

Campbellsburg Christian Church

Newsletter

A Family of Faith, Hope and Love

Volume 19 Issue 12

December 2023

Along the Journey

¹⁴ "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
– 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NIV)

Along the journey, I completed my first study with the congregation just last night. The study was about our individual spiritual walk and where we need to improve, but we also digressed into other important topics, such as questions about salvation and other religions. I found our time together to be challenging, interesting and eye-opening. I have to say I truly enjoyed the discussions we had over the last couple of months. In fact, it created in me a thirst for more. So, the plans are to begin a Bible study in February, which you will be hearing more about that later. I can't wait!

In the meanwhile, we enter the season of Advent, which means "coming" or "arrival." Let us journey together to the manger in Bethlehem, preparing for the coming of the Christ Child by meditating on how He brings Hope, Joy, Peace and Love to our lives. Then, we arrive at the manger on Christmas Eve, which we will celebrate that evening at 11:00 p.m. I hope you will join us!

Peace and Joy!

– Pastor Deke

Scripture of the Month

"Whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst: the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 4:14

Financial Info

As of November 30th:

Balance in the Checking Account:	\$ 32,503.87
Total Offerings for November:	\$ 3,785.70
Balance in the Memorial Fund:	\$ 27,110.90

December Calendar

- December 1st: *Happy Birthday – Mark Bastin & Angie Southworth*
- December 3rd: **1st Sunday in Advent – Hope**
Rev. Ray Hayes preaching
Call to Worship – Chet Lawrence
Advent Readers – Suzanne Edelstein & Linda Young
Elder – Tracy Carpenter
Deacon – Amanda Hornback
Musician – Steven Trezise
- December 4th: Christian Churches, D.O.C.
Christmas Cantata Joint Choir Practice –
LaGrange Christian Church – 6:30 p.m.
Happy Birthday – Casey Gardner
- December 5th: *Happy Birthday – Mallorie Bush*
- December 10th: **2nd Sunday in Advent – Peace**
Call to Worship – Kim Mullikin
Advent Readers – Barbara Boyer & Tammy Dowden
Elder – Chet Lawrence
Deacon – Mindy Lawrence
Musician – Cheri Simpson
Campbellsburg Kids' Kitchen
Winter Break items due
- December 11th: Christian Churches, D.O.C.
Christmas Cantata Joint Choir Practice –
LaGrange Christian Church – 6:30 p.m.
- December 13th: **Supper Club A.D.M.er's –**
Mullikin home – 6:30 p.m.
Happy Birthday – James Mobley,
Joe Mobley, & Cody Osborne

December 17th: **3rd Sunday in Advent – Joy**
Call to Worship – Linda Schulten
Advent Reader – Rev. Carl Rucker
Elder – Kevin Mullikin
Deacon – Garrett McVicker
Musician – John Ball
Christmas Fellowship Luncheon
following Worship
Christian Churches, D.O.C.
Joint Christmas Cantata –
LaGrange Christian Church – 5:00 p.m.

December 21st: *First Day of Winter*

December 23rd: *Happy Birthday – Becky Bush*

December 24th: **Christmas Eve**
4th Sunday in Advent – Love
Call to Worship – Tracy Carpenter
Advent Readers – John & Pam Ball
Elder – Tracy Carpenter
Deacon – Patricia Carpenter
Musician – Cheri Simpson

Candlelight Community Service – 11:00 p.m.
Musicians – John Ball & Marty Tollefsen
(Children wear pajamas and adults wear red)

December 25th: **Birthdays of Jesus**

December 31st: **New Year's Eve**
Call to Worship – Jill Bohman
Elder – Kim Mullikin
Deacon – Jill Bohman
Musician – John Ball
Happy Anniversary – Jim & Linda Wolfe

January 1st: **New Year's Day**
Happy Birthday – David Graetz

January 4th: *Happy Birthday – Rev. Benedict*
"Deke" Rigor

January 7th: **Epiphany Sunday**
Call to Worship – Kevin Mullikin
Elder – Chet Lawrence
Deacon – Linda Schulten
Musician – John Ball

Outreach & Evangelism

Campbellsburg Kids' Kitchen

We are nearing Christmas break. As a reminder, our church has been asked to provide one regular size box of **cereal** and 5-packs of **Ramen noodles** for each child for these bags. These items will need to be at the church by Sunday, December 10th. We are currently providing food for a total of 45 children.

Along with our **cereal** and **Ramen noodles** for Winter Break, please remember to bring in the following items so we can keep providing the much-needed weekend food for these children – *Fruit Grain Bars, Pepperoni Snacks, Jif To Go, Ramen Noodle packets, Pringles, Pudding Cups, Individual Goldfish, Individual Cookie Packs, Cheese Dips Snacks, and General Mills Snack Bars*. Packing will resume in January as students return from winter break. Our next scheduled packing date will be **January 17, 2024**.

Thanks in advance for your contributions!

"Love Gifts"

Once again boxes will be placed in the Church to receive our Christmas gifts for our minister, our musicians, and our custodian. If you would like to share in a "Love Gift," you may place it in the appropriately marked box.

A.D.M.er's

This month's **Super Club A.D.M.er's** will be held on Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the Mullikin home. Everyone is invited to attend. Please bring a covered dish and a wrapped \$5 or less Christmas ornament for a white elephant gift exchange. Please let Kim know if you plan to attend and be sure to speak up if you need a ride!

This month's **Lunch Bunch A.D.M.er's** is cancelled due to the proximity to Christmas. See you in January if weather permits!

Christmas Luncheon

Our Christmas luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 17th, following our worship service. The church will be providing country ham, tea and coffee. Everything else will be potluck.

Please come worship and then join us for a wonderful fellowship luncheon together. Be sure to invite and bring family and friends!

Poinsettias



Thank you to the following people for adding to the beauty of our church sanctuary this holiday season and for calling to mind and memory these special people. 2022

John & Pam Ball

In Memory of Our Parents:

Harold & June Ball and Brent & Doris Boyer

Tammy & Barbara Boyer
In Memory of Marion Ballard Boyer

Betsy Carpenter
In Honor & Memory of Loved Ones

Tracy & Patricia Carpenter
In Honor & Memory of Loved Ones

Suzanne Edelstein
In Memory of Loved Ones

Chet & Cathy Lawrence
In Memory of Our Parents

Marie Mattick
In Memory of Hank Mattick & other Loved Ones

Kevin & Kim Mullikin
In Honor & Memory of Loved Ones

Pastor Deke Rigor
In Memory of Dr. Ben & Violeta Rigor

Carl & Joann Rucker
In Honor & Memory of Our Church Family

Linda Young
In Memory of Loved Ones



Among Our Own

Many THANKS to **everyone** that helped in decorating for the Christmas Season. In the past, we have decorated the windows of the fellowship hall, anyone that would like to do that this year is more than welcome to do so. We would love to see all of the windows decorated again this year!!

Secret Place Devotionals have been delayed for some unknown reason. Chet has inquired about them and we will let you when they arrive.

Prayer Concerns

Please See Newsletter in Church
For Specific Prayer Concerns

Due to Confidentiality

All our military personnel

Our Church

Our Nation

WORLD PEACE

Did You Know This??

To many people, the lyrics of the song "**The Twelve Days of Christmas**" seem strange beyond belief. The odd carol's words might make one think it is a novelty song, in the vein of "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" or "My Favorite Things." Though a host of modern internet sites and some magazine articles have tried to reduce "The Twelve Days of Christmas" to a little more than a silly Christmas carol, most scholars of the Catholic Church deem it a very important surviving example of a time when that denomination used codes to disguise their teachings.



Originally a poem written by Catholic clerics, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song was transformed into a carol at a time when celebrating the twelve days of Christmas was one of the most important holiday customs. By understanding the meaning the clerics chose the twelve days as wrapping for their poem, the full impact of the tradition of the twelve days of Christmas can be understood.

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... a partridge in a pear tree.

The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.

On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... two turtledoves.

These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of Judeo-Christian faith and God's plan for the world. The doves are the biblical roadmap that is available to everyone.

On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... three French hens.

These birds represent faith, hope, and love. This gift hearkens back to 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter written by the apostle Paul.

On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... four calling birds.

One of the easiest facets of the song's code to figure out, these fowl are the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... five gold rings.

The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch.

On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... six geese a-laying.

These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation, a time when the world was "hatched" or formed by God.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me... seven swans a-swimming.

It would take someone quite familiar with the Bible to identify this gift. Hidden in the code are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion. As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for spiritual gifts.

On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... eight maids a-milking.

As Christ came to save even the lowest of the low, this gift represents the ones who would receive His word and accept His grace. Being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England during this period; this code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as He did those of royal blood. The eight who were blessed included the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... nine ladies dancing.

These nine dancers were really the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit. The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me... ten lords a-leaping.

This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code for the Ten Commandments was fairly straightforward.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... eleven pipers piping.

This is almost a trick question, as most think of the disciples in terms of a dozen. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, there were only eleven men who carried out the gospel message.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... twelve drummers drumming.

The final gift is tied directly to the Catholic Church. The drummers are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting."

More...

Teaching the Catholic faith was outlawed in sixteenth-century England. Those who instructed their children in Catholicism could be drawn and quartered. Thus, the church went underground. To hide the important and illegal elements of their teaching, clerics composed poems that seemed sill to most people. But these verses were veiled works that taught the church's most important tenets. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is said to be one of these teaching tools.

Most people today believe that the twelve days of Christmas start on December 12th or 13th and run through Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. But in fact, the first day of Christmas is December 25th and the final day is January 5th. Thus, for hundreds of years the Christmas holidays didn't begin until Christmas Eve and didn't end until Epiphany.

Why were these twelve days important? These dozen days were tied to more than just the teaching of the Catholic Church. A host of other denominations also celebrated the twelve days of Christmas. Some denominations celebrated Christmas in January and began to count the twelve days then. But whenever they began, the counting of the days became an important facet of each holiday season. Even in the Dark Ages, in some Eastern European churches, the twelve days of Christmas meant attending daily church services. For Christians who lived during this extremely

From Croswalk.com

(This article is part of a larger Christmas and Advent resource library centered around the events leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ. We hope these articles help you understand the meaning and story behind important Christian holidays and dates and encourage you as you take time to reflect on all that God has done for us through His Son Jesus Christ!)

difficult age, the twelve days were a time of rededication and renewal. It was also a period when small, simple, and usually symbolic gifts of faith were given to children. Thus, in both coded poems and public worship, the twelve days were considered a holy period.

For many Christians today, even the recognition of the twelve days of Christmas has been lost . . . for two reasons. The first is that when Epiphany lost out to Christmas as the day of giving gifts, many simply quit celebrating the twelve-day observance. The other reason is based more on the change in the fabric of culture than on overlooking the Christian holiday of Epiphany.

In ancient times, when most societies were rural, few people worked in the dead of winter. It was a time when many were spending long, dark days inside their homes, looking forward to winter's chill giving way to the spring thaw. So, devoting a dozen days to prayer, reflection, and attending church was not a huge undertaking. Yet with the coming of the Industrial Age and the regular year-round work schedules it brought, finding time to continue the activities that had been traditionally associated with the twelve days of Christmas became all but impossible for most people.

So the passing of the twelve-days custom probably had as much to do with "progress" as with anything else. As fewer and fewer churches and families participated in the tradition, it was all but lost. Yet in the obscure poem that was later turned into a popular carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" lives on. And the twelve days described are actually a wonderful and complete picture of the Christian faith.

The "true love" mentioned in the song is not a sweetheart, but the Catholic Church's code for God. The person who receives the gifts represents anyone who has accepted Christ as the Son of God and as Savior. And each of the gifts portrays an important facet of the story of true faith.

So, just a silly song? On the surface maybe, but in reality, a refreshing reminder of the essential elements of Christian faith. The twelve days of Christmas may no longer be a widely recognized holiday tradition, but the days were an important bridge that connected persecuted believers of the past with the whole story of God's plan. In the complicated world of today, a trip back to the not-so-distant past when Christians celebrated the twelve days of Christmas would only enhance the meaning of Christmas for everyone.