

Friendship International



DECEMBER 15, 2023

PEACE ON EARTH

Last Friday, Karen Wright did a wonderful job sharing the Christmas story from the Bible with us. We started by talking about “peace” and one of my favorite parts was when we said the word for peace in about 10 different languages!

No matter the language, no matter what corner of the world... peace is something we all crave. At the end of the program one of the questions we discussed at the tables was “What area of your life needs peace?” What was your answer? Maybe you’ve thought about it more since last Friday. Is it in your relationships? Is it at work? Is it in your busy schedule? Maybe it’s quite simply in your own heart.

Things can get extra busy during the Christmas season with more gatherings, parties, and school events. But then, hopefully, many things end for a short time, allowing a chance to slow down, to have more breathing room and a much needed break. How we fill this time says a lot about our priorities. It takes discipline to keep some of our time “unfilled” – to learn how to relax, to be quiet, to contemplate.

Maybe we take a break from our phones and the internet for a while. Maybe we bundle up on a sunny day and take a walk by ourselves, no music playing, no podcasts to listen to. Just quiet, just listening.

Karen quoted from the Bible one of the most well-known phrases from the Christmas story, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people God favors.” *Luke 2:14, Christian Standard Bible*. These were the words declared by a host of angels after Jesus was born! And what did these heavenly beings announce that Jesus had brought to us here on Earth? PEACE.

We ended our time singing a Christmas carol, “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day,” originally written as a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow on Christmas Day in 1863. Within the decade, these words were set to music and that was the version that we sang on Friday. However, recently a band named Casting Crowns has recorded a new version (same words, just a new musical arrangement), that I absolutely love and listen to over and over this time of year. [Click here to hear the Casting Crowns version of “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” with lyrics provided.](#)

Our prayer is that we will all know true peace this Christmas season and beyond. Merry Christmas, friends.



UPCOMING DATES

Dec 15	Last FI for Semester/ Extended Classes
Dec 19	Last Day of School Fayette County
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Jan 4	Fayette County Schools First Day of Spring Semester
Jan 12	First Day of Friendship Spring Semester

FRIDAY FLURRIES AT THE SUMMIT

Head over to The Green at the Summit for Friday Flurries leading up to Christmas and enjoy fake snow and a meet and greet with Santa, Buddy the Elf, and Elsa!

Remaining times for Friday Flurries will be 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM on December 15th and 22nd. This event is FREE to attend and a photographer will be provided.

[Click here for more info](#)



SPRING SEMESTER AT FRIENDSHIP

We will resume Friendship on Friday, January 12th! Before that, a new link will be sent to you to register and sign up for a class. You are welcome to sign up for the same class (as long as there is space), or choose a new class. But if you plan to return, you must sign up again. Look for that link in your email the week after Christmas. It'll also be on friendshipplex.com once it's ready.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Many churches host candlelight services right around Christmas and encourage visitors to attend. Even if you do not normally attend church, the services are a welcoming, family-friendly chance to learn more about the Christian Christmas season in America.

Here are several options you may enjoy:

Ashland Avenue Baptist Church (click here)

Saturday, Dec 23 at 5PM

Immanuel Baptist Church (click here)

Sunday, Dec 24th at 11AM, 2PM, 4PM or 6PM

Southland Christian Church (click here)

Nicholasville Campus (this is their primary campus – located on Harrodsburg Road just over the Fayette Co./ Jessamine Co. line)

Sunday, Dec 24 at 12PM, 2PM, 4PM or 6PM



THIS WEEK'S FEATURED CHRISTMAS CRAFT:
MAKE A CRANBERRY GARLAND FOR YOUR TREE OR HOME!



EASY CHRISTMAS MORNING PASTRY RECIPE:
CHRISTMAS TREE CHERRY DANISH