
*The Dorchester/Friend
United Methodist
Church Newsletter*

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**The United Methodist
Church of Friend**
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January 2020

PASTORAL POINT

“The Covenantal Christmas”

Luke 1:67-73

In the song of Zechariah (father of John the Baptist) the Scripture says he was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: *“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago). . . to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham”* (Luke 1:67-73). Zechariah saw that what God was doing, was not an isolated incident in the history of the world, but wonderfully connected to a process and plan which God had been carrying out from the beginning. It was not something new, but a continuation of what God had always been up to in the world.

God’s plan in the beginning was always to create for himself a people with whom he could share his life. We begin to see this most clearly in God’s relationship with Abraham. God comes to Abraham and does something with him that becomes the norm for God establishing a relationship with someone; He establishes a covenant. For us that covenant is the messiah. The Christmas’ covenant is not just like a mutual agreement between two people; it is not like a legal contract. It was a binding agreement where the parties involved committed themselves to each other and the terms of the covenant is signed under pain of death in God’s Son, Jesus Christ. God’s part of the promise was that he would fulfill the covenant and redeem his people by bringing his Messiah into the world, and this Messiah would bring God’s people back to him and give them new hearts. As we read In Jeremiah; *“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will*

be their God, and they will be my people” (Jeremiah 31:33).

Sometimes we think that since God is God, he does not need anybody. Because God is God, because he is perfect, he needs people. So the closer to God and the more like him we become, the more we need other people. The Psalmist assures us: *“As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust”* (Psalm 103:13-14). I agree with the statement that if our relationship with God depended on us, there would be no relationship, for we tend to run and hide from God. We are sinful and unfaithful, and want to avoid relationships with the divine. We fail to keep our commitments, but God makes himself vulnerable, and opens himself up to a relationship with us. This is why he says over and over again that he wants to be our God, and wants us to be his people. But over and over again God’s people reject him, and want to be independent of a relationship with God.

Christmas is the continuation of God faithfulness to his covenant and sent a seal for that covenant, Jesus Christ. God is faithful regardless of what people do or do not do. The Bible says, *“If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself”* (2 Timothy 2:13). Our relationship with Christ is based on a covenant. His body, the Lamb of God himself was torn and broken, and we eat the covenant meal as we partake communion, and we remember that God has bound himself to us in covenant of love. This is our faithful God. The Bible admonishes us: *“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful”* (Hebrews 10:23).

God is excitedly and expediently working out his plan. The writer of Ecclesiastes says, *“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. . . . I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him”* (Ecclesiastes 3:11&14). There is a loving God at the heart of the universe, and we are the objects of his love. God is not sleeping on a cloud somewhere, he is watching over us. The Bible says, *“For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him”* (2 Chronicles 16:9).

Jesus’ admonition for us is to be alert and watchful, and the reason is that God is on the move. He does not act or come when we expect. He comes at an unanticipated hour. Jesus said, *“It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes”* (Luke 12:37). And also in the book of Revelation we read; *“Behold, I come like a thief!”* (Revelation 16:15). Jesus says to us, “Well, are you coming?” It doesn’t matter if you understand everywhere you will be going, it is a journey of faith, and the important thing is to decide to get on board. That is story of God’s covenant with us and that is how it started. Amen.



**Minutes of Administrative Council Meeting
Dorchester United Methodist Church
Monday, December 2, 2019**

Present: Steve & Vicky Parks, Bernice Weber, Maxine Filipi, Randy & Rhonda Schlick, Vera Mazour, Pastor Baptista and Carol Olson. Pastor led a moment of silence for Steve Ottmann. Rhonda gave devotions – *Making a List, Checking it Twice*.

Pastor appointed Randy to lead the meeting. Randy called the meeting to order. The October minutes were distributed. Bernice made a motion to accept as presented. Rhonda seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Bernice distributed the October treasurer's report. Vicky made a motion to accept the report and file for audit. Vera seconded. Motion carried.

Trustees: Steve reported (1) a trustees meeting will be scheduled in January. (2) A bill should be coming from Trauernicht Tree Service for the removal of the two trees (\$2,200). (3) Repair of the audio/video equipment is ongoing. (4) Roger Klein will remove snow from the parking lot & L. J. from the sidewalks.

Pastor: Pastor Baptista reported (1) he attended a spiritual retreat. (2) Nominations will be taken for a permanent ad min chairman to replace Steve Ottmann. (3) Children's Christmas program will be December 15th at 5:30 p.m.

Youth: Pastor reported the last youth meeting for 2019 will be in Dorchester, December 20th 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Weekly Coin Missions: It was decided the quarterly missions for 2020 will be: (1) Epworth Village (2) Hope Crisis (3) Ministerial Assn. (4) Table Grace. The order of collection will be announced later.

Action: *Carol made a motion to accept those missions. Rhonda seconded. Motion carried.*

Endowment: Maxine reported (1) six scholarships will be awarded. (2) A meeting will be scheduled in January to obtain further information in completing the by-laws. (3) Camp Fontanelle will be discussed.

Memorial: Vicky reported \$4,211.97 in the memorial checking account.

SPRC: The committee met November 21st for recommendations in the upcoming year.

UMW: Rhonda reported (1) thirty-plus Christmas sacks were filled. (2) The next meeting will be January 8th at 2:00 p.m.

Bible Study: Rhonda reported the school gave 38 children's names for gift giving.

Worship Committee: Rhonda reported the worship committee will be purchasing poinsettias. Sandy Rains will handle those orders.

Rugs: It was suggested new ribbed entry mats be purchased for the two entry doors. **Action:** *Steve made a motion to spend up to \$250 on the mats from memorial money. Rhonda seconded. Motion carried. Carol will order charcoal mats.*

The next Administrative Council meeting will be, Monday, January 13th at 7:00 p.m. Steve will give devotions.

Recording Secretary,
Carol J. Olson

**The United Methodist Church of Friend
Administrative Council meeting
is Monday, January 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

FRIEND UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Friend United Methodist Women met December 4, 2019, at noon for their Christmas carry-in dinner and meeting. There were 22 members and guests present.

Following the meal, a short meeting was held. There will be no January meeting and our February 5th meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. Diann McClatchey will have the lesson. It was announced that we had assembled 20 boxes for Samaritans Purse and they had been delivered. Members were reminded to continue contributing items or cash to the Community Food Pantry.

We welcomed Charlotte Hayek as a new UMW member. Following the meeting, 11 Christmas plates were assembled and delivered by Helen Horner, Joan Weber and Nancy Corman-Vossler.

**FRIEND UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
Will not have a UMW meeting in January 2020.
Have a very happy New Year!**



DORCHESTER UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
Wednesday, January 8, 2020
2:00 p.m.
Pledge Service

Devotional: Rhonda Schlick
Prayer Calendar:
Program: Pledge Service-Lois Nohavec
Serving Committee: Donnetta Hoffman,
Lois Nohavec

**BackPack Program
at Dorchester Public
School**

As we look forward to 2020, we begin planning our participation in the program of nutritional support for low-income young families in our small, rural community.



The cost of the program is \$250 per child for the full school year. Food for the program is delivered to our school by the Food Bank of Lincoln. A backpack of non-perishable, nutritious food is given to each qualifying child to take home each Friday during the school year.

A donation can be for any amount and made at any time by an individual, a business or an organization.

If you would like to support this worthy cause, you can make out your check to Dorchester Public School, with "BackPack Program" in the memo and send it to:

Dorchester Public School
PO Box 7
Dorchester, NE 68343

God bless your loving hearts.

Kathy Palky, Community Volunteer for the BackPack Program at D.P.S.



United Methodist Church of Friend
Advent Candles

- Darlene Shippen (1)
In Memory of Lawrence Shippen
- David & Ann Bruntz (4)
*In Memory of Andrew Bruntz, Julie Bruntz Richards,
our parents Dwaine & Olga Bruntz
and Eugene & Dona Ramm*
- Leo & Sylvia Stokes (2) *In Memory of our parents
In Honor of our family*
- United Methodist Women (6)
*In Memory of our deceased members
In Honor of our present members*
- Harvey & Joan Weber (1) *In Memory of our parents*
- Roger & Linda Hanneman (1)
In Memory of our parents
- Charles & Arline Vossler (2)
*In Memory of our parents
In Honor of our families*
- Shirley Rohrig (2) *In Memory of Gene Rohrig
and Herman & Laura Bruntz*
- David & Diann McClatchey (1)
In Honor of our family
- Marge Engel (1) *In Memory of Cal Engel*
- Roy & Helen Horner (1)
In Memory of Rev. E. & Ruth Horner
- Stan Houlden family (2)
*In Memory of Donald Muhlbach
and Melvin & Berdina Houlden*
- Janice Vinderslev (1) *In Memory of Roger Rohrig
and Chris Vinderslev*
- Anne Woolsey (1) *In Memory of Robert Woolsey*
- Bob & Sherri Rohrig (2)
In Memory of Robert Woolsey and Marilyn Rohrig
- Warren Weber (1)
*In Memory of Geo. & Hilma Weber
and wife, Joni Weber*
- Tex & Margaret Eberspacher (2)
In Memory of our families
- Kay Stinson (1) *In Memory of family--
Robert, Pat, Mom & Dad Hall,
Mom & Dad Stinson, Jerry & Gene Stinson*
- Mary Jo Weber (1) *In Memory of Glen Petersen*
- Carla Moore (2) *In Memory of Jim Moore
In Honor of our choir*
- David & Ann Betka (1) *In Memory of Phyllis Weber,
Anna Marie Weber and Robert L. Weber*
- Terry & Diane O'Neel (2)
In Memory of Dean Hayek and Boyd O'Neel
- Gary & Ray Rohrig (1)
In Memory of deceased family members
- Bill & Nancy S. Vossler (1)
In Memory of Bill & Ila Vossler

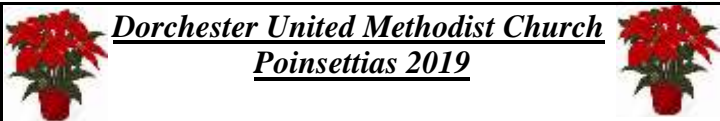


Dorchester United Methodist Church
Advent Candles

- Maxine Filipi & family (3)
*In Memory of Arnold Filipi,
Lambert & Mabel Kubert and Albert & Rosie Filipi*
- Lila Pribyl (1) *In Memory of Richard Pribyl
and George & Mabel Brunkow*
- Marlene Stehlik (1) *In Memory of Richard Stehlik*
- Vera Mazour (2) *In Honor of Bob Mazour
In Memory of Parents – Albert & Hilda Mazour
and Wesley & Violet Burge*
- Lois Nohavec (2)
*In Honor of Michelle, Megan & Amber Kotas;
Ben, Garrett & Camille Nohavec*
- Carol Olson (1)
In Honor of Cale, Jennie & Waylon Olson
- Loren & Judy Vyhnalek (1)
*In Honor of our grandchildren,
Maggie, Josie, Will & Gracie;
Owen, Ella, Myles & Mason*
- Dorchester UMW (1)
In Honor of Pastor Paixao Baptista & family
- Vera Havlat (2)
In Memory of Robert Havlat and Steven Havlat
- Larry & Bev Gish (1) *In Memory of Richard Jiskra,
James Gish and Jerry Bachmann*
- George, Jr. & Shirley Kasl (1)
In Honor of our wonderful family
- Rose & Shelley Bruha (1)
*In Memory of Adolph & Evelyn Slama
and Loren & Mildred Bruha*
- Phil & Bernice Weber (1)
In Honor of Dani Schultz Kitten
- Bob & Marva Kasl (1)
In Memory of Bob Kasl, Brad Kasl and Jean Essman
- Debbie Spanyers (1)
In Memory of Byron and Dorothy Homolka
- Steve & Vicky Parks (1)
*In Honor of our grandchildren:
Brenden, Tyler, Alyssa, Adysen, Brynlee, Rune, Remy
Charlie & Doris Broz-Clauss (2)
In Memory of Kay & Charlie Claus,
Gene Broz & Charlotte Clauss*
- Kelli Hromek (1) *In Memory of my Grandparents*

On behalf of the Bible study group and the kiddos of Dorchester, THANK YOU!! Each year God has challenged us by giving us more names than we think we could ever provide for and each year this congregation reaches in their hearts and in their pockets to provide for these kiddos who might not even get a gift. This year we had 38 names. God bless you all for your giving spirit. Have a blessed New Year, the Bible study class





Dorchester United Methodist Church
Poinsettias 2019

Kelli Hromek *In Memory of my Grandparents*
Randy & Rhonda Schlick
In Honor of our grandchildren
Shelley & Rose Bruha *In Memory of our Parents*
Velma Hansen & family
*In Memory of Wayne Hansen,
Leonard & Jan Stehlik and Elton Hansen*
Marlene Stehlik *In Honor of my Family*
Lila Pribyl *In Memory of Richard Pribyl*
Kyle & Katelyn Vrtiska & family
In Memory of Norman Sokolik
Maxine Filipi & family *In Memory of Arnold Filipi*



The United Methodist Church of Friend
2019 Poinsettias

Jan Vinderslev *In Memory of Family Members*
Ann & David Bruntz *In Memory of Andrew & Julie*
Ann & David Bruntz *In Memory of Olga & Dwaine
Bruntz, Eugene & Dona Ramm*
Warren Weber *In Memory of Joanie Weber,
Doug Weber, George & Hilma Weber*
Paul & Charlene Huber
In Memory of Jon Michael Linner & Greg Sealey
Jim & Nancy Vossler & families
*In Memory of Bill & Ila Vossler,
Andy & Julie Bruntz*



United Methodist Church of Friend Members

Any member who wishes to bring a silk bouquet of poinsettias instead of live ones is welcome to do so. The live poinsettias do not seem to last. We have tried to give them the care they need. However, the atmosphere in our sanctuary is not good for these flowers. We have talked to our florist about this problem. The church has to be kept warm due to the organ, so it is too warm for the poinsettias.



UMC of Friend Funeral Dinners

I have volunteered to take over Funeral Dinners at our church. This being said, it is an entire church effort to do this. I have already had several say to me they are more than willing to help. I knew that would happen and that is why I was willing to do this, so we can continue to serve our members at this difficult time for them.

Everyone is busy and I understand that, so when we ask for your donations of salads or desserts, it is truly appreciated. If you just can't get something made, we will ask for a cash donation to buy something or have it made.

I would truly appreciate everyone that is willing to help letting me know their cell phone for text messages. I plan to compile a list of all names and hope to not have to ask the same people over and over. I feel three to four people can serve and clean up and if you are willing to do this, please let me know that as well. I promise you won't be asked every time!! Men are welcome in the kitchen as well. Please contact me by calling or texting 402-366-8678 or email at picturesherri@hotmail.com

This service means a lot to our members. Anyone that has had this knows it's very comforting to have the lunch served by your brothers and sisters of the church.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings, Sherri Rohrig



New Bible Study at Dorchester UMC
starting Wednesday, January 8th, 7:00 p.m.
"When Christians Get It Wrong"

by Alexander Hamilton

Many young adults like Jesus but not Christianity and the church. They do not struggle with Christian theology, but they struggle with the behavior and attitudes that Christians too often display; such as hypocrisy, judgmental attitudes, rejection of science and other faiths and interjecting politics into faith. Adam Hamilton tackles all these issues in 6 sessions as he encourages all faithful Christians to be more like Jesus in our daily lives. The 6 sessions are:

- 1) When Christians Are Unchristian - When young people ages 16-29 name things they don't like about Christians, the most common named is hypocritical and judgmental. It is not our theology that counts but our behavior and actions towards others.
- 2) Christians, Science and Politics - Christians are often the first to close the door on the greatness and possibilities of God and are seen as anti-intellectual. We get it right when we are teachable and not closed minded. Also our politics should never come between us and God. Earthly citizenship is brief; heaven's citizenship is eternal.
- 3) When Speaking of Other Religions - Three types of salvation are discussed, a. Christian Universalism, b. Christian Exclusion and c. Christian Inclusion. In the final analysis it is not our theology but remembering to be loving and Christ-like whenever we witness to our faith to others, that counts.
- 4) When Bad Things Happen - We believe that God does not constantly intervene in the world or cause bad things to happen, but has put his "children" here to be his caring hands and feet helping those who suffer and are hurt.
- 5) In Dealing With Homosexuality - The three critical points of this lesson are
 - a. The Bible is a complex book that needs to be read with both your heart and reason
 - b. Homosexuality takes on a whole different reality when it is your children or grandchildren.
 - c. We need to see everyone through the eyes of Jesus.
- 6) When Christians Get It Right - What are the essential teachings of Jesus? You shall love God and your neighbor. As Hamilton retells the parable of the Good Samaritan, he emphasizes that in all our actions of life, the question is always, what is the loving thing to do?

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Loose Coins: (F) Epworth Village (D) To be determined			1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3	4
5 NO COMMUNION 9:30 am (D) Worship 10:30 am (D) Fellowship 9:30 am (F) Sunday School 9:45 am (F) Fellowship 10:10 am (F) Choir 10:30 am (F) Worship	6	7	8 (F) No UMW 2 pm (D) UMW 7 pm (D) Bible Study	9	10	11
12 9:30 am (D) Worship 10:30 am (D) Fellowship 10:40 am (D) Sunday School (F) Food Pantry Sunday 9:30 am (F) Sunday School 9:45 am (F) Fellowship 10:10 am (F) Choir 10:30 am (F) Worship 6 pm (D) Igniting Youth	13 7 pm (D) Ad Council Meeting	14	15 9 am (F) Bible Study Hospital Chapel 7 pm (D) Bible Study	16	17	18
19 <i>Human Relations Day offering</i> 9:30 am (D) Worship 10:30 am (D) Fellowship 10:40 am (D) Sunday School 12:15 pm (D) Without Partners 9:30 am (F) Sunday School 9:45 am (F) Fellowship 10:10 am (F) Choir 10:30 am (F) Worship	20 <i>Martin Luther King Jr.</i> 7 pm (F) Ad Council Meeting	21 7 pm (F) Endowment Meeting	22 Newsletter Articles Due 9 am (F) Bible Study Hospital Chapel 7 pm (D) Bible Study	23	24	25
26 (D) Food Pantry Sunday 9:30 am (D) Worship 10:30 am (D) Fellowship 10:40 am (D) Sunday School 9:30 am (F) Sunday School 9:45 am (F) Fellowship 10:10 am (F) Choir 10:30 am (F) Worship 6 pm (D) Igniting Youth	27 6:30-8:30 pm (F) Chapel reserved PEO	28	29 9 am (F) Bible Study Hospital Chapel 10 am (F) Folding the Newsletter 7 pm (D) Bible Study	30	31	

Greeters

5th (D) Angie Pierce
 (F) Linda Hanneman
 12th (D) Kyle & Katelyn Vrtiska
 (F) Houldens
 19th (D) Maxine Filipi
 (F) David & Ann Bruntz
 26th (D) George & Shirley Kasl
 (F) Ellisons

Ushers

5th (D) Gaylen & Laura Sysel
 (F)
 12th (D) Alan & Nancy Slepicka
 (F) Houldens
 19th (D) Jerry & Gladys Pierce
 (F) David & Ann Bruntz
 26th (D) Matt & Donnetta Hoffman
 (F)

Children's Time

5th (D) Rhonda Schlick
 (F) Sherri Rohrig
 12th (D)
 (F) Mary Jo Weber
 19th (D) Susan Weber
 (F) Liz Stutzman
 26th (D)
 (F) Diane Odoski

Scripture Reader

5th (D) Vera Mazour
 (F)
 12th (D) Randy Schlick
 (F) Amanda Ellison
 19th (D) Matthew Hoffman
 (F) Ann Bruntz
 26th (D) Lois Nohavec
 (F) Diane Odoski

Liturgist (worship leader)

5th (D)
 (F) Sherri Rohrig
 12th (D) Randy Schlick
 (F) Margo Houlden
 19th (D) Rhonda Schlick
 (F) Mary Jo Weber
 26th (D) Cindy Kotas
 (F) Diane Odoski

Fellowship Hosts

5th (D) Randy & Rhonda Schlick
 (F)
 12th (D)
 (F) Ellisons
 19th (D) Chris & Sandy Krivholavek
 (F)
 26th (D)
 (F) Diane Odoski

Acolytes

5th (D)
 (F) Addison & Mason Vossler
 12th (D) Jaxson Sand
 (F)
 19th (D)
 (F) Corbin Stutzman
 26th (D)
 (F)

January Scripture

5th Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;
 Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
 12th Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43;
 Matthew 3:13-17
 19th Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11;
 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
 26th Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9;
 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Pastor Baptista will be on
 vacation from
 December 30th – January 10th.

Igniting Youth
 will meet Sunday,
 January 12th and 26th
 at 6 pm in Dorchester.

Dorchester/Friend United Methodist
PO Box 251
Dorchester, NE 68343

Non-Profit
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Car-Rt-Sort

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



Dorchester Worship Service - 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School - 10:40-11:30 a.m.

Friend Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:30-10:15 a.m. at FUMC

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 1 Anne Woolsey
January 2 Sheila Krivohlavek
January 4 Phil Weber
January 5 Kip Bresson
January 7 Kelli Schweitzer
January 9 Kevin Spicka
January 10 Andrea Pracheil, Bernice Weber,
Brent Zoubek
January 11 Kypton Pracheil
January 12 Katy Blitz, Kaleb Fuller
January 13 Pamela Fuller, Cassidy Olson,
Sara Thomsen
January 15 Kolby Houlden, Stan Houlden,
Aubrey Pracheil
January 16 Georgene Kalnins
January 17 Hudson Hromek, Corbin Stutzman
January 19 Janice Vinderslev
January 22 Benjamin Nohavec
January 24 Cole Dickinson, Camdyn Kenney
January 25 Erin Spicka
January 28 Marva Kasl, Sherri Kasl
January 29 Donna Hansen
January 30 Josie Vyhnaek
January 31 Margaret Eberspacher, Pamela Herr,
Kathleen Johnson

The United Methodist Church of Friend
and Friend Congregational Church combined
Sunday School Christmas Program
Sunday, December 15, 2019



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 2 Rex & Susan Stewart (38)
January 7 Christ & Anita Meyer (36)
January 12 Bob & Vera Mazour (46)
January 18 Shane & Kelli Schweitzer (17)
January 19 Eric & Shelly Bresson (13)
January 23 Gary & Vicky Palky (27)
January 27 Paixao & Esperanca Baptista (24)
January 30 William & Mary Plouzek (50)

Dorchester United Methodist Church Sunday School Christmas Program Sunday, December 15, 2019

The kids did a great job with the Christmas program.
I would like to thank Jen Kasl, Lindsey Zoubek,
Rebecca Fuller and Nicole Zurcher for their help with
the program as well as all the other parents.
Merry Christmas!

Classes will resume Sunday, January 12th.



← Thank you to Amanda Ellison for organizing the program and all the teachers for helping. The kids sang many Christmas favorites and performed the Christmas story. They worked hard learning their lines and practicing and did a great job during the program.

Sunday school starts again on January 5 at our church, 9:30-10:15.