

Covenant Kids

The Newsletter for the Kids of
First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves

December 2019



Tracey Harris,
Director of Christian Ed.

Tracey's Blessings - Follow the Star

Join in the holiday fun at our Advent workshop! The workshop takes place on Sunday, December 1, during coffee hour. The theme this year is Stars. The Christmas Star has a prominent place in the Christmas Story. We follow the star to Bethlehem, we sing songs with and about stars, and we may even eat a decorated star cookie in our homes and churches. Furthermore, the star doesn't disappear after Christmas Eve, but continues to burn brightly guiding us into a new year as the wise ones follow the star on a journey to find Jesus.

We will also begin collecting for Heifer Project on December 1. Gift Cards are available if you want to give in honor of someone.

The children's Sunday School Christmas program takes place December 15 during worship. The title of this year's production is "A Gift for Christmas." Pastor Tracey, Pastor Erick, and Terri Thompson are working hard to get the children and youth ready.

The Christmas Eve Family Service takes place at 4:30 PM on December 24 with a live retelling of the Christmas Story.

What I'd really like to give you for Christmas is a star...

Brilliance in a package,

something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans
or in the pocket of your being.

Something to take out in times of darkness,

something that would never snuff out or tarnish,
something you could hold in your hand,
something for wonderment,
something for pondering,

something that would remind you of
what Christmas has always meant:
God's Advent Light into the darkness of this world.

But stars are only God's for giving,

and I must be content to give you words and wishes
and packages without stars.

But I can wish you life

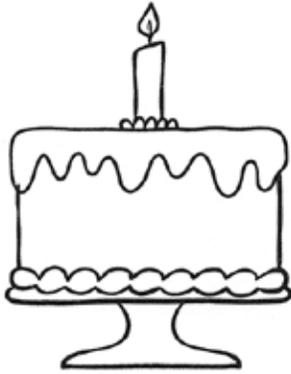
as radiant as the Star
that announces the Christ Child's coming,
and as filled with awe as the shepherds who stood
beneath its light.

And I can pass on to you the love

that has been given to me,
ignited countless times by others
who have knelt in Bethlehem's light.
Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a star.

Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, The Westminster Press, 1980.

A Blessed Christmas is my wish for all of you!
Peace, Tracey Harris DCE and Student Pastor



COUNTDOWN TO BABY JESUS' BIRTHDAY!

*Start following on the first day of December.
Color in each day until you get to the big celebration!*

1	2	3	4	5
Make a card for someone who is sick or elderly, and send it to them or go visit them.	Do something to help at home or school without being asked.	Mary and Joseph traveled a long way to Bethlehem. Draw a picture of them on their journey.	Bake cookies and share with your neighbors.	The King of Glory is Coming! Read Psalm 24:7-10
6	7	8	9	10
Volunteer with your family to serve the poor or feed the hungry.	Make Christmas cards to send that tell of the Good News of Jesus' birth!	Make a list of those who are sick and pray for them.	The Angel visits Mary! Read Luke 1:26-38	Practice singing your favorite Christmas Carols.
11	12	13	14	15
Spend time with someone who is elderly.	Do something nice for your parents. Tell them how much you love them!	Draw a Christmas tree and decorate it with colorful ornaments.	Discuss the meaning of the Jesse Tree with your family.	Christmas balls: Select tiny inexpensive gifts. Wrap them in yarn and tie off the ends. Hang on the tree!
16	17	18	19	20
Ask your parents to help you find the special "O" Antiphons the week before Christmas.	Make Christmas placemats for your family. Use 11"x17" paper and decorate each with Christmas scenes.	Discuss the meaning of Advent and what each candle represents.	With your family, go to a local nursing home and sing Christmas Carols.	Set up the Nativity scene at your house. Talk about what it means.
21	22	23	24	25
Draw a picture of the Nativity. Hang it up to share.	Get others to help you put on a simple Christmas play.	Talk about favorite Christmas memories with your family.	Tonight Mary will give birth to her firstborn son. Read the story in Luke 2:1-20.	Christmas Day! HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

TALK ABOUT IT...

Do you celebrate Jesus' birthday with a cake?



The NATIVITY reminds us of Jesus' birth.

*Circle the objects that might have been found at the real Nativity.
Color the picture.*



TALK ABOUT IT...

Do you have a Nativity in your home at Christmas?

Santa Clause Cookies

Total Time: Prep: 40 min. + standing Cook: 5 min.
Makes: 32 cookies

Ingredients

12 ounces white baking chocolate, chopped
1 package (1 pound) Nutter Butter sandwich cookies
Red colored sugar
32 vanilla or white chips
64 miniature semisweet chocolate chips
32 Red Hots candies

Directions

1. In a microwave, melt white chocolate at 70% power for 1 minute; stir. Microwave at additional 10 to 20 second intervals, stirring until smooth.
2. Dip one end of each cookie into melted chocolate, allowing excess to drip off. Place on wire racks. For Santa's hat, sprinkle red sugar on top part of chocolate. Press one vanilla chip off-center on hat for pompom; let stand until set.
3. Dip other end of each cookie into melted chocolate for beard, leaving center of cookie uncovered. Place on wire racks. With a dab of melted chocolate, attach semisweet chips for eyes and a Red Hot for nose. Place on waxed paper until set.

Nutrition Facts

1 each: 117 calories, 6g fat (2g saturated fat), 1mg cholesterol, 59mg sodium, 15g carbohydrate (10g sugars, 0 fiber), 2g protein.

Tracey Harris, Director of Christian Education

Tracey.Harris@FirstChurchWG.org



10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
www.FirstChurchWG.org
314-962-0475

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