

December  
2016



Session Mtg  
December 11<sup>th</sup>  
1p.m.





My dear sisters & brothers in Christ,  
How is it with your soul? This is a question that a pastor friend of mine would ask and I now ask others. The common response is, “I’m fine, I’m busy” etc. But the question was not regarding your physical health or your state of activity but was asked about the soul. The part of you that expresses your love and your need for God.

I was asked recently what I needed from God. There are varied levels of answers to this question. The whimsical response is a self-cleaning bathroom & kitchen along with a million dollars. A more serious response is that I need God to open my entire being to be receptive of who God truly is and who I am in God’s eyes.

During this season of Advent I challenge you with searching your own heart and soul to know what you need from God. How is it with your soul? I also challenge you to look around your home for reflections of the state of your soul. The adage, “Garbage in- garbage out” is true. If I only read books or watch TV shows that are filled with God affirming truths then my soul will reflect that. If on the other hand I am filling my mind with violence and zombies and such, then my soul will reflect that as well.

***“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for God. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always***

***dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”***

Romans 12:1-2 (The Message)  
Your sister in Christ,  
Pastor Grace

Contact Info: Pastor Grace Hammer  
[Pastor.florapc@embarqmail.com](mailto:Pastor.florapc@embarqmail.com)  
563-320-0484

## Christian Education

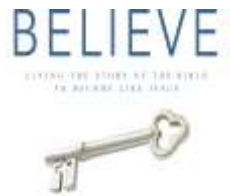
by Barb Mayfield

### Sunday School

#### It's never too late to join Sunday School

Adult Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings starting at 9:00 a.m. in the classroom near the kitchen upstairs.

We are using a study titled: "Believe." This video based curriculum covers the basic beliefs of the Christian faith. It is written for new as well as "old" believers. We are spending two weeks on each lesson. Books and study guides are available. Please join us! Choir members are welcome to come for the first 30 minutes before practice begins.



### Oasis

#### A Gathering to Grieve and Remember

the sisters who perished in the house fire came to

Oasis. On Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> we came together to pray, sing, and honor the lives of Keyana, Keyara, Kerrielle, and Kionnie. Please lift up their mother, Gaylin Rose, in prayer.

### Christmas Celebration

We are having a Christmas celebration for Oasis families on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> and then we will take a break until January 11<sup>th</sup>.

There are two ways you can help:

1. We hope to put together gifts for the children of practical items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, school supplies, socks, mittens, toiletries, etc. If you would like to contribute, please check with an Oasis leader for more details.
2. We will be preparing a special meal for the children and families on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> and are looking for people to make sides and dessert. Please sign up in the Fellowship Room.

## December Library Corner

By Laraine MacLauchlan

Our circulation continues to be quite good. I know the kids of Oasis enjoy reading the books and watching the DVD's. Thank you to our church for providing a cool place for Oasis kids to chill out and read a good book or take home a neat DVD



## Presbyterian Women

by Jane Bishop



The Mary-Martha Circle will not meet in December, January and March, but will be busy with activities at the Community Thrift Store. We continue to be blessed with

donations, workers and customers!! At just this past meeting we were able to distribute \$1795.00 (as an example in 2013, we were only able to give \$1600 for the entire year!!!)

## Thrift Shop Schedule for December

Sat. Dec. 1 .....Sally and Kathy .Sort & Mark  
Sat. Dec. 17.....Barb W.....Tags  
Thurs Dec 29 .....Laraine.....Sort and Mark..

**Thank all of you for the marvelous donations to the Thank Offering---\$545.00!**

**You are the greatest!**

!

Answer: B (See Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 2:1-20, especially v. 11.)

**Worship Committee**

*by Terry Langston*

Our annual Christmas Eve candlelight service will be at 8:00PM, Saturday, December 24th.

Thank you to everyone that helped with "Hanging the Greens"!

**Clerk of Session**

*by Laraine MacLaughlan*

Next session meeting will be December 11 at 1:00 at the home of Laurie Brower.

**Stewardship/Missions**

*by Joe Mayfield*

"Oh my, December is here already! Calendars are loading up, travel plans are being made, the checkbook is under stress, welcome to Christmas in America. I say let's take a moment, breathe, then consider how faithful God has been to us, and ask ourselves, how can we slow down a bit and be faithful to HIS version of Christmas?

We can think about how to help others less fortunate than ourselves. In this church that means the annual JOY OFFERING. We will be taking up that offering Sunday December 11th and December 18th. Also, as we have done for many years, we will be providing Christmas baskets this year for local families who need some of our Christmas help to have a merrier holiday. Finally if you need gift ideas for those who are hard to buy for, we have catalogs from various mission organizations on the back table in the sanctuary. ( Heifer Project, Presbyterian Missions).

The November financial summary looks very good this year: Income 9,837 dollars, Expenses: 4,734 dollars. Net income for the month was 5,103 dollars. For the year, through October, Net Income was \$15,889. We are well positioned financially to start 2017 with a new

pastor and bright outlook. Again, as I have written many times, thank you for your faithfulness in helping sustain this church. So in closing,

Merry Christmas and "God bless us everyone."

\*\*\*\*\*

**Additional**

**Thoughts**.....Some parts of the Christmas story, as commonly told, aren't actually recounted in Scripture. Which of the following details is recorded in the Bible?

- A. Mary rode a donkey to Bethlehem, and Joseph walked alongside her.
- B. Angels announced that a Savior, the Messiah (or Christ), had been born.
- C. There were three wise men.
- D. Shepherds and wise men (or Magi) worshiped Baby Jesus together.

Please look at bottom of page 3 for answer

**"I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people."**

Luke 2:10, NRSV



There is a special Christmas tree  
That lives within the heart.  
It isn't pine, and can't be bought or mart.

Each branch holds some fond memory  
Of joyful Christmas cheer,  
Reminding us of those we love  
And always will hold dear.

The gifts beneath this Christmas tree  
Are stacked up very high  
With kindly deeds of thoughtfulness  
That one could never buy.

The Heartfelt Christmas tree expands  
Through every passing year  
With lovely gifts and blessings  
Having come from far and near.

Atop this tree a star shines bright,  
While angels sing God's praise;  
Rejoice! The Christ-child's Love is shared,  
And blesses ALL our days.  
—Peggy Ferrell

\* \* \* \* \*

Choir Practice 9:30; Worship 10:15; Sunday School as announced

# Flora Presbyterian Church

## December 2016

B=Birthday N=Nursery SR=Scripture Readers U=Ushers

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2  <i>B=Janis Beck</i>	3
4  N=Laurie Brower SR=Marlene Smith SR=Susan Hollis U=Laurie Brower U=Maggie Scholl	5  <i>B=Kent King</i>	6	7  <i>B=Libby Sparks</i>	8  <i>B=Mike Kearns, Jenne McMillin</i>	9	10
11 1 N=Laurie Brower SR=Joe Moss SR=Kevin Clark U=Barbara Wilkinson U=Marlene Smith	12  <i>B=Julie Catron</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18  N=Laurie Brower SR=Ann Brown SR=Barb Mayfield U=Bob & Ann Brown	19	20	21	22  <i>B=Betty Peterson</i>	23  <i>B=Bill Kearns</i>	24  <b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8p.m.</b>
25  <b>Christmas</b>  N=Laurie Brower SR=Joe Mayfield SR=Ann Brown U=Joe & Tammy Moss	26	27	28	29	30  <i>B=Kevin Clark</i>	31  <b>New Year's Eve</b>

Answers: 1. Rudolph, 2. poinsettias, 3. star, 4. (across) Messiah, 4. (down) manger, 5. shepherd, 6. advent, 7. Joseph, 8. Dec, 9. elves, 10. incarnate, 11. Handel, 12. Bethlehem, 13. Mary, 14. mistletoe, 15. inn, 16. Magi, 17. ornaments, 18. Saint Nick, 19. Santa, 20. angels, 21. carol, 22. Nazareth, 23. Herod, 24. Christ, 25. gifts, 26. gold, 27. Luke

CLUES

1. He has a red nose
2. Red plants
3. A movie
4. (across) The Anointed One
4. (down) Crib
5. Keeper of sheep
6. Season that means "coming"
7. He was a carpenter
8. 12th month (abbr.)
9. Northern little helpers
10. Enlashed
11. Messiah composer
12. Of Ephrathah
13. Gabriel came to her
14. A form of holly
15. B&B
16. Wise men
17. Tree decorations
18. Patron saint of children (2 words)
19. Red-suited man
20. Heavenly singers
21. Christmas song
22. Home for Mary
23. He ordered the Slaughter of the Innocents
24. Messiah
25. Presents
26. A gift of the wise men
27. Author of the most famous account of Jesus' birth

Enjoy solving this Christmas crossword.

# Puzzle

**Flora Presbyterian Church**  
**211 S Center Street**  
**Flora, IN 46929**  
**florapc@embarqmail.com**  
**(547) 967-3907**

**First Class Mail**

