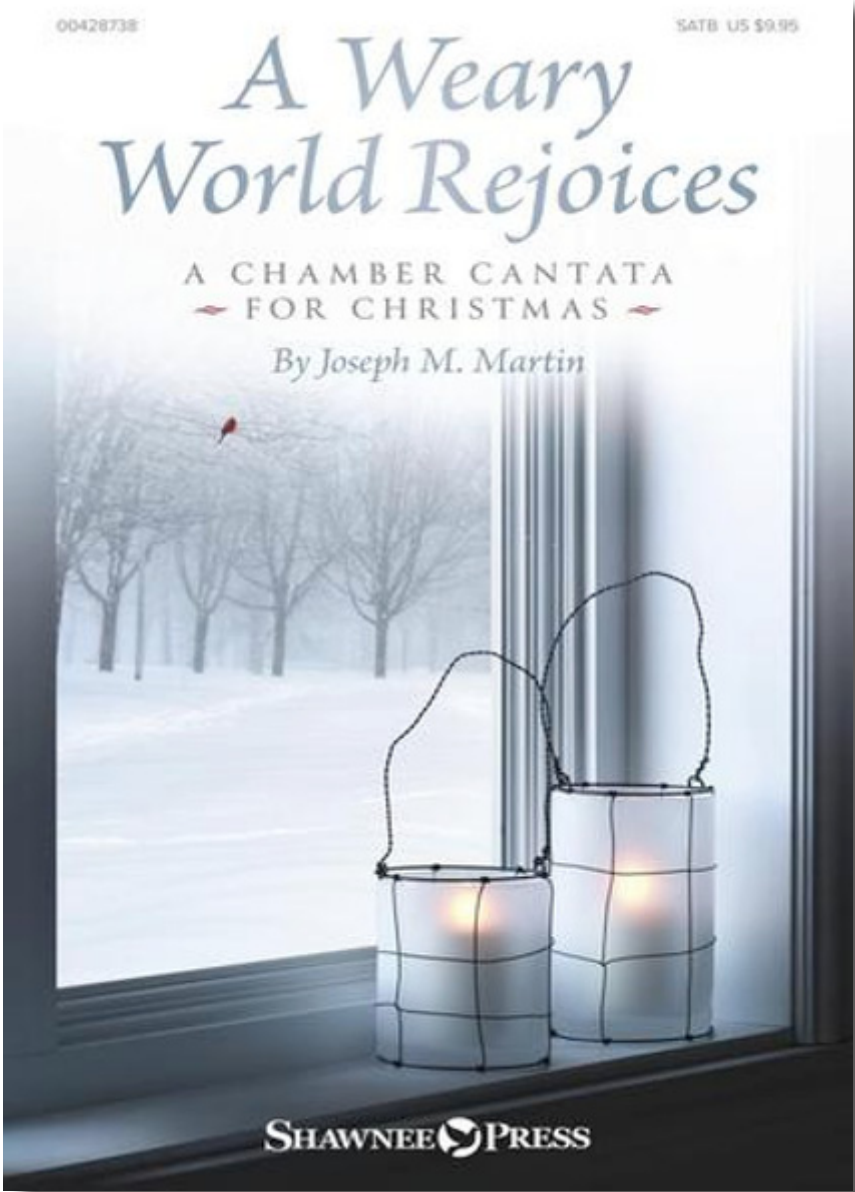




Monthly Publication of the Carson Valley United Methodist Church      December 2022



**In This Issue**

- Alpine Kids ..... 4
- Calendar Items ..... 2
- Christmas Cantata ..... 1
- Cookie Bakers Needed ..... 4
- Craft Faire Success ..... 4
- Polar Express ..... 3
- Prayer Tree..... 3
- Scripture & Sermons ..... 2
- That's What ..... 5

**Christmas Cantata**

Join the Chancel Choir for there performance of “A Weary World Rejoices”, a Christmas Cantata by Joseph M. Martin, on Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come and share in the joyous music of Christmas. There will be familiar Carols, with some beautiful variations, and some amazing new selections that will guide us through to the birth of the Christ child.

We hope to see you here on December 11.



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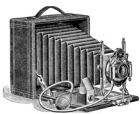


Photo Credits: Masthead "Masked Ringers" at the Genoa Courthouse Museum during COVID precautions - Tony Hoefner; Heavenly Holiday Faire and November UWF photos - Sharon Hoelscher-Day; Advent Wreath & Lifting Sierra Storm - Kathy Wicker.



*First Sunday Of Advent. Two members of the Sunday School Class sang "Just One Candle" - live at first service and recorded and second while the Advent Wreath was lit.*

## Calendar Items

December 4 - UWF Polar Express Social - 2 - 4 p.m.

December 11 - UWF Cookies Distribution for Shut-ins

January 3, 2023 - UWF Board Meeting - 9:30 a.m.

January 12, 2023 - UWF Luncheon Meeting - 11:30 a.m.

## Scripture & Sermons - December

### December 4 Second Sunday of Advent and Communion Sunday

Color: purple

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12

Title: *Prepare the Way*

### December 11 Third Sunday of Advent

Color: purple

Scripture: Matthew 11:2-15

Title: *Expectations*

### December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Color: purple

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Title: *A Righteous Man*

### December 25 Christmas Day

Color: white

Scripture: John 1:1-14


Title: *Incarnation*







## Get on Board the Polar Express

Carson Valley United Women of Faith invite all women in our congregation and their guest to hop aboard! The “train” departs on Sunday, December 4th at 2 p.m. and returns at 4 p.m..

 You may wear your cozy PJ’s (if you wish) for a magical journey to the North Pole

 North Pole Passport photos will be taken as you board

 Please Bring a Wrapped Gag Gift for A Fun and Hilarious White Elephant Gift Exchange

 Beverages and desserts will be served in our deluxe dining car

Your exciting journey will include onboard entertainment and some surprises along the way! Get your photo taken in front of the special Polar Express backdrop. Reserve your free tickets now! Please reserve your seat on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board at church Fellowship Hall or email Linda Malconian at LindaL714@yahoo.com (Entire event takes place in the Fellowship Hall)



## Abbey’s Crossing Donations

UWF is collecting a wide variety of items for Abby’s Crossing, a local domestic violence shelter, including:

Diapers (newborn-size 5), Feminine hygiene products, twin sized bedding, Full size shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream, First aid kit with Tylenol(adult, children), allergy medicine children’s and adult, alcohol wipes. Also Band-aids, paper goods(paper towels, septic safe toilet paper, napkins, printer paper), laundry detergent, softener (hypo allergenic), new underwear(various sizes women and children) sports bras various sizes. Just bring to the church for the donation box in the Fellowship Hall. For a complete list check out the UWF bulletin board there.



*Above: Crowds at the 2022 Heavenly Holiday Faire helped to make for a great success.  
Below: Bake Sale Crew - Carol Lucas, Carol Coleman, Maxane Hylton and Penny Puente*

## Prayer Tree

God answers prayers, everyone needs a prayer said for them. A prayer of praise, a prayer of need or a prayer for comfort.

There is a prayer tree in the back of the sanctuary with several names and organizations that are in need of prayer. Please stop by and take a prayer slip and pray for that person during the week.







*Reggie the British Rat with his friend Nancy Deis. Reggie was a veritable Thesaurus on Peace for the congregation as he recited many synonyms for the word "Peace." Both Reggie (who speaks the Queen's, oops I mean King's English) and the Pastor "talk funny" but have very important things to say. We should listen.*

## Caroling

**Tuesday, December 13-5:30 p.m.**

The Caroling will be followed by a pizza pot luck, lots of music, guitars, etc.

**Please RSVP for all outings at least 10 days prior to the event.**

The mission of the Alpine Kids' Ministry is to prevent child abuse and neglect, and domestic violence while strengthening families and communities through play.



*Irvin Jim, District 3 Supervisor with Alpine County, member of the Washoe Tribal Council and Hung A Lel Ti Woodfords Community Chairman, is the featured speaker at 12:15 p.m. He discussed our local NV-CA Washoe/Hung-A-Lel-Ti Community and its various social, educational, recreational, and cultural programs for youth and families.*

## Heavenly Holiday Faire Another Success!

Thanks to all the volunteers and shoppers the 2022 Heavenly Holiday Faire was a huge success. Our church crafters, bakers and candy makers filled the Fellowship Hall with goodies and the Timeless Treasures, Silent Auction and raffle baskets attracted many supporters.

More than \$14,000 was generated, and the United Women in Faith will donate the proceeds to local, national and international charities and missions that benefit women and children.

*Photos on page 2.*

## Cookie Bakers Needed

Again, this year, the United Women in Faith will be distributing Christmas cookies to home bound church members. If you can bake some cookies for this project, it would be greatly appreciated. Cookies are to be delivered to the kitchen by 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 11. Please label cookies if they are sugar-free, gluten-free or contain nuts.

# That's What I'm Talkin' About

## Duck!

“Grampa, this is my friend, Tony.” Just like that, I was introduced to what I’m pretty sure was the oldest human being I had met in my seasoned twelve years. In his rocking chair, an ancient form was wrapped in a quilt and swayed gently in front of an open fireplace—the kind without a hearth, where coals and ashes drift out and threaten the hardwood floor. The old man simply nodded in my direction. With that, Randy’s great grandpa seemed happy to see us. “You boys goin’ huntin’?” “Yessir,” came our simultaneous reply. Grampa encouraged us, “There’ll be ducks on the tank. Just be sure to aim.” That’s all I remember the old man saying. He just sat and rocked....

That fire felt good. It was cold everywhere in that old farmhouse—everywhere except right there. Randy’s older cousin (or maybe it was his younger uncle) was taking us duck hunting on a frigid morning. I’m almost positive Randy’s cousin/uncle’s name was Bubba (seriously). Now, I’d never been duck hunting and it sounded like an adventure, but I didn’t want to leave that fire. It was more than just warm. It felt like the most peaceful place on earth.... “Let’s go! Daylight’s burnin’!” As we headed out the door, I thought I heard a whispered shout, “Good luck!”

Cold was quickly forgotten and peace was replaced with adrenaline as we crept up the side of the earthen dam that created the tank (a southern word for a man-made pond). Slowly, but with that urgency of not wanting to be left behind, we all crested the dam in a single moment. We stood there gazing upon an empty acre of water. A few trees lined the water’s edge and bullrushes with cattails thickened in the shadows below where we stood. “Dang! We must’ve missed ‘em. They might be on the north tank,” proposed our elder guide.

Shotguns returned to *safe* as we started what promised to be a long walk to the north tank. Apologetically, Bubba began to share, “I promise, there’s almost always a big—” *Whooooosh!* I can’t really describe the sound of about 50 ducks launching simultaneously from their concealment in bullrushes and cattails but trust me, it is super-loud when you are twenty feet away and not expecting it. I’m not sure how high I jumped, but I’m positive Randy had me beat. Did any of us remember to take our shotgun’s safety off before we started pulling triggers? Bubba swore he did, but I don’t think so. After at least a one-second delay, our wits returned to us and the ensuing barrage of gunfire was quite impressive if I do say so myself.

A short walk back to the farmhouse and my sneaker-clad feet were very happy to be warming next to the coziest fire I have ever experienced. Grampa rocked quietly and seemed glad that we were back. He eventually spoke just a little louder than the crackling of the fire, “I heard the shootin’. You boys walked up on some...?” “Yessir,” again our response was simultaneous. “Hmmm,” the swaying of the rocker continued as a weathered hand pushed burning logs with an iron rod, “...you missed ‘em?” “Yessir,” sheepishly but still in unison. The old man propped his iron rod against the wall, and with aged grey-crested eyes that seemed as though they didn’t see anything, he looked right into our souls, “Didn’t sound like you was aiming,” and that was all he said.

Not entirely changing the subject, but the Hebrew word found in the Bible, that we translate as “sin” is *Khata*, which means “to miss the mark.” I believe that sometimes we sin—we miss the mark—because we aren’t aiming. We can lose sight of the target; we can go half-cocked, as they say; we can even get excited, try too hard, tense up and miss.

There is someone that wants to help us get it right—yes, I mean Jesus. The next time we become aware of missing the mark, here are a few things to remember. Focus on the mark—relationship with God; Trust Jesus—take the safety off and don’t be half-cocked; Relax and remember to breathe—be inspired by God’s Spirit.

If you know me, you know that I’m not the one to talk about hitting the mark—whether referring to sin or to shooting—but I know someone that has hit it for me. And I have faith in Him, and that gives me hope. When I cross over to the other side, I don’t expect any heavenly trophies for marksmanship, but I sure want the “Old Man” to know I was aiming.

*Be the church! --Pastor Tony*



*Loving child care provided*  
*Fellowship time follows morning services*  
Worship 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

**Worship Schedule**  
*Sundays*



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*Lifting storm on the Sierras by Kathy Wicker*