

Early Christmas Presents

This is our first Sunday together in this building, which we now own. No matter what we think about this tradition that is called Christmas, it is hard not to think about the timing of this wonderful gift that God has given to us. To use a phrase associated with this time of year, "Christmas has come early".

The events that have led us to this point all indicate that "God's hand is upon us", to use a biblical phrase. This phrase is found repeatedly in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, as those two saints were involved in the rebuilding efforts in Jerusalem. They recognized that, if they were to see Jerusalem and the Temple built as a physical entity, God's hand needed to be upon them every step of the way. Even as he prepared to make the journey to Jerusalem to begin the work, Ezra had this to say:

Ezra 8:22: For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, the hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.

Those words remind us of Romans 8:28: *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

We know from the scriptures that the rebuilding project did meet with much success, but ultimately the people took their eyes off God and Jerusalem was never to regain its former glory. We have a very graphic demonstration of this principle from the account of when Peter walked on water, then sank when he took his eyes off Jesus. (Matthew 14:28-30)

It is imperative that, as we open this early Christmas present, we do not take our eyes off the One who gave it to us.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
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Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

December 10, 2017

WELCOME!

<u>Sunday</u>	Bible Class- 9:30 a.m. Worship- 10:30 a.m.
<u>Tuesday</u>	Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.
<u>Wednesday</u>	Bible Study-7:00pm

All the churches of Christ greet you.
ROMANS 16:16

Today's Sermon: **A Tale of Three Donkeys**

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org
aicoc.org (Antioch Initiative)

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Scripture: Luke 2:1-14

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class: Tuesday, December 12th, 10am. We will be studying Day 4 of the first chapter.**
- **Midweek Bible study Wednesday at 7pm here at the building.**

Next Potluck: January 15th. Theme: **NEW** try a new recipe for the new year!



- ✓ **NEW CHURCH BUILDING!** We now have a new shelter for worship and fellowship. Thank you to all who helped with the moving and planning for future upgrades to our building. Our sign is under construction and will be finished in the near future.
- ✓ Darlene will be traveling to Philadelphia from December 18-22 and again the 27th and 28th for GI testing. Doug will be donating a kidney to someone, and, in return, his brother Mark will receive a kidney from someone who is a match for him.
- ✓ Ted is attending a memorial service for his cousin today.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.
Psalm 32:8

PRAYERS...

- The recent shooting at Aztec High School in NM took place where Lani went to school. Please pray for families and friends of the victims.
- Pray all goes well with **Doug Elsbree** and his brother **Mark**.
- Please remember **Kiley and Thomas** in prayer. Also pray for their grandmother, **Judy Brotzman**, as she cares for her husband.
- Pray for **Darlene** as she has tests in Philadelphia next week. She is quite sick with flu today.
- Darlene's workmate at Epiphany School, **Andrea Lentz** has a mass on her lung.
- Ben and Jill Wright's grandson, **Levi**, was born several weeks prematurely and has just come out of ICU. Jill is in FL with their daughter and family.
- Pray for **Kevan Barry's** safety during his last week of deployment in Kuwait. He returns stateside on the 19th.
- **Pat Gutherie** is preparing for open heart surgery soon to repair or replace two valves. Pray that surgeons are successful in repairing them.
- **Kelly** will be having surgery on Tuesday to repair a hernia.
- Kelly's **friend Sarah**, who we have been praying for, is reconciling with her husband.
- Pray for **Joshua Dunn**, who is suffering from stage 4 lung cancer. Pray experimental treatment continues to help him.
- Pray for **Vicki Joice** as she continues Herceptin treatments for breast cancer. Also pray for relief from lymphedema.
- Sandy and Arthur's neighbor, **Erin Beiber** has metastatic breast cancer. She has asked for prayers as she comes to terms with the reality of her cancer and says she needs God to help her through it.
- **Jackie Lobevero** and **Dara Reynolds** are both ill with flu.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry :

barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.