. **3 John** criticized a teacher in this very brief letter. He even called him by name—Diotrephes. He accused the man of having a big ego and being a troublemaker. The letter shows us that even when the church was less than 50 years old, it had the same types of problems we have today.



Date Written:
90–95 AD



Period Covered:
Universal



Author:
Apostle John

Revelation is primarily prophetic. It begins with the revelation of the glorified Christ. Then the whole story of the church is given. Then, at the end of chapter 3, the church goes to heaven and we see it, not as the church anymore, but as the bride which will come to the earth with Christ when He comes to establish His Kingdom—that thousand-year reign, John will tell us more about. It will be a time of testing, for at the end of that period Satan will be released for a brief season. Then the final rebellion is put down and eternity begins. This is the viewpoint of Revelation we will now explore. History testifies that we have been looking for Christ to come again ever since He left.

Revelation is not a difficult book. Some try to make it symbolic and hard to understand. Revelation begins when Jesus Christ leaves the earth. In chapter 1, we see Him glorified. In chapters 2–3 we see the church. In chapters 4–5 we see the church in heaven. Then on earth, the Great Tribulation takes place, chapters 6–18. In chapter 19 we see Jesus Christ return to the earth and establish His Kingdom. Chapter 20 talks about the thousand-year reign of Christ. Then the Great White Throne is set up when the lost are judged, and in chapters 21–22 eternity begins. That is Revelation.



Date Written:
90–95 AD



Period Covered:
End of Time



Author:
Apostle John

BIBLE IN A YEAR - DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

SCRIPTURE

- **Sunday, December 1:** Ezekiel 40-41, 2 Peter 3
- **Monday, December 2:** Ezekiel 42-44, 1 John 1
- **Tuesday, December 3:** Ezekiel 45-46, 1 John 2
- **Wednesday, December 4:** Ezekiel 47-48, 1 John 3
- **Thursday, December 5:** Ezra 1-2, 1 John 4
- **Friday, December 6:** Ezra 3-4, 1 John 5
- **Saturday, December 7:** Haggai 1-2, 2 John 1
- **Sunday, December 8:** Zechariah 1-4, 3 John 1
- **Monday, December 9:** Zechariah 5-8, Jude 1
- **Tuesday, December 10:** Zechariah 9-10, Revelation 1
- **Wednesday, December 11:** Zechariah 11-12, Revelation 2
- **Thursday, December 12:** Zechariah 13-14, Revelation 3-4
- **Friday, December 13:** Psalm 74-76, Revelation 5
- **Saturday, December 14:** Psalm 77-78, Revelation 6
- **Sunday, December 15:** Psalm 79-80, Revelation 7
- **Monday, December 16:** Psalm 81-82, Revelation 8
- **Tuesday, December 17:** Psalm 83-84, Revelation 9

SCRIPTURE

- **Wednesday, December 18:** Psalm 107, Psalm 126, Revelation 10
- **Thursday, December 19:** Ezra 5-7, Revelation 11
- **Friday, December 20:** Esther 1-2, Revelation 12
- **Saturday, December 21:** Esther 3-5, Revelation 13
- **Sunday, December 22:** Esther 6-8, Revelation 14
- **Monday, December 23:** Esther 9-10, Revelation 15
- **Tuesday, December 24:** Ezra 8-10, Revelation 16
- **Wednesday, December 25:** Nehemiah 1-3, Matthew 1, Luke 2
- **Thursday, December 26:** Nehemiah 4-6, Revelation 17
- **Friday, December 27:** Nehemiah 7-9, Revelation 18
- **Saturday, December 28:** Nehemiah 10-11, Revelation 19
- **Sunday, December 29:** Nehemiah 12-13, Revelation 20
- **Monday, December 30:** Malachi 1-2, Revelation 21
- **Tuesday, December 31:** Malachi 3-4, Revelation 22



PLEASE JOIN US IN PERSON

SUNDAYS

9:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

9:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30 WORSHIP SERVICE

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