



MESSENGER

A Publication of the West Jefferson United Methodist Church
West Jefferson, Ohio
DECEMBER 2023

Welcome to December... and Advent!

by Pastor Ruth

People often miss the point when it comes to Advent and Christmas. For some, this season of the year is simply an opportunity to throw parties and to exchange gifts. They see it simply as an opportunity to eat, drink and be merry. For merchants it is a time to salvage a lackluster year of retail sales. For consumers it is a period of dread as we contemplate the crowded stores and the crowded calendar. All of this misses the point of Advent and Christmas, of course. Advent and Christmas are the coming of Light and Love.

If there is one theme that is appropriate for this season of the year it is light. Some of you have already gotten out the lights for your Christmas tree. Some of you will perhaps light up the entire inside and outside of your house. A few people go wild when it comes to Christmas lights. (My favorite Christmas Time show is The Great Christmas Light Fight!) They will strain every utility plant for miles around with their addiction to brightening up their homes. That's all right, as long as we understand what Isaiah meant when he said, "Let us walk in the light of the LORD."

I was amused to read that in Fort Collins, CO, sometime back a civic task force recommended that red and green lights be banned from the city's holiday display. Why? It was deemed that red and green lights are too religious, so they should not be part of a civic celebration. Later cooler heads on the City Council prevailed and the lights were allowed to remain.

I doubt that most of us would think of Christmas lights as being too religious, especially when we see them adorning the homes of people who verge on being outright pagans. I suppose they call them "Holiday Lights"! But it reminds us of how potent a symbol light can be. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it," writes John in the prologue to his Gospel. And it's true. Light is more powerful than darkness. Love is more powerful than hate. Faith is more powerful than fear.

The month of December is one of the darkest months of the year. When we put up our Christmas lights we are affirming that the darkness shall never overcome the light. We are affirming those positive values of peace and justice, love and hope. Most of all, we are affirming the presence of God in our world. As people of the Light, our job is to make sure the light of Christ shines ever more brightly in this world of darkness. How do we do that? By continually walking in the light ourselves, and by living a life of integrity and love.

The day of the Christmas Pageant finally arrived. A young girl named Jana was so excited about her part that her parents thought she was to be one of the main characters, though she had not told them what she was to do.

Then the teacher began: "A long time ago, Mary and Joseph had a baby and they named Him Jesus," she said. "And when Jesus was born, a bright star appeared over the stable." At that cue, Jana got up from her chair, picked up a large tinfoil star, walked behind Mary and Joseph and held the star up high for everyone to see.

When the teacher told about the shepherds coming to see the baby, the three young shepherds came forward and Jana jiggled the star up and down excitedly to show them where to come. When the wise men responded to their cue, she went forward a little to meet them and to lead the way, her face as alight as the real star might have been.

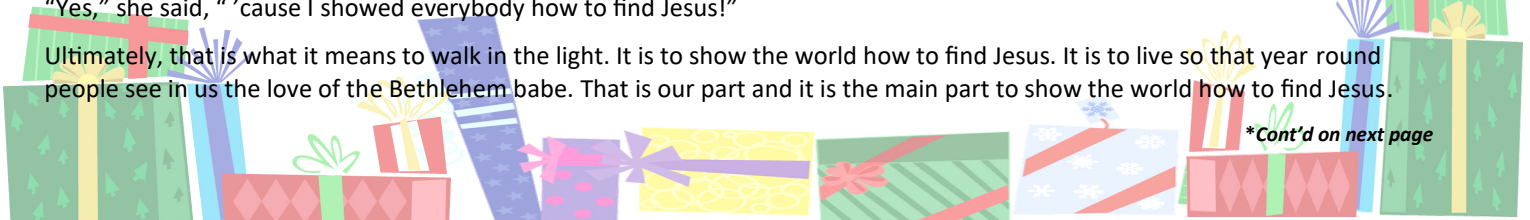
On the way home Jana said, with great satisfaction, "I had the main part!"

"You did?" her Mom asked, wondering why she thought that.

"Yes," she said, "'cause I showed everybody how to find Jesus!"

Ultimately, that is what it means to walk in the light. It is to show the world how to find Jesus. It is to live so that year round people see in us the love of the Bethlehem babe. That is our part and it is the main part to show the world how to find Jesus.

**Cont'd on next page*





“The people who walked
in darkness have seen a
great light.”

Isaiah 9:2

FINANCIAL NEWS ; Duane Stokes, Treasurer

General Fund 2023

	Oct	YTD
GF Income	8,419.00	122,653.72
GF Expenses	15,202.01	142,951.18
	-6,783.01	-20,297.46



Dear Church Community,

We want to start by expressing gratitude for your generosity towards our church. Your contributions have been essential to our ability to continue carrying out our mission and serving the needs of our community.

We also want to take this opportunity to introduce our new e-giving platform, Vanco. This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online, and we are confident that it will make giving more convenient for many members of our congregation.

You can give now at this link:

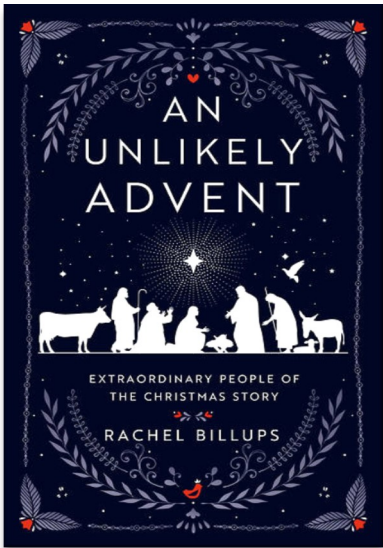
<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZK1R>

Whether you choose to give online or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

Thank you again for all that you do.

Blessings!

NEW QR code! Scan to donate



UM Women Events	
Saturday, 12/2	<i>Breakfast Meeting @ Der Dutchman, 9am</i>
Saturday, 12/16	<i>Meeting 9am @ Community Breakfast</i>
Saturday, 1/13	<i>Chili Sale & Drive Through</i>



Be sure to pick up your poinsettias at church after the Cantata on:
Sunday 12/24!

Community Saturday
December 16th

the **Community Breakfast** is hosted by the UM Men and will take place every **third Saturday of the month, 8-10am.**

**Cont'd from first page,
"Welcome to December"*

Let us light the way to Jesus this Christmas, so others may find the wonder and love of the Christ Child. Invite folks to come to worship and the many special events offered this month. Bring folks with you. Pick them up. Call folks you haven't seen for a while and invite them to come and find the Light of the World this Christmas!

See you in church! *Blessings, Pastor Ruth*

WJUMC

YOUTH GROUP

*Praise & Worship. Music. Food.
Games & More!*

7th-12th grade

*Come join us on the
following evenings from
6:30-8:00pm*

-January 21

*-January 27 Winter Jam
@Schottenstein (More Info to Come)*

- February 18

- March 17

- April 14

- May 5

*See Elizabeth Johnson for
more details*

*West Jefferson UMC
36 S Center Street
West Jefferson, OH 43162*



HELP WANTED

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

...the church will need a new custodian. Tasks would include vacuuming and mopping floors as well as other general cleaning tasks in the church building. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, contact the church office:

wjumc@att.net

614/879-8130

shepherd,

Rise up,
AND
FOLLOW!

Join us for the Cantata
Sunday 12/24
10am and 7pm

Christmas Eve, 2023



Upcoming Events

December 

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <i>UMW 9a @ Der Dutchman</i> <i>Food Pantry 10-11a</i>
3 <i>Worship 10a</i> <i>Cantata Rehearse 11:30a</i>	4 <i>Sufficient Grace 1p</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6:30p</i>	5 <i>Food Pantry Set-up 7:30a</i> <i>Shawl Sisters 9a</i> <i>Advent Bible Study 6:30p</i>	6 <i>Food Pantry 2-3p</i> <i>Al Anon 6p</i> <i>Choir 7p</i>	7	8	9 <i>Food Pantry 10-11a</i>
10 <i>Worship 10a</i> <i>Cantata Rehearse 11:30a</i> <i>Girl Scout Cookie Rally 1-4p</i>	11 <i>Sufficient Grace 1p</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6:30p</i>	12 <i>Food Pantry Set-up 7:30a</i> <i>Shawl Sisters 9a</i> <i>Advent Bible Study 6:30p</i>	13 <i>Food Pantry 2-3p</i> <i>Al Anon 6p</i> <i>Choir 7p</i>	14	15	16 <i>Community Breakfast 8-10a</i> <i>UMW 9am</i> <i>Food Pantry 10-11a</i> <i>Christmas in the park</i>
17 <i>Worship 10a</i> <i>Cantata Rehearse 11:30a</i>	18 <i>Sufficient Grace 1p</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6:30p</i>	19 <i>Food Pantry Set-up 7:30a</i> <i>Shawl Sisters 9a</i> <i>Advent Bible Study 6:30p</i>	20 <i>Food Pantry 2-3p</i> <i>Al Anon 6p</i> <i>Choir 7p</i>	21	22	23 <i>Food Pantry 10-11a</i>
24 <i>Cantata 10a-7p</i> <i>Feast on the 5th</i> 31	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! <i>No office hours</i>	26 <i>Food Pantry Set-up 7:30a</i> <i>Shawl Sisters 9a</i>	27 <i>Food Pantry 2-3p</i> <i>Al Anon 6p</i> <i>Choir 7p</i>	28	29	30 <i>Food Pantry 10-11a</i>

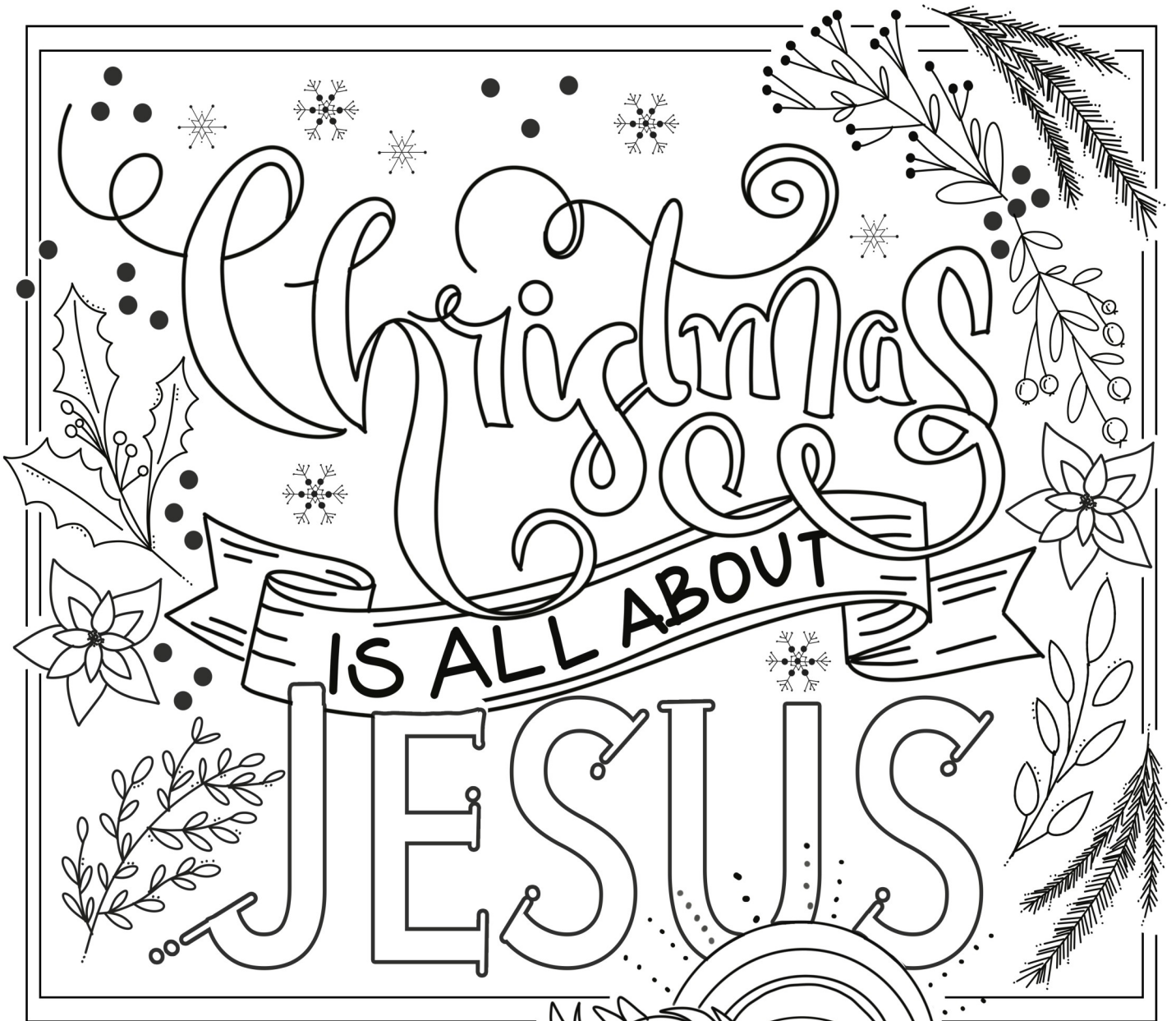
West Jefferson

**Birthdays &
Anniversaries**

DECEMBER

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Sarah Froncek</i> <i>A-Bob & Jeanne Godden</i>	2 <i>Bentley Adkins</i>
					3 <i>Julie Alcott</i>	4
10	11 <i>Matt Rossi</i>	12 <i>Chris Harper</i> <i>James West</i>	13 <i>David Darding</i>	14	15	16 <i>Eric Clark</i> <i>David Detrow</i> <i>Kevin Ellinger</i>
17 <i>Allyson Looby</i> <i>Jackie Looby</i>	18 <i>Kerry McMahon</i>	19	20	21 <i>Duane Stokes</i>	22 <i>Roger Jester</i>	23 <i>A-Vince & Sarah Melfi</i>
24	25	26	27 <i>Ed Braithwaite</i>	28 <i>Sara Neufarth</i>	29	30
		31				



"She will give birth to a son,
and you are to give him
the name Jesus, because
he will save his people
from their sins."

Matthew 1:21, NIV





West Jefferson United Methodist Church

36 South Center Street

West Jefferson OH 43162

614-879-8130

Email: wjumc@att.net

Rev. Ruth Pribe, Pastor

Email: preacherlady@aol.com

Worship 10AM

Sunday School 10AM

YouTube, Facebook, or by CD (audio only)



December

2023

2023

