



CHRIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

January 2024 Volume 53 No. 1

FROM A PASTOR'S DESK:

“For who can eat and who can have enjoyment without Him?” Ecclesiastes 2:25

How many times did you wish someone a “Happy New Year?” Did you mean it when you wished it? If so, what is the key to having 2024 be a really happy one for you?

Many people equate happiness with money and materialism. To them, happiness is a million dollars. Others equate happiness with good physical health. To them, happiness is a body with no aches, pains, or sicknesses. Still others equate happiness with personal achievement. To them, happiness is a big promotion, or graduation, or a milestone achievement.

Years ago, I read a true story about tennis star, Boris Becker. He was the youngest man to ever win Wimbledon, achieving victory in 1985 at the tender age of seventeen. In the late 1980s, Becker was on the mountain top of fame, fortune, and personal achievement. Yet, he was so unhappy and on the brink of suicide. Becker was quoted as saying, “I had won Wimbledon twice before, once as the youngest player. I was rich. I had all the material possessions I needed. It’s the old song of movie stars and pop stars who

commit suicide. They have everything, and yet they are so unhappy. I had no inner peace. I was a puppet on a string.”

Isn’t that amazing? Becker had all the things the world says will make for happiness, yet he was so incredibly unhappy. Could it be that true happiness is not found in health, wealth, and achievement? The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes would tell you so.

The Bible makes it clear that true happiness comes when you and I are right with God. When we are yielded to Christ and His will, then we can experience true happiness—inner peace and unspeakable joy. Are you right with God today? Are you living surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?

Blaise Pascal, the seventeenth century mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer, and philosopher said, “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.”

What about you? Are you trying to fill the inner vacuum with health, wealth, achievement, or the like? Those things will never make you truly happy; they will never satisfy the deep longings of your soul. The only One who can do that is Jesus.

Start your year off right by bowing your knee and your life to King Jesus. Give Him first place in everything ... for that is the key to true happiness. Happy New Year!

THE HOLE IN OUR GOSPEL

When offering our lives to Jesus and looking to Him to provide the happiness that we seek one of the first things that we learn is that happiness is not found when seeking to satisfy our own desires. Jesus told us to love God and love others. When our attention is focused in those directions we find that our own needs are somehow met. We also find that life is satisfying and fulfilling.

Come join us as we allow Richard Stearns, the president of World Vision, encourage us from God's Word to see the world around us in a new way. He'll point out to us the opportunities that God has placed all around us and the purpose for which He has placed us right where we are. Our study will take place in adult Sunday School starting this coming Sunday at 9am. Hope to see you there!

CONSIDER THIS!

We are blessed as a church to provide food, clothing, and household items to families in need. The Lord has abundantly blessed us through organizations like Forgotten Harvest, Meijers, and through the donations of individuals. Over the past 6 months we have seen a significant increase in the number of people needing our help. What a joy it is to be a conduit of God's love meeting the physical as well as spiritual needs of so many families.

The funding for our Outreach is not part of the church budget but is supplied by gifts given above the tithe and designated on the "hunger" line of the offering envelope. With the increase in need we have drained the "hunger" account

and are in need of additional funding. The hunger fund purchases the staples from Gleaners to fill our bags. Please pray with us for God to supply our need and if you would, please consider giving a gift to the hunger fund. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR OUTREACH CHILDREN

Thank you to everyone who made this years Christmas toy give away so successful by your donations. We were able to bless over 96 children with gifts! Special thanks to Todd and Amy for once again doing a fantastic job with purchasing, sorting, organizing, and delivering the toys! And thanks to all who assisted in the process!

BUNCO NIGHT- TUESDAY, JANUARY 16th

Are you needing to break up the mid-January blahs? Come and join us for a night of fun and fellowship! Tuesday, January 16th is Bunco night. The cost for the evening will again be \$2 per person which will include pizza, salad, drinks, and prizes. We will begin at 6pm and wrap up by 7:30pm. Please sign up in the rear entry so that we know how many to plan for. Hope to see you there! We promise that you will go home a winner!

CLOTHING MINISTRY

Due to the upcoming construction in the education wing, the clothing ministry will not be accepting any donations until further notice.

UPDATES FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT BOOK

If you have any changes that need to be made (i.e.. address, phone number, email, etc.) for the upcoming annual report book, please turn them in to Eileen or leave them on the answering machine at church. Thank you!

MEIJER SIMPLY GIVE CAMPAIGN

We will once again be a part of the Meijer “Simple Give” campaign. The campaign will run from December 31st, 2023 through March 30th, 2024. **Our double match days will be Saturday, March 2nd and Saturday, March 23rd.**

This campaign we will be partnering with the Meijer Store located at 13000 Middlebelt Road in Livonia, just south of the Freeway I96. If you have any questions about this campaign please see Barb Christopherson.