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BLOOD
DRIVE

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Volume 73 Issue 8

Chiming In

NEWS AND EVENTS OF THE
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE CHIMES

A Diverse and Loving Christian Community Accepting of All
www.churchofthechimes.org—www.facebook.com/ChurchofChimes



December 2022

FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

FAITHFULLY YOURS

It's Beginning...

There is a wonderful carol that runs through my head sometime between Halloween and Thanksgiving — or maybe even earlier. The lyrics are my response to what I see in stores, in commercials, even on early lighted front yards during my walks with Rookie.

“It’s beginning to **look** a lot like Christmas...” In other words the decorations are hanging in stores; light poles are already wound in ribbon..., and candy canes have nudged out Halloween candy on grocery store shelves. Urgent ads remind us to buy our decorations and order our Christmas trees. Poinsettias have replaced autumn colored bouquets.

We might add another verse: *It’s beginning to **sound** a lot like Christmas...* For sure! Christmas music plays sounds everywhere inside and out, the familiar tunes beginning to fill our ears months ago, or so it seems. On corners and on televisions there are ho ho ho’s from jelly bellied Santas.

But what we might be thinking and singing as we await the birth of the Christ child...”*It’s beginning to **feel** a lot like Christmas...*”

As the first Advent candle is lit, we are beginning to feel **HOPE** blossom in our souls again as we begin our journey with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. When the second candle flickers before us, **PEACE** seems somehow possible as we hear the angels sing their chorus promising “Peace on Earth”..., and we await the birth of the Prince of Peace. The third

to Bethlehem for the son of God has come to us. Then with the fourth candle our hearts burst for **LOVE** has come to us, and lives with us.

So yes, indeed “It is beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!” May we thank God for the inexpressible gift that comes to us as a wee little baby who lies in a manger...who brings us hope, and peace and joy and love.

With Deep Affection, **Beth**

SERMON TOPICS FOR DECEMBER

DECEMBER 4:	Improbable Peace (Isaiah 11:1-10)
DECEMBER 11:	Christmas Pageant
DECEMBER 18:	On the Way to Wonder (Luke 2:1-7)
DECEMBER 24*	A Babe, Lying in a Manger (Luke 2:1-10) <i>*7pm—Early Service and 10pm Candle Light Service</i>
DECEMBER 25:	Now What? (Luke 2:17-20)

DECEMBER 2022 HAPPENINGS

- ⇒ **LIGHT UP THE NIGHT: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2nd 6 ~ 6PM to 8PM:** This event kicked off the Holiday Season with caroling; Fire Station 88 Captain and Crew arrived to hang a polestar at the top of the 80 foot Hazeltine redwood tree at 6:30, and a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus followed that. While Santa listened to all of the kids Christmas wishes, families and friends conversed over apple cider and sugar cookies. It was a wonderful evening! Merry Christmas to all
- ⇒ **RACIAL EQUITY DISCUSSION GROUP: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th at 11:45AM:** This Group Discussion is a place where all views are welcomed as we learn from one another. A community wide event is being planned this month to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday as we explore and learn from all the different cultures within our local community. Contact the Diane Delaney or Dr. Bingham if more information is desired.
- ⇒ **COUNCIL MEETING: 1ST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH at 6:30pm**
- ⇒ **BOUQUET CIRCLE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9th, 12:00Noon—1:30pm:** All women are welcome to join this group who enlighten one another on a variety of topics of interest. .
- ⇒ **TRUSTEES MEETING: 3rd TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH at 7:00pm; No meeting in DECEMBER.**
- ⇒ **VESPERS : THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15th at 6:30pm:** All women of the church are invited to gather for dinner and conversation at a local eating establishment typically on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30pm. Please contact Natalie (nataliefkarp@mac.com) if you would like to join in.
- ⇒ **NEW CRAFT CREATIONS: MEETS MOST TUESDAYS at 9:30am in Dreier Hall**
- ⇒ **BROWN BAG BIBLE: MEETS MOST TUESDAYS at 12noon in Dreier Hall:** This is 45 minutes of lively discussion of the scripture passage for the coming Sunday. They munch their lunch, get background & context for the lesson, and talk about what it means. Next meeting will be in January.
- ⇒ **ZOOM WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY: WEDNESDAYS at 7pm:** All women of any faith are invited to our virtual gathering of caring, sharing & loving women on Wednesday evenings at 7pm via ZOOM (e-mail <jane.churchchimes@sbcglobal.net> for the link. Hope to see you then!
- ⇒ **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** The Men’s Group is hosting a Bible Study on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. It is held in Dreier Hall from 9:30 to 10:15am. We are currently studying the Book of Proverbs. Please feel free to join in at anytime for lively and interesting discussions.
- ⇒ **NORTH HOLLYWOOD INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY:** NHIFP continues to help the food insecure in our community during the hard times we are in. Contributions of cans of fruit and diapers for babies and adult are needed. Volunteers are also needed to help move from the current location to their new distribution site around the corner on Moorpark and Colfax beginning on December 26th. Contact NHIFP.org for all volunteer opportunities. Thank you for your continuing support of our community food bank. Happy Holidays!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Barbara Downs, Chair

We have certainly been busy this last month! The kids in our Sunday gathering group have become very close, helping each other out and sharing their thoughts and feelings freely. It's such a blessing! The BE Bold youth group continues to grow! In the middle of November we had a formal dinner with the youth bringing foods that are part of their family traditions. And while we ate, we talked about what being thankful means to us. We also had a dinner/game night, and now we are planning for the upcoming Christmas pageant entitled "Emmanuel – God With Us" to be presented during the worship service on the 11th.

In the New Year Blessing Bags will be coming back! We'll start collecting items and donations for the bags to be compiled at the end of January or early February. Additionally we'll be scheduling Chimes Cafés for the calendar year. Adult Bible groups are going strong. We look forward to continuing to support and serve both the adults and children of our church with relevant programs that grow our Christian faith. If you have ideas for CE ministries, please feel free to reach out!

Submitted by Jane Poole

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Natalie Karp, Chair

The Holiday Boutique was such a wonderful event—such a festive kick off to the holiday season. In addition to the wide variety of things laid out so beautifully in Santa's Closet and the hand-crafted Christmas items offered by the Women's Association, there were several other vendors displaying their wares from hand-made teddy bears, aprons and a kitty toy ...along with estate jewelry and organic stone pieces—so many things to explore and choose amongst them all.. definitely no lack of options for those "hard to buy for" people in our lives. In addition, there was a caricature artist and a henna designer for us to consider while in the background we heard live music from the Sixth Edition, a fun jazz band, and took time out to eat a tasty chili and corn bread lunch. A big thanks to all of you for all you did to help make our 2022 Women's Association Holiday Boutique so successful!

The Bouquet Circle held their November gathering in Dreier Hall with an Insightful program after which we enjoyed conversation as we ate our lunch. In December they were invited to the Preschool Parents' Holiday luncheon where they were entertained by the preschool children with songs of good Christmas cheer after a wonderful luncheon. A big thanks goes out to Ally, the preschool director, for organizing this delightful holiday event.

The Vespers Group did not meet in November, but are looking forward to a fun-filled Holiday gathering in December. All women are welcome; please contact Natalie Karp if you would like to attend.

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev. Curtis Peek

WON'T HE DO IT?

"And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, 'Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!' And God granted him that which he requested." ~ 1 Chronicles 4:10

Just like God favored Jabez, He will grant your request to be used by Him. To have an enlarged territory is increased influence among people—to be used by God.

As God opens doors we must become more sensitive to His voice and His will. If you want to be used by God, seek to fit in with His timing. Be willing to wait on God. Be careful not to "invent" your own messages, claiming that they came from God.

Today, be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Be ready to do God's will, in His time, and in His way. Don't depend on your flesh or the reactions of other people. Trust in Him to guide you as you wait on Him. **Believe it! Curtis**

LET US PRAY: Father, I want to speak Your words and do Your will. Guide me. Open up the doors at the right time and the right way. Help me to be ready. I submit my life to You. In Jesus' name. Amen ...Submitted by Curtis for the December 2021 Chiming In.

ST. NICHOLAS AND CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Did you know that St. Nicholas was a real person, a bishop who lived in Turkey in the 3rd century? He was renowned for his generosity, particularly toward children. One of the most famous stories about him was his secret gift of a small amount of gold to three very poor sisters so that they each had a dowry and could marry and avoid being sold into slavery. St. Nicholas threw gold into their home that landed in stockings they were drying by the fireplace.

A tradition started in Europe and the night before his feast day children would leave a pair of shoes filled with carrots and hay outside their front door. The carrots and hay were a present for St. Nicholas' horse as he made his rounds. These generous children woke the next morning to find St. Nicholas had left them a present which frequently included a piece of citrus fruit which symbolized the original gift of gold. Today's candy canes represent his Bishop's staff.

In Holland St. Nicholas was known as Sinterklass. When the early Dutch settlers came to New York in the 17th Century they brought their holiday traditions with them, and Sinterklass became known as Santa Claus. A kindly old man delivering presents to children via a sleigh. Christmas stockings, oranges in the stockings; leaving milk and cookies for Santa Claus and candy canes are all traditions which stem from the original St. Nicholas.

Merry Christmas to you all! Submitted by Martha Smyser

GET AMUSED...

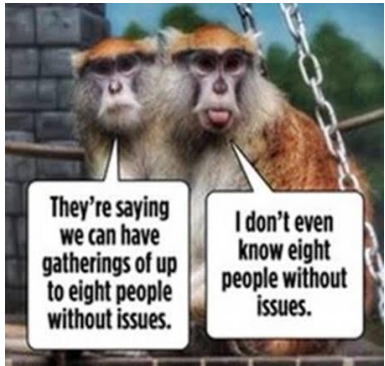


The School Called Today
And Said "Your Son Is
Telling Lies"

"Well" I Replied "He Must
Be Really Good Because
I Don't Have Any
Kids"



The best things about
the good old days was
that I wasn't good and
I wasn't old.

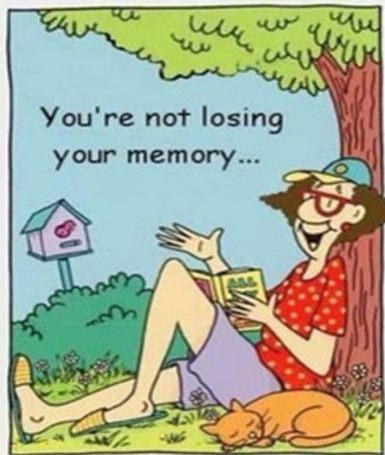


They're saying
we can have
gatherings of up
to eight people
without issues.

I don't even
know eight
people without
issues.

Someone said "Nothing
rhymes with orange."

I said "No it doesn't."



You're not losing
your memory...

You're just really good
at letting go of the past!



We Do Not Have
★ WiFi... ★
Talk To Each Other
Pretend It's 1995

Shhh... She's fixing the world ❤️



My wife asked if she
could have a little
peace and quiet
while she cooked dinner...

So I took the battery out
of the smoke alarm!

I have many hidden
talents.

Just wish I could
remember where I
hid them.

I visited a monastery and as
I walked past the kitchen I
saw a man frying chips.
I asked him "Are you the
friar?"
He replied "No, I'm the chip
monk..."

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Holiday Bucket List

Be

1. Buy presents
2. Wrap gifts *someone in a hug*
3. Send gifts *love*
4. Shop for food
Donate
5. Make cookies *memories*
6. See the lights
Be

Reading gives us someplace to go
when we have to stay where we are.

Mason Cooley



Meanwhile, in an alternate universe....



May your character preach more loudly than your words.

"The irony is that the person not taking risks
feels the same amount of fear
as the person who repeatedly takes risks."

The Pessimist complains
about the wind.

The Optimist expects
it to change.



And the REALIST
adjusts his sails.

Sometimes, not
saying anything is the
best answer. You see,
silence can never be
misquoted.

As I have grown
older, I've learned
that pleasing
everyone is
impossible, but
pissing everyone off
is a piece of cake.

Hope sees the invisible, feels
the intangible, and achieves
the impossible.

Helen Keller



HOPE
PassItOn.com
THE FOUNDATION FOR A BETTER LIFE

**MEAN PEOPLE BREED
LITTLE MEAN PEOPLE**

Never be a
prisoner
of your past.
It was just a
lesson, not
a life sentence.

TRUSTEE NEWS

Diane Delaney, Chair

Not much new since last month, as we moved our meeting until 11/29, after Thanksgiving. We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

I will share that we sold a lot of Ebba Johnson's jewelry at and after the Women's Association Holiday Boutique on 11/5 and it was very successful, bringing in just over \$4,700 which will go to the Church's General Fund. Our sincere thanks to Ebba for thinking of the church in her estate.

We continue to prepare our 2023 Budget which we will present to the Congregation for approval early in 2023. As we approach the end of the fiscal year, we ask that you fulfill your 2022 Pledge. We rely on pledges, weekly offering and donations from members and friends to keep our church running. If you have any questions about your Pledge or donating, please contact the Church Office. Thank you!

DEACON NEWS

Greg Abbott, Chair

It's that time again, Christmas Families. As with last year, we will again be working with Hope of the Valley but with some changes. The shelter we sponsored last year, Genesis House; is no longer a family shelter, but a men's shelter. Therefore, this year, we will be working with Casa de Vida, which houses twelve families. They have requested that we not purchase gifts but rather present one gift card per family. As before, the various boards, Scouts and Preschool will receive family assignments. We will also have ornaments on a tree in the Narthex so that those not on a board can also contribute. Cash or checks made out to the church with Christmas Families on the comment line. We need to have all contributions in an envelope into the office by Monday, December 19th, so the Deacons can purchase and present the cards before Christmas. Please do not purchase gift cards yourselves.

In other news, we will again begin collecting for the Deacons' Angel Fund on Communion Sundays. The fund is used to support Church families who are in need.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6*

JANE'S CORNER

Jane G. Poole, CE Director

ANGEL OF GOD

Several days ago I received yet another solicitation letter in the mail. As most of you experience during this time of year, we tend to be inundated with letters from non-profit organizations for end of year financial support. Normally I don't open letters that aren't part of our donation list, but this particular envelope called to me.

When I opened the envelope I was presented with a letter from Catholic Relief Services. As I was going through the many appeal pages, there was an enclosure card captioned "Angel of God" with a gold angel coin. My spirits automatically lifted. The text on the card said; "Angel of God, my guardian dear, commits me here, ever this day be by my side, to light and guard, to guide and rule. Amen."

What a lovely prayer and token. Just as this organization shared a small act of kindness with their angel coin and prayer, we too can share with people around us during this time of Christmas.

Although not apparent to the eye, there are many people who are hurting and perhaps mourning those who are dear to them that are no longer on this earth. And, in these splintered times, there are people facing unimaginable prejudice.

Think about the positive impact we could have, mirroring Jesus and sharing the kindness, encouragement and God's love they share with us. I encourage you to put on the heart of Jesus and be an angel of God to people in the community we live within.

Peace and love, Jane

...and please take some time to be quiet with God!

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Ally Baker, Director

The Preschool is in full swing with a wonderful group of children and really great teachers. The Preschool program begins at 2 years and 7 months through 5 years. Enrollment for our 22-23 school year is on-going. The Parent and Me Program offers a class on Thursdays from 9:30 – 11:30am.

For more information on our Preschool or Parent & Me Program, please contact preschool@churchofthechimes.org or call the church office.

GETTING TO KNOW...

Michele Marot, Co-Editor

Hayley Cabral

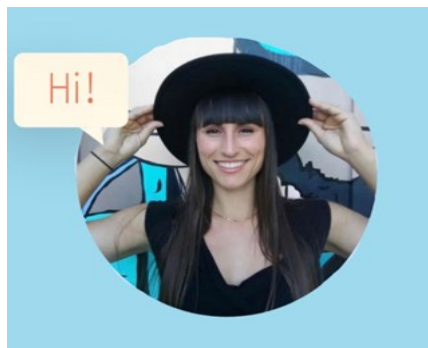
Not just a native of California, Hayley was born and raised in Sherman Oaks! Formerly working as a circus performer - a contortionist - Hayley now teaches contortion classes. (She was first invited to our church by one of her students, our own Anna Luker).

Hayley and her husband, Hilario, officially became COTC members in 2022, though they had been active a long time before that. Hayley is a member of our Tuesday Craft Class and, more importantly, she has taken on the sometimes daunting job of Social Media Manager. We keep her busy with social media, and I'm sure you'd agree that she does a fantastic job!

Hayley's vision for our church's future is that our church will be here for many generations to come, and that COTC will include many people from many different backgrounds coming together to "celebrate God's love and greatness!"

We're with you, Hayley, and we're excited about our upcoming MLK celebration which will be certain to bring many people from diverse backgrounds together!

SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS




Kids Gymnastics Class

Ages
3+



Bring this
AD for a
FREE
CLASS!

Location:
Church of the Chimes
14115 Magnolia Blvd
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

 Flexibility_Fitness_LA
www.Flexibilityfitness.net
Coach Hayley (818) 414-0213

I'm Hayley, the COTC Social Media Manager...(and I teach gymnastics too.) Thank you for continuing to follow COTC on Facebook & Instagram. Please continue to LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE on all of the COTC posts—leaving encouraging or relevant comment and/or an emoji may be just the thing that someone needs...AND the more posts we do—the more we can share our message! **COTC is a diverse and loving community accepting of all people...** Together we can reach so many to make them aware of us...Let's do this! And please know that I will help you if you need assistance setting up your social media accounts, just get in touch...

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS cont.



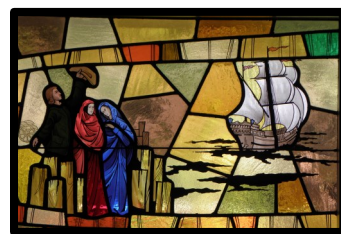
1: "Robert Browne"



2: "The Faithful are Imprisoned."



3: "Pilgrims in Holland"



4: "Mayflower Sails"



5: "Plymouth Landing"



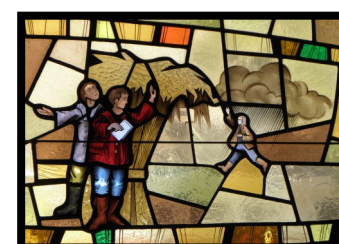
6: "Mayflower Compact Adopted"



7: "The First Thanksgiving"



8: "Establishment of Colleges"



9: "Haystack Meeting"



10: "Anti Slavery"



11: "Westward Movement"



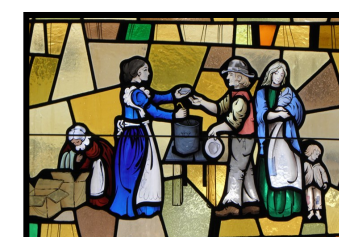
12: "Gold Rush Churches"



13: "Kawaihāo Church"



14: "Spread of Missions
to the World"



15: "Welfare and Social Actions"

STAVES CHAPEL ~ STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Submitted by Joi Staves

The Chapel was dedicated on February 1952; at that time, the windows were of plain glass. The stained glass windows depicting the history of Congregationalism from our roots in England to the founding of Church of the Chimes replaced the plain glass over the years through designated memorial gifts.

Below is the 16th of the Chapel's eighteen stained glass windows with an overview of its significance. On the opposite page are the previous fifteen windows that were featured in the last fifteen editions of Chiming In.

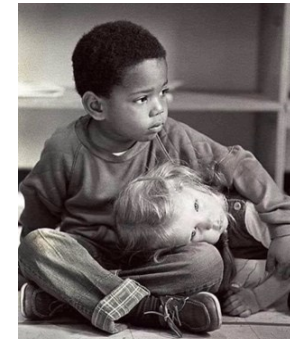


16: FOUNDING OF THE CHURCH OF THE CHIMES:

On Sunday morning, June 4, 1950, twenty-four Congregationalists gathered at the Encino Theater (16342 Ventura Blvd.) for the first service of the Church of the Chimes. The church had been organized earlier at the home of its minister, Rev. Walter H. Staves. Services were held in the theater for several months while the growing church searched for a property that would provide a permanent home with a potential to expand. The window pane shows founding Minister Rev. Walter H. Staves (1950 to 1978) and the church's first Associate Minister Glenn A. Rowles (September 1954 to May 1964).

17: "Little Children:" will be featured in the January 2023 edition of Chiming In.

MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



COTC's Racial Equity Group will be hosting an all church / all community wide event in celebration of diversity and inclusion on MLK Jr weekend, called, "A Seat at the Table". The event will be held Sunday, January 15, 2023, from 4-6pm in Bower Hall. There will be food, music and arts. Please plan to attend this very special event. For more information or if you want to help with the event, please contact the office or Shawn Burkley. Thank you!

COMMUNITY & WORLD SERVICE NEWS

Robert Dunn, Chair

Operation Christmas Child was again a great success. CWS sold 100 beautifully well-packed shoeboxes for just \$10 each with booths at GWF and the WA's Holiday Boutique plus in the Narthex during the Holiday season and at the annual CalWest meeting held here this year. These will be sent to under-privileged children located all over the world—children who most likely will receive no other gifts at Christmas time...or maybe not at any time through out the year. A big thank you goes out to all of the generous people who sponsored a box; you made some child's Christmas special this year! JFYI: There is a GPS sticker on each box so we can know exactly where each box went and when it was received. Won't that be an interesting thing to track...?!



Band of Prayer

A church that prays together, stays together especially during challenging times when everything seems to go upside down.

What is certain is that God is with us, Bringing things back into focus. ...He hears our prayers.

Please send Band of Prayer requests to Sylvia McCormick; miss_daisy1226@yahoo.com

or feel free to call or email the Church Office; office@churchofthechimes.org | 818-789-7124

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

If you know someone who would enjoy receiving a call or maybe a card with a short note, please send their name, address & phone number to the church office:

office@churchofthechimes.org
818-789-7124

One of our pastors or deacons will reach out...



December 2022



Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat

				1 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10	2 <u>LIGHT UP THE NIGHT</u> <u>6-8pm</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 6:30pm Be Bold Gathering- HH 7:00pm tRPC Recovery Group	3 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
4 <u>COMMUNION SUNDAY</u> <u>CWS MEETING —12 Noon</u> 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Super Kids 11:45am Racial Equity Mtg	5 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Sea Scouts	6 9:00am Preschool 9:30am Crafting 10:00am 10 at 10 12Noon Brown Bag Bible	7 <u>BOUQUET CIRCLE</u> <u>~ 12NOON</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 12noon Preschool Holiday Luncheon with Bouquet Circle 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	8 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10	9 <u>Preschool</u> <u>Christmas Pageant</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 5:30pm Be Bold Youth Group 7:00pm tRPC Recovery Group	10 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
11 10:30am COTC Worship Svc Christmas Pageant 10:45am Super Kids 1:30pm tRPC Worship Service	12 <u>NO PRESCHOOL</u> 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Sea Scouts	13 <u>NO PRESCHOOL</u> 9:30am Crafting 10:00am 10 at 10	14 <u>NO PRESCHOOL</u> 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts—Bower Hall	15 <u>NO PRESCHOOL</u> <u>VESPERS ~ 6:30pm*</u> 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Cub Scouts <i>*Subject to change...</i>	16 <u>NO PRESCHOOL</u> <u>BE BOLD Christmas Party</u> <i>10:00am 10 at 10</i> 7:00pm tRPC Recovery Group	17 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
18 <u>CE MEETING ~ 12 Noon</u> <u>Bower Hall Patio</u> 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Super Kids 1:30pm tRPC Worship Svc	19 <u>NO PRESCHOOL</u> 10:00am 10 at 10 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower 7:00pm Sea Scouts	20 <u>NO PRESCHOOL</u> 9:30am Crafting 10:00am 10 at 10 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower	21 <u>NO PRESCHOOL</u> <i>10:00am 10 at 10</i> 3:00pm Gymnasti~ Bower I 7:00pm Boy Scouts ~ Bower	22 <u>NO PRESCHOOL</u> 10:00am 10 at 10 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower	23 <u>OFFICE CLOSED &</u> <u>NO PRESCHOOL</u> 10:00am 10 at 10 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower 7:00pm tRPC Recovery Group	24 7pm COTC Christmas Eve Early Service 10pm COTC Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
25 <u>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</u> 10:30am COTC Worship Service	26 <u>NO PRESCHOOL</u> 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Sea Scouts	27 <u>NO PRESCHOOL</u> 10:00am 10 at 10	28 <u>NO PRESCHOOL</u> 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Boy Scouts—Bower Hall	29 <u>NO PRESCHOOL</u> 10:00am 10 at 10	30- <u>OFFICE CLOSED &</u> <u>NO PRESCHOOL</u> 10:00am 10 at 10	31 <u>NEW YEAR'S EVE</u>