



"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!" - Luke 2: 10-11

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us..." - John 1: 14

Most people believe that Christianity is all about believing the correct things about God. While it is important to have a truthful picture of God, that's not what Christmas is about! Christmas is a celebration of the new and unique way God operates. It's the *Good News* that God's deepest desire is fulfilled in a little helpless baby born in a cattle trough: God longs to be intimately connected to us!

This intimate longing is not dependent on our "righteousness" or correct belief or behavior. God's loving connection breaks through all obstacles to embrace God's Creation.

The real Christmas Question is do we wish to receive a hug from God? Not just a one time event but an experience to last an eternity! But welcoming God's Radical Love means life will never be the same. We are gifted with new lenses to see and new hearts to feel. This Good News becomes like yeast working its magic in a loaf of freshly baking bread.

Are you ready for a life-shift? Welcome the hug from God in the Christ Child that has been waiting for YOU from the dawn of time.

Merry Christmas,

Scott 

KEEPING YOU INFORMED:

- **Potluck!** 6 pm, Friday, **Dec. 15**, again at Jenny & Poo's house (30087 E. Bay St., D.I. Questions? Jenny's cell: 941-661-2285). Bring a dish to share. Spread the word!

- **Mark your calendars: Christmas Eve Service @ 7 pm.** This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to our service of "Carols & Candles". INVITE A FRIEND OR TWO! And because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year: *No Sunday morning service* - so sleep in!
- **Bible Discussion Groups** (No Bible knowledge necessary and the community is welcome):
 - *Wednesdays*, 10-11am, On-line discussion of the Gospel of John. Email the Church for the link.
 - *Thursdays*, 1:30-3. Discussion of Genesis in the Church Library.

Reaching Out !



Eleven shoeboxes were delivered to the Operation Christmas Child Collection Center to begin their journey to needy children around the globe. Next year, we are praying about a possible Community Shoebox Assembly Party at the

Town Hall, where items purchased in bulk can go into even more shoeboxes and bless even more kids! What do you think?

Our **4th Quarter Missions Focus** supports the 2024 Missions Trip to rural Romania (see below):

2024 MISSIONS TRIP! A program of outreach to the Romanian people, Oct. 3-17, 2024. Check out the details on our website www.LighthouseChurchDrummondIsland.com and check out the program's website: <https://perspectivedanes.ro/> . Contact Shirley Hollister with questions or interest. Thanks, (517-425-2836 or ahappyheart46@yahoo.com)

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The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

— [Isaiah 9:2](#)

Christmas... The prophet Isaiah tells us why the birth of Jesus is such great news for the world. This good

news comes to people who were "walking in darkness." But now those same people "have seen a great light."

In the prophecy of Isaiah, darkness and light are used to represent sin and salvation.

Without Christ, we are lost in the darkness of sin. But because of the birth of Jesus, we have hope in God's light, his victory over sin and death. God promises us salvation in Jesus.

In our world and in our lives, it can sometimes feel as though the darkness is overwhelming. It can seem as though sadness and sin have the upper hand, while the light of goodness and joy are hidden in shadow.

But God's Word promises us that light is coming to the world in Jesus. Isaiah promises a Savior who will rule the world. "He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." His reign will bring peace and joy to the world. "Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end."

Jesus rules the whole world, and his rule is one of peace. That news is light for a darkened world.

God of promise, we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus. We thank you for the light of hope you have given us in him. In his holy name we pray. Amen.

(Excerpted from an article by Rebecca Jordan Heys: <https://todaydevotional.com/devotions/promised-hope>)

December Birthdays

- 3. Carol Webber
- 18. Felicity Titus
- 24. Angela Danforth
- 25. JESUS ❤️
- 30. Kirk Tyler

December Anniversaries

- 29. Scott & Angela Danforth

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

Pearls Of Wisdom "Who I Am In Christ"

*I am complete in Christ.
See: Colossians 2:10*

- Ruth Wise

ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARE DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27TH (Email, if possible.)



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