

Merry Christmas

FOOTHILLS WORSHIP CENTER - DECEMBER 2022 – HOLIDAY EDITION

TOGETHER LET'S CELEBRATE THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

*"Blessed be the LORD God,
who alone does wondrous things!"*

Psalm 72:18

Christmas is the story of a star shining brightly, a name declared joyfully, a manger waiting expectantly, and a promise given freely. Yes, it is the story of what happened on a bright, starlit night some two thousand years ago in the village of Bethlehem, but it is also the story of what is happening right now, right where you are. Without Christmas we could never fully understand the meaning of Emmanuel, realize its power and know the wonder of God with us.

The season of Advent is a great gift that invites us to see the world through the lens of what God has done and will do. It is a time to **remember God's faithfulness and celebrate God's promises.**

It is a time to reflect on Jesus and then discover how the events surrounding his birth can reawaken us to the wonder of Christmas.

During this Christmas season, I encourage you to take time each day to meditate, reflect, and pray as you invite the Lord to give you fresh eyes to behold the wonder of Christmas. It is the wonder that the God of the universe created us, desired a relationship with us, and came to earth to be with us. It is the wonder that God was willing to give everything so that we could be rescued, redeemed, and restored—forever. May the gift of this wonder be yours this Christmas and every day. Blessings and joy! Pastor Brad C.



For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a SAVIOUR, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you;

Ye shall find the babe
wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel

a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God, and saying,

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,



Christmas Eve SERVICE

@ Foothills Worship Center

Saturday December 24th

7:00pm

Join us as we celebrate the arrival of the Christ child through special readings, moving videos, great music and a thought-provoking message by Pastor Brad. It is a night of memories, candles aflame and love realized as we experience our first Christmas together here at FWC. Get excited-Invite everyone!

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE



The Worship Center will be closed Sunday Dec. 25th

You can actually “be home for Christmas” and have church. Join us online for a special pre-recorded worship service that will feature Bible readings, devotions and lots of great music. This Christmas service will premiere on YouTube at 10:00 am on Sunday morning December 25th. Watch it with your family.

<https://www.youtube.com/@foothillsworshipcenterjohn7465>

Information, Updates and What-Not

United Women in Faith

The UWF will be having its annual Christmas party Dec. 18th at Noon.

There will be a cost of \$5.00 each towards the pizza and drinks.

Please bring one item you would put in a tossed salad. We will combine whatever comes in. If you wish to participate in our grab bag, please bring an item you wish to regift. In other words, something you were given that you don't wish to keep. Remember: One person's junk is another person's treasure.

Don't Bake...Buy Your Cookies from UWF

Christmas Cookie Trays

Cookies are \$6/Dozen

Pick-Up is Either December 17th from 10 AM – Noon or After Church on the 18th

Pre-Order Your Cookie Trays Using a Form from the Welcome Desk

Mission, Nurture and Outreach

We will continue to make hats, mittens and prayer shawls throughout the year. Our no-sew blankets will also continue to be made weekly.

We will be making angel caps for still-born babies in Albany. There is a program where you can donate your wedding dresses and then the hats go with them. They are called micro baby caps. Cindy VanAllen will have a pattern and more information on all the particulars soon.

This month we will send or take Christmas cards to our shut-ins and nursing home parishioners. We hope to be able to take a small gift to each one when and if we are able to visit. If you would like to help with this ministry, please come on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am.

A new project will be quilted lap robes. We will be making simple robes out of squares. If you like to sew, we have some material to use and they can be put together on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 pm. Come join us!

Thanks and Blessings this Advent season.
Cindy VanAllen

He Knows if You've Been Bad or Good...
So be good for goodness sake.

Shepherd's Pie Dinner

\$12 per Dinner

December 10th

Includes:

Salad, Roll & Dessert

Eat-In/Take-Out

Sing Along Christmas Concert

December 11th @ 2 p.m.

****With a "Special" Guest***

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Most Wonderful Story of Jesus' Birth



a	n	a	z	a	r	e	t	h	b
g	a	l	i	l	e	e	c	a	m
o	d	a	n	g	e	l	e	i	a
d	f	h	d	a	v	i	d	l	n
j	e	w	s	b	m	a	r	y	g
e	s	l	o	r	d	t	u	v	e
s	w	b	n	i	a	n	n	a	r
u	j	o	s	e	p	h	n	m	b
s	u	n	b	l	e	s	s	e	d
v	i	r	g	i	n	t	b	l	e
s	h	e	p	h	e	r	d	s	m



Children, Youth & Adults

Circle the words that are underlined.

Luke 1:26-28

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

Luke 2:7

Mary "brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger;"

Luke 2:15

"the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass,"

Luke 2:36-38

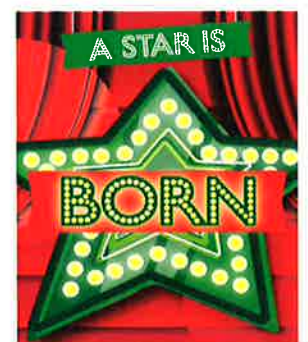
Anna was a prophetess who recognized that the infant Jesus was the Messiah.

Matt 2:1,2

...there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

The Best
Gift Ever
Is Jesus



HOLIDAY HUMDINGERS

1. What do Jimmy Buffet, Barbara Mandrell, Sissy Spacek, Little Richard & Pastor Brad's sister Vicki Chesebro share in common?
2. The poinsettia comes from what country?
3. If your true love followed the lyrics of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," how many birds could you expect to get?
4. "Auld Lang Syne" is quite a popular song. Just what does 'auld lang syne' mean?
5. In Switzerland, what do they call Santa's wife? a) Gerda b) Lucy c) Tanta Kringle
6. Here in the U.S., National Candy Cane Day is celebrated on what day of the year?
7. According to the hit song, what's always #1 on Alvin the Chipmunk's Christmas list?

HOLIDAY HO HO HOS

1. Where do all of Santa's elves go to vote?
2. What do you get when you cross an archer with a Christmas gift-wraper?
3. Why did Scrooge love Rudolph so much?
4. What was the first thing the rich kid built when he got some building blocks as a gift?
5. Why was Santa's helper so depressed?
6. What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
7. What's red and falls down chimneys?

CHURCH IS NOT AN
ORGANISATION YOU JOIN; IT
IS A FAMILY
WHERE YOU BELONG,
A HOME WHERE YOU ARE
LOVED AND A HOSPITAL WHERE
YOU FIND HEALING.

Welcome!

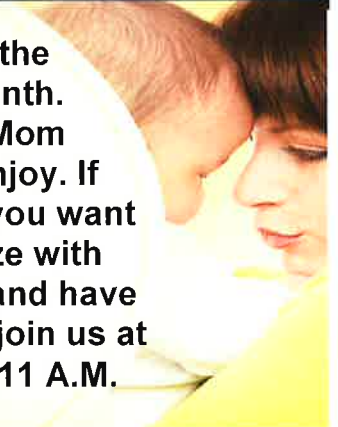
Our New Bishop



Bishop Hector Burgos

Rev. Burgos was elected as a bishop at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. Rev. Burgos, 48, is the first Hispanic to be elected bishop in the jurisdiction and the first Puerto Rican ever elected in the denomination. He is assigned as bishop to the Upper New York (UNY) Annual Conference and will begin serving January 1, 2023. Please be in prayer for his family.

MOMs is a group that meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month. Childcare is provided while Mom gets to do something they enjoy. If your kids are in school and you want to come craft, or just socialize with other women, share stories and have some "me time", then come join us at MOMs group from 9 A.M. till 11 A.M.



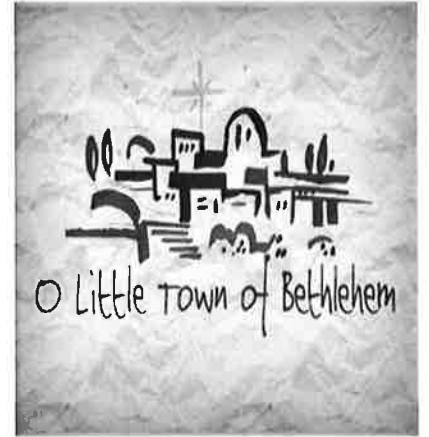
O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words by Phillips Brooks

Music by Lewis Redner

Musical score for the hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem". The score is written in 4/4 time and consists of two systems of music. The first system includes a treble clef with a piano (*P*) dynamic and a bass clef. The lyrics are: "O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we... see thee lie; A -". The second system includes a treble clef with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a bass clef. The lyrics are: "bove thy deep and dream-less sleep, The si - lent... stars go by; Yet". The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings.

The True Story about the Great Christmas Hymn



BETHLEHEM... THOUGH YOU ARE LITTLE AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF JUDAH, YET OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH TO ME THE ONE TO BE RULER IN ISRAEL. ~MICAH 5:2

At nearly six feet six, weighing nearly three hundred pounds, Phillips Brooks cast a long shadow.

He was a native Bostonian, the ninth generation of distinguished Puritan stock, who entered the Episcopal ministry and pastored with great power in Philadelphia and in Boston.

His sermons were topical rather than expositional, and he's been criticized for thinness of doctrine. Nonetheless he's always considered one of America's greatest preachers. His delivery came in lightning bursts; he felt he had more to say than time in which to say it.

While at Philadelphia's Holy Trinity Church, Phillips, thirty, visited the Holy Land.

On December 24, 1865, traveling by horseback from Jerusalem, he attended a five-hour Christmas Eve service at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. He was deeply moved by the beautiful music. "I remember standing in the old church in Bethlehem," he later said, "close to the spot where Jesus was born, when the whole church was ringing hour after hour with splendid hymns of praise to God, how again and again it seemed as if I could hear voices I knew well, telling each other of the *Wonderful Night* of the Savior's birth."

Three years later, as he prepared for the Christmas season of 1867, he wanted to compose an original Christmas hymn for the children to sing during their annual program.

Recalling his magical night in Bethlehem, he wrote a little hymn of five stanzas and handed the words to his organist, Lewis Redner, saying, "Lewis, why not write a new tune for my poem. If it is a good tune, I will name it 'St. Lewis' after you"

Lewis struggled with his assignment, complaining of no inspiration. Finally, on the night before the Christmas program, he awoke with the music ringing in his soul.

He jotted down the melody, then went back to sleep. The next day, a group of six Sunday school teachers and thirty-six children sang, "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

Brooks was so pleased with the tune that he did indeed name it for his organist, changing the spelling to ST. LOUIS, so as not to embarrass him. The fourth stanza, usually omitted from our hymnbooks, says:

*Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to Thee, son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching & faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.*



WE GIVE BECAUSE HE GAVE!

2022 has been quite an exciting, busy and expensive year. We have moved from our previous Gloversville location and opened up the brand-new Foothills Worship Center! We do love the new church space and have made several building improvements and have purchased many things. All of which has cost money, and the bills don't ever stop. During this season of giving, we ask that you be generous as possible to help our church to stay financially secure. We believe that God has great plans for our ministry here but we need everyone's support to make that possible.

Humdinger Answers: 1) The same birthday, Dec. 25th
2) Mexico 3) 184 4) Old long ago 5) B Lucy 6) Dec 26th
7) a hula hoop **Ho Ho Answers:** 1) at the North Pole
2) Ribbon Hood 3) because every buck is dear to him
4) a tax shelter 5) he had low elf-esteem 6) snow flakes
7) Santa Klutz **So...Are you a smart or silly person?**

This Article is Brought to you By: Faith Breaks

Some of you may know this but for those that do not, Foothills Worship Center "advertises" on the radio station W.E.N.T. A local AM station. Each month we have new speakers that share a short faith-based devotional story to help encourage and challenge the listeners. These "Faith Breaks" are sponsored by your own FWC and provides us an opportunity to get both our name and address on the radio. Just like everything else though, we have to buy the radio spots and also come up with the money for these Faith Breaks to be heard. The money used for that comes from donations. Therefore, we are asking for our congregation members to please contribute towards this cost. Anything you can give towards this is appreciated. If writing a check, please indicate in the memo section that it is for Faith Breaks. Thank You! Interested in getting involved? Contact Lynne'

Church Birthdays

December 3rd

Lorraine Smith

December 6th

Melinda Harrington

December 9th

Pastor Brad

December 16th

Emily Semione

December 18th

Joni Dennie

Church Anniversary

December 9th

Sharon & Dick Diefendorf

Open Gym Night is a Success!

The first open gym night was a success. We had about 12 kids not including a few adults playing a game of basketball. Even Pastor Brad got in on the action. There are several pictures on our Facebook page. Thank you, Art and Maggie Shrum, for donating not only the basketballs but also your time. As the kids were leaving the gymnasium, they could be overheard talking about how excited they were to come back! We are so happy to be able to offer Open Gym Nights every Friday from 5 – 7 p.m. Water and snacks provided.



The Gifts of Christmas



**Celebrate the true gifts of Christmas this season:
Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace**

It's the most wonderful time of the year—or so the old song goes. Yet we have to admit that it doesn't always feel that way. We can all rattle off a list of the reasons why we feel a twinge of stress or sadness mixed with happiness or excitement when the carols start playing in every public setting. Hectic holiday schedules, family pressures, rampant materialism and reminders of emotional wounds are just a few of the reasons.

Whether you are the person who is ready to relax and savor the season because you did all your shopping and preparations months ago (not likely) or the person who dreads the busyness, responsibilities or loneliness that steal your joy this time of year (much more likely), the Christmas season offers a unique opportunity to experience God's love and grace in the midst of real life. Christmas can still truly give us a taste of the most wonderful time of world history. Jesus—the Messiah, the Savior—came as the light into the darkness and stress and pain of the world—our world. That world then, just like our world now, including our lives, needs the shining light to illuminate, clarify, guide, and heal. Christ's coming brings that ultimate light and His peace, joy, hope, and all-consuming love. Those are the true gifts of Christmas. We are so blessed, and He is definitely worth celebrating!

In a season often marked by frenzied busyness, Advent is an opportunity to set aside time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. All the relevant messages in this Advent sermon series are designed to help us place our focus on a far greater story than our own—the story of God's redeeming love for our world. This series is the perfect opportunity for families throughout the community to come together to celebrate this very special season. So I encourage you to invite everyone you know to come.

Join us for an unforgettable Advent series as we celebrate how Jesus' birth changed everything and brings us hope, love, joy, and peace even today!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas!

Pastor Brad Chesebro