



Rainbow Notes

Hope United Methodist Church

December 2017

The War on Christmas

Did you know Christmas wasn't always celebrated on December 25th? Get the whole story behind the holiday.

Most Christians today probably can't imagine Christmas on any other day than December 25, but it wasn't always that way. In fact, for the first three centuries of Christianity's existence, Jesus Christ's birth wasn't celebrated at all. The religion's most significant holidays were Epiphany on January 6, which commemorated the arrival of the Magi after Jesus' birth, and Easter, which celebrated Jesus' resurrection. The first official mention of December 25 as a holiday honoring Jesus' birthday appears in an early Roman calendar from 336 A.D.

But was Jesus really born

on December 25 in the first place? Probably not. The Bible doesn't mention his exact birthday, and the Nativity story contains conflicting clues. For instance, the presence of shepherds and their sheep suggest a spring birth. When church officials settled on December 25 at the end of the third century, they likely wanted the date to coincide



with existing pagan festivals honoring Saturn (the Roman god of agriculture) and Mithra (the Persian god of light). That way, it became easier to convince Rome's pagan subjects to accept Christianity as

the empire's official religion

The celebration of Christmas spread throughout the Western world over the next several centuries, but many Christians continued to view Epiphany and Easter as more important.

Some, including the Puritans of colonial New England, even banned its observance because they viewed its traditions—the offering of gifts and decorating trees, for example—as linked

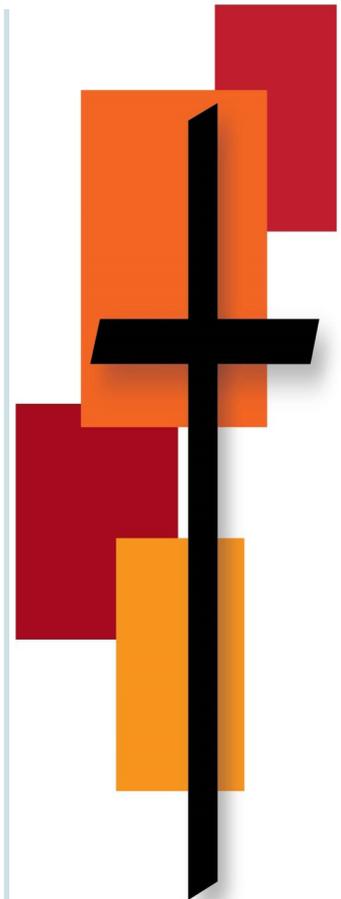
to paganism. In the early days of the United States, celebrating Christmas was considered a British custom and fell out of style following the American Revolution. It wasn't until 1870 that Christmas became a federal holiday.

Advent Schedule

Sunday, December 17th will be a birthday party for Jesus following morning worship. Chili will be served with birthday cake for dessert.

Sunday, December 10th—Christmas treats by Joan Sutter and her friend Judy. Thank you.

Sunday, December 24th—combined services at Fourth Avenue @ 10:15 a.m. 5 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve service at United Methodist in Kenyon.



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The Legend of the Twelve Days of Christmas

The Twelve Days of Christmas was created in England during a time of religious persecution when Catholicism was outlawed in the 16th to 18th centuries. The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," was written as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without fear of arrest – a learning or memory aid to Christians in fact. Each verse refers to a teaching of church doctrine — with the partridge being Christ who died on a tree and the "True Love" being God the Father, who gave us all gifts. The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days between Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, the birth of Jesus, and the Epiphany, Jan. 6th, the day Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi (Wise Men) and the revelation of Christ as the

light of the world.

Each element in the song is a code word for religious truths

1. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus.

2. The two turtledoves are the Old and New Testaments.

3. Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.

4. The four calling birds are the four Gospels.

5. The five gold rings recall the Hebrew Torah), or the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Tes-

tament.

6. The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.

7. The seven swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

8. The eight maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes.

9. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.

10. The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.

11. Eleven pipers piping represent the eleven faithful Apostles.

12. Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles Creed.



Merry Christmas!

"Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect."—Oren Arnold

I will be out of the area for the months of January, February and March. Julie and Emily Carlson will be doing the bulletin. Items for the bulletin are due by Thursday of each week. They can be left on the desk in the office by the computer. There will be no Newsletter during that time. The Annual Report will be mailed out in December. Statements will be mailed out in January. Giving for December 31, 2017 will not appear on your statement. If you need giving for that day verified for tax purpose please feel free to contact me at 612-554-9491.

Carolyn Hanson



UMW Women's Group

We have been invited to join Fourth Ave Women on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1 pm. The March gathering was changed due to the soup lunches. They meet at the church unless otherwise indicated. If you plan on attending or have questions you can call Joyce Buresh at 332-4053. Since our women's group does not meet January-March it would be nice to support their group and fill the gap for us.

The schedule is at follows:

December 14-The circle will be filling personal items for Rice County Nurse's Association and go lunch.

Hope is invited to join them for lunch.

January 11-Movie "Wonder" starring Julia Roberts. The Book is on the women's reading program.

February 8-Maude Headline Nellish Wilson is a Great Aunt to Irene Eiler. She produced a file about Mayo Clinic Library that she established. Irene will talk about this.

March 7-Roy Anderson to give his presentation dressed as Alexander Faribault. This will be held at Milestone Senior Living.

April 12-Mona Harristhal-Peace Corp volunteer in Marshal Island.

May 10-Buck Burkhartzmeyer will give a program on his history of making shoes. This will be a noon potluck.

June 14-Tour Carlton College Japanese Garden of Quiet Listening. It is a small beautiful garden behind one of the dorms. We will car pool. Pie at Perkins afterwards.



UMW of Hope will meet Saturday, Dec. 2nd at 9:30. We will be meeting at Carolyn Hanson's at 4820 Echo Ct. Call 612-554-9491 for directions. We will talk about programs for 2018. Hope to see you there!

The Salvation Army still has a need for volunteers to ring bells at SA Kettle sites in Faribault & Northfield. The phone number that should be called to schedule a time is: [507-334-0639](tel:507-334-0639). Thank you for volunteering.



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!
Ring a bell...help change a life

CWC will meet on December 12th at The Family Diner. Our buffet dinner will begin at 11:45.

The special feature is Creations by Tulla Belle for Sale by Mary Tonjum. Our speaker is Jan Ostroot from South Haven MN. Her talk is "Peace in Any Circumstance".

We will also have a bake sale.

Call 612-554-9491 for reservations.



Rice County Food Shelf "Food of the Month"

January-Soup

February-Beans (caned or dried)

March-Tuna

April-Peanut Butter

May-Pasta

June-Pancake Mix and Syrup

July-Crackers

August -Cereal

September-Mashed Potato Flakes

October-Canned fruit and fruit juice

November- Canned vegetables

December-Rice



Kids Coloring Page



Christmas Bible Quiz: 20 Good Questions

Joseph and Mary

1 Who told Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem?

2 True or False: Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus because they were following a star.

3 What form of transportation did Mary and Joseph use to get to Bethlehem? The answer is not a taxi cab.

Jesus

4 Which Old Testament prophet had the most to say about the birth of Christ?

5 In the accounts announcing the birth of Christ (Matthew 1 and Luke 1 and 2) how many times did an angel or angels appear?

6 Who told Joseph the baby's name was to be Jesus?

7 Can you list 5 names of Jesus found in the Bible? Some on my list are from Old Testament prophecies.

8 What are the meanings of the names Jesus and Emmanuel?

Shepherds and Wise Men

9 The shepherds and the wise men went to see Jesus. Which group followed a star and which group went to find the baby because an angel told them where to look?

10 What did the angels sing to the shepherds?

11 When the shepherds went looking for Jesus, what was the sign they were to look for?

12 How many wise men or kings or magi came to see Jesus?

13 Matthew 2:8 says that Herod asked the wise men to inform him where the baby Jesus was. Why does this verse say he wanted to know?

14 How old was Jesus when the wise men found him?

15 What are the three gifts which are mentioned being given by the wise men?

Miscellaneous

16 Which emperor ordered all the young children be killed?

17 What animals does the Bible say were present at the birth of Jesus?

18 What was the name of the unkind innkeeper who would not allow the pregnant Mary to lodge in his inn?

19 What is the name of the priest who was told he would not die until he saw the Savior?

20 Two of the four [Gospels](#) do not mention the birth of Christ. Which two?

See the bulletin board for the answers.



December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Every month: Potluck last Sunday of the month; No Sunday School on Communion Sunday; Sunday School at 10:30

2-UMW will meet at Carolyn Hanson's @9:30

3-Loose Coin offering

6-Roots and Wings 9-1 pm

12-CWC at The Family Diner @ 11:45

17-Birthday party for Jesus. Chili lunch and birthday cake following morning worship.

24-Combined services with Fourth Ave at 10:15; 5 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve service at United Methodist in Kenyon

25-Merry Christmas

Birthday Greetings to:

1-Bev Witt

6-Korrinne Kanne; Eric Miller

11-Gary Bartosh

12-Kendra Kahnke

17-Emily Carlson

18-Linda Gregg

20-Buck Ennis

29-Marge Saxton

Happy Anniversary to:

22-Richard and Donna Smith



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Christmas Lesson

**Christmas is a special time
To give, to serve, to love
It isn't just about yourself,
But others that you think of**

**The presents, the trees, the glowing lights
Are fun but have no part
In what the real meaning of Christmas
is...
That is in your heart**

**Even if other people don't,
You should try to do
The things that you would want
Them to do to you!**

**The holidays are a busy time
But they are sometimes good
Because they keep you thinking
About others like you should**

**So this year, try to not think about yourself
But think of the things you can do
To help others have a wonderful Christmas
And you will find that you will be happy too.**

By Julesies

Merry Christmas