

# UNA CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Elders: Robert Beard, Bill Eads, Johnny Mitchell, Ralph Mitchell,  
Walter Pruitt, Bob Turner**

**December 24, 2017**

Real Christmas Miracle

What does the Christmas story mean? Most of us know the details of the story and are reminded of the particulars every year when we see the Nativity scenes around town: The wise men, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, the star, the inn, a stable, the manger, and maybe a little drummer boy every now and then. Everybody knows the scene, but many times it becomes just that...a scene. In our context of Christmas with its gifts, eggnog, reindeer, and parades, often we forget the actual meanings of Christmas.

First, I think Christmas should remind us that *God never forgets his people*. In the Exodus, God told Moses that he had "heard" his people and had come down to rescue them by sending Moses to lead them out (Exod 3:7-8). When the wise men visited Herod, they reminded him of the prophecy of Isaiah which said that God was once again going to send a ruler who would "shepherd his people" (Matt 2:5-6). No matter where his children reside, God will always come for them.

Christmas is also about *finding refuge*. When Pharaoh gave orders to kill the young boys of Israel, the baby Moses survived. When Herod gave similar orders once again a baby survived. God doesn't just come for his people, he protects them. Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem and even though they delivered Jesus in conditions that were not ideal, they were still safe.

Finally, Christmas is about *Hope*. Times in Judah were tough. The people were being taxed heavily by both Rome and the Temple. Their land was being seized, their religions were excluding them, and they were under constant pressure to conform to the norms of society. Like the Hebrews in the Exodus, they had begun to wonder if God could still deliver. The answer came when Jesus was born and the prophet Simeon called him God's "salvation," "a light to the Nations" and a "glory to the people." A small baby became hope to a small number of people. His death solidified this hope to hundreds, and today his story has been told and is believed by millions.

Therefore, Christmas is important not because of what we give and receive, but because of what God brought when he came to earth. He brought comfort, security, and hope to people who didn't have any at all. It's a story with so much power it was never forgotten and was eventually made into a Holiday that is celebrated by millions.

This year let's celebrate Christmas by giving others what God gave to us the day the child was born. This year let's remember those often forgotten—maybe a veteran, or a great grandparent, or even an old enemy. Let's help others by finding a way to serve food, or provide blankets, or pay for a hotel room. Finally let's give at least one person hope. We can pray for them, cry with them, sit by them, or just listen. These are the true meanings of Christmas. If God came to give them to us, I think we ought to celebrate Christmas by giving them to others.

Love You All, Adam

## **Children's Church**

There is no Children's Church this morning. We will resume next Sunday.

There is a nursery upstairs for your convenience.

## **Privileged to Serve**

### **Sunday AM**

Worship Leader: Adam Medley

Opening Prayer: Roy Hunt

Communion: Jim Sawyer

Contribution: Tommy Bolden

Read Scripture: Dick Parsons

Luke 1: 46-55

*Sermon: Adam Tune - Christmas*

*Music*

Closing Prayer: Don Webb

### **Sunday PM- No Service**

Worship Leader:

Opening Prayer:

Communion:

Contribution:

Closing:

Attendance 12/17/2017- 293

Contribution: \$ 8,791

## **Care Center**

Our Care Center item for this week is Peanut Butter.

## **Prayer List**

Mary Boucher, Brenda Calvin, Margaret Campbell, Ann Carter, Ivon Claud, Doris Copeland, Edith Eakin, William Elliott, Jeanette Foster, Shelia Glover, Billy and Faye Greenfield, Rafaela Hernandez, Dorothy Hinds, Mary Hopper, Jeannie Hopper, Charlie Martin, Lou Montgomery, Ida Palmer, Pete Rieschick, Jeremy Sartain, Scott Sawyer, Angie Scott, Peggy Stinson, Evelyn Sullivan, Shirley Waggoner, Mattie Ward, Mindy Wilson, Elleine Witty, Lucille Young

## **Remember in Prayer**

*Linda Kehir* is recovering from shoulder replacement surgery. She is staying at her sister-in-laws, Ruth. Her address is: 4832 Hickory Way, Antioch 37013

*Brenda Calvin* had her second knee replacement Thursday. 320 Eastport Ct. Antioch, 37013

*Donna Mitchell* continues in rehab at Summit Hospital following hip replacement surgery.

## **December Cooks**

Coordinators - Jackie Roberts and Jennifer Green

Cooks: Janice Beard, Marcy Bolden, Anna Hinson, Carolynne O'Neal

## **GYC's**

Please check the bulletin board and sign up for the January Prayer Breakfast.

Deadline for signing up is the 31st of this month.

## **Thank You**

My dear Una Family,

At this time of year when we are especially mindful of family and dear friends, all of you come to mind: straight from my heart.

Thank you sincerely for all of the birthday and holiday greetings! You definitely added much happiness into my celebration of 95 years of living on this earth.

Even though geographic distance separates us, the Una Church Family is very near and dear to my heart and has been since 1945 when Lucien began regularly preaching there.

My prayer is for all of you to be blessed with a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.

With much love, Ida / Miss Ida

*Ida is in Florida for the next several months. Here is her address there: 5101 Staniard Drive Kissimmee, FL. 34746*

## **Upcoming Holiday Schedule at Una**

Today, Dec. 24th - Morning worship and Class, there will be no Children's Church. Sunday evening service has been cancelled.

The Church Office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25th and 26th.

The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 1st for New Years Day.