

PRAYER REQUESTS:

OUR CONCERNS:

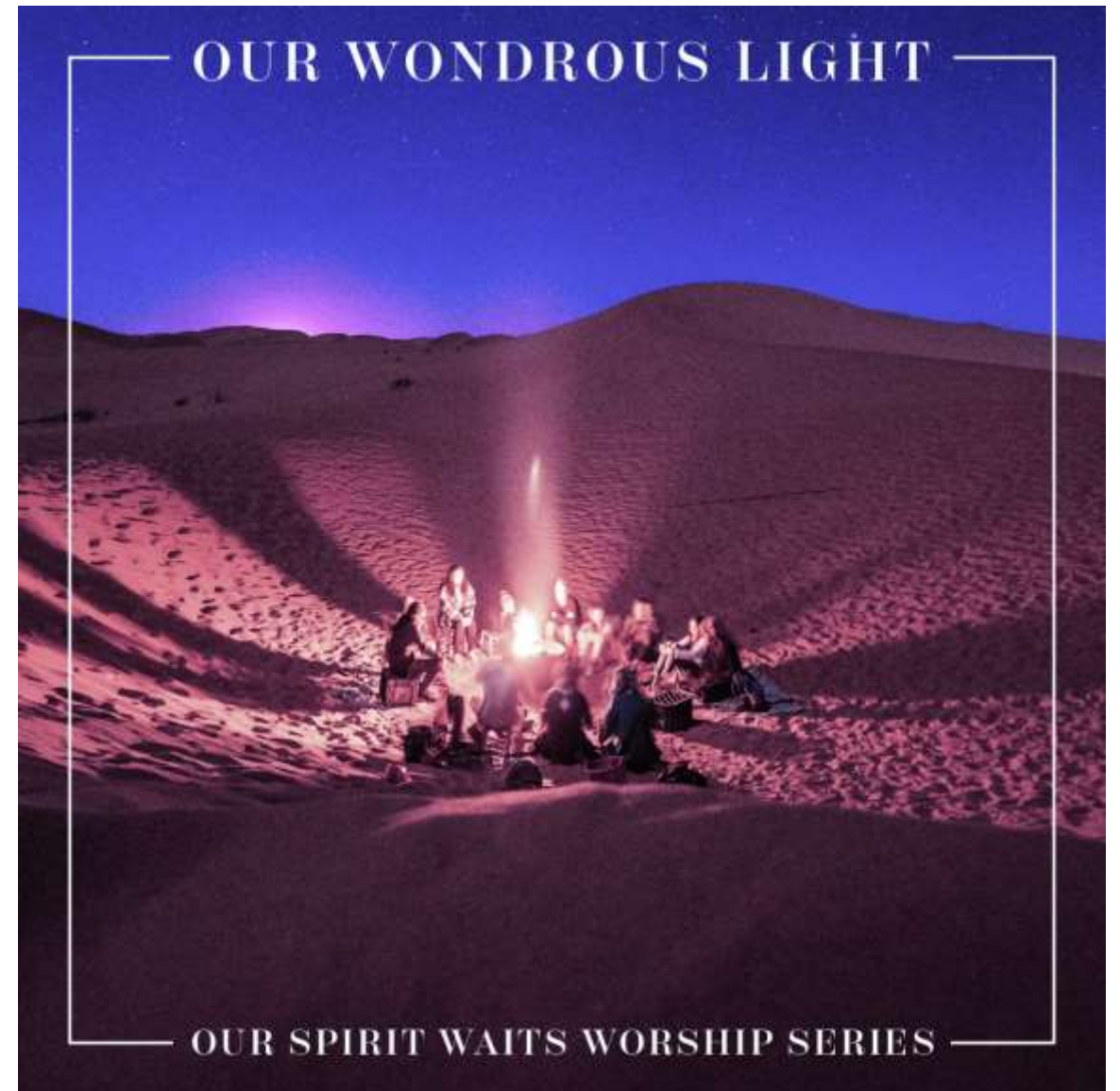
Peace in Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine
For peace & wisdom in areas of conflict
Wisdom & safety for government officials globally
President Joe Biden and VP Kamala Harris
Healthy and gentle campaigns and election process
Veterans and Service Members
Civilians, leaders, and soldiers in war torn regions
Police officers and their families
Folks harmed in interactions with police
All first responders & medical staff
For an end to violence in all forms
Victims & families involved in violent crime,
sexual abuse, racism, and harassment
Abusers and their families
Healing & peace for divisions caused by race,
class, gender, sexuality, politics & fears
All affected by natural disasters & disease
Stewardship of our environment & climate
Refugees & huddled masses yearning to be free
Security and immigration reform
People who are hungry and unhoused
Prisoners, Prison Leadership & Judges
Education Funding, Cash Bail and Prison Reform
Schools, education and foster care reform
Members of AA, NA, & AlAnon and their families
All struggling with addictions, finances, etc.
Those suffering from mental health illnesses
All those caring for sick loved ones
Those grieving the loss of loved ones
Bishop Schol, DS Freymoyer & EPAUMC Staff
Laitly and Clergy of the UMC
The UMC, Conference Delegates and Bishops as
we find our way forward in the Holy Spirit
Udobo School in Durban, South Africa
Campus Ministries
Dottie Sheaffer – healing for back & eyes
Eileen Williams – muscles
Bradley McGowan – ALS
Linda Philbin – motor neuropathy & healing
Rosemary (Marilyn Jones' sister) – healing
Chuck Flory – ALS
Annette McClarigan – health, sons & family
Jean Neideigh – healing (MS)
Angela, Maria and Becky – to be healthy & thrive
Children – to know they are not alone in struggles
Noah Boughter, Sophie and family
Heather Lindsey
Theo Wenger – healing for kidneys

Those with cancer: Cyndi Campbell, Dean Grove,
Mark Reitzel, Kerry Link, Duane Lehman, Lori,
Sophia Serio, Ruthie, Martin Campbell, Ben
Neideigh, Harmony Chiccarine, Grandma
Edwards, Nat, Tina Miller, Carl Derr, Dorcas
Kamanda, Cynthia (from NJ), Jim Royer, Adam
Malik – brain cancer, Carol Bryner (Allen K's
sister) – pancreatic cancer, Joan (Nancy's sister-
in-law) – breast cancer, Benedicta Fair
(Romanita's Aunt)
Jake Ruhl – hip and shoulder pain
Shirley Gehr – healing
The Jackson Family
Robyn Meckley – healing
Linda Weber - healing
Terry & Margie Urban & family – housing & health
Michael Herr (Steph Edward's dad) – medical tests
Dave Fisher – car accident
Sandy Patschke – healing after a fall & back
Principal Rilatt, his family and his recovery
Terry Kofroth – healing and back surgery
Rev. Dorcas – eyes, cancer surgery, & Sierra Leone
Gail's cancer-friend of Sandy
Ruthie & Gary – friends of Amy
Brenda, Dave and Mike Loechner – health
Bob Perkowski – neurosurgery on his back & healing
of shoulder
Perkowski family on the death of Robert T.
Perkowski (Pastor Jason's grandfather)
Ellison (Daryl's granddaughter) inflammation & pain

OUR PRAISES:

Love and support of Faith UMC Family
God's faithful love that is new every morning
God's presence through illness, struggle & loss
New folks joining us for worship and ministries
Beauty of nature & sunshine
Time with friends & family
The Promise of Heaven
That no matter what is going on in the world, we
know that God is in control ultimately!
That God walks with us; even in the shadow of death
Prayers are answered according to God's will &
timing
Dolly's gifts as our pianist
Diana Valentine – good test results from doctor
Faithful givers and God's providence

*Please submit prayer needs, praises, & updates by
note or email to the office: faithumc@hotmail.com*



Welcome

*Faith United Methodist Church
1290 Fruitville Pike, Lititz, PA 17543
717-560-0321 or faithumc@hotmail.com
www.FaithUMC.us & also on Facebook*

The Rev. Jason Perkowski jbperkowski@gmail.com Phone: 717-333-9238

Faith United Methodist Church



December 24, 2023 at 7:00 PM – Christmas Eve

WELCOME: We gather together to worship God: The Father, The Son, & the Holy Spirit. We celebrate that The Holy Spirit came upon the Virgin Mary, the Word of God became flesh within her, & on this night some 2023 years ago she brought the only begotten Son, Jesus, into the world. You are welcome in this sacred space no matter who you are; from where you have come; what experiences, struggles or gifts you bring; or the questions, doubts & beliefs you carry. Together, we seek to honor & understand the gift of the Christ Child! We are so glad you are here!

Please sign in using the red Pew Pads. Prayer Request Cards from the pads can be placed in the basket on the altar. If worshipping online, please 'sign in' and add prayer requests by commenting on the video.

PRELUDE **Jody & Anthony Wiker**
“Comfort, Comfort, All My People” Robert Mann; “Taladh Chriosta” arr. by David Johnson;
“Gesù Bambino” by Pietro Yon arr. by Last Resorts Music;
“Il est né, Le Divin Enfant” arr. By Last Resorts Music; “A La Nanita Nana” arr. by Last Resorts Music.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS **Pastor Jason**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES: CHRIST CANDLE **Carol & Allen Kennedy**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** **Pastor Jason & God’s People**

Come, faithful watchers, and behold, your salvation is here!

We greet the Wondrous Light, our Messiah, Christ the Lord.

We have waited and watched, longing for God to show up and save us from the suffering and pain in our world.

We greet the Wondrous Light, the fulfillment of our shocking hope.

We have waited and watched, longing for peace to reign among us, a peace that removes unjust barriers, frees us from sin, and binds us together as neighbors, family, and friends.

We greet the Wondrous Light, the bringer of our just peace.

We have waited and watched, longing for joy that is persistent in the face of the grief, lament, chaos, and oppression that weigh on us day in and day out.

We greet the Wondrous Light, the source of our fierce joy.

We have waited and watched, longing to encounter the love that transforms us, the Love that is now here among us, first as a babe in a manger, then as a teacher, a friend, and our Savior.

We greet the Wondrous Light, Love Incarnate who has come to save us and transform us. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023

***HYMN** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* **UMH #234 v. 1 & 2**

SCRIPTURE LESSON **Isaiah 9:2-7** **Buni Harbison**
This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!

***HYMN** *Joy to the World* **UMH #246 v. 1, 2, 4**

CHILDREN’S TIME **Pastor Jason**

SCRIPTURE LESSON **Luke 2:1-5** **Buni Harbison**
This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!

***HYMN** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* **UMH #230 v. 1, 2, 4**

SCRIPTURE LESSON **Luke 2:6-14** **Buni Harbison**

This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!

***HYMN** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* **UMH #220 v. 1 & 2**

THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE **Pastor Jason**

SCRIPTURE LESSON **Luke 2:15-20** **Buni Harbison**

***HYMN** *Go Tell It On the Mountain* **UMH #251**

COMMUNION **UMH #12-13**
All are invited to the Lord’s Table to receive God’s forgiveness and grace through Communion

CONFESSION: God of Light, we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light. We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune. We follow the dim lights that call us to be more religious by following rules. We follow the fading light of personal salvation. Forgive us for not seeking the true Light of Your love for all the world. Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus, who commanded us to love one another. Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion, and justice, in which the Mystery of Your Love is revealed. In the name of Jesus the Messiah, we pray. Amen.
(Written by Rev. Mindi and posted at <http://rev-o-lution.org/>)

OUR OFFERINGS OF PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS
***Doxology** *What Child Is This* **UMH #219**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING & THE LORD’S PRAYER **UMH #13-14 & #895**

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP **UMH #15**

***HYMN** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* **UMH #224**

***HYMN** *Love Came Down at Christmas* **UMH #242**

***HYMN** *Angels We Have Heard on High* **UMH #238**

HOMILY *Our Wondrous Light* **Pastor Jason**

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH **Pastor Jason**

***HYMN** *Silent Night* **UMH #239**

*** You are invited to stand in body or in Spirit**

Pianist: Dolly Bankert **Pianist:** Jody Wiker **Strings & Vocals:** Anthony Wiker

AV Tech: Dennis Meck, Sr & Keagan Meck

Pastor: The Rev. Jason Perkowski **Ministers:** The People of God

OFFICE COMMUNICATION: Hours vary. Carol Kennedy, Office Admin, checks messages in the office on weekdays. Pastor Jason is with family from Noon Friday until Sunday & may not respond to non-emergencies then.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL at 9:00 AM meets in the 1st classroom in the Ed. Wing. **No sessions Dec 31**

JUNIOR CHURCH for 3-year-olds - 4th grade during the 10:30AM Worship Service. Please sign your child in before the service & get a numbered badge. Children are dismissed to Jr. Church after the Children’s Message. After worship, pick up kids in the Education Wing, 3rd classroom on the right. **We will have Jr. Church Dec 31.**

MEMBERSHIP CLASS: January 7, 14 & 21 at Noon. If you are interested in learning more about the UMC and our local churches, and are considering becoming a member, contact Pastor Jason **to join this class.**

YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS, 5-7 PM at Faith UMC for 5th-12th graders. Each week there are dinner, games and a lesson. Sign up to be the 2nd adult and/or to provide a meal. For more info contact Pastor Jason. **The next Gretna Glen trip is January 21 (3:30-7PM). No session Dec 31.**

GRIEFSHARE GROUP to help people find support and process the loss of loved ones meets every other Monday from 5-6 PM at Faith UMC. **Next Meetings: January 8 & 22 (No session January 1)**

CHATTING on Mondays at 6:30 PM: *No session 12/25 or 1/1.* This member-led, discussion group meets online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86190453518?pwd=cEVDeDljeThaaWVlYjJlQWmZjTm5oUT09>.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY at Oregon Community UMC, 6:30PM. *No Session Dec. 27 or Jan 3.*

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY at 10AM in Faith UMC Fellowship Hall. *No Session Dec. 29*

YOUTH WINTER RETREAT: On Feb. 2-4 the Youth will go to Gretna Glen for the Winter Blast Youth Retreat. Please sign up by the Youth Bulletin Board. Permission Slips are needed. Cost is \$120, but \$60 will be covered from Youth Fundraisers. **\$30 is due when you sign up and \$30 is due by January 15, 2024.**

YOUNG ADULTS WINTER RETREAT: On Feb. 23-25 the Young Adults (HS Grad-30 years old) will go to Gretna Glen for the Winter Blast Youth Retreat. Cost is \$120, but scholarships are available from the camp. **Register directly through the camp.** Info is available at: <https://gretnaglen.org/event/18460122-2024-02-23-young-adult-retreat/>

THE CHURCH & SOCIETY TEAM engages in improving our community by standing up against injustice. **Next meeting: Jan 17 at 5:30 PM (3rd Thursdays).** To learn more, contact Renee Norman. **Roadmap For Justice: POWER Interfaith Convention** in Harrisburg on **Feb 19.** To be a part of the team working on **Bail Reform & Representation for persons accused of crimes**, join the Zoom Session at Noon every Wednesday: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82483314676?pwd=K2ZtZGQ0LzBOelVlVXQwUk5LR2VFQOT09>

IN NEED OF HELP? Contact Pastor Jason, dial **2-1-1** or visit www.211.org to reach the **United Way Call Center** for social services. **The Crisis Intervention Lifeline is (717) 394-2631 or dial 9-8-8.**

SUB SALE: We have certificates from S. Clyde Weaver for \$7.00. Pick up delicious made-to-order sandwiches available on a sub roll, bread or wrap at any of their locations. **They are so convenient when you need a quick meal during this busy holiday season and make great stocking stuffers.** See Carol.

SEND A CARD TO HOMEBOUND PEOPLE: There are small bags pinned on the bulletin board. Each has a set of address labels for Faith's homebound people. Please take one and send them a card.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES DURING ADVENT: Prayerfully consider if you would like to help with any of these projects. *We do not expect you to donate to each one.* Please participate as your heart and capacity leads you.

- **TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER:** We will be collecting cleaning products of all types for the families living at the TLC in Downtown Lancaster. Look for the basket next to the tree in the hall.
- **MISSION TREE:** Please decorate the tree across from the office with scarves, hats, and gloves for refugees supported by Church World Services. For many of these people, it is their first experience with a winter like ours and they are in need of winter gear. **THESE ITEMS ARE DUE BY CHRISTMAS EVE**
- **UDOBO PRE-SCHOOL:** We support the Udobo School in Durban, South Africa at Christmas. Visit <http://UdoboSchool.com> for details. Your gift will help provide food, educational supplies & teaching staff. Checks can be made out to *Faith UMC* with **"Udobo School"** in the memo or donate online to that fund at www.faihumc.us. All gifts in the Faith UMC Christmas offering envelopes, those marked for Udobo School, as well as half the unmarked gifts in the Christmas Eve offering plate will go directly to the school.
- **CHRIST HOME FOR KIDS & BLACKFEET UMC PARISH:** If you are interested in making a donation you can send a check made out to *Oregon Community UMC* with the **specific ministry marked in the memo line.** You can mail it to Oregon Community, 1214 Creek Rd., Litz, PA 17543 or put it in the offering plate Christmas Eve. Half the unmarked gifts in the Christmas Eve offering plate will go directly to these ministries.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS CHRISTMAS GIFTS for the staff at Faith UMC. We are overwhelmed at your generosity and blessed to serve with you in ministry to our community. Thank you for these gifts as well as your love and your prayers.

THE STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE THANKS ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED to our annual Staff Appreciation gifting that occurred during the service on 12/17/23! Through the end of January, you can conveniently write a Note of Appreciation to individual staff members via the SPRC Basket on the tables in the hallway with card stock provided. Thanks, Becky Mowrey, SPRC Chair.

LONG MEMORIAL FREE GROCERIES for those in need every week through their Friday Night Food Ministry at 6pm. You can drive up and receive groceries to help support you through the week. *Volunteers needed.*

COMMUNITY AID will donate \$.13 to Faith UMC for every pound of clothing, shoes, electronic, toys, & household goods (excluding furniture) donated at 31 Rohrerstown Road Mon-Sat, 9am – 6 pm. **Tell staff to credit Non-profit partner # 10221 - Faith UMC.** Write or tape partner number on bags/boxes.

LUMINA KIDS NIGHT needs volunteers for Monday evenings on January 8, 22, & 29. They need 3-4 adults to play with the kids and provide a light supper for 15 students. To volunteer or get more info, contact Pastor Jason, Diana Valentine or Correen Russo 717-808-8633.

MEDICINE BOTTLE COLLECTION: *Please remove labels & residue.* A basket is under the table in the hall.

THANK YOU for your faithful giving toward our ministries through your time, talents, prayers, presence and financial gifts! We celebrate all that God has accomplished through you this year. We are grateful for new friends who have joined the church, the many guests welcomed during dozens of events, the ongoing discipleship through Bible Study and faithful ministry, and all the fun we have had together! **We can't wait to see what God does in 2024!**

FINANCIAL NEEDS: We started 2023 with a projected \$56,000 deficit between income and expenses plus a debt from the 2022 conference apportionments. **As of Dec. 16, we had paid off the 2022 debt** and were down to the last \$10,560 needed in offerings to pay our final bills, mortgage and payroll. **In the last week we received the Sunday, Dec 17 Offering of \$7,087, plus several very significant gifts that came in the mail afterwards that will allow us to pay all of our remaining bills and begin 2024 with a very healthy balance in the accounts!** Thank you all for your very generous gifts throughout this year—including the donor who reminded us that “we know there is a God and now there is a Santa Claus!” In the Spirit of Saint Nicholas who gave generously to those in need, we are grateful!



Gifts can be directed to **General Ministry and/or the Debt Reduction / Building Fund.** Mark preferences in the memo line & envelope. You can set up recurring gifts through your own financial institution or at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z37Q/home>. There is a link at FaithUMC.us or via the **QR Code.** You can also **mail or place an offering in the plate.** Special gifts from IRAs, stocks, etc. can also be received. See the office for info.

ONGOING EVENTS:

Sundays Adult Sunday School, 9:00 AM **No session 31**
 Worship, 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary and Facebook Live
 Junior Church during 10:30 AM worship – **We are meeting during holidays**
 Youth Group at Faith, 5-7 PM (Gretna Glen on Jan. 21) **No session Dec 31**
 Communion offered during worship service, followed by refreshments

1st Sundays GriefShare Group - Every other Monday, 5:00-6:00 PM at Faith UMC. **Next is Jan. 8**

Mondays Chatting Club via Zoom, 6:30 PM **No session 12/25 or 1/1**

Tuesdays Bible2School in the Fellowship Hall, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM **No session Dec 26**
 Nar-Anon - Every other Tuesday, 7:00-9:00 PM at Faith UMC

Wednesdays Bible2School in the Fellowship Hall, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM **No session Dec 27**
 Worship Team Practice, 6:30 PM – **No Practice Dec. 27**

Thursdays Bible Study at Oregon Community UMC, 6:30PM **Next Session is Jan. 10**

Fridays Wing and a Prayer AA Meeting in the Fellowship Hall, 10:00 AM

1st & 3rd Saturdays Bible Study led by Pastor Jason, 10:00 AM **No session Dec 29**

1st Saturdays Faith UMC works with IMPACT! Missions – Contact Leon Bame to help
 Servant Saturday

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, Dec 30 Urban & Elsbernd wedding & reception, 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Wednesday, Jan 3 Ladies Lunch at Oregon Dairy – RSVP to Sandy Patschke

Thursday, Jan 4 SPRC meeting, 6:00 PM

Sunday, Jan 7 **Membership Class, noon (also Jan 14 & 28)**

Monday, Jan 8 GriefShare Group - Every other Monday from 5:00 to 6:00 PM
 Chatting Club via Zoom, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, Jan 10 District Resource Team meeting, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Thursday, Jan 11 Finance Team meeting, 6:00 PM

Thursday, Jan 18 Senior Men’s Lunch at Oregon Dairy – RSVP to Allen Kennedy
 Church & Society Team meeting, 5:30 PM

Thursday, Jan 25 Church Council meeting, 6:00 PM

Monday, Jan 29 Faith UMC provides Grab ‘N Go Meal at Zion Lutheran Church, 9:00 AM prep

WORSHIP LEADERS for next Sunday, Dec 31

GREETERS: Sydney Dohring & Alan Strait
 USHERS: Sydney Dohring & Alan Strait
 LITURGIST: Michelle Bame
 CHILDREN’S TIME: Pastor Jason
 JUNIOR CHURCH: Lisa Baker & Carol Kennedy & Angela Dillon
 NO YOUTH GROUP: Happy New Year!



THE POINSETTIAS AT THE ALTAR ARE

PRESENTED BY:

Diane & Bob Black
 Amy Boughter
 Amy Boughter
 Amy Boughter
 Dick & Peg Burley
 Dick & Peg Burley
 Beverly Charles
 Janet Charles
 The Edwards Family
 The Edwards Family
 Daryl Hawthorne
 Garnett Knippenberg
 Ronald Lunn
 Amy & Gwen Newell
 Tim & Sandy Patschke
 Tim & Sandy Patschke
 Jake Ruhl

PRESENTED BY:

Amy Boughter
 Amy Boughter
 Janet Charles
 Daryl Hawthorne
 Terry Kofroth
 Diana Valentine
 Diana Valentine

IN MEMORY OF:

Their Rainbow Grandchild
 Lowell B Jackman
 Donna S Jackman
 Sherilyn L Jackman
 Merry Christmas (Chrissie) and Grant Hixon
 Richard S and Edna M Burley
 Herbert Charles
 Herbert Charles
 John Newcomer
 Eva Schmidt
 George Hawthorne
 Gloria J Knippenberg
 Linda Lunn
 Donald Newell
 Mr & Mrs Alan Patschke
 Mrs Ruth Stillwagner & Gene
 Beverly Ruhl

IN HONOR OF:

Sophie M Boughter
 Theron D Boughter
 Herbert Charles
 Her mother & father
 Matthew, Carrie, Julia, & Alex
 Freya Grace Muth
 Family & friends