



The Scribe

St. Paul UCC

144 E Palatine Road, Palatine IL 60067
(847) 358-0399 www.stpaul-ucc.org

December 2017 Edition

Monthly
Newsletter

Pastor's Pen...

A memorable moment in Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*, is when a repentant Ebenezer Scrooge is on his knees pleading with the Ghost of Christmas Future for just one more chance to go back and make things right. Ebenezer tells the specter: *"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach!"*

Ebenezer Scrooge is saying the same thing that we've been trying to say here at St. Paul with our ***"Acts Of Kindness"*** campaign. Practicing acts of kindness throughout the year is really the same thing as what old Scrooge finally resolved to do.

One of our late members, Jean Reynolds, had a Santa Claus collection that I used to enjoy looking at whenever I went to visit her. On the day of her funeral, her daughter brought one of those into my office and presented it to me saying, *"Mom said that you liked her collection of Santas and so she wanted you to have one of them."*

That Santa figure now occupies a permanent spot on my desk 12 months out of the year. I keep it there to not only remind me of Jean, but also to remind me that Christmas was meant to be kept all year long.

Acts of Kindness.....it's not just a theme; It's a way of life.
It's keeping Christmas all year long.

Pastor David



St. Paul UCC Executive Board Members: Sharon Altergott (Spiritual Life Board Rep.), Kim Cichon, Randy Everett (Admin. Board Rep.), Kim Ferris, David Freeman, Arlene Kraus (Spiritual Life Board Rep.), David Mercer (Staff Rep), Chuck Oberly (Admin. Board Rep), and Karen Wagner.



Pastoral visitation is available to those who are hospitalized, temporarily laid up at home, or going through rehab at a facility. Because hospitals and other institutions do not notify the church when a patient is admitted, we need for you or your family member to notify us. We will be more than happy to accommodate your request for pastoral care. Please note also that the pastor may be reached for emergencies at

[\(847\) 445-7248](tel:8474457248) (cell phone).

Pastor David's procedure in visiting St. Paul's shut-ins, as well as, those members who have a difficult time getting to church is to offer support, bring Holy Communion (their option) and to let them know we journey together in worship. Pastor David understands that scheduling may depend on frequency of doctor's appointments or the church member's schedule. Visitation is always available, however, as the shut-in member's health and life situation may change and more extensive pastoral care is needed. Any church member or their family member desiring more frequent pastoral visitation, or to be placed on the visitation list in the first place should contact the church office at [\(847\)-358-0399](tel:8473580399) to make arrangements.

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14)



The Pastoral Relations Committee Is Available To You!

Do you have an idea, a question, a comment, or a concern that you would like for Pastor David to know about? You have a couple of options available to you. First, you may speak directly with the pastor. Our pastor is here for ALL of St. Paul's members and he welcomes communication from ALL members. If you aren't comfortable in speaking directly with the pastor, however, then your second option is to go through the Pastoral Relations Committee. Their purpose is to foster good relations between pastor and parish through open and thoughtful communication.

St. Paul's Pastoral Relations Committee members are: Debbie Everett (Chair); Bob Kolze; Joyce Mah; Melissa Gumm; Mary Doktor; and Tom Donat.



From the Treasurer...St. Paul at a Glance

	October 2017	YTD	BUDGET
Revenue	40,104.00	62,716.24	258,890.00
Expenditure	27,295.02	48,846.88	277,188.00
Net Income	12,308.98	13,869.36	-18,298.00

From the Archives...



Here are several of the "Welcoming statements in the bulletins" during the 1960's

"Speak to God before the service; let God speak to you during the service; speak to your neighbor after the service." You are welcome in the house of the Lord. Give thanks and use every opportunity to serve."

"We extend a cordial welcome and a sincere hand of fellowship to all who come to worship the Lord. Offer a prayer for your fellow worshipers, listen to God's word and speak to your neighbor as you leave."

"Whoever you are who worship here, in whatever household of faith you were born, whatever creed you now profess, if you come to this Sanctuary to pray to God in whom you believe, you are welcome.

Be reverent ! Be silent! Be thoughtful!"

~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

On Sunday, December 17th, we will be collecting our annual Christmas Fund Offering. UCC's Christmas Fund benefits church's retired workers.

For decades, the Christmas Fund, formerly known as Veterans of the Cross, has helped provide supplemental monies for pension and healthcare insurance premiums for low income retirees.

At Christmas, the offering provides gift checks to hundreds of annuitants, but it also provides emergency assistance to clergy and lay employees and their families throughout the year. Please give generously.

Thank you.



From the Health Committee...



When Trauma Happens, Love Heals

Children who go through traumatic experiences have worse health outcomes when they are adults. Examples of trauma include abuse and neglect, but also living in a community where violence regularly occurs, not being sure where your next meal is coming from, experiencing bullying, being in foster care or having a parent with a mental illness or who is in prison.

Research consistently shows that in all communities, regardless of socioeconomic status, at least two thirds of adults have had at least one of these experiences. When you add in the stress carried by our veterans or the daily grinding reality of experiences of discrimination and racism, it is no exaggeration to say that we are a traumatized nation.

But we also know that not everyone who experiences trauma has long-term health issues. Research shows that simple acts of kindness and caring can heal our brains, bodies and spirits and even protect us from stress. Loving kindness, trust-worthy relationships, a sense of meaning and purpose, rhythm and ritual actually help to re-wire our brains and ease the release of toxic hormones that can create chronic disease.

Fostering healing and protecting our children from the effects of violence, abuse, neglect and other traumas can be quite simple. As people of faith, the things that we do together in our congregations to practice love and human kindness and to share the rich wisdom of our faith traditions can literally heal the body.

5 Healing Gestures

Want to protect children from the effects of violence, abuse, neglect, hunger and other traumas?

These simple practices or Healing Gestures, can help children thrive.

Celebrate. As influential adults, you can help children celebrate with “put-ups” and “not put-downs.” A cheer, a clap, a smile, a kind greeting or a statement that acknowledges them are simple expressions that can heal minds, change minds, and help children thrive.

Comfort. Studies show that adults who provide consistent emotional and physical support can buffer the “fight or flight” stress response in children. Teaching them how to manage their emotions and calm themselves down, helping them connect their words to feelings, and practicing relaxation and emotional regulation skills can also help.

Listen. To listen is a gesture we practice every day. For all children, especially those who have experienced traumatic stress and violence, a patient and receptive adult who listens can help them feel safe and valued.

Collaborate. Through everyday interactions, you can teach children the skills to collaborate and resolve problems by modeling cooperative relationships, helping them build trust, and encouraging them to express their opinions and ask for help when needed.

Inspire. Think back to when you were a child. Do you recall a glimmering moment when your spirit soared in response to words an adult said to you? When their words elevated your sense of self and inspired you to do something big? So inspire the children in your life, and give them their own glimmering moments to remember.

From the Changing Minds Now campaign. U.S. Department of Justice and Futures Without Violence.
www.changingmindsnow.org.

Prayer: Healing God, help us live out the simple acts of love and care that can heal and transform lives.



Acts of Kindness, our congregation's mission chose to recognize and show appreciation to our local police officers and firefighter/paramedics. Individual bags of goodies along with a poem specific to the responder's role were provided. Many thanks to those who purchased the items of candy, gum etc., helped fill and assemble the bags and those who distributed the bags to the police department and 5 fire stations. A total of 104 bags were given to our police officers and 91 to our firefighter/paramedics. Some members of Women's Fellowship who delivered the bags, received tremendous gratitude for St. Paul's thoughtfulness and visit.

Decorating the Sanctuary – Friday December 1st

Please consider joining us to decorate the sanctuary for the upcoming Christmas season on Friday, December 1st starting at 5:30 pm. We could certainly use some tall folks to help with the tree.

The decorating takes a couple of hours so would definitely be done no later than 8:00 pm if we start on time. Please see Debbie Everett if you have questions or are able to help.



St. Paul UCC will again be holding *Hanging of the Greens* during the December 3rd 10am worship service. Please join us in adorning the Sanctuary with festive decorations.



With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year, the worship committee and staff have decided to schedule one Christmas Eve service at 7pm. This was based in large part, on practical reasons. We will already have our normal 10am Sunday worship service that day, marking the fourth and final Sunday of Advent. Then, as with any other Sunday, Peace

Presbyterian Church has use of our facility from Noon until 6pm. Because of that afternoon schedule, however, this eliminates the traditional 5pm time slot of the early Christmas Eve service that we've had in most previous years. It was that early service that drew the younger families with children.

After much thought and discussion, we felt that the 11pm late service this year would appeal to a very small demographic due to our having had a morning worship service that same day, and also because the late service does not draw the young families. For these reasons, we decided on the "happy medium" of having one Christmas Eve service at 7pm.

Next year in 2018, Christmas Eve will once again fall on a weekday. At that time we can foresee returning to the traditional 5pm & 11pm Christmas Eve time slots.



December Birthdays

**6 Ryan Petersen
7 Bruce Kerlin
10 Susan Gould
12 Larry Ingram
12 Holly Petersen
17 Cherrie Wickstrom
18 Catherine Conrad**



***If there is anyone I missed, please call the church office,
so we can update our records. Thank you!***



I would like to thank St. Paul Church for hosting the Spirit of Life Chorus concert here on Sunday November 5th. A special thank you to Diane Bele for working to help bring the choir to St. Paul, Cherrie Wickstrom and Bern Chvoy for their commitment to making a beautiful reception, and Gary Altergott who helped with the parking lot. Thank you to the Chancel Choir for volunteering your time to help pass out programs and give help when needed. To the church members who helped prepare food for the reception, it was so beautiful. Thank you all, Charlotte Mally.

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Thank you to everyone who participated in our FMSC packing event on Saturday, November 11th. We packed 226 boxes which equates to 48,816 meals; enough to feed 134 children for a year! The food is going to Cuba.



*Cookie Exchange & Lunch
Saturday December 9th - 11am*

St. Paul's Women's Fellowship will hold a cookie exchange and lunch on Saturday December 9th starting at 11 a.m. This is your opportunity to share a favorite cookie recipe or try a new one and take home a delicious variety of cookies.

To participate in the cookie exchange, please plan to provide 6 (prebagged) cookies for each cookie exchange participant. For example, if 12 individuals plan to exchange cookies you'll need to bring 12 baggies (6 cookies per bag) of cookies. That is 72 cookies or 6 dozen. We're asking for the cookies to be prebagged due to family members with peanut/tree nut allergies. Additionally, please label your cookie bags if the cookies contain nuts. Lisa or Dee will provide the number of cookie exchange participants after sign up closes on November 26th. You may also want to bring cookies to share during lunch. If you know what cookie you're going to bring, please include the name of it when you sign up. The more variety of cookies, the better the assortment. Also, please bring several copies of your cookie recipe to share.

Please note the different start time of 11AM. We will start later so we can exchange cookies and enjoy lunch together. Dee will be making Sloppy Joes for lunch. Please sign up to bring an appetizer, salad, fruit or veggies to share with the group. Remember you don't have to bring cookies to attend. Come join your friends for conversation and fellowship during this festive and sacred season. See you December 9th!

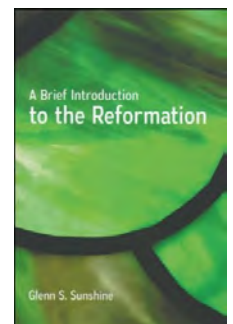
Questions? Please contact Lisa (llkennelly@yahoo.com) or Dee (deel134@att.net).

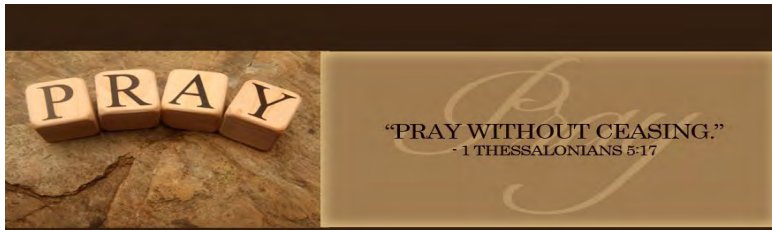
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New Book In The Rev. Glenn G. Gumm Library

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. It is only appropriate, therefore, that our church library carry a new book that deals with that very subject. It comes in green paperback and is written in a witty and easy-to-read style. Published in 2017 by Westminster John Knox Press, the book is entitled "*A Brief Introduction To The Reformation*" and is written by Glenn S. Sunshine, a history professor from Central Connecticut University.

If you've ever wondered how Protestantism got started by breaking away from the Catholic Church, then this book is for you. Professor Sunshine walks the reader through the key players and pivotal moments of the Reformation, and he does so without using a lot of mumbo jumbo. Check it out...and discover your Protestant heritage!





PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Rick Bartells, friend of Kim Cichon
 Ben Belmonte, great-nephew of Ken & Shirley Kolze
 Charlie Betzhold
 Eva Bori
 Don Brach, friend of Chuck & Margie Anderson
 Jim & Flo Dailey, friends of Charlotte Mally
 Kendall Eich
 Laura Giltzow, mother of Sherri Davenport
 Judy Haimbaugh, sister of Gloria Helms
 Kathy Harlow
 Pat Harris, friend of Sandy Gumm
 Leona Henning
 Carol Hennings, sister of Pat Kolze
 Larry Herron, friend of Bob & Pat Kolze
 Owen Hesterman, grandson of friend of the Gould family
 Susan Kazmierczak, niece of Dawn Drost
 Barb Kerlin, mother of Bruce Kerlin
 Ron Klages, father of Dawn Drost
 Nancy Kocher, friend of Dawn Drost
 Laura Krause, daughter of Sharon Krause
 Leizl, great niece of Chuck & Margie Anderson
 Charles Leseberg, brother of Mary Ann Leseberg
 Patricia Maruda, mother of Michelle Maruda
 Cathy McMillion, friend of Karen Wagner
 Dorothy Mende, sister of Charlotte Mally
 Debra Radloff Mican, cousin of Dawn Drost
 Ron Mohr, uncle of Kim Ferris & Karen Wagner
 Maryann Ostrem, friend of Arlene Kraus
 Marilyn Paolisso, aunt of Bruce Kerlin
 Jerry Parsons, friend of Sandy & Dave Gumm
 Laurel Paul, friend of the Everetts
 Jody Peterson, daughter of Lynn & Phil Arnold
 Pete Peterson, father-in-law of Jody Peterson (nee Arnold)
 Geri Rogers, sister of Pat Kolze
 Blanche Schug
 Angie Scribner, granddaughter of Bonnie Haase
 Sherry Stephens, sister of Shirley Ann Kolze
 Tom, cousin of Kim and Karen
 Fran Werner, sister-in-law of Sharon Florey

SERVING CHRIST IN WORSHIP

Greeters for December:

3: Sharon Florey
10: Jim & Shirley Shimka
17: Mary Ann Leseberg
24 10am: Dolly Chamberlin
24 7pm: Claudia Mayer
31: Nancy Perry

Nursery Attendants for December: **Holly Chvoy**

Usher Captain for December: **Randy Everett**

Lectionary Readers for December:

3: Tom Donat
10: Sandy Gumm
17: Roseann Stenzel
24: TBD
31: TBD

Lectionary for December:

3: Isa 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7,17-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37.
10: Isa 40:1-11; Psalm 85: 1-2,8-13; 2 Pet 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.
17: Isa 61:1-4,8-11; Psalm 126; Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.
24: 2 Sam 7:1-11.16; Psalm 89:1-4,19-26; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.
31: Isa 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.





When it comes to end-of-life issues many people consult with their attorney in matters of estate, and a funeral director in matters of burial. Surprisingly however, very few people ever meet with their pastor in order to plan their actual funeral service ahead of time.

There are significant advantages to doing so! Sitting down with your pastor and going over what you would like to have included in your own funeral keeps the power of choice in your own hands, as opposed to leaving it up to your surviving family members. For instance, maybe you have preferences about scripture readings, or hymns, or even what you would like for the officiant to say or not say during the service.

Maybe you have ideas about things such as eulogies shared by family and friends, or some type of ritual that you would like to have observed during the service. These things may all be discussed when you meet with your pastor.

The writer of Ecclesiastes rightly noted that no one among us holds absolute power to hold back their own death (Ecclesiastes 8:8). As sobering as this is, you still have some say in things when you choose to plan ahead. It also allows you to plan a meaningful service which will facilitate grief in a healthy way for those you love.

Pastor David is available to meet with you if you would like to learn more, or to get started. Call the church office (847)-358-0399 or email pastor@stpaul-ucc.org to schedule an appointment.

Your help is needed...

....We are in need of ONE member on the Administrative Board. **So close!**

....We are in need for an Usher Captain for the month of March.

....We are in need of a Worship Service Projectionist for Sunday mornings.

If interested, please see anyone on the Worship Committee or Spiritual Life Board.

... We are in need of an additional member on the Southside Cemetery Committee. If interested, please see Randy Everett.

....We are in need of coffee hour hosts. Please see the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall or call the church office. It's nice to share a cup of coffee during fellowship at St. Paul. Thank you!

****Safety and Security Task Force**:** In light of the recent massacres in our country we feel it is necessary to review the current situation at St. Paul. To that end we are in the process of forming a task force. The goal of this task force will be to review, access, update and implement procedures that will make St. Paul a safer place. If you would be willing to serve on this task force please let us know. Jackie Schultze 847-995-1539 or Gary Altergott 847-358-2550. Thank you.



Women's Fellowship

In October the Women's Fellowship members gathered for a fleece blanket tying event. We were able to complete 7 blankets. This was great progress I thought. We still had more fleece and willing ladies to tie more blankets. We gathered several more times and have completed 19 blankets. Arlene Kraus and I prepared the blankets and the ladies had so much fun tying, sharing and laughing Arlene and I had trouble keeping up with them.

The first full week in December I hope to have a day and time to deliver these blankets to Palatine Opportunity Center. They are excited to be receiving them and I am thrilled.

This was a wonderful gathering of the women promoting fellowship and a warm Act of Kindness.

Sandy Gumm





Palatine Township Senior Citizens Council

505 South Quentin Road • Palatine, Illinois 60067 • Telephone (847) 991-1112 • Fax (847) 991-9605
www.ptsc.org

October 24, 2017

St. Paul United Church of Christ
144 E. Palatine Rd.
Palatine, IL 60067

Re: Resources for older adults in your congregation

Dear Faith Community Leader:

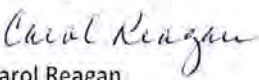
The Palatine Township Senior Citizens Council, which operates the Palatine Township Senior Center, offers a wide range of programs for adults aged 50 or better which may be of benefit to the older adults in your congregation. Our programs include recreation, benefits access and other social services, an adult day services program for those with mild to moderate memory loss, lifelong learning opportunities, health and wellness programs, and meals, both in a group setting at the Senior Center and delivered to the older person's home.

We would appreciate your assistance in getting the word out about the Senior Center and our noon dining program. The meals programs are available to those aged 60 or better, and are funded in part by the Federal Older Americans Act through AgeOptions. Meals are served at the Senior Center Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration is appreciated, but not required, and there is a suggested donation of \$3.50 per meal. A brochure about the Senior Center and the meals program and a flyer, both with a coupon for a free lunch, are enclosed. Additional brochures or coupons are available upon request at ptscinfo@ptsc.org.

You can find additional information about the Senior Center on our website at www.ptsc.org. If your congregation is interested in having one of our staff as a guest speaker to learn more about services for older adults or the Senior Center, please contact us at ptscinfo@ptsc.org.

Thank you for helping us spread the word about the Senior Center and our meals program.

Sincerely,


Carol Reagan
Executive Director

Accredited by 
National Institute of
Senior Centers

Please find meal coupon on next page. Thank you.

Continued from Page 11...



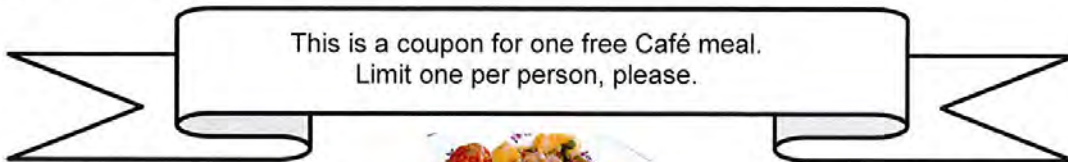
**Palatine Township Senior Center
505 South Quentin Road
Palatine, IL 60067
847-991-1112**



Have a meal on us!

If you are aged 60 or better, join us for a hot lunch Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. for food, fellowship and fun! Reservations are suggested, but not necessary. Suggested donation is \$3.50.

Call 847-776-7261 to reserve your meal.



Name: _____

Date used: _____

Recently someone sent an email regarding the familiar song, “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” According to a researcher, the song was originally intended to be a teaching tool, a way to instruct Christians (specifically Roman Catholics in England) in some of faith’s basics.

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me...The “true love” represents God and the “me” is the Christian who receives these gifts.

The “partridge in a pear tree” is Jesus who died on a tree.

“Two turtle doves” = the Old and New Testaments.

“Three French hens” =faith, hope, and love.

“Four calling birds” = the four Gospels

“Five golden rings” = the first five books of the Bible

“Six geese a laying” = the six days of Creation

“Seven swans a swimming” = seven gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in the New Testament

“Eight maids a milking” = eight beatitudes

“Nine ladies dancing” = nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5)

“Ten lords a leaping” = Ten Commandments

“Eleven pipers piping” = Jesus’ eleven faithful disciples

“Twelve drummers drumming” = twelve points of the Apostles Creed.

I don’t know how accurate this analysis is, but it sounds logical. Most songs or poems or sayings which seem to be nonsense often had initial meanings which made sense. So it isn’t too far fetched to believe that behind The Twelve Days of Christmas is a meaning much deeper than a holiday ditty, a meaning even much deeper than Christmas itself.

Perhaps there are meanings behind some of your personal Christmas songs or traditions or practices which have been lost to you over the years. If you reached far enough back in time, could you retrieve a significant belief or event at the root of it all? Would such a discovery make a difference in the spirit of your celebration?

Whether the details of the stable and the manger and all the rest make sense to you isn’t the point. The meaning behind it is what counts.

Merry Christmas, for the Twelve Days and beyond.

-Article contributed by Cherrie Wickstrom





Christian Education Corner December 2017

This time of year, I love to hear the song, *Silver Bells*. I listen for the tinkling sound of bells in all kinds of places. They come from Salvation Army bell ringers, the little bells on the angels on our Christmas Tree, the sound of a sweet bell when “angels get their wings” in *It’s A Wonderful Life*. Bells call us to Christmas in so many ways.

This year, the bells you hear, may not be so sweet and gentle. The Christian Education room, will instead, be the location of loudly calling **cow** bells. Our cow for this year’s Christmas pageant will be rehearsing on Sunday mornings and making his presence known, as only a cow can.

If I have made you curious, GREAT!!! On Sunday, December 17th, it will all come together during worship. Cows and donkeys and angels and innkeepers, Mary and Joseph and the baby! Come and join in the wonder of the Christmas Story through the eyes of children.

Ring a Bell

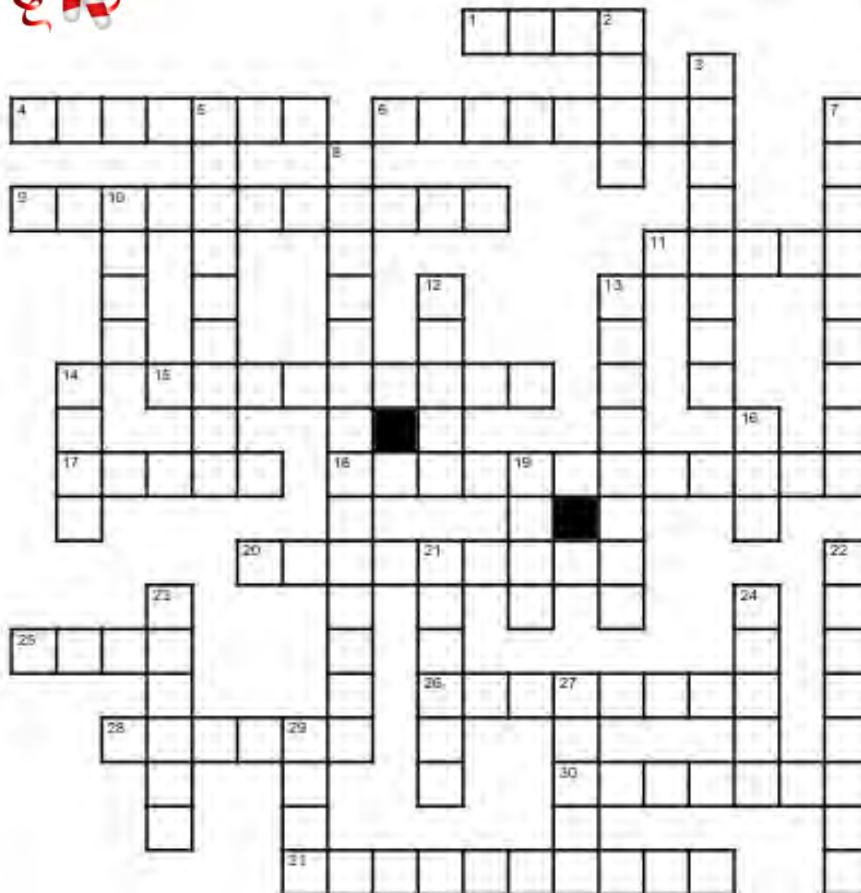
*Come Everyone
Ring a bell for Peace
Ring a bell Love
Ring a bell for Joy
Ring a bell for Life over Death
Ring a bell for a Child’s faith
Ring a bell for people everywhere
Ring a bell for a world without fear
Ring a bell.*

*Blessings this Holiday Season,
Miss Bonnie*





Christmas Crossword



Merry Christmas!

Across

1. Another word for present.
4. Santa's door?
6. Animals that pull Santa's sleigh.
9. What people put on their Christmas tree.
11. Something on Santa's face.
15. The day after Christmas.
17. Santa's helpers.
18. The day before Christmas.
20. A piece of snow.
25. What Santa gives to bad girls and boys.
26. A sock that hangs by the chimney.
28. People put these bright things on their house.
30. A reindeer with a red nose.
31. A jolly man in a red suit with a beard.

Down

2. Something people decorate.
3. What people give each other.
5. Where Santa's workshop is located.
7. A striped Christmas treat.
8. Drink and food left for Santa.
10. Something people send to each other to say 'Merry Christmas'.
12. The presents are usually _____ the tree.
13. The month of Christmas.
14. Look at a present before you should.
16. The color of Santa's suit.
19. A common decoration for the top of the tree.
21. A famous snowman.
22. The place where Santa makes toys.
23. Santa's car?
24. A common decoration for the top of the tree.
27. A Christmas song.
29. What Santa gives to good girls and boys.

