



Dear Family in Christ,  
 What more can be said about that magical time of the year called Christmas? We pastor-types are always harping on not getting so amped up on the presents and overeating but to focus more on Jesus. People are like “Yeah, yeah.... Can you pass me another beer, the \_\_\_\_\_ Bowl game is about to start!” So... maybe there’s another way to look at it...

Keeping you informed:

- **Christmas Eve Service** is at 7 pm, Sunday, Dec. 24. Invite some friends! *There is no morning service that day – so enjoy sleeping in!*
- **Soup Supper at Poo Wilson’s house, Friday, Dec. 15 @ 6 pm.** Bring some friends and your favorite soup to share!
- Bring your **World Changer Containers** to Church on **Sunday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>**, as we wrap up our Missions collection for **Puerto Rican Hurricane Relief.**
- Mark your Calendar for **Community Movie Night, Friday, Jan. 5, 7 pm.**
- **Trim the Tree** with us after POTLUCK, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>!

*Let’s enjoy all the PRESENTS but also be more consciously aware of God’s PRESENCE as the Source of all joy. Let that abiding awareness move you to participate more fully in Jesus’ PRESENCE as one who serves. Watch for opportunities – they’ll be there!*

*A blessed Christmas Season to you,*

*- Scott* 



**Community Movie Night** will be back, once a month, starting **Jan. 5 @ 7 pm** with “The Emoji Movie”. This is a fun way to reach out to our local community. If you are interested

in helping to serve popcorn & pop, let the Church Office know.

On Sunday, **Dec. 31**, we will collect change from your **World Changer Containers** and combine it with our

Church Tithe to send off some more money to help Puerto Ricans find hope and relief. Learn more at [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)

We are concluding a **survey of people’s church experience** in order to learn how we can be the best presentation of Jesus on Sunday mornings. And we value responses of those who *don’t* attend church. If you know Islanders who don’t attend a church, would you invite them to take 3-5 minutes for this survey found online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G2G9RWZ> or on our website’s tab marked “Survey”. Thanks!

Again, keep praying for ways we can extend the loving arms of Jesus to people in our local area and beyond. That’s what His Kingdom is all about!

## The Drummer Boy



By Bill Crowder

*She out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.*  
 Luke 21:4

“The Little Drummer Boy” is a popular Christmas song written in 1941. It was originally known as “Carol of the Drum” and is based on a traditional Czech carol.

Although there isn’t any reference to a drummer boy in the Christmas story in Matthew 1–2 and Luke 2, the point of the carol goes straight to the heart of the meaning of worship. The carol describes how a boy is summoned by the Magi to the scene of Christ’s birth. Unlike the wise men, however, the drummer has no gift—so he gives what he has. He plays his drum, saying, “I played my best for Him.”

This echoes the worship Jesus described when He told of the widow and her two coins: “ ‘Truly I tell you,’ he said, ‘this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on’ ” (Luke 21:3-4).

(over)



God is worthy of our all.

All the drummer boy had was his drum and all the poor widow had were her two coins, but the God they worshiped was worthy of their all. He is worthy of our all as well, having given His all for us.

*All to Jesus, I surrender, all to Him I freely give; I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.*  
- Judson W. Van De Venter

**Your little is a lot when you give your all.**

(Taken from: Our Daily Bread, <https://odb.org/2015/12/22/the-drummer-boy/>)

**Pearls of Wisdom:** "Our True Identity in Christ".  
We are set free from the law of sin and death.  
- Romans 8: 2.

- Ruth Wise

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Carol Webber
- 11 Ron Ogden
- 21 Dan Barkel
- 24 Angela Danforth
- 30 Kirk Tyler

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Ronn & Cheryl Wolf
- 29 Scott & Angela Danforth

*(If we don't have your birthday or anniversary, let us know!)*

## UPCOMING DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

- 3 Potluck following worship. **Tree trimming** too!
- 10 **Town Hall Meeting**, following worship. All are encouraged to participate.
- 15 **Soup Supper** at Poo Wilson's house. 6 pm.
- 16 **Men's Breakfast** @ 9 am
- Jan. 2 **Elders meet: 7 pm, Church Library**

## JOIN US for FRIENDLY SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP:



- **Tuesdays:**
  - 9:30 **Discussion Group** in the Library on God, life, and the Bible. Current study: **Ray Vander Laan** video, touring the lands and culture of the Bible. Come experience the Living Word with us!
  - 11:30 **Worship Team** in Sanctuary. You're invited to listen in as the Team prepares for Sunday.
- **Men's Breakfast**, every third Sat. @ 9 am, in the Church basement. Come for a great breakfast in the company of friends!

*(If you've got an idea that might gather a group together, let me know! - Scott)*

**ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARE DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY TUESDAY, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**(IF YOU CAN SUBMIT BY EMAIL, IT IS APPRECIATED)**

REMEMBER you can grab some **Church business cards** in the foyer to pass out to people when inviting them to check out our church!



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