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*Custodians*

*Christ  
is Born!*

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# The Shepherd's Staff

December 1, 2020

## "C.H.R.I.S.T.M.A.S."

We are at the edge of the year. 2020 has been really harsh for everyone around the world. However, we, who are disciples of the Lord, do not lose hope. Rather we find the value of the love of Jesus Christ and the grace of salvation for humanity in life. God's love warms us against the cold, and salvation allows us to have hope in the midst of despair. Therefore, I hope the season of Christmas 2020 will be more valuable than ever, with a renewed desire for Jesus' love and salvation in the current situations. All of this depends on our hearts as we face the present situation. A heart filled with faith in our God who will restore all things by God's good will and plan carries us forward. May we find the Lord's warm love. And, may we have hope for a new day. Do not despair but be bold.

In this season of Christmas, let us celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ and follow his life and implement his teachings, so that the warmth of love and the hope of salvation will be conveyed to our family, neighbors, and the world. Jesus is love. Jesus is our hope.

- Rev. Yo Han

**C** is for the Child born that night to be our light - John 8:12

**H** is for holy is His name - Revelation 4:8

**R** is for rejoice with gladness & joy - Luke 1:14

**I** is for Immanuel, God with us - Isaiah 7:14

**S** is for the star that led the Wise men to Him - Matthew 2:2

**T** is for the truth & grace that was sent our way - John 1:14

**M** is for Mary laying Him in swaddling clothes in the manger - Luke 2:7

**A** is for angels singing songs of joy - Luke 2:14

**S** is for salvation

By Johnnie DesRochers



## STOCKINGS AND STARS CHRISTMAS TREE



In an unusual year we need your help even more to  
give a local child a special Christmas

This is Good Shepherd's 17<sup>th</sup> year of donating gifts through the Thornton Police Department for children from newborn to 16 years old. Because of COVID-19 we have had to amend our usual approach.

There will be no tree with stockings and stars on it. We will not be able to store the gifts in the sanctuary as we have done in the past, so we are asking that gifts be brought to the church Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> between 10:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Because you will not have a stocking or star from the tree this year, just choose the age below and purchase appropriate gifts. (Some suggestions below). To help the distribution process, please put a note on the bag showing age/boy or girl/or if you concentrated on one specific toy or clothing item. Suggestions from the Police Department this year included warm clothing/lap blankets/pajamas/gloves/etc. that could be included with a toy if possible. Also, most often overlooked are the older teens.

**Do not wrap gifts; mark bag with age/boy or girl information**

**Smaller gifts are usually better as most children receive 2-5 gifts**



The drive through collection is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>. For those who would like to contribute to the Stocking Tree but have not been able to go out and shop a cash donation can be given. Checks should be made out to **Thornton Police – Christmas Crusade for Children**. Checks can be mailed to the Police Department or given to Hervey Smith on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the church drive through as he is a volunteer for delivering gifts.

**We are unable to store gifts in the sanctuary this year**

**Questions: Please call Linda Graham 303-920-7305 or Marge Cederlund 1-224-305-3102**

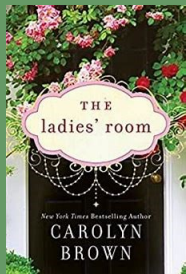
Infants / Toddlers/ Up To 4 Years	5-11 Year Olds	12 – 16 Preteen & Teens
Lap Blanket Pajamas Board Games Books for age Toys Foam Blocks Mega Blocks Pretend play (dress-up costumes) Finger paints Coloring book/crayons Multicultural dolls/baby dolls Trucks Stuffed animals Doodle mats Flash cards	Art supplies Board Games Slime and Foam sets Playdoh, Coloring Books/ Colored Pencils/ Art Kits Pencils & Markers Science toys Building toys Legos, TRIO Character figures - super-heroes, Disney, etc. NERF toys Pajamas Flash cards Barbie Dolls Multicultural dolls Lap Blanket	Alarm clock Ear buds Pop Socks Art supplies Personal care items Jeans (10, 12, 14) Hoodies and Sweatshirts (no red or blue) Mittens, hats, scarves, gloves Costume jewelry Books / Notebooks Back-packs Footballs, Soccer ball, Basketball, Baseball mitt Bat & Ball or any type of ball baseball/ football/ basketball Fidget toys Board games Wallets/Purse

FOR UNTO US  
*a child is born,*  
 unto us a son is given:  
 and the government shall be upon his shoulder:  
 and his name shall be called  
**\*WONDERFUL,\***  
**COUNSELLOR,**  
**THE MIGHTY GOD,**  
*The everlasting Father.*  
**THE PRINCE OF PEACE.**  
 Isaiah 9:6

		1 PDO 9=11:30 TLC 8:45-11:45	2 TLC 8:45-1145	3 PDO 9=11:30 TLC 8:45-11:45 Ruth Circle Bible Study Zoom 1-3pm	4 TLC 8:45-1145	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Zoom Worship 10:30am Adult Sunday School Zoom 10:30 Children/Bash Youth Zoom  Noon: Staff Meeting for Christmas Eve service  5:00pm Charge Conference Zoom-see website	7 TLC 8:45-1145 Book Club Zoom 6:30pm	8 PDO 9=11:30 TLC 8:45-11:45	9 TLC 8:45-1145 Last Adult Bible Study Session	10 PDO 9=11:30 TLC 8:45-11:45 Ruth Circle Bible Study Zoom 1-3pm	11 TLC 8:45-1145	12 Stocking and Stars Christmas Present drop off at Good Shepherd. 10:00am-10:45am
13 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Zoom Worship 10:30 am Adult Sunday School Zoom 10:30 Children/Bash Youth Zoom Noon: Staff Meeting 1:00pm Ad Board Meeting	14 TLC 8:45-1145	15 PDO 9=11:30 TLC 8:45-11:45	16 TLC 8:45-1145 United Methodist Women Zoom Meeting 7pm	17 PDO 9=11:30 TLC 8:45-11:45 Ruth Circle Bible Study Zoom 1-3pm Diversity Team Meeting Zoom at 7pm	18 TLC 8:45-1145	19
20 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Zoom Worship 10:30 am Adult Sunday School Zoom 10:30 Children/Bash Youth Zoom	21 January Newsletter Articles Due	22	23	24 Christmas Eve service via zoom Ruth Circle Bible Study Zoom 1-3pm	25 Rev. Yo Han Vacation  	26
27 9:00 am Zoom Worship 10:30 am Adult Sunday School Zoom 10:30 Children/Bash Youth Zoom	28 Rev. Yo Han Vacation	29	30 Rev. Yo Han Vacation	31 Rev. Yo Han Vacation Ruth Circle Bible Study Zoom 1-3pm		

**BOOK CLUB**

Our next book club will be on **Monday, December 7th at 6:30** on zoom. Because of the holidays, this is our only meeting until 2021. Our new book is called: The Ladies' Room by Carolyn Brown. Secrets told in the church ladies' room are supposed to stay in the ladies' room. But that doesn't mean that what Trudy overhears there during her great-aunt Gertrude's funeral won't change the rest of her life.



December 7 Don Robinson

December 9 Melody Finnie

December 14 Dustyn Cherrington

December 15 Dawn Schankweiler

December 25 Jesus

December 29 Ryan Ayars

December 30 Eric Johnson

December 31 Matt Olivas

## 2020 Church Charge Conference

**Sunday, December 6, from 5:00-6:30 pm**

**We will celebrate 2020 and look towards 2021:**

How have we adapted and responded to COVID, so far?

What have we lost? What are we grieving?

What are we celebrating? What has been life-giving?

What have we learned? How have we changed?

What should we focus on for 2021?

The meeting link and Charge Conference book will be available on the website.

**Wendy D. Lee, Ad Board Chair**

# HOPE

Week 1

1 Peter 1:3-4

Jesus is the living HOPE!

# LOVE

Week 4

John 3:16

Jesus is LOVE!

**Jesus is the Lord  
Jesus is the Savior**



Jesus is Prince of PEACE!

Week 2

Luke 2:14

# PEACE

Jesus brings JOY  
to the world!

Week 3

Luke 2:10-11

# JOY



Dear laity and clergy of the Mountain Sky Conference,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2020 has proven to be a difficult year for so many reasons, the main one being COVID-19 and all the risks and harm it has brought. But there is hope! As I write this, news outlets have reported that Pfizer has been testing a vaccine that is proving to be 90 percent effective. This could become available as the new year dawns.

But we still must get from here to there. Currently, we are facing the harshest days yet of COVID-19. Rates of transmission are higher than ever, with many of the hospitals across the MSC nearing capacity. Epidemiologists warn us that the worst of COVID-19 has yet to hit.

As a result, I am strongly urging that as of November 22 all our churches cease indoor gatherings for worship and fellowship and continue to provide worship online or via other mediums and continue to creatively connect and deepen the bonds of fellowship, at least through the end of January 2021.

We have learned so much this year and have a great deal of wisdom, insight, and experience to bring to this moment: We have learned how to worship online or over the phone; we have done Bible Studies in parking lots; we have had church drive in/take out dinners. We have done so not just out of an "abundance of caution." We have done so because we are followers of Jesus Christ, who hold that love of God and neighbor combine all the laws of faith and help us become a more faithful follower of Jesus.

It is this love of God and neighbor that caused us to close our buildings and worship in new ways, so we would not expose one another — particularly the most vulnerable — to COVID-19. It is this love of God and neighbor that continues to inform how we are to do church in this new era. It is this love of God and neighbor that has helped us create new ministries to care for those most impacted by COVID-19.

The next couple of months are going to be particularly dangerous and difficult as COVID-19 cases surge across the Mountain Sky Conference. We must do all we can to prevent transmission pathways while at the same time finding new ways to deepen our connections with one another. We are not shutting down worship, we are shutting down COVID-19 transmissions.

I know that there is a deep longing to be together in worship, particularly as we enter Advent and as Christmas approaches. But while being together and singing Christmas carols might bring short-term comfort, it has the potential to do long-term harm as we become COVID-19 hotspots.

At this time, I want you to consider what it means to follow the General Rules of Methodism: what does it look like for us to Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love With God? How do our actions reveal a love of God and neighbor?

At Christmas, we remember the story of God's entry into a broken world that was full of yearning. The waiting was excruciating. May we live anew the Christmas story. May we journey through the wilderness of Advent together, awaiting the birth of God's own Son. May we wait with hope and expectation.

Just as we retell the story of God's in-breaking into the world at Christmas, we will have a story to tell about how the Body of Christ responded to a global pandemic to make God's love visible to a frightened world. Together, we are writing a story of hope as the best of humanity emerges to care for one another. Thank you for being a part of that story.

Be well! Stay safe! Wear a mask!  
Bishop Karen Oliveto



Email: [shepherdchurch@qwestoffice.net](mailto:shepherdchurch@qwestoffice.net)

### DIVERSITY TEAM

Our monthly meeting will be on zoom on **Thursday Dec. 17 at 6 pm**. We ask all Good Shepherd members and friends to look this sentence in our welcoming statement:

"All are welcome whatever your age, gender, race, marital status, sexual orientation, address, physical ability, native land or language, economic reality or job status."

If a vote were held today on the above welcome statement, how would you respond?

- † YES wholeheartedly.
- † YES, but I would appreciate more education
- † YES, but I would appreciate more scriptural engagement
- † NO, because I need more \_\_\_\_\_.

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Our general meeting at Good Shepherd will be on zoom on Wednesday, **Dec. 16, 7 pm.**

This will be an Advent gathering. Our prayer is "Come, thou long-expected Jesus, be with us in this hour as we step away from the busyness of the world to pray, study and plan to take action for justice and peace. Bless us with your vision of righteousness and shalom for all people and all creation. Amen."



We will have a Christmas Eve service on Dec 24 via Zoom. Time will be announced via Eblast. Everyone join Christmas Eve service with their own candle (There will be candlelight time)



### Little Library Opening

On October 31 of 2020, Girl Scouts Kaitlin and Skylar officially opened a Little Free Library. It can be found on the south side of the church near the garden. This library was built as a silver award project for the girls. It is decorated in bright colors and painted fruits. The Library is aimed towards children and teens but has a selection of books for any age.

## Online Worship

The Zoom link will be posted on the church website.  
 Click to join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 am for worship.