



# Bville FIRST

Newsletter of First Church  
Barboursville United Methodist Church WV

## ROOM AT THE INN?

BY PASTOR TERESA

The word 'Advent' comes from Latin and means "coming;" its purpose is to look forward to the coming of Christ to Earth; it is a season that focuses on waiting. "Advent" means something new is coming. The dawn of a new HOPE. This is really what the Christmas season is all about, isn't it? It's the celebration of God's LOVE coming to us through a child. Have we forgotten the reason for this season? Can we live our lives experiencing God's PEACE, even in the midst of a pandemic? The truth is, Christmas will not be the same this year. However, instead of looking back at how it was before... let us look forward with JOY to what God will do ahead.

*Jeremiah 29:11 "For I Know The Plans I Have For You' Declares the Lord, 'Plans to Prosper You and Not to Harm You, Plans to Give You Hope and a Future.*

This Advent season can be a great awaking for those who choose to make time to enter into God's presence. Will you be one of those believers? Will you ask Him to prepare your heart the way He prepared all of history to receive the gift of His Son? We have a choice. To dwell on the past or to allow God to fill us with the HOPE, PEACE, LOVE AND JOY that only comes from Him. May your heart make "room at the inn" for God to refresh you and fill you with compassion and love for those around you. Breathe in His Spirit and welcome the Advent season with anticipation!

Prepare your heart, for what God is doing ahead and rejoice!

*Isaiah 9:6*

*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.*

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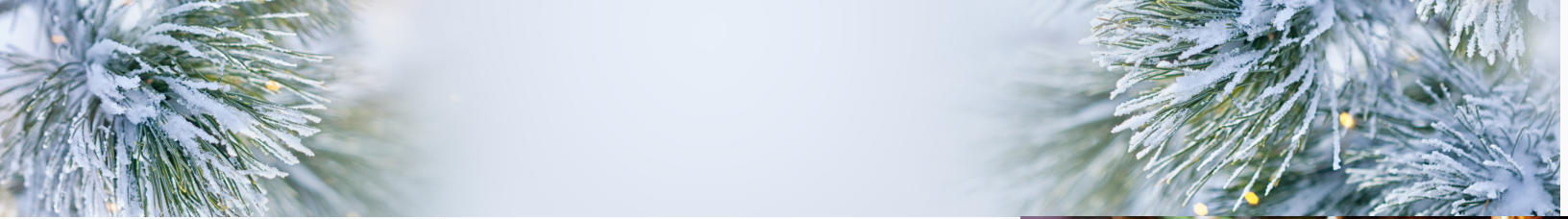
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## CHRISTMAS MEMORIES...

From "Christmas stories through the eyes of area seniors"  
By Jessica Larsen Dec 23, 2010

Christmas used to be much more simple. That's what a few area seniors recall. The trees — strung with popcorn and cranberries. The gifts — what few there were — wrapped in brown paper. The trip to grandma's house — in a sleigh. It's those memories, some say, that keep the true spirit of Christmas alive.

For 91-year-old Edith Mitchell, the best memory was the doll she got from her parents every year. The delicate figure was wrapped in white tissue paper and placed under their four-foot tall tree.



That was the only present that her parents bought. The rest were hand-made, like the sweaters and dresses her mom sewed for the doll. "We didn't spend a lot on Christmas," Edith said. "We didn't have a lot." Edith was born in Camp Douglas. As a child, there was no electricity in her house, so the tree was decorated with candles. The family only lit the candles once in the evening after opening presents because of the danger of setting the house on fire. Edith and her brother and four sisters unwrapped their gifts slowly, taking time to show the family what was inside. Her gift to her parents was made in school.

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## Christmas memories...

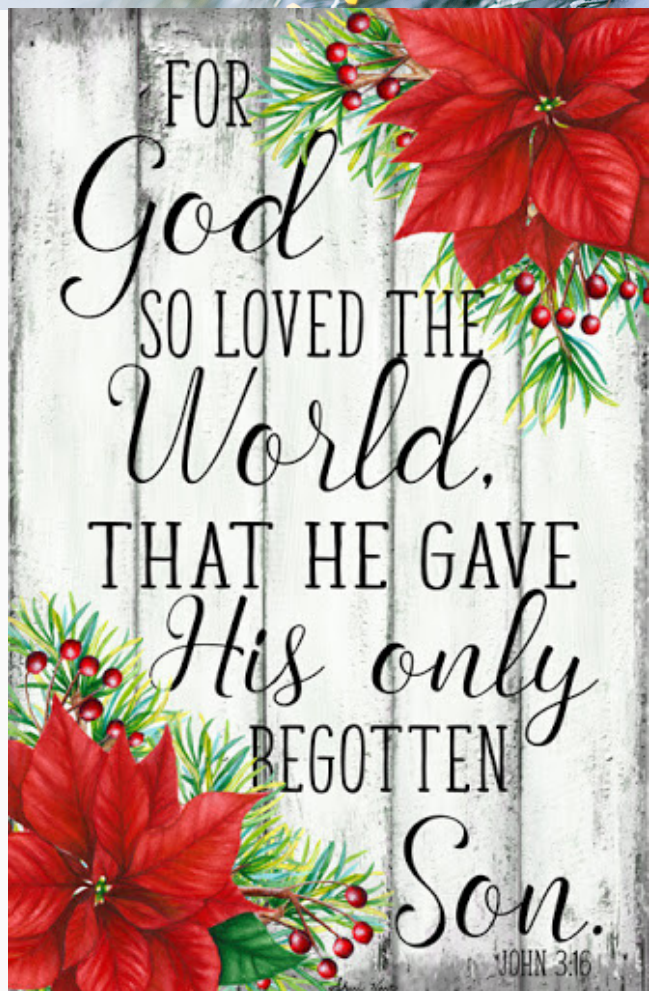
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Usually, it was a paper chain or a string of popcorn and cranberries. For each Christmas, her mother would let Edith and her sisters help bake goodies, like peanut brittle, caramels and fudge. Afterwards, they all piled into a sleigh and trekked across the snow three miles to grandmother's house. "It was my favorite time," Edith said. "There was so much activity."

Edith's husband, Charles J. Mitchell, 97, agrees. Christmas was always his favorite time growing up, too. As a child, New Jersey-born Charles always hoped for the typical toys: a baseball, roller skates and a bugle. He and his two sisters got a few gifts each year, but they were never wrapped.



When Edith and Charles got married 67 years ago, they tried to incorporate the same Christmas spirit into their celebration that they learned as kids. They taught their six children to appreciate gifts and the time spent with family. Today, the couple lives in Liberty Village assisted living center. Their apartment is lined with lights, and a wooden nativity set sits on the coffee table. Their Christmas celebrations are still simple. The weather determines if they travel to see family, otherwise they just spend the day together.







# What about Advent?

BY PASTOR TERESA ADAMS

Here we are ready to step into the Advent season and still no in-house worship. How frustrating it's been for all of us. So the question is, "How will we celebrate the Advent season?"

As we continue to deliver our CARE PACKAGES OF LOVE, we are adding a little of the Christmas Spirit to them. One of the things I have enjoyed the most, is delivering the packages to you! It has been wonderful to meet you and at least see you and tell you I'm here for you. Another thing we have been doing is giving out Advent candle wreaths. If you would like one just email me. We're hoping you will join us by watching the Traditional service posted on Sundays to light your Advent candle each week in the Traditional service.

## Christmas Eve Services

As I prayed about Christmas Eve, I felt that it was so important for us to meet somehow. I will be recording the Contemporary Christmas Eve service, but I wanted to do more. After talking with different members of the church, there seemed to be a strong Tradition of attending the 11:00 Christmas Eve service. Earlier that week, in my book studies with my colleagues, a question came up. "If we can't have Christmas Eve service inside the church, then what about outside of the church? And as I stood outside of FIRST CHURCH, It became clear to me that we would meet out front together on Christmas Eve at 11:00 pm. We will have prayer and then sing Christmas Carols. The service will be short, but we will be together celebrating the birth of Christ. I have LED Candles for us to hold. The lights will all be on inside the church so that we will see the beautiful Stained glass windows outside. And I have permission from the Mayor to ring our bell 3 times! Oh yes, and we have a surprise for everyone. My family and I have been working behind the scenes in making a Nativity scene for in front of the church. Were hoping that this will inspire not only you but give hope to our community. Hope to see you there!







# CLM CORNER

C. Allen Diamond CLM Candidate

I want to say hello and welcome to Advent. And also say MERRY CHRISTMAS, I hope everyone is warm and snug as the weather is cooling off. And hope also everyone will join me again this year in reading the Book of Luke. There are 24 chapters in the Book of Luke and I would like to invite everyone to join me in reading one chapter a day starting the 1st of December. When done I hope everyone has a warm and glorious understanding of the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven by Jesus. I plan to do it myself again this year.

There are several dates of note in December to remember as well.

On December 7 we will take the time to remember the horrible surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1940. A date that will live in infamy.

On December 11, our friends that are Jewish will celebrate Chanukah (The Festival of Lights).

On December 21 we will welcome Winter and settle in for a long spell of cold weather. Hope everyone has plenty of warm blankets, heat and hot coffee and coco to help them stay warm.

On December 25th we will celebrate the birth of our Savior Christ Jesus. And start to celebrate his life here with us on earth.

On December 31 we will celebrate the end of 2020, and look forward to have a better and more prosperous 2021. And hopefully we will be able to begin in person worship soon.

I look forward to celebrating together soon and as always you can contact me if you need anything from me.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKAH AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Allen Diamond



# UPDATE ON SHARECARE

BY PASTOR TERESA ADAMS

*The mission of SHARECARE is to research,  
plan and develop new ways to address our four areas of need.*



The mission of **SHARECARE** is to research, plan and develop new ways to address these four needs.

**“Care Packages of Love”** are being delivered through the month of November. and December.

They will contain things like the Newsletter, Upper room, Sermon DVD's Music DVD's, and Trina's father recorded ten hymns for a CD and the Pastor made copies for the baskets. There will be gift cards and other things. We will be making care packages for our shut-ins and those having no means to use zoom or Facebook.

**Thanksgiving blessings boxes. WE DELIVERED 11 THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES!**  
We sent \$100.00 to the GBC THANKSGIVING FOOD BOX PROJECT.

## **Pre-recorded LIVE traditional service**

Is available and posted on Facebook Sundays at 11:00 am. Please email your prayer request.

## **Contemporary style worship service**

The Contemporary worship service can be watched whenever you like. A link will be sent to you via email and it will be posted on Facebook.



**Christmas Eve service -  
Meet in front of the church steps at 11:00 pm.**