

Greetings

By Joe Chesser

It's that time of year again when holiday greetings arrive in the mail and are shared just about everywhere we go. We see greetings extended on marquees and billboards, in front yards, and in all kinds of businesses. From just before Thanksgiving through Christmas to just after the new year, these six weeks or so are the "greetingest" time of the year. Unless you are a true grinch or a scrooge (a grumpy person who is mean-spirited and unfriendly), you just have to love this time of the year.

Christians should never be like a grinch or a scrooge ... no matter what time of year it may be. In fact, Christians should be the "greetingest" people on earth all year long.

Just glance at Romans 16. The word "greet" is used 17 times in this chapter alone. If I counted correctly, 35 specific people either received or sent greetings, and several others are mentioned as associated with these people. In addition, in his letters Paul sent his greetings to people in the churches at Corinth, Philippi, Colosse and Thessalonica, plus in writing to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. The Hebrew writer sent greetings to all of God's people, as did James; Peter said to greet one another, and John sent greetings from himself and others (Hebrews 13.24; James 1.1; 1 Peter 5.14; 2 John 13; 3 John 14).

All these greetings indicated a loving and personal connection with fellow believers in other places. The greetings were genuinely given simply because they shared a common connection in Christ. They were brothers and sisters, and that alone made it personal. It didn't matter that they didn't know each other's names. It didn't matter that they had never met, nor probably ever would. As John wrote, "The friends here send their greetings" (3 John 14), or as the Hebrews writer said, "Those from Italy send you their greetings" (Hebrews 13.24). To Titus Paul wrote, "Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith" (Titus 3.15). Generic? Yes. But even so we clearly sense the love they all shared with Christ ... and with each other because they "love us in the faith." "All the saints send you greetings" (Philippians 4.22). I wonder if we feel that same camaraderie with Christians in other congregations ... nearby or far away? But, when possible, the Bible also encourages us to greet each other by name (3 John 14). As noted above, it is impressive how many people in Rome alone Paul greeted by name.

These greetings indicate more than shaking hands when we see each other, more than a mere courtesy. They indicate a sharing of hearts, a friendship, a brotherhood. Perhaps that's why the New Testament letters repeatedly encourage the church to "Greet one another with a holy kiss" (Romans 16.16; 1 Corinthians 16.20; 2 Corinthians 13.12; 1 Thessalonians 5.26; 1 Peter 5.14). Cultural expression or not, a holy kiss represents the importance of greeting each other with hearts that are united in Christ.

How we greet each other says a lot about how we feel toward each other. Once again, our hearts are involved in our actions. Greet one another with the love of Christ.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

December 19, 2021

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: **The Promise of the Holy Spirit – Pt 2**

Arthur is preaching today.

Scripture Reading: **Gal 4:1-7**

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

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www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul will be continuing his lessons on the Psalms and stopping to sing a song from our songbook when appropriate.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** December 22nd, on Zoom, 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing his lessons on the book of Matthew, chapter 24:36.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday (3rd Sunday):** January 16th.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class on Tuesday, December 21st, on Zoom.** We will meet at 10am. We will study the words of the Apostle Peter, using the study book Living Stones by Casandra Martin. Chapter 4, Day 3.
- ❖ **5th Sunday Singing- January 30th at Ithaca. (?)**



- **Covid 19:** We ask, but don't demand, that we all be **kind and considerate regarding keeping others safe**, including wearing masks if you think you should, staying away if testing positive for Covid, and getting tested if exposed.
- **Keep the MAGI box items and money coming in!** We still need:
 - Girls' and boys' underpants, size 4-6
 - Boys' shorts, girls' dresses (consider sewing them)
 - Coloring books, pictures only, no activities
 - Boxes of 24 crayons (50c at Dollar General)
 - Soap, toothpaste, washcloths, toothbrushes
 - More on list
- **Today is Potluck directly following worship. At around 1:30 we will assemble on the porch to sing Christmas carols for the neighborhood. Please plan to join us!**

PRAYERS

- Pray for **Linnett Short** (lung cancer), **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army), **Steve Noble** (needs lung transplant), **Arthur's brother Chris** (Alzheimer's), **Pat Guthrie** (lung cancer), **Darlene's friend Connie** (advanced stage lung cancer).
- **Pray for our MAGI box project** which will be sent to children in Honduras, ages 5-7. Deadline: May 1st.
- **Arthur** is still waiting for an appointment for a PT scan. The scan must be clear before he can be scheduled for surgery. Pray that this can be done soon. We pray for a full recovery.
- **Dawn's niece, Bobbie's, husband, Arthur Hardison** is currently in ICU on a ventilator as a result of covid. Please pray for him and his family.
- **Tink Cranmer, preacher for the Wellsboro church of Christ, died on December 9th, leaving his wife, Mary, and a son and a daughter, a son-in-law, and grandchildren. Please pray for comfort for his family and for the church at Wellsboro.**
- **Arthur and Sandy's daughter Molly Rivera** is ill with covid, as is her daughters **Pearl and Iris** and son **Rowan**. Jose and daughter Cora tested negative so far. Please pray for them all to recover soon.
- **Steve and Amy's neighbor Henry's niece, Robin**, is in hospital with a serious case of covid. Also, **their friend Jeff Ardetti** is paralyzed after developing Guillian-Barre following covid. Pray for his recovery.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.