



Dillsboro United Methodist Church

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December 2025

Hanging of the Greens



Merry Christmas and Have a Happy and Blessed New Year!!!!

Christian symbol



POINSETTIA — This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.

His Many Names, Our Great Hope

Long before the manger in Bethlehem, the prophet Isaiah pointed God's people to the promise of a Savior. In Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) we read: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Even before Jesus' birth, his names revealed who he is and what he would bring. Each title carries a promise that still impacts our lives today.

- **Wonderful Counselor.** Jesus brings wisdom and guidance for every situation. In moments of confusion, we can lean on him to direct our steps with love and truth.
- **Mighty God.** He is strong enough to carry our burdens and powerful enough to overcome sin, fear and death itself.
- **Everlasting Father.** Jesus reflects the heart of God the Father, offering care that is constant and unchanging. His love doesn't fade with time or circumstance.
- **Prince of Peace.** In a world filled with turmoil, Jesus offers a peace that goes deeper than circumstances, a peace that guards our hearts and minds.

At Christmas, we celebrate more than a baby's birth. We celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise, a Savior with many names. Each one reminds us of his eternal love and presence. This season, let his names bring you comfort, strength and peace.

All Aboard the Christmas Story

On a recent train trip, I couldn't help noticing how the conductors' "welcome" speeches were all different. Unlike air travel, where safety instructions sound the same no matter who's speaking, Amtrak conductors each had their own style. One stressed that kids must stay with parents. Another warned that messy restrooms would be locked. A third cautioned that stepping off during a short stop could mean getting left behind. Each conductor emphasized what had caused trouble before.

And in much the same way, the Gospel writers highlighted different details of Jesus' birth. Matthew, writing for Jewish readers, connects Jesus to Moses, Abraham and David. He tells about Joseph's role and the wise men seeking the "king of the Jews." Luke, writing for Gentiles and society's outsiders, focuses on Mary, a humble birth and shepherds — the first unlikely visitors. Both messages tell the same story, but with unique emphases shaped by the audience.

And that's a reminder for us, too: when we share our faith, we can tailor the message. Longtime friends, curious neighbors, kids and the hurting will all hear God's love in different ways.

Candles That Tell a Story



Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent.

Depending on denomination, churches use different color combinations for the candles. Some place four blue candles around the wreath with a white one in the center, while others use all white. Many light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth, and then a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

- **The wreath:** Its circular shape represents the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The green symbolizes eternal life.
- **The four candles:** Mark the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ’s birth.
- **Purple candles:** in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence. The first purple candle represents Hope; the second, Peace; and the final purple candle, Love.
- **Blue candles:** Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ’s birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- **The pink candle:** Lit on the third Sunday, it represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.
- **The white candle:** The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — “the light of the world.”

The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ’s life was the light for all earth’s people — “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:5, NRSV).

The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles—it’s a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.



Sunday School 9 a.m.- Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

- Second Sunday of Advent — December 7, 2025
- Milan Reservation Xmas Dinner-Dec. 8th, 2025
- Happy Birthday Jesus Party 1 p.m.- Dec. 13, 2025
- Third Sunday of Advent — December 14, 2025
- First Day of Winter — December 21, 2025
- Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 21, 2025
- **Christmas Eve Service** 4 p.m. — December 24, 2025
- Christmas Day — December 25, 2025
- New Year’s Eve — December 31, 2025

Christmas Prayer: The True Gift



Dear Lord, You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope.

In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

PUZZLE

Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.

WORD BANK

Shepherds
Child
Nazareth
Census
Baby
David
Mary
Travel
Town
Register
Born
Night

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
S	N	O	N	W	G	A	I	B	A	C	D	O	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	M	V	B	R	R	C	E	O
P	S	C	E	N	S	U	S	H	Y	U	Y	F	P	N
O	T	P	I	G	T	Q	C	N	T	G	M	U	S	T
O	A	N	D	B	E	C	H	I	L	D	N	Z	F	A
A	T	B	A	U	R	W	H	G	F	V	A	B	U	M
T	R	A	V	E	L	J	C	H	V	O	Z	G	N	H
F	B	Q	I	W	D	X	P	T	E	N	A	O	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

"Today in the town of David a _____
has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."
LUKE 2:11, NIV

Answer: Savior



I love my church family!



Halloweenie Treat or Treat was a great success this year. We gave close to 400 hotdogs and waters away, Plus candy! Everyone enjoyed to participant in the event. Thanks to everyone that gave items and helped serve them out! What a GREAT GROUP!



Steve and Becky Chipman enjoyed another excursion. Someone has some really big shoes to fill!

Get ahold of the Chipmans and ask where'd they go???



The congregation enjoyed a lunch at Milan Reservation in November. All had a lovely time and full stomachs!

We look forward to this month's on December 8 !



Must Have Help. PLEASE take pics of your Christmas Trees and send them in to me. I'm making a collage.



Gifts for a King

Bring him thy precious things
And lay them at his feet;
The gold of love, the hope
that springs
The unknown ways to meet.

Bring him thy lovely things;
The joy that conquers care,
The faith that trusts and
sings,
The frankincense of prayer.

Bring him thy bitter things;
The myrrh of grief and fears,
The aching heart that stings
With pain of unshed tears.

These for thy gifts to him;
And for his gifts to thee,
The comfort of his steadfast love,
His tender sympathy.

—Annie Johnson Flint



Bible Quiz
Who told Mary that her child would be called
“the Son of the Most High”?

- A. Zechariah
- B. Gabriel
- C. Simeon
- D. Joseph

Answer: B (See Luke 1:26–32.)

Reconsider the Rush

The Christmas rush leads to stress for many people. But author Burton Hills viewed the madness from another perspective: “Eventually, the hour comes when the rushing ends and the race against the calendar mercifully comes to a close. It is only now, perhaps, that we truly recognize the spirit of Christmas. It is not a matter of days or weeks, but of centuries — [more than] twenty of them now since that holy night in Bethlehem. Regarded in this manner, the pre-Christmas rush may do us greater service than we realize. With all its temporal confusion, it may just help us to see that by contrast, Christmas itself is eternal.”

Puzzle!

The Christmas Story

Unscramble each set of letters to form a word from the Christmas story. One letter in each set doesn't belong. Write each extra letter below, on the line above the correct number. Then answer the question: What did we all receive at Christmas?

(1) TGLBEHHEME

(2) NEAGLO

(3) NRMEDAG

(4) ODEKSNY

(5) AMGYR

(6) OHESJIP

(7) EFJSUS

(8) ITEENMSW

(9) SPHDSREEO

(10) EMCFAL

(11) TLSRA

(12) CSSNUEO

(13) HEVSPE

(14) ENIN

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14

Answers: Bethlehem (1), Angel (2), Shepherds (3), Star (4), Donkey (5), Manger (6), Mary (7), Joseph (8), Jesus (9), Wise men (10), Sheep (11), Camel (12), Star (13), Good's gift of love (14).

Puzzle!

Take a break from Christmas preparations to complete this seasonal crossword.

DOWN

1. song

2. keeper of sheep

3. Anointed One

8. a gift of the magi

9. red plants

11. coming

13. Jesus

14. 12th month (abbrev.)

18. (S&B)

20. a form of holy

22. heavenly messengers

26. he ordered the slaughter of the innocents

ACROSS

5. wise men

6. author of the most famous Christmas account

9. red-suited gift-giver

6. of Ephrothah

7. presents

10. Gabriel came to her

12. has a red nose

15. "Messiah" composer

16. northern little helpers

17. patron saint of children

18. made flesh

21. home for Mary

23. tree decorations

24. crib

25. he was a carpenter

27. a savior

Answer: DOWN 1. carol, 2. shepherd, 3. Messiah, 8. gold, 9. poinsettias, 11. Advent, 13. Christ, 14. dec, 18. inn, 20. mistletoe, 22. angels, 26. Herod, ACROSS 3. magi, 4. Luke, 5. Santa, 6. Bethlehem, 7. gifts, 10. Mary, 12. Rudolph, 15. Handel, 16. elves, 17. Saint Nick, 19. incarnation, 21. Nazareth, 23. ornaments, 24. manger, 25. Joseph, 27. star

PUZZLE

JESUS TRAVELED TO MANY PLACES

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of the places. Can you find the names on the list?

Words can go left to right, up, down or diagonal—as long as they are in all directions!

BETHANY

BETHLEHEM

BETHSAIDA

CAESAREA

PHILIPPI

CANA

CAPERNAUM

DECAPOLIS

EGYPT

EPHRAIM

GALILEE

JERICHO

JERUSALEM

JORDAN RIVER

JUDEA

MAGDALA

MOUNT OF OLIVES

NAZARETH

PEREA

SAMARIA

SIDON

TYRE

WILDERNESS

Answer: BETHANY, BETHLEHEM, BETHSAIDA, CAESAREA, PHILIPPI, CANA, CAPERNAUM, DECAPOLIS, EGYPT, EPHRAIM, GALILEE, JERICHO, JERUSALEM, JORDAN RIVER, JUDEA, MAGDALA, MOUNT OF OLIVES, NAZARETH, PEREA, SAMARIA, SIDON, TYRE, WILDERNESS

An Inescapable Date



We celebrate Christ’s birth by referring to it in the date placed on all our coins, civil records and vital documents. It is inscribed upon metal and written on parchment and engraved on the cornerstones of great buildings. It is on every newspaper, every check, every deed, and it is universally acknowledged at the beginning of a new life.

Every human transaction is related to the birth of Christ. It cannot be avoided or evaded. God has seen to it that this event is more widely advertised than anything on earth that is or that ever has been.

—Dr. Walter Wilson

At home in our hearts

“All hearts come home for Christmas,” according to popular sentiment. But what if your heart (and/or home) is hurting or troubled? Does this season have room for people who are struggling? Does the holiday still have meaning?



Yes, God’s word tells us. In fact, that’s why God sent Jesus, the Word, from his heavenly home to make “his dwelling among us” (John 1:14, NIV). As fully human, Jesus experienced loneliness and betrayal, loss and physical pain. He was rejected by loved ones, angered by corruption, and abandoned to die. But as fully God, Jesus provides answers, healing and hope. Through his resurrection (which first required an earthly birth), Jesus offers salvation to all who believe in him.

As we await the heavenly home that God’s Son is now preparing, we can welcome him and his comforting promises, even into our hurting hearts.

Bible Quiz



Elizabeth, an older relative of Mary the mother of Jesus, was miraculously pregnant at the same time as Mary. What was the name of Elizabeth’s husband?

- A. Aaron
- B. Zechariah
- C. Joseph
- D. Simeon

Answer: B (See Luke 1:5, 39-41.)



A RULER
WHO WILL BE
THE *Shepherd*
OF MY PEOPLE



Dillsboro United Methodist Church

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Anniversaries



Congratulations
Lucky & Susan Greco
December 20th



"Beware of practicing your
piety before others in
order to be seen by them."
Matthew 6:1, NRSV



- 1- Caden Ann Holtegel
- 3- Mike Bennett
- 8- Joe Dunn
- 10- James Hughes
- 14- Mark Meyers
- 15- Benjamin Shorten
- 17- Ted Thurber
- 19- George (Sr.) Betancourt
- 20- Jim Ochs
- 22- Janet Negley
- 23- Daisy Blackthorn
- 23- Gene Harmeyer
- 26- Elijah Diaz De Leon



JOYFUL
Merry
AND
Blessed



Justin Schaefer	Ted Thurber
Joe Ryan	Jaime Maltbie
Baby Hudson	Marty and Vickie Hon
Ray Kuebel	Josh Vaisman
Pam Eichel	Amanda Van

Unspoken Requests, All Military & First
Responders, Our Nation & its leaders

*To have a name added, deleted or updated to prayer
list, please fill out a prayer request card and leave
on podium. The cards are in the entry hall and the
Narthex.*



A Purposeful New Year

The man who goes into the new year without some
priorities governing his life and without some principles
guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting,
unimportant and destructive things in life.

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless
tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures
and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of
causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These
being done, the new will truly be new, different and
better. — C. Neil Strait