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SENIOR FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

of Goshen Baptist Church

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WELCOME

Welcome to the 26th Edition of the Senior Newsletter. It's time to get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ who was born in a stable.

~ Rachael Ceffaratti

CALENDAR

Dec. 13: Women's Christmas Brunch, 10:00 a.m.

Dec. 14: College-Age Lunch & Games, 12:30 p.m.

Dec. 19: Parent's Night Out, 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 21: GSM Christmas Party, 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services,
3:30 and 5:00 p.m.

Dec. 25: Christmas Day, Church Office Closed

Jan. 1: New Year's Day, Church Office Closed

Jan. 15: Senior Fellowship Gathering, Cornhole &
Soup, 12:00 p.m.

March 19: Senior Fellowship Gathering, Delaware
County Christian School Student
Presentation.

Goshen Baptist Church

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ASK PASTOR PETER

What Is the Christmas Spirit?

As we move deeper into Advent, let me ask: What is the “Christmas spirit” for you? For many it means time with family, and sometimes long-awaited family reunions. Of course, family time is a sweet gift—and yet we also know that holidays can be hard for those whose families are separated or who’ve lost loved ones. Is God calling you to enlarge your “family” and share the joy with others this season?

It also means festivity: twinkling lights, special parties, parades, concerts; dressing up, decorating, sending cards, baking, caroling, and giving gifts. And when there are gifts, there’s shopping. I guess helping out the retailers has become part of the Christmas spirit.

But let’s go deeper. To have a God-honoring Christmas spirit, we need more than family and festivity. If we take three key spiritual steps, the Lord of Christmas and his Gospel will shine among us this Advent season:

Commemorate the stunning invasion of human history by the loving, all-powerful Creator (John 1:1-5, 14). Rehearse and retell the stories of shepherds and wise men, of angels and Simeon and Anna. Look back and focus attention on the awesome advent of God! “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

Celebrate the coming of Messiah, the One who can free you from sin’s guilt and give you eternal life (1 Timothy 1:15)! The wise men come to worship the newborn King; the angels burst out in praise in the skies over Bethlehem; Mary herself sings with joy at the greatness of God after learning of his mysterious and wonderful plan. Our Christmas spirit will be shallow if joyful praise isn’t at the heart of it.

Imitate. So commemorate and celebrate. But the Bible also urges us to imitate the incarnation of God! How so? When God inspired Paul to give the Philippians an illustration of humble, self-giving love, he pointed to Christmas (Philippians 2:3-8). The Son of God laid aside his heavenly splendor and became a lowly servant (he “emptied” himself, 2:7). And believers are told to replicate this others-first attitude: “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus” (2:5). If we prioritize serving and blessing others in the name of Jesus, our Christmas spirit will be joyful, meaningful, and God-honoring.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

One of the things I hear most often about Goshen Baptist Church is that we are intergenerational. There is a richness in the mingling of generations as we worship God together. There is also a richness brought to us by the generations that came before us in the Faith, as we sing songs given to us by believers who lived centuries ago. This Christmas hymn is an example.

The tune with which we are familiar was finished in the 1800's, but it was based on a tune used in medieval times. The words are based on liturgical phrases used during Advent. Each verse uses a different biblical name for Jesus. He is Emmanuel – God with us; Wisdom from on high; Desire of Nations; Dayspring. So much to contemplate as we celebrate the coming of our Redeemer.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Take the time to look at this hymn in its entirety and imagine it being sung in a cathedral in the 1400's. We have a rich heritage in those who came before us. What are we leaving to those who are coming after?

Terri McCumber

Facts taken from The One Year Book of Hymns

MEMORY VERSE

If you abide in me, and my words
abide in you, ask whatever you
wish, and it will be done for you.

John 15:7

Bob Ellis went to be with his Lord in September of this year. What a gentleman he was. It was always a pleasure to stop and talk with him on a Sunday morning and hear what had been happening in his life. It was a privilege to share with him on his 100th birthday, and we counted it a real joy to have him as part of our fellowship. We are thankful for his faith and his commitment to God. What a peace to know that he is with his Lord and experiencing all that Heaven is.



GOSHEN BUNDLES OF JOY

We rejoice with Walt & Christine Daller at the birth of their son, Walter Eugene Daller V (Wally), who was born on Sept. 4

Happy Birthday!



We would like to list those who have had a recent birthday. Would you please list your name on the Birthday Sheet that we will pass out during our fellowship times? All we need is the month and day.





KNOCK, KNOCK!
WHO'S THERE?

OLIVE

OLIVE WHO?

**OLIVE THE OTHER
REINDEER USED TO
LAUGH AND CALL
HIM NAMES...**



**KNOCK,
KNOCK!**

WHO'S THERE?

NOAH.

NOAH WHO?

**NOAH GOOD
CHRISTMAS
JOKE?**



KNOCK, KNOCK!
WHO'S THERE?

YAH.

YAH WHO?

**OH MY,
SOMEONE'S REALLY
EXCITED ABOUT
CHRISTMAS!**



KNOCK, KNOCK!
WHO'S THERE?

HONDA.

HONDA WHO?

**HONDA FIRST DAY
OF CHRISTMAS
MY TRUE LOVE
SENT TO ME...**



KNOCK, KNOCK!
WHO'S THERE?

ANNA

ANNA WHO?

**ANNA PARTRIDGE
IN A PEAR TREE.**



KNOCK, KNOCK!
WHO'S THERE?

HOWARD

HOWARD WHO?

**HOWARD YOU LIKE
TO GO CAROLING
WITH ME?**

DID YOU KNOW?

Megan Markle and Prince Harry are incredibly distant cousins.

Elvis did not write Blue Suede Shoes.

In 1973, Dolly Parton wrote "I Will Always Love You."

Sarah Josepha Buell Hale (October 24, 1788 – April 30, 1879) was an American writer, activist, and editor of the most widely circulated magazine in the period before the Civil War, Godey's Lady's Book. She was the author of the nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb". Hale famously campaigned for the creation of the American Thanksgiving holiday.



Sarah Josepha Hale, 1831, by James Lambdin

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Who prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem?
2. What does the name "Immanuel" mean?
3. Who were the first people to see Jesus?
4. What gifts did the Wise Men bring?
5. Where did Mary and Joseph go after Jesus was born to escape King Herod?
6. What was Joseph's profession?
7. What did the angels say to the shepherds?
8. What was the decree that caused Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem?

(Answers on page 8)

Cook's Corner

CRAB CAKES

Ingredients

1 lb. Crabmeat
1 egg
¼ cup Mayo
2 Tbs. chopped Parsley
1 Tsp Old Bay
2 Tsp Worcestershire Sauce
Salt and Pepper
1 Tsp Dijon Mustard
1 small stalk diced Celery
¼ cup shredded Carrot
½ cup Panko

Directions

Whisk Egg, Mayo, Mustard, Worcestershire Sauce, Salt, and Pepper. Mix Crab - Panko - Parsley. Fold in Egg Mixture and Form Into Patties. Fry w/Canola Oil



SHRIMP LEJON

Ingredients

6 Large Shrimp
3 oz Horseradish
6 slices of Bacon

Directions

Peel, devien, and butterfly shrimp.

Squeeze the liquid from the horseradish.

Fill the shrimp with horseradish. Wrap each shrimp tightly with a slice of bacon and secure with a wooden toothpick.

Bake at 375°F until brown.

Place on a warmed platter and serve with Sauce Remoulade.

Serves 2 as an appetizer.

SAUCE REMOULADE: 1 pint mayonnaise, 1 ounce capers, drained and chopped, 1 ounce cornichons chopped, 1½ Tbl fresh chives, chopped 1½ Tbl fresh chervil, chopped 1½ Tbl fresh tarragon, chopped, ½ Tbl Dijon mustard, salt & pepper to taste.

UPCOMING SENIOR FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

January 15, 2026, 12:00 p.m.:

Cornhole and Soup. *Note: because we will be having a soup lunch, the Senior Fellowship will meet at noon instead of 1:00 p.m.

March 19, 2026, 1:00 p.m.: Delaware County Christian School Student Presentation.

LIBRARY UPDATES

A Worthy Heart by Susan Anne Mason

An Unexpected Amish Christmas by Jennifer Beckstrand

Courting an Amish Bishop by Mindy Steele

Fire in the Night by Linda Byler

Mary's Calico Hope by Anne Blackbourne

Matters of the Heart by Kelly Irvin

Serenity's Secret by Lisa Jones Baker

Silenced by Dani Pettrey

The Christmas Tree Farm by Laurie Gilmore

The Cinnamon Bun Book Store by Laurie Gilmore

The Headmistress of Rosemere by Sarah Ladd

The Heart of the Mountains by Pepper Basham

The Protector by Wanda Brunstetter

The Witness by Linda Byler

Where Grace Sings by Kim Vogel Sawyer



TRIVIA ANSWERS

Who prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem?

The prophet Micah.

What does the name "Immanuel" mean?

"God with us."

Who were the first people to see Jesus? **Shepherds in a field.**

What gifts did the Wise Men bring? **Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

Where did Mary and Joseph go after Jesus was born to escape King Herod? **To Egypt.**

What was Joseph's profession? **Carpenter.**

What did the angels say to the shepherds? **"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."**

What was the decree that caused Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem? **A census decree from Caesar Augustus.**