

# The Journey....

**DRAWING OTHERS TO GOD THROUGH FAITH,  
HOPE, LOVE AND SERVICE**

**DECEMBER 2023**



**Bushnell Methodist Church  
Bushnell, Florida  
Joyce Dunne, Pastor**



## Peace

Growing up in the 70's, It seemed to me that everyone wanted to live in peace. People would hold up two fingers to form a V and say "Peace." There was a popular symbol with an upside down "Y" in a circle that symbolized "Peace." The song "Let There be Peace on Earth" , although written in 1955, found new life on the radio and in many church hymnals.

Lyrics:

*"Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me  
Let There Be Peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be  
With God as our Father, brothers all are we  
Let me walk with my brother, in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, tet this be my solemn vow  
To take each moment and live, each moment in peace eternally  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me"*  
(Lyrics by Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller)

Should Christians strive to live in Peace? Absolutely!  
And here's why Romans 14:9 ... "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."

The message is simple, "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." But to consistently live out this message of brotherly love and peace seems impossible for us. But what a world it would be if we could always greet one another with the peace and love of Christ.

God created us to live in harmony with Him and one another, but since the fall, it has been impossible for mankind to live in harmony. There have always been conflicts, between people, nations and even churches. But why? Why can't we just live together in "the peace that was meant to be" when God created the world and everything and everyone in it?

I think back when this song was written in 1955, a promise, or an oath could be sealed with a handshake and both parties would do their best to fulfill their promise. But fast-forward fifty-years and the word promise seems to hold a different meaning today. When you look promise up in the dictionary, it literally means to take an oath. But today, I think the definition has changed from an oath to a proposal. I will try to keep my promise, instead of I will keep my promise, my oath.

God has made many promises to His Children in His Word and as Christians, we trust God at His Word, because He is faithful.

Word meaning changes overtime, but God's promises are covenants, trustworthy and true, because God is unchanging. God's oaths are trustworthy yesterday, today and tomorrow. And we can look forward to the promise that one day, we will walk with our brothers and sisters and our God in perfect harmony and the peace of Christ will be overflowing and encompass our very being. Oh what a day that will be when peace will cover the earth.

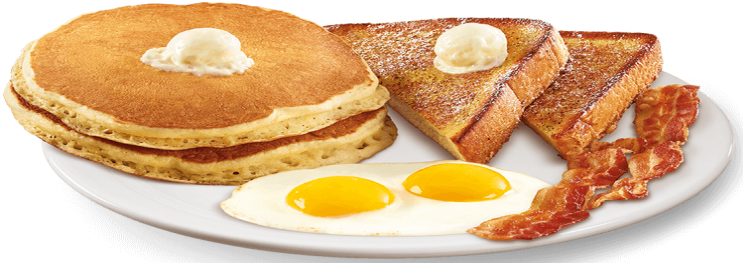
As we begin this season of Advent, let's invite the peace that the Christ Child, the Prince of Peace brings to change us so that peace can truly begin with us.

Pastor Joyce



*Wishing Everyone a very Merry  
Christmas and a Blessed and Happy  
New Year!*

*Pastor Joyce, Mary, Jo,  
Russ and Rosa*



## **FREE BREAKFAST !!**

**December 2nd, Saturday,  
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

**Breakfast will be held in the Fellowship hall the first Saturday of each month.**

**If you would like to volunteer please come to the Fellowship hall prior to breakfast at 6:30 a.m.**



## **HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**The church Christmas dinner will be held after the service, December 3rd, in the Fellowship Hall. Meat will be provided, but please bring a delectable vegetable, dessert or salad to share.**



Happy Birthday to:

12/23 David Higgins

12/27 Tommy Bryan  
Evelyn Christy

Happy Anniversary to:

12/20 Mike/Shirley Revels  
12/21 Terry /Betsy Gideons  
12/30 Felix/Kim Adams

Angie Bartel  
116 Shawnee Trail  
Ringgold, GA 30736

Marie Massey  
3610 NE 16th Pl.  
Ocala, FL 34470  
352- 223-3766 (Cell)  
352-620-9991 (Home)

Bert Park  
110 Creekside Dr. Apt 204  
Painted Post, NY 14870  
607-689-6019

Gayle Hunt  
P.O. Box 216  
Bushnell, FL 33513



**Please call or send a card**



**11:15 a.m. Sunday, December 3      1st Sunday of Advent**

**Scripture: Special Service**

**Sermon: "Hanging of the Greens"**

**Holy Communion:** Please participate by having bread and drink in your home as we worship by live stream on Facebook.

**11:15 a.m. Sunday, December 10      2nd Sunday of Advent**

**Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)**

**Sermon: "Mary's Angelic Encounter"**

**11:15 a.m. Sunday, December 17      3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Scripture: Luke 1:46b-55 (NIV)**

**Sermon: "Mary's Song"**

**11:15 a.m. Sunday, December 24      Christmas Eve**

**Scripture: Special Service**

**Sermon: "Christmas Carol Singing Service"**

**5:00 p.m. "Candlelight Service" (with Communion)**

**11:15 a.m. Sunday, December 31**

**Scripture Luke 2:22-40 (NIV)**

**Sermon: "Trust and You Will See "**

**Praying with you and for you,  
Pastor Joyce**



Find us on:  
**facebook**®

[www.Facebook.com/bushnellmethodist.org](http://www.Facebook.com/bushnellmethodist.org)



### NEW ADVENT STUDY

**Beginning November 29th** - Dinner @ 3:30 p.m.  
Advent study 4:00-5:00 p.m.

**December 6th, 13th, 20th** - Dinner @5:00 p.m.  
and Advent study @ 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**“BECAUSE OF BETHEHEM “**  
**BY AUTHOR MAX LUCADO**

(Study books may be purchased in the church office cost is \$ 5.00)



**CHRISTMAS CANTATA**  
**Sunday, December 17th, 11:15 a.m.**

**"Gloria! Christ Has Come"**

**choir practice**



Cantata choir practice will be held at  
1:00 p.m., Friday, December 8th at Floral City  
and Friday, December 15th, at FUMC, Bushnell



**The church office will be closed on Monday,  
December 25th in observance of the Christmas  
holiday**



**COMING  
SOON**

EVENTS COMING YOUR WAY **JANUARY 2024**

**TBA**



### **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

**Sunday, December 24th at 11:15 a.m.**  
**Christmas carol singing service only**

**Sunday, December 24th at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Candlelight service with Communion**



**If you would like to have a “remembrance” poinsettia placed in the church on Christmas Eve, fill out the form in the church bulletin. The order form will be in the bulletin November 26th, December 3rd and December 10th. The cost will be \$ 8.00 each.**



# **Christmas Party**



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 3:00 p.m.**

**Russ and Carolyn Thatcher would like to invite everyone to their home for a Christmas gathering. Come and enjoy some cookies and punch while listening to Christmas songs played on the pipe organ in our home.**

**11554 E. Springs Lane, Floral City, FL 33436**

**Directions: Take SR 48 west towards Floral City. Cross the river into Citrus County and go approx. 2 miles to Trails End Rd. (West 39A). Turn right and follow the curvy road approx. 2 miles to the "T" road. Turn left (Withlapopka Rd) and go about 200 ft. to the entrance of Steamboat Springs on the right. Follow E. Springs Lane to the first house on the right.**

# DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						<b>Free Breakfast</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>1st Advent</b> <b>Hanging of the</b> <b>Greens</b> <b>Church dinner</b>			<b>Advent</b> <b>study dinner 5p</b> <b>5:30p-6:30p</b> <b>Food Pantry</b>		<b>Cantata choir</b> <b>practice 1:00p</b> <b>at Floral City</b>	
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Russ and-</b> <b>Carolyn Christmas</b> <b>gathering 3:00 pm</b>			<b>Advent</b> <b>study dinner 5p</b> <b>5:30p-6:30p</b> <b>Food Pantry</b> <b>11 am - 1 pm</b>		<b>Cantata choir</b> <b>practice 1:00p</b> <b>at FUMC</b> <b>Bushnell</b>	
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Christmas cantata</b> <b>@ 11:15 am</b>			<b>Advent study</b> <b>dinner 5p</b> <b>5:30p-6:30-</b> <b>Food Pantry</b> <b>11am-1pm</b>			
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Carol singing @</b> <b>11:15am and Can-</b> <b>dleight service</b> <b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Office closed</b> <b>Merry Christmas!</b>		<b>Food Pantry</b> <b>11 am-1pm</b>			

# **Bushnell Methodist Church**

221 West Noble Avenue  
Bushnell, FL 33513  
Phone: (352) 793-3221

**You're INVITED!**

**Sun. Worship at 11:15 AM**

**See you then!**

