### Knox Church Christmas Newsletter 2022

# **Knox News**



## A gift for your calendar

#### Sunday, Dec. 4 - 2nd Sunday in Advent & White Gift Sunday

Monetary donations or gift cards for Tiverton Lions Hampers Congregational Meeting re: heating system

Sunday, December 11 - 3rd Sunday in Advent

#### Sunday December 18 - 4th Sunday in Advent

Presentation by Sunday School at the church service, followed by a Family Christmas luncheon with lasagna, ice cream and desserts supplied by members of the Knox Auxillary . Please bring a donation to the food bank . 18th (cont'd) Santa will be making an appearance.

#### Saturday December 24 Christmas Eve candlelight service at 630PM

Offering donations will be sent to Sleeping Children Around The World

#### 2023

**Sunday January 1** Church service at 10AM by Worship Team

#### Sunday February 5 Winterfest Sunday

#### Sunday February 12

Annual meeting

#### Sunday December 25

Church service at 10AM



Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem

# **Message from Rev Rick**

We are moving into the seasons of Advent and Christmas. This year it looks like we might be coming closer to something normal or what we remember as normal, but we still have to be cautious and safe. Advent is a season of anticipation and maybe our greatest hope is to be able to celebrate like we used to.

The four Sundays of Advent focus on Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Maybe even more so, than at any other time in our lives, there is a universal hope for a future without COVID-19. As Christians, we hope for a new beginning in Christ.

This year, we are witness to a lot of saber rattling and aggression against neighbors in Europe and Asia. Maybe the Sunday of peace will be more meaningful as it seems to be far out of reach for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters, but we can be comforted that Jesus is the prince of peace and we will experience it sometime.

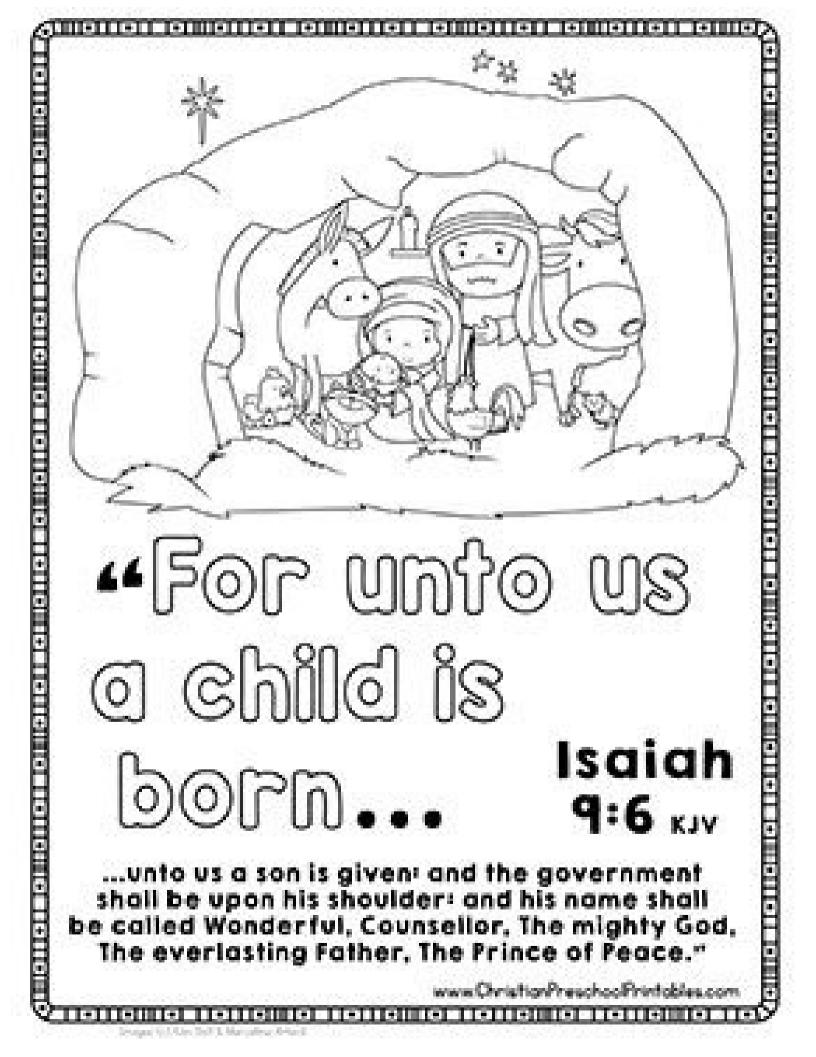
Living in joy or rejoicing is all in perspective. As bad as some things seem, there is always something we can be thankful for. Friends, family, community and community of faith can gather and rejoice in God's goodness to us and we can share that joy with others. I think without love we would be doomed. God's love is ever present and we can share that with others, especially at this time of year when non-believers need something to hope for, find peace and rejoice for the goodness in their lives and to love others. Sounds a bit corny, but love does make the world go round.

Maybe, during the Advent season and Christmas activities, we can look back and see how things have changed knowing that we got through all the difficult times and appreciate the hope, peace, joy and love that has been celebrated for many many years by people in similar circumstances as ourselves and then look forward to the day of Christ's return and everything will be made new.

From Revelation 21, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; 4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." 5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."." 6 Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End

Let these words from Jesus bring comfort and peace in this season.

The peace of Christ be with you all Rev Richard Warne



#### A Message from Session by Rosemary Grover

Greetings from Session Since the position of Clerk of Session is vacant I would like to wish everyone on behalf of the Knox Session a Blessed Christmas .

May God bless you with the Christmas gifts of Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. Wishing everyone good health and happiness throughout the coming year. Merry Christmas



#### Service of Memories by Rosemary Grover

#### On Sunday, November 20 Knox Church held a Service of Memories to remember the loved ones of the church family and the community that have passed away in the previous year.

Those that were remembered were Junior McKay, John McKay, Don Inkster, Don Campbell, Eileen Alexander, Mildred Bonnett, Ada Haasnoot, Charlie Hunter, John Thompson, and Rob Waddell.

Each person mentioned had a candle lit in their memory by a family member or friend.

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, so loved, so missed so very dear.

#### Psalm 23, verse 4

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

#### Snowflakes To Heaven At Christmas

I send this snowflake with a hug and a kiss, to those in heaven that I love and I miss.

I'm sharing this snowflake in loving memory of my family and friends who have passed away. I miss you, I think about you every day. I will never forget you .



#### Season's Greetings to All from the Flower and Decorating Committee -Chuck Exel

Once again the busy people of this committee have decked the hall and sanctuary for the Christmas Season. I think they did a great job. But now we need your help to complete the task. By bringing in a Christmas card of greetings to the congregation and placing it on the railing of the choir loft, it will provide that personal touch.

I would like to thank Rev. Rick for cleaning the pathway to the garage so George and Barry could carry in the many boxes and bins of decorations. I also thank Joan Dent, Rosemary Grover, Carol Love and Gerda Roppel for their assistance in completing the task of decorating. Their expert care and creativity is greatly appreciated. A special thank you to Carol for the beautiful poinsettias she donated in memory of her loved ones. They provide the final touch.

Merry Christmas and a Happy

and Blessed New Year. Christmas eve service practice





#### A Message from The Gardening Girls -Carol Love

Sunshine and a temperature of 14 degrees was forecast – time to pull out the tarps, drain the watering hoses and clean up Knox Church Gardens before the snow flies.

Once again, the gardens flourished. We always found lots to do on our weekly work days.

A big happening during the month of June was the repair and casting of the front cement stairs.

Special thanks go to – Don MacArthur for coordinating the project and the group of volunteers helping Don. Jeff & Eileen Simpson for painting all front railings. Barry & Linda Blackett for once again watering the planters. Barry for cutting the grass. Blair Kempers for his craftsmanship to design & make the plaques for planters.

Curb appeal is still our aim,

Each day is a Gift - Open it. -Celebrate and enjoy it.



#### A Message from the Women's Missionary Society - Islay Eby

The Knox WMS has met somewhat regularly during 2022 starting in Feb. by watching the National Zoom service and also the World Day of Prayer service on March 9th.

As well we watched the Zoom service in April, May & November.

On Sunday, June 12th we presented the WMS Mission Awareness worship service followed by lunch. Proceeds from the lunch (\$500.00) were donated to Presbyterian World Service & Development towards Ukraine.

Rosemary Grover did a tribute to Queen Elizabeth at our Sept. Meeting and Eleanor Thompson used the National Thanksgiving service for the October meeting.

A successful rummage sale was held in October. Funds will be donated to several charities at our December 14th meeting at which we will use the National Christmas service.

Wishing everyone a healthy Christmas season and special prayers for 2023. T'was the night before Christmas, God glanced over the earth. He looked to and fro, All over it's girth.

Phristmas Reflections

They missed it again He said with a sigh, A heavy heart and a tear in his eye.

I gave them my son, So they could be free. My greatest gift, To them from me. They traded me in, For a man in red. A little tree. And horse drawn sled. How do I save them. And make them see. My love is complete, My grace is free. How do I help them, When all they know. Is a talking snowman, And a box with a bow. Maybe next year, they will stop and see. The biggest gift of Christmas. Is the little child from me.

#### NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION



The book of Luke has 24 chapters and tells the story of Jesus' life. Read one chapter per night in December and wake up Christmas morning knowing why we celebrate the King of Kings!

#### Christmas day 10:00, Dec 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022



Happy birthday Jesus

## A Christmas Letter from Jesus

When you look for me at Christmas, You won't need a special star. I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right here where you are. You may not be aware of me amid the celebrations. You'll have to look beyond the stores, and all the decorations But if you take a moment from your list of things to do, To close your eyes and say a prayer, I'm waiting here for you. You're the one I want to be with, You're the reason that I came! And you'll find me in the stillness Where I'm whispering your name.

#### White Gift Sunday -Rosemary Grover

White gift Sunday will be held on December 4 this year.

The Tiverton and District Lions will be distributing Gift Card Christmas Hampers.

There will not be any distribution of food stuffs or any other articles.

If you would like to contribute to the Gift Card Christmas Hampers the club will accept cash, cheques or gift cards as a donation.

All donated money will be used to purchase gift cards.

The distribution of the gift cards will be done on Saturday December 10.



A Message from our Sunday School -Nancy Alexander

The Knox church Sunday School has had some fun days. Special events like Mother's Day and Thanksgiving.

We are working on some material for the Dec 18 Family Christmas service.

It is always an extra special level of fun during the service when we have kids out.





Christmas with the children, Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022



#### A Message from the Your Editor -Cheryl Cottrill

I want to thank everyone who contributed to this year's Christmas newsletter. You all make my task of pulling together the newsletter so much easier by providing great content.

As you'll see from the front page there is a lot going on during Advent and Christmas and we are blessed with a dedicated congregation who do great work to make Christmas extra special for all of us. Keep this front page handy as we work through December so you don't miss any of the wonderful happenings in the Church.

Below I'm sharing some beautiful nativity scenes that Joe & I saw while traveling in Portugal back in 2018. They are from São Mamede, Sé, São Pedro e Santo Antão, in Evora a beautiful small town in the south. In their Church, they dedicate many rooms to nativity scenes that are donated for exhibition for the public. It was absolutely beautiful to see the different interpretations of local artists.

This Christmas I wish for you much love in your heart for the life that Christ has provided and a more 'normal' and healthy celebration with family and friends. Merry Christmas!







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