



DECEMBER 2019

Our theme for Christmas is *The Thrill of Hope*. May the anticipated arrival of Christ be a time of joy and awe at the work that God has done and continues to do.

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Deepening Our Discipleship

BY REV. REBECCA LUTER

As I prepared the sermon series for December, I posed the question on my Facebook page "What Christmas movies do you watch year after year? Why?" From the answers, our Advent sermon series emerged, "The Thrill of Hope." How is Clark Griswold calling for a drumroll to light the 250 strands of lights with 100 lights per strand like the foretelling of the prophets? How is the waiting of Simeon and Anna for the promised Messiah like Ralphie's waiting for an official Red Ryder, carbine action, two-hundred shot range model air rifle? Join us as we consider the transformation of the shepherds alongside the Grinch and more as we experience the "Thrill of Hope" on our way to the manger to worship the Newborn King.

On Sunday, December 22nd, at 11:00am our worship will focus on the singing of the angels and will include many of your favorite Christmas carols. You will not want to miss it!



Farmington Day School

CHRISTMAS MUSIC PROGRAM

It's Jingle Bell Time! The Farmington Presbyterian Day School will present their Christmas Music program on Thursday, December 12th and Friday, December 13th at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to enjoy this adorable Christmas celebration.



FPDS TEACHES GRATITUDE THROUGH CREATIVE PLAY

A Thanksgiving play produced by Ms. Alexis class, a Patriotic celebration of our veterans and a Thanksgiving feast are all ways Farmington Day School have explored the virtue of gratitude with our students.





Room in the Inn – Memphis is a ministry involving over 50 faith-based organizations in the Memphis area. The mission of RITI is “Serving people experiencing homelessness in a safe environment of hospitality.” RITI provides emergency winter shelter for men and women. The program operates from November 1 through March 31, seven nights a week. Guests are transported to locations throughout the area. Transportation to the various locations, staffing and meals are provided by volunteers. Farmington provides these resources to RITI at the Germantown UMC location two Saturdays per month. This is Farmington’s fifth year to participate in the program.



The generous \$300 grant that Farmington PW received from the Presbytery of the Mid-South Together-In-Service Award was used to purchase new sheets, pillowcases and pillows. The goal is always to make our guests feel special when they are with us. The new linens certainly helped us achieve that purpose.

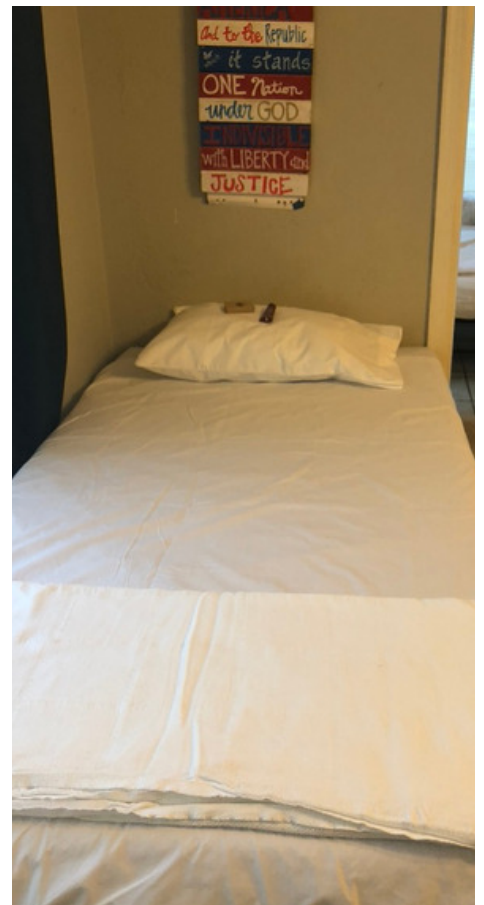
-By Ann Erickson



PREPARATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

During the Christmas Eve service we pass the light of Christ around the sanctuary, sing *Silent Night*, and reflect on God's generosity. Take a moment and give thanks for the people behind the scenes, that make such special moments in worship possible.

Sandy Wann, Stephanie Nagel, and Emily Rhodes clean each candleholder so that Christmas Eve Service is a meaningful event for the Farmington Family.



YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

DEC. 8 - 4-6 PM

BONFIRE @ THE BARR HOUSE
1562 CORDOVA MILLS COVE
CORDOVA, TN, 38016

DEC. 14 - 9-3 PM

PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER
DURING GERMANTOWN PARADE

DEC. 22 - 2-4 PM

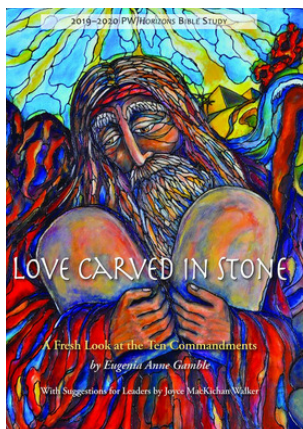
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP
CHRISTMAS PARTY

\$100 DEPOSIT RESERVES YOUR
SPOT FOR SUMMER RETREATS!



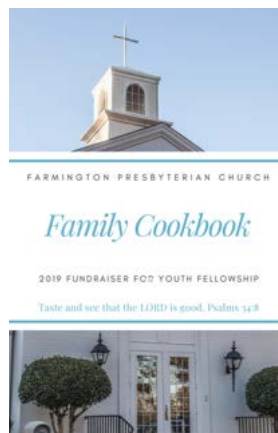
The Great Escape Middle
School Conference in Cleveland
TN, June 7 - 12.
Student cost is \$250.

Montreat Youth Conference for
High School Students in
Montreat, NC, July 19 - 27.
Student cost is \$280



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Women's Circle of Farmington Presbyterian enjoys their time together each month. Please join us for our next meeting Sunday, December 8 at 12:30 in the East Room. We will be studying Lesson 4.



COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

Christmas is on the way and you can give a great gift while supporting the Youth at Farmington. Purchase the Family Cookbook for \$10 from Doug Barr!

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You shop. Amazon gives.
FARMINGTON

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at smile.amazon.com

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Search for
**Farmington
Presbyterian
Church**, and
Select it.

SHOP!

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will
donate eligible
purchases to
Farmington's
Mission.

CHOOSE

In Your
Account,
select **Change
Your Charity**



PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-SOUTH CALLS NEW EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER



After a year long search involving over 30 candidates from both coasts and the heartland of our country, The Presbytery of the Mid-South has called The Reverend James Luther Gale, Jr., former Associate Executive Presbyterian for the Synod of Mid America, to be the Executive Presbyterian of the Presbytery of the Mid-South. The Executive Presbyterian Nominating Committee narrowed the field to five candidates and called Rev. Gale because of his outstanding credentials and impressive abilities. Rev. Gale told the Presbytery, "I feel called to mid-council ministry, working to equip and prepare leaders for the rapidly changing future. "

James brings extensive experience from his role working with six presbyteries in the Synod of Mid America. "James has the exceptional ability to identify issues that are of primary concern, then help people to focus and find solutions for that issue. He is adept at identifying people to work alongside with and develop teams to strategically and effectively achieve goals," said The Reverend Jason Carle, Pastor of Overland Park Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, KS.

Ruling Elder James Rissler, Chief Executive Officer Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program

describes James as a "very good listener and a good sounding board. He is straight forward and asks good questions. He gets to the heart of the matter quickly. He is a quick study and is energized by challenges. The church is the heart of everything he does."

Rev. Gale is excited about the opportunity to work with The Presbytery of the Mid-South. He was called with a unanimous vote of our Presbytery. James and his family, The Reverend Mary Newberg Gale who is currently the Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Lawrence, Kansas, and their daughters, Ainsley (11) and Fiona (6). James served as Director of Operations and Program Assistant for Synod of Mid-America. He earned a Certificate of Executive Leadership at McCormick Seminary, graduated with a Masters of Divinity, Columbia Theological Seminary and has served as Faculty, Mid-America Lincoln Trails Interim Training (MALT). Let us join with members of our Presbytery to pray for James, Mary, Ainslie and Fiona as they prepare to move to the Mid-South.

The Thrill of Hope

DECEMBER 5, 5PM

ADVENT SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & HOPE

DECEMBER 15, 5PM

**LESSONS & CAROLS
W/ CHRISTMAS RECEPTION**

DECEMBER 18, 6:30PM

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 20, 2PM

**CAROLING CARAVAN
TO THOSE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY**

DECEMBER 24, 5PM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Do you have a favorite Christmas movie you watch every year? Perhaps you love to watch Ralphie try on his pink bunny pajamas; maybe Buddy the Elf's reaction to Santa coming helps your heart grow; or by chance you hear a bell and think of Clarence. Join us in worship as we explore how favorite Christmas movies relate to the hope of the prophets, the waiting of Simeon and Anna, the transformation of the shepherds, and the singing of the angels on the night of our Savior's birth.

Lessons & Carols

DECEMBER 15 @ 5 PM

Through the reading of Scripture and the singing of carols, we hear the story of God's faithfulness to all generations and proclaim the joyful birth of the Messiah in the fullness of time. Come and enjoy this time-honored tradition followed by a Christmas reception for all in honor of the Chancel Choir. The Christmas Joy offering will be received during this service.

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to experience the beauty and joy of the Christmas season! The service is at 5pm on Sunday, December 15.

The reception committee is asking for your help in providing a finger food for the occasion. The committee kindly asks that the finger food already be plated on clear glass or silver plate and can be placed in the kitchen the day of the event. Help will also be needed in the area of setting the food tables and cleanup afterwards. A sign-up sheet is on the Women's bulletin board.

CHURCH CHOIRS

In October and November, we began a series on the functions of the church choir. This month, we add the third function:

1. The church choir leads and enlivens the congregation's song
2. The church choir sings music that the congregation cannot

3. THE CHURCH CHOIR SERVES AS A SMALL-GROUP WITHIN THE CHURCH FOR FAITH FORMATION

Because we meet together once a week to do work for the glory of God and benefit of neighbor, taking care of each other is no longer an option, it's a responsibility. It means that we are charged with ensuring the choir enacts the words we sing each week in worship. A great example of this is the familiar Latin text "Ubi Caritas," something that most church choirs have sung at one time or another:

"Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him. Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And may we love each other with a sincere heart."


THE HISTORY OF

Lessons & Carols

On 20 May 1880, the Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall laid the foundation stones of Truro Cathedral amid great pomp and circumstance. For Christmas Eve that year, Edward White Benson, the first Bishop of Truro, devised a new service: the Nine Lessons with Carols. Taking nine biblical passages from the old and new testaments he interspersed them with various carols, and hymns to tell the Christmas story. The service began by setting out mankind's need for a Redeemer – the first "lesson" recounting Adam's "original sin" in eating an apple from the tree from which God has commanded him not to eat. The account of Jesus's birth is from St Luke's gospel. And the final readings focus on what that birth means for us. Benson also decided that the first reader should be a humble chorister, each subsequent one progressing through the cathedral hierarchy up to the bishop, a tradition that continues to this day.

The Nine Lessons with Carols service was an immediate success. Truro's citizens packed into the temporary wooden shed that stood as their cathedral for seven years while their new cathedral was constructed. Not only was it a satisfying format theologically and liturgically, it was also a vehicle for bringing the community together at an unsettling time, as they awaited the birth of their new cathedral.

The service quickly travelled beyond Cornwall, but it was Cambridge's King's College, with its celebrated choir, that really put it on the map. Eric Milner-White, Dean of King's, took up the service in 1918 with a few changes. The service is just as popular today as ever and continues to evolve in the readings chosen and the music heard.



Service of Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 15 at 5:00 PM
Farmington Chancel Choir
Memphis String Quartet
Farmington Chimes

SESSION REPORT

Session welcomed Bonnie Algee to share information about the Presbytery's College Ministry, "UKirk." One of the ways Farmington can support this ministry is by providing a meal for the college students on a Thursday evening. If you are interested in providing a meal, let Rev. Rebecca or Jinney Hart know.

Session approved 2020-2021 FPDS rates for Summer and Holiday Care. They also approved a youth fundraiser selling parking spaces for the Germantown Christmas Parade for a suggested donation of \$5 per space.

Session received a request from Doug Barr to begin the process of enrolling as an Inquirer for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. Session enthusiastically endorsed Doug to be an Inquirer, and Sandy Wann was named his Elder Mentor in the process. In addition, funds were approved for Doug to enroll in "Faith and Human Development" which is the final course toward him being recognized as a Certified Christian Educator.

Session was excited to welcome Leslie McNamara as a member of the Farmington family by Transfer of Letter from Germantown United Methodist Church.



A HOME FOR YOUR FAMILY WITH A HEART FOR GOD'S WORLD.

Thank you to everyone who has returned a pledge card for 2020. If you have not yet returned your card, please either place it in the offering plate, return it to the church office, or mail it to the church. We hope that every member will make a commitment to Christ's ministry through Farmington Presbyterian in 2020.

"The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped." - Proverbs 11:25

Staff Extensions

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor, Ext. 3134
Doug Barr, Director of Christian Education, Ext. 3130
Polly Knight, Financial Records Keeper, Ext. 3136
Shelley Wann, Church Office Administrator, Ext. 3131
Linda Turner, Managing Director of Day School, Ext. 3138
Gretchen Burch, Program Director of Day School, Ext. 3132
Anthony Jones, Maintenance Technician

Session Members

Moderator - Rev. Rebecca Luter
Director of Christian Education - Doug Barr
Administration - Ann Erickson
Christian Education - Susan Bryant
Clerk - Laurinda Ingram
Congregational Care - MaryShelley Ritchey
Fellowship - Becky Hutchins
Property and Grounds - Roland Mittag
School Board - Charlie Smithers
Service - Jinney Hart
Treasurer - Melissa Still
Worship - Sandy Wann

Content for the January New Vision newsletter is due Monday, December 16. Email articles and event information to Shelley Wann at Shelley@farmingtonpres.org



Farmington Presbyterian Church & Day School
8245 Farmington Blvd.
Germantown, TN 38139

December 2019			
SUNDAY	1	9:30 AM	Sunday School
		11 AM	Worship
		2PM	Youth Fellowship
MONDAY	2		
TUESDAY	3	6 PM	Congregational Care
WEDNESDAY	4	5:45 PM	Mid– Week Meal - Tacos
		6 :30PM	<i>Program & Pageant Rehearsal</i>
THURSDAY	5	5 PM	Hope & Healing Service
		6 PM	Service Committee
FRIDAY	6		
SATURDAY	7	5:30 PM	Room in the Inn
SUNDAY	8	9:30 AM	Sunday School
		9:30 AM	Christian Education Meeting
		11:00 AM	Worship
		12:30 PM	Presbyterian Women
		4PM	Youth Bonfire @ Barr House
MONDAY	9	7:00 PM	Scouts
TUESDAY	10		
WEDNESDAY	11	5:45 PM	Mid– Week Meal - Shepherd’s Pie
		6 :30PM	<i>Program & Pageant Rehearsal</i>
THURSDAY	12		FPDS Christmas Program
		5 PM	School Board
FRIDAY	13		FPDS Christmas Program
SATURDAY	14	8:00 AM	Youth Fundraiser—Parking for Germantown Christmas Parade
SUNDAY	15	9:30 AM	Sunday School
		11 AM	Worship
		12:30 PM	P & G Meeting
		5:00 PM	Lessons & Carols - Christmas Joy Offering
MONDAY	16	6 PM	Session Meeting
		7 PM	Scouts
TUESDAY	17		
WEDNESDAY	18	5:45 PM	Mid–Week Meal - Homemade Pizza
		6 :30 PM	Christmas Pageant
THURSDAY	19		
FRIDAY	20	6:00 AM	Presbyterian Men
		2:00 PM	Christmas Caroling
		4:00 PM	FPDS Closing at 4PM
SATURDAY	21	5:30 PM	Room in the Inn
SUNDAY	22	9:30 AM	Sunday School
		11:00 AM	Worship
		2:00 PM	Youth Christmas Party
MONDAY	23		SCHOOL CLOSED—December 23 - January 2
TUESDAY	24		Church Offices Closed
		5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
WEDNESDAY	25		MERRY CHRISTMAS!
			CHURCH & SCHOOL OFFICES CLOSED
THURSDAY	26		
FRIDAY	27		
SATURDAY	28		
SUNDAY	29	9:30 AM	Sunday School
		11:00 AM	Worship
MONDAY	30		
TUESDAY	31		



FARMINGTON

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
& DAY SCHOOL

BIRTHDAYS

1	Jackie Hall
1	Ashley Vue
2	John Thomas
3	Natalie Lively
3	Julia Lively
3	Elizabeth Luter
4	Jennifer Kauffman
9	Michael Wann
9	Crystal Edmonds
10	MaryShelley Ritchey
11	Mike Schneider
12	Molly Sweet
13	Susie Fister
15	Merry Bonner
18	Hudson Barr
19	Loyd Hudson
19	Grayson Perkins
19	Ed Byrne
21	Kenny Williams
21	Carol Lyons
22	Linda Turner
23	Lu Schneider
25	Melanie Oest
26	Caroline Churchwell
31	Leigha Graham

Worship Leaders

DECEMBER 1	ADVENT I
Acolyte	Hudson Barr
Children’s Moment	Jennifer Young
Liturgist	Melissa Still
Communion/Usher	Jackie Hall
Communion/Usher	Kirsten King
Communion	Ed Patterson
Communion	Jerry Renfrow

DECEMBER 8	ADVENT II
Acolyte	Greyson Perkins
Children’s Moment	Erin Webb
Liturgist	Charlie Smithers
Usher	Elizabeth Moots
Usher	Tom Moots

DECEMBER 15	ADVENT III
Acolyte	Hadley Barr
Children’s Moment	Doug Barr
Liturgist	Jackie Hall
Usher	Stephanie Nagel
Usher	Thomas Nagel

LESSONS & CAROLS	
Usher	Annette Hosier
Usher	Jerry Hosier

DECEMBER 22	ADVENT IV
Acolyte	Charlotte Moots
Children’s Moment	Laurinda Ingram
Liturgist	Kay Patterson
Usher	Pat Rush Davis
Usher	Melissa Still

DECEMBER 24	CHRISTMAS EVE
Acolyte	Henry Webb
Liturgist	Ruth Lovell-Bradham
Communion/Usher	Duke Lively
Communion/Usher	Jennifer Young
Communion	Vanessa Howard
Communion	Stephanie Nagel

DECEMBER 29	
Acolyte	Delilah Davis
Children’s Moment	MaryShelley Ritchey
Liturgist	Paul King
Usher	Billy Wann
Usher	Brandon Wann



advent 2019

GATHER AROUND EVERY DAY THIS MONTH TO READ THE STORY OF HOW GOD SENT JOY TO THE WORLD WITH THE GIFT OF HIS SON, JESUS. WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, SPREAD SOME JOY OF YOUR OWN AS A FAMILY!

 PARENT CUE

01

A young couple, Mary and Joseph, get engaged.

DEFINE JOY. Have each person in your family share their definition of the word joy.

02

One day, God sends the angel Gabriel to Mary. He has some very special news!

MAKE J-O-Y PERSONAL. Name something that starts with a J, O, then Y that brings you joy.

03

Mary is greatly troubled when she hears the angel's greeting.

DONATE SOMETHING. Bring JOY to a family in need by gathering your gently-used coats and gloves to drop off at a charity.

04

Gabriel responds to Mary: "Don't be afraid; God is very happy with you!"

LAUGH OUT LOUD. Share your favorite jokes or hilarious YouTube videos with each other.

05

Gabriel tells Mary the special news: She will have a baby boy, and He will be named Jesus.

SERVE TOGETHER. Serving together not only helps others but is life-giving to your family. Choose one way you can volunteer your time as a family this month.

06

Gabriel shares more details of God's plan with Mary: "Jesus will be great and will be called God's very own son!"

HAVE A DANCE PARTY. Create some family joy by turning on your favorite Christmas music and having a dance party.

07

Mary doesn't understand how she can have a baby without being married, but the angel Gabriel assures her of a great truth: Nothing is impossible with God.

BE CREATIVE. Use your talents (whatever they are) to create something that represents the story of the birth of Jesus—like a Christmas ornament, a painting, a rap, a short play.

08

"I serve God with my life and want all that you have said to happen," Mary tells the angel, and he leaves.

POWER DOWN. Too much technology can steal your joy. So turn it off for an undistracted evening together. Bake Christmas cookies, talk about your favorite Christmas memory, or plan a Christmas surprise for another family.

09

Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth and is so overwhelmed with God's goodness that she sings a song of praise.

HAVE A MOVIE NIGHT. Snuggle up and watch your favorite Christmas movie together.

10

Caesar Augustus wants to know how many people are in his empire, so he tells all the people to go back to their hometown to be registered and counted.

ORGANIZE SOMETHING. Declutter and give away no longer used items, like clothes that don't fit or toys that are no longer played with, to a local charity.

11

Joseph takes Mary, who is pregnant, to his hometown of Bethlehem to be counted.

START A NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION. Google search Christmas traditions around the world and have your family vote on a new one to adopt.

12

While Joseph and Mary are in Bethlehem, the time comes for the baby to be born.

SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. Invite a few of your favorite people over for dessert or a game night.

13

Mary gives birth to Jesus, wraps Him in swaddling cloths and lays Him in a manger because there is no room for them anywhere else.

GIVE THE GIFT OF READING. Give the joy of reading by collecting gently-used books and dropping them off at your local Goodwill or public library.

14

At night in a nearby field, shepherds are watching their flocks.

DITCH COMPLAINTS. Complaining is the opposite of joy. This week, every time you complain, follow it up by saying one thing you're thankful for.

15

The sky lights up—God has sent an angel to the shepherds to tell them the good news.

FIND JOYFUL PEOPLE. Have everyone answer—the most joyful person I know is _____. Discuss why you think so.

16

When the shepherds see the angel, they're afraid!

SMILE. Take your smile everywhere you go today. Even a simple smile can bring joy to someone having a rough day.

17

The angel tries to calm the shepherds: "Don't be afraid—I bring wonderful news that will bring joy to all of the world!"

LEAVE GOODIES. Bring joy to your neighbors by leaving a small gift or goody on a few doorsteps with an encouraging note.

18

"A Savior—the Rescuer you have been waiting for is born today!" the angel proclaims to the shepherds.

GIVE COMPLIMENTS. See how many compliments each of you can give to brighten someone else's day today.

19

The angel explains that the shepherds will find the baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

LOOK FOR JOY. Discuss: "How can we be joyful when we feel unhappy?"

20

More angels come to celebrate the good news—they arrive at the shepherd's field and begin praising God!

TAKE A BREATHER. Declare today (as much as possible) an "off day." Stay in pajamas. Leave the dishes in the sink. Put off the wrapping one more evening.

21

The shepherds leave their flocks and hurry to find Mary, Joseph, and the baby, who is lying in a manger.

CHECK-IN. Have each person share the most joyful part of their day today.

22

After they see the baby, the shepherds excitedly go and tell everyone they run into the good news!

BE THANKFUL. Write a note or card thanking someone who has brought you joy recently.

23

The shepherds return to their flocks, praising God for all they had seen and heard.

ENJOY THE LIGHTS. Christmas decorations bring holiday joy! Take a drive or walk around your community and enjoy the bright, beautiful colors.

24

Mary names the baby Jesus just as the angel had told her to do.

GO DOWN MEMORY LANE. Pull out old family albums or scroll through old Christmas pictures. Tell stories of your favorite Christmases and memories.

25

God has sent His Son to rescue us because He loves us so very much!

JESUS IS BORN! Read the story of Jesus' birth from Luke 1:26-2:21 and remember the greatest joy of all—hope in our Savior, Jesus!