

Woodville Community Church

Woodville Word



Volume 12, Issue 6

December 2023-January 2024

Christmas Time!

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NO ROOM IN THE INN

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7)

"He was laid in a manger because there was no room in the inn." How solemnly this brings out the world's estimate of the Christ of God. There was no appreciation of His amazing condescension. He was not wanted. It is so still. There is no room for Him in the schools, in society, in the business world, among the great throngs of pleasure seekers, in the political realm, in the newspapers, or in many of the churches. It is only history repeating itself. All that the world gave the Savior was a stable for His cradle, a cross on which to die, and a borrowed grave to receive His murdered body.

He was laid in a manger to demonstrate the extent of His poverty. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich." (2 Cor. 8:9) How "poor" He became was thus manifested at the beginning. The One who, afterwards, had no where to lay His head, who had to ask for a penny when He would reply to His critics about the question of tribute, and who had to use another man's house when instituting the Holy Supper, was, from the first, a homeless Stranger here. And the "manger" was the earliest evidence of this.

He was laid in a manger in order to be accessible to all. Had He been in a palace, or in some room in the Temple, few could have reached Him without the formality of first gaining permission from those who would have been in attendance at such places. But none would have any difficulty in obtaining access to a stable; there He would be within easy reach of poor and rich alike. Thus, from the beginning, He was easy to approach. No intermediaries had to be passed first in order to reach Him. No priest had to be interviewed before enter could be obtained to His presence. Thus it was then and so it is now, thank God.

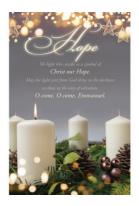
He was laid in a manger to show His contempt for Worldly riches and pomp. We had thought it more fitting for the Christ of God to be born in a palace, and laid in a cradle of gold, lined with costly silks. Ah, but as He Himself reminds us in this same Gospel, "that which is highly esteemed among men, is abomination in the sight of God." (Luke 16:15) And what an exemplification of this truth was given when the infant Savior was placed, not in a cradle of gold, but in an humble manger.

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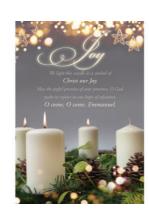
He was laid in a manger to mark His identification with human suffering and wretchedness. The One born was "The Son of Man." He had left the heights of Heaven's glory and had descended to our level, and here we behold Him entering the human lot at its lowest point. Adam was first placed in a garden, surrounded by the exquisite beauties of Nature as it left the hands of the Creator. But sin had come in, and with sin, all its sad consequences of suffering and wretchedness. Therefore, does the One who had come here to recover and restore what the first man lost, appear first, in surroundings which spoke of abject need and wretchedness; just as a little later we find Him taken down into Egypt, in order that God might call His Son from the same place as where His people Israel commenced their national history in misery and wretchedness. Thus did the Man of Sorrows identify Himself with human suffering.

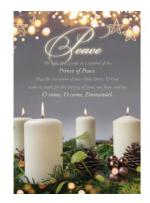
Remarkably suggestive, therefore, and full of emblematic design, was the place appointed by God to receive the infant body of the incarnate Savior."

~ Arthur Pink 1886-1952, "Why Four Gospels"









This Advent time we will be doing something different...

Everyone is invited to our Sunday Worship/Christmas Eve service on Sunday, December 24th at 10 a.m.

We will be singing Christmas Carols, celebrating the birth of our Savior and holding our Christmas Eve service all in one that morning. We will have a special time with the children and hearing the Word from Pastor Brett.

Please join us and invite family and friends to attend this special time as we celebrate the last Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve together.





Beware of False Teachers

Back in February of 2014, John MacArthur brought out an article about false teachers posing a dangerous problem in the church. Parts of this article are given in this newsletter. Along with what John MacArthur brought forth in his article, is the concern for today's Christian serving within their local church. God has given individuals within the church body the spiritual gift of discernment. This is a valuable gift as the day draws closer to the time in which Jesus comes back again.

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We are given the warning in Scripture to recognize the times we are living in by watching how people are moving throughout the church. Scripture says,

"For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths." (2 Timothy 4:3-4) (NLT)

Today is the day of what Spurgeon called, "easy believism," the attitude where people think all they need to know to be saved is a simple affirmation of basic Biblical doctrines without it really affecting their lives in radical ways. With "easy believism" is the lack of testing what is said in the world or the church to see if it lines up with Scripture. Unfortunately, many professing Christians have fallen into an apathetic reaction to sound teaching and preaching. This makes it harder to spot the wolves among the sheep.

Near the end of His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus issued this stark warning to His listeners: "Beware of the false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matthew 7:15)

False prophets were not new to Israel. As long as God has had true prophets, Satan has had false ones. They are seen from the earliest times of redemptive history. Moses warned:

"If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, "Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them," you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you to find out if you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him, and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the Lord your God." (Deuteronomy 13:1–5) (NASB).

Elsewhere in the Old Testament, God told the prophet Jeremiah: The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds. (Jeremiah 14:14)

At times, the Lord would judge His people through false prophets. He warned the prophet Zechariah:

"For behold, I am going to raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for the perishing, seek the scattered, heal the broken, or sustain the one standing, but will devour the flesh of the fat sheep and tear off the hoofs." (Zechariah 11:16)(NASB)

Paul warned the Roman believers:

"Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting." (Romans 16:17–18) (NASB)

In other parts of the New Testament false prophets are spoken of as "*deceitful spirits*" who advocate "doctrines of demons" (1 Timothy 4:1) and as those "*who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them.*" (2 Peter 2:1)

They are called false brothers (2 Corinthians 11:26); false apostles (2 Corinthians 11:13); false teachers (2 Peter 2:1); false speakers, that is, liars (1 Timothy 4:2); and false Christs (Matthew 24:24). The apostle John tells us, therefore, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1)

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Paul's last words to the Ephesian elders, when he met with them for a farewell on the beach near Miletus, included a somber warning about inevitable false teachers. "I know that after my departure, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert." (Acts 20:29–31)

Those warnings are summarized in the word translated *beware* in Matthew 7:15. It is not a call simply to notice or sense something, but to be on guard against it because it is so harmful. The word conveys the idea of holding the mind away. False prophets are more than wrong; they are dangerous, and we should not expose our minds to them. They pervert thinking and poison the soul. False prophets are spiritual beasts and are immeasurably more deadly than the physical ones. Both Peter and Jude call them *"unreasoning animals."* (2 Peter 2:12; cf. Jude 10).

In Palestine, wolves were the most common natural enemy of sheep. They roamed the hills and valleys, looking for a sheep that strayed away from the flock or lagged behind. When a wolf found such a sheep, it quickly attacked and tore it to pieces. Even a grown, healthy sheep was utterly defenseless against a wolf.

Wolves are known for being merciless and ferocious (cf. Ezekiel 22:27). The Greek word *harpax* (ravenous) is also translated *"swindler"* (Luke 18:11; 1 Corinthians 5:10–11; 6:10), referring metaphorically to those who deceitfully and mercilessly ravage a person of his money and possessions. False prophets and wolves are clever and wily, and are always on the lookout for new victims.

Some portions adapted from The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Matthew 1-7.



616-784-4620 www.jailministry.org

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Life can get dark when your "home" is fluorescent-lit, painted cinderblock walls, slamming steel doors, and the smell of institutional cleaning supplies. The jail isn't a pleasant place at any time of the year. It gets worse during the winter, the darkest season.

In late December in Michigan, most of us will have about 15 hours of darkness and 9 hours of light. That much darkness can be hard for those of us on the outside. It can be brutal when locked up. Physical darkness combined with isolation and spiritual emptiness can be too much to bear.

While we outside rush to get shopping done, attend Christmas parties, and enjoy seasonal treats, most inmates feel longing and despair because they are missing out. Time moves slowly as they are separated from family and loved ones.

John 1:5 says, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." He, of course, was talking about Jesus Christ, the light of the world. In Him and through Him we see grace and truth most clearly. The embodiment of God.

"Christmas at the Jail" is a day when that light shines most brightly. Special food, gift bags, and sometimes music are brought in to celebrate the story of Jesus' birth and God's promises. Inmates know that they are not forgotten and are reminded that no one is beyond God's reach.

RTL Chaplains and volunteers are a visible representation of Christ's love and forgiveness that He offers to all who believe. With "Christmas at the Jail" the light of Jesus is glorious because of how it contrasts with the darkness of winter.

Your gifts, dear friends, made it possible this year. Your support makes it possible to share the light and love of Christ this season and every season. Thank you and please consider donating today. Please keep us in your prayers as well.

by Nate DeWard

CRANHILL ACTIVITIES

14444 17 mile Rd, Rodney MI. 49342



STAR OF WONDER

December 1-3, 2023

Experience the life-changing story of Jesus' birth at CranHill's Star of Wonder: Journey to the Manger this Christmas. This drive-thru LIVE nativity, complete with actors, animals, radiant lights, and compelling narration, will leave a lasting impact. Gather the entire family for this FREE event and rediscover the true essence of Christmas. Donations are welcomed to support CranHill's Camper Scholarship Fund. Afterward, enjoy quality time in the Barn Store. We eagerly anticipate your visit and are excited to see you this Christmas season!



COMING UP...

Winterfest - Jan. 28 & Feb. 18, 2024

Join us for Winterfest on January 28 and February 18, 2024! Enjoy a complimentary meal served from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. and find an array of snacks and drinks available for purchase at the Barn Store throughout the day. Delight in a winter wonderland of activities, including tubing, ice skating, snowshoeing, broomball, ice climbing, pony rides, a petting farm, wagon rides, little tikes tubing hill, and more! Plus, transportation is a breeze with 4–5 wagons running continually throughout the entire event. Don't miss this frosty family fun extravaganza—all for free!

INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY APP

The church directory is available online via the **Instant Church Directory** App available through Google Play Store or Apple App Store. To access the app, you must first provide the office with an email address. Then, create an account in the app with the same email provided to the office and create a password. You will then need to verify the account through your email.

To make any changes to your information, such as a new phone number or picture, please submit the change on the app or contact Shelly Werner at the church office.

In this issue:



Something New

Growing up a native resident of this beautiful Woodville Community Church on the side of 81 years, I have witnessed the fading away of true patriotism, manners, and older country ethics.

Being a member of America's #1 sport, "Rodeo," is a lifelong gift from our Awesome JESUS CHRIST, granted through nearly three decades of working and traveling this continent of North America.



Thoughts from BOB, the Blacksmith

"Rodeo" is America's first sport, dating back to the introduction of the domesticated cattle. Henceforth comes the cowboy, bringing along ranches, railroads, and the birth of the interworking of America.

In the sport of rodeo, at every opening, the expression "only in America" is demonstrated by first passing and review of the American flag, followed by the National Anthem, including opening prayer.

In the future, my letters to the editor will include cowboy lingo, poetry, work ethics, and information about the hard life with little reward of a working cowboy.

WOODVILLE CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE

<u>December</u>

- 3 Nancy Eveland & Amy Hysell
- 10 Amanda Baar & Lynda Kolehouse
- 17 Renee Cook & Stephanie Rockey
- 24 Sue Walta & LeeAnna Yates
- 31 Mary Helmus & Sharon Stieg

<u>January</u>

- 7 Nina Bell & Karen White
- 14 Nina Bell & Christie Pikaart
- 21 Jenna Minor & DeeAnn Ruiter
- 28 Kim Schaefer & Sue Walta



Thank you, ladies, for your service in caring for these little ones.

If you are unable to serve on the date that you are scheduled please contact Karen White 231-519-9488 as soon as possible.



DECEMBER 2023

		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Sunday WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL	Greeters for December: Ed & Paula Gray					1	2	
11:45 a. m. 1st & 3rd Monday Ladies Aid 10:00 a. m.	3 WORSHIP Service Sunday school 1 st Sunday in Advent	4 LADIES AID	5 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible study	6 AWANA Wednesday Night Service	7 Praise Team practice	8	9	
Tuesday Men's Bible Study 7:00 a.m. WOMEN'S Bible Study	10 WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL 2 ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT	11	12 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible study	13 AWANA Christmas Party WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	14 Praise Team practice	15	16	
9:30 a. m. Wednesday AWANA 6:00 p. m.	17 WORSHIP SERVICE Sunday school 3 RD Sunday in Advent	¹⁸ Board Meeting	19 Men's Bible Study Men's Evening Bible Study	20 NO SERVICE	21 Praise Team practice	22	23	
EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p. m. 3rd Monday BOARD MEETING 6:00 p. m.	24 WORSHIP SERVICE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 4 TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT	25	26 Men's Bible Study	27 NO SERVICE	28 Praise Team practice	29	30	



WORSHIP New Years Eve SERVICE turn the page on 2023



December Anniversaries

3 Kurt & DeeAnn Ruiter
5 Wes & Barb Knight
20 Ken & Linda Kacel
29 Glenn & Marilyn Patrick (67 years!)

December Birthdays

- 1 Dick Jusino
- 5 Paul Morse
- 6 Paisleigh Minor
- 9 Gene Fisher
- 11 Jeremy Jahr
- 13 Larry Frontjes
- 15 Dave Kolehouse
- 16 Adriana Beckwith

- 20 Renee Cook
- Carol Tillotson
 - Stacy Edewaard
 - LeeLand Yates
- 21 Gordon Witte
- 22 Charlie Minor
- 23 Elijah Hysell
- 24 Ruth Davison
- 26 Larry Gravelin
- 29 Richard Yates







	Sun	Mon Tue		Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.	Greeters for January: Clint & Shelley Cook	1	2 Men's Bible Study	3 Wednesday Night Service	4 Praise Team practice	5	6	
Sunday school 11:45 a. m.	7 Worship	8	9 Men's	10 Wednesday	11	12	13	
Tuesday Men's Bible	SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL		Bible Study Ladies Bible Study	Night Service	Praise Team practice			
STUDY 7:00 a. m.	14	15	16 Men's Bible Study	17	18	19	20	
LADIES BIBLE STUDY 9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP SERVICE Communion SUNDAY SCHOOL	Board Meeting	Ladies Bible Study Men's Evening Bible study	WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	Praise Team practice			
Wednesday	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
NIGHT SERVICE 6:00 p. m.	WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY		Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible	WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	Praise Team practice			
3 rd Monday	SCHOOL		Study					
BOARD MEETING 6:00 p. m.	28 WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL	29	30 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study	31 Wednesday Night Service				



January Birthdays

- 3 Mike St. Amour Chevelle Rockey
- 8 Glenn Patrick
- 13 Matt Wagner
- 18 Christie Pikaart Pattie Morse
- 19 Larry Miller

- 22 William Hartley
- 24 Kathy Weeks
- 25 Mary Wagner
- 26 Bonnie St. Amour
- 31 Chris Rottman Tim Cook

21 Bob & Mary Cook

January Anniversaries

19 Chad & Mary Sall

Petite Beef Wellingtons

Hands On Time: 45 mins Total Time: 1 hr. 15 mins

Ingredients

- One 2-2.5 pound center cut beef tenderloin roast, cut into eight 1-inch-thick slices
- Kosher salt and coarse ground pepper
- 3 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 tablespoon butter
- ½ cup finely chopped shallots
- 3 portobello mushroom caps, stemmed and sliced (3 1/2 cups)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped fresh thyme, oregano, basil, and/or parsley
- One 17.3 ounce package puff pastry sheets (2 sheets), thawed
- ¼ cup Dijon-style mustard
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup crumbled or shredded sharp white cheddar cheese (2 ounces)
- Two 2 ounce packages very thinly sliced prosciutto (about 16 slices)



- 3 egg yolks
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 tablespoon white balsamic vinegar
- 4 cup baby arugula

Directions

- Preheat oven to 450°F. Line an extra-large baking sheet with foil. Season both sides of beef with salt and black pepper. In an extra-large skillet heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium-high. Add half the fillets. Cook each side 1 minute or until browned. (Fillets will not be cooked through.) Remove. Repeat with 1 tablespoon oil and remaining four fillets.
- In same skillet heat butter over medium. Add shallots; cook and stir 3 minutes. Add mushrooms; cook and stir 8 to 10 minutes or until tender and browned and liquid has evaporated. Remove from heat. Stir in herbs. Season with 1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper. Let cool slightly.
- 3. Cut each pastry sheet into quarters. On a lightly floured surface roll each quarter to an 8-inch square. Cut 1/4-inch-wide strips from each side of each square; set aside. Spread a 3-inch area in the center of each pastry square with mustard. Divide mushroom mixture then cheese evenly between squares, placing them on mustard. Wrap each filet with two slices prosciutto. Place a fillet on cheese. Beat together egg yolks and 1 tablespoon water. Brush edges of pastry with egg mixture. Bring corners of pastry up and over fillet, pinching edges to seal. Place seam sides down on prepared baking sheet. Brush egg mixture over pastry. Use trimmed pastry strips to make bows. Attach pastry bows; brush bows with egg mixture.
- Bake 14 minutes or until pastry is golden and an instant-read thermometer inserted into fillet registers 135°F*. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. (Temperature will rise to 145°F.)
 Serves 8.

Easy bacon, pesto and haloumi bites



- 8 thin rashers streaky bacon, halved crossways
- 2 tbsp basil pesto
- 16 large fresh basil leaves, plus small sprigs to serve
- 225g <u>haloumi</u>, cheese cut into 16 pieces
- 1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Step 1

• Preheat oven to 300 deg. Line a baking tray with sides with baking paper.

Step 2

• Place 1 piece of **bacon** on a board. Spread with a little **pesto**. Top 1 end of bacon with 1 basil leaf and 1 piece of haloumi. Roll up bacon to enclose cheese, securing with a toothpick. Place on prepared tray. Repeat with remaining bacon, pesto, basil and haloumi. Drizzle with **oil**.

Step 3

• Bake, brushing bacon with pan juices halfway through cooking, for 20 minutes or until bacon is golden and cheese is tender. Stand for 5 minutes. Serve with extra basil.

"...A merry heart doeth good like a medicine..."





THE RECTOR DROPS IN ON THE PAGEANT REHEARSAL



Pregnancy Q&A

Q: Should I have a baby after 35? A: No, 35 children is enough.

Q: I'm two months pregnant now. When will my baby move? A: With any luck, right after he finishes college.

Q: What is the most reliable method to determine a baby's sex? A: Childbirth.

Q: My wife is five months pregnant and so moody that sometimes she's borderline irrational. A: So what's your question?

Q: My childbirth instructor says it's not pain I'll feel during labor, but pressure. Is she right? A: Yes, in the same way that a tornado might be called an air current.

Q: When is the best time to get an epidural? A: Right after you find out you're pregnant.

Q: Is there any reason I have to be in the delivery room while my wife is in labor?

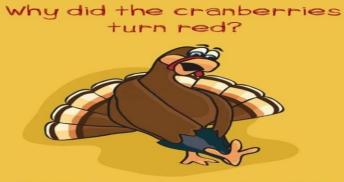
A: Not unless the word "alimony" means anything to you.

Q: Is there anything I should avoid while recovering from childbirth? A: Yes, pregnancy,

Q: Do I have to have a baby shower?

A: Not if you change the baby's diaper very quickly.

Q: Our baby was born last week. When will my wife begin to feel and act normal again? A: When the kids are in college.



Because they saw the turkey dressing!



	-															
A	D	Ν	Н	Ρ	W	Ρ	J	Q	В	Т	G	F	F	S	Q	V
Y	D	Μ	Q	Μ	1	А	А	S	Т	А	R	R	L	G	F	R
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F	S	В	U	G	S	А	V	1	0	R	Μ	Ν	F	W	U	W
н	Н	Е	А	Х	W	1	Х	н	Ζ	1	Е	Κ	J	А	С	В
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WISE MEN

FRANKINCENSE

MARY