

December
2022

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

December 4 -
"Sacred People" /
2nd Sunday of Advent

December 11 -
"Sacred Space" /
3rd Sunday of Advent

December 18 -
"Sacred Knowing" /
Children's Pageant

December 25 -
Online-Only Worship /
Christmas Day

2022 Holiday Worship Calendar

Lessons and Carols

Saturday, December 17 at 7:00 pm

Christmas Pageant during in-person worship

Sunday, December 18 at 10:00 am

Blue Christmas Worship: A Service of Hope

Tuesday, December 20 at 6:30 pm

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

Family Worship in person at 4:00 pm

Online Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm

Candlelight Worship in person at 9:00 pm

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 am

Online-Only Worship with Zoom fellowship
following online worship (approximately 11:00 am)

Join Zoom Meeting with this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/5cju8eyn>

or on the Zoom App (Meeting ID: 872 9080 9330 ;

Passcode: GoodSam) or by dialing in

(312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 872 9080 9330 ;

Passcode: 4744791)

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1 at 10:00 am

Online-Only Worship with Zoom fellowship
following online worship (approximately 11:00 am)

Join Zoom Meeting with this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdhubktew>

or on the Zoom App (Meeting ID: 813 6123 0942 ;

Passcode: GoodSam) or by dialing in

(312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 813 6123 0942 ;

Passcode: 4368243)

OUR STAFF

Rev. Carol Zaagsma

Lead Pastor
carol@good.org
952-452-9395

Nikki Holm

Dir. of Congregational Care
nikki@good.org
952-452-9396

Jan Russell

Director of Children, Youth
and Family Ministries
jan@good.org
952-452-9398

Christian Nielsen

Coordinator of Worship Arts
and Online Engagement
christian@good.org

Paolo Debuque

Chancel Choir Director &
Music Coordinator
paolo@good.org

Mary Beth Berg

Organist/Accompanist
marybeth@good.org

Kate Graber

Chancel Chimes Director
kate@good.org

Brad Carlin

Homeward Bound Director
bradleypcarlin@gmail.com

Cindy Bergstrom

Office Manager
cindy@good.org
952-452-9393

Kim Hill

Bookkeeper
kim@good.org
952-452-9394

Dan Green

Building Engineer
danrg@good.org
612-889-4015

Dandy Lewis

Media Specialist
dandy@good.org

Good Samaritan UMC

Office: 952-929-0049

Pastor's Page

In our worship series during the Stewardship Season, we journeyed deeper into what it means to be a disciple, or follower, of Jesus. We referenced the writings of both Adam Hamilton (*The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*) and Tyler Sit (*Staying Awake: The Gospel for Changemakers*).

During this study, we were met with several challenges to work on:

- 1) **Worship every week** - in person when possible, otherwise online;
AND **Pray five times a day** - in morning, three meals, at bedtime.
- 2) **Study the Bible** - start with 5 verses a day, grow to 5 chapters a week (one for each day, with 2 days to catch up when needed).
- 3) **Generosity** - five acts of extraordinary generosity towards others each month.
- 4) **Sharing** - share your faith story with five people this year, followed by inviting them to some aspect of our ministries here at church.
- 5) **Intentional Kindness** - five acts of intentional kindness toward others each week (this is within the framework of serving others).

While seeing a list like this might feel a bit daunting, it really is achievable with some practice and some intention. If it feels like too much, take one practice at a time until it becomes a habit, and then add another. That is far better than discounting the whole list as if it is overwhelming or just too hard to do.

You may not know this about me, but I do try to practice what I preach. I'm not perfect at everything I share with you. I actually learn quite a few things when I'm preparing sermons; and I grow right along with you as I try to keep up with challenges like this series brought.

So, the other day when my small "clergywomen in South Minneapolis" group met at a restaurant for breakfast, when near the end of the meal the server asked, "Separate checks?" I answered "One" as my colleagues all said, "Separate." The server brought me the one check, and my colleagues looked at me with eyes that expected an explanation. So I told them about our worship series, and week #3 in particular. In some sense, sharing with them about this touched on challenge #4 as well. This little exchange brought delight for my colleagues, and brought great joy to me.

These challenges don't have to cost a lot of money. Even bringing a plate of cookies from a batch you just baked, or offering a ride for someone to a place you both are going, can be ways to show intentional kindness and extraordinary generosity. Please let me know your stories as you journey through these "Essential Practices of the Christian Life." I'd love to hear from you.



Pastor Carol

Worship Arts & Online Engagement

Striking the Right Balance on Social Media Notifications

Are you receiving too many Facebook notifications or having trouble finding our content? As we work to grow our Facebook page and group, we're featuring more content. Whether you're receiving too many notifications from Facebook (within the app or via email), or you aren't seeing as much of our content as you'd like, please reach out to christian@good.org for help with your Facebook settings to make sure you have the best experience.

Advent and Christmas Online Worship

We're looking forward to the Advent and Christmas seasons for online worship. Our new Online Music Ensemble is busy recording music and we have guest soloist Adam Reinwald recording some special Advent and Christmas pieces. You may remember Adam's wonderful performance as guest soloist with our Chancel Choir and orchestra this past spring. We're also planning to feature our other music ensembles as well during the season.

Christmas Eve online will be a meditative service of music, readings, reflections, and poetry. Our two in-person Christmas Eve services and one online Christmas Eve service will each be its own unique worship experience.

For Christmas Day we'll be worshipping online only. We'll have a very special Christmas Day service, featuring some of our best old and new Christmas and Advent music videos, along with poems and readings. We also have a special online-only New Year's Day worship service in the works.

If you're interested in reading for online Christmas Eve or Christmas Day worship, please contact christian@good.org.

New Technology for Online and In-person Worship

We're pleased to announce we've acquired some new technology to enhance both in-person and online worship.

We installed a new hearing assistance system in our sanctuary that allows those with hearing challenges to better hear speakers and soloists while reducing other sounds around them. We have four receivers and are awaiting four more, which are on backorder. This is an important part of welcoming all to worship! If you'd like to give our hearing assist system a try, please check in at the AV desk in the sanctuary and we'll be happy to help you.

We also have a new dedicated Sanctuary computer to run visual components of in-person worship, a new audio and video production computer robust enough to edit and produce our online worship, and a newly refurbished video camera for our ongoing recording needs. I'm deeply grateful to our Memorials Committee for making these purchases possible.

I'm looking forward to a beautiful Advent and Christmas Season with all our Good Sam community!



Christian Nielsen
(he/him)

**Coordinator of
Worship Arts &
Online Engagement**

christian@good.org
952-452-9399



Congregational Care

It's That Time of the Year

Over the past few months as I have been at home caring for a newborn, I have been acutely aware of how easy it is to slip in and out of mindfulness. At times, I would find myself fully present, simply in awe of the precious life in front of me, soaking up all the smells, sights, sounds, and sensations of him as best I could.

Just as frequently, however, I would notice that the urge to get things done - to do the dishes, pay some bills, go through a stack of kids' artwork that was at least a foot tall and growing by the day - would overpower the desire to simply hold and savor sweet baby Cass. In these moments, rather than focusing on rest, self-care, and baby care, I would find myself focusing on completing as many unfinished projects as I could during this leave. Isn't maternity leave, after all, designed to go through my high school photo albums in order to start throwing such old memories away?

In my experience, this pull, this pendulum in and out of mindfulness, is routinely felt during the holiday season. As we prepare for Christmas, aren't there so many experiences we want to slow down and savor? Right off hand, traditions like finding the perfect Christmas tree, looking at lights, and baking cookies, all come to me as moments I want to be fully present for, experiences that I want to take in with all of my senses. Similarly, in the life of this church, special events like the Christmas pageant, Lessons and Carols, and Christmas Eve services all invite us to truly engage in the here and the now through our singing, listening, praying, and otherwise participating with open hearts and open minds.

Even so, if you are anything like me, the to-do lists during this time of year are seemingly endless: think of the presents, buy the presents, wrap the presents, go grocery shopping, cook,

Nikki Holm (she/her)

**Board Certified Chaplain
Director of Congregational Care**

**nikki@good.org
952-452-9396**

**Office Hours (Part-time, 15hrs/week):
Tuesdays 9-3pm and variable (or by
appointment) Wednesdays and Fridays**



bake, clean, make sure everyone has nice things to wear, create Christmas cards, mail Christmas cards..... and on and on. It is so very hard to be fully present to the majesty of the season when we have so many things to get done!! This difficulty, this pendulum back and forth between how we want to be during the holidays and how we actually are (frantic, overwhelmed, anxious perhaps) is only human. Through no fault of our own, it is almost impossible to stop our monkey minds from their constant chatter.

And yet, we can be mindful of our desire to be more mindful. We can practice creating little moments here and there to pause, take a deep breath, and take it all in. We can pay attention through our senses to our full external experience and then notice how it is impacting us internally: is it eliciting peace? Calm? Joy? We can say to ourselves as we listen to our favorite Christmas song or decorate cookies with our loved ones: Be here, now. Just for a moment, be here. And then we can continue on with our busyness and our fussing.

On our way to school after the first snow this year, my daughter, Lydia, was ecstatic in the backseat. Unprompted, she joyfully proclaimed: "I just love Christmas!"

Me too, little girl. Me too. It would be a shame to miss it, wouldn't it?

Merry, peaceful, mindful Christmases to you all,
~Nikki

Congregational Care

Thursday Afternoon Book Group December Luncheon



After a hiatus of two years, we will have our Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 8 in the Fireside Room at

12:30pm (PLEASE NOTE earlier start time). Please bring a dish to share and your Christmas spirit! We are going to share the stories behind our favorite recipes. Bring one or two recipes that are special to you and your family and share its history. Join us for fun, food and fellowship. Questions: Vicki Dunn, victoria.dunn@q.com (952-930-3431).

Homebound Poinsettia Delivery Volunteers Needed!

Some poinsettias from the Christmas Garden have been donated for delivery to homebound members, and we are looking for willing delivery drivers. Poinsettias are available for pick-up either directly after the 9:00pm Christmas Eve service or during the building hours (8am-3pm) on Monday December 26. Please deliver by December 27. Our homebound members live in a multitude of nearby suburbs. If you are interested in delivering a plant to one or two of them, please contact Nikki@good.org so that she can best coordinate based on your location and availability.

VIRTUAL Caregiver Support Group Starting December 28, 2022

As most of you know, in January of 2022 we started a monthly in-person support group for those in a caregiving role during this period of their lives. The hope was to create a time and space for those accompanying a loved one amidst a mental or physical illness to come together to restore, refill, and receive support themselves. While each story is unique, the desire for connection and compassion is shared. In recognizing that some caregivers are not able to easily or safely leave their homes, we have decided to add a virtual option starting this December on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 1:00-2:00pm. The Zoom link for this meeting is as follows:
<https://tinyurl.com/36sypy9m>
(Meeting ID is 827 4765 9906 ; Passcode is Receive)



This virtual gathering will be in addition to continuing to meet in-person on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 6-7:00pm in room 200. Participants are welcome to join in-person, virtual, or both, as their schedules allow. Contact Nikki@good.org with questions or to express interest in participating.

Blue Christmas Worship: A Service of Hope



All are welcome to join us in the sanctuary on Tuesday, December 20 at 6:30pm for a Blue Christmas Worship Service. The nursery will be open for childcare during this service; no RSVP necessary.

This worship service will be especially designed to accompany those who may be experiencing grief, depression, pain, or despair this holiday season. We will sing, reflect, and pray together in acknowledgement of the full spectrum of emotions and experiences that come with being human. We invite you to come just as you are and to participate only to the degree that feels most honoring to you. We hope that those gathered will leave feeling a little less alone and a little more at peace. If you're interested in reading at the service, please contact Nikki@good.org.

~Nikki Holm & Christian Nielsen

Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Set an Advent Intention by Rev. Traci Smith

Spiritual practice is not just “accidental.” If your Advent season is to be a time when connection, family time, and spiritual practice are the focus, it will happen because you and your family have made it a priority. This is not easy, and it goes against the tide of culture. Before the hustle and bustle of the season, take a few moments to set an Advent intention. What would you like the season to look like? Would you like to intentionally limit the number of outside invitations you accept as a family in order to have more peace and less rush? Would you like to set aside one day of the week for family time? Maybe you would like to be guided by an Advent word such as peace, joy, hope, or love. Get the whole family in on the discussion, as age and maturity level allow. If you choose, write down your intention in a journal or somewhere the whole family can see it. The Advent intention will look different for each family, but here are a few examples:

- This Advent, we will focus on the Advent values of hope, peace, love, and joy.
- We will not be overscheduled this Advent, but instead, we will take time for one another.
- Every Sunday evening during Advent, we will do a spiritual practice together.
- Advent will be a time of peace and quiet for our family, not noise and hustle.

Create a Sacred Space

Advent and Christmas are a time for decorating and making space. As you prepare your home for Christmas, consider setting apart a sacred space that will be devoted to prayers and spiritual practices. The sacred space can be as simple as a small table. Place a Bible or your favorite advent storybook, book, or an Advent calendar on the table. Perhaps you will add some candles or sacred objects from your own family. However you create the space, your family will know that it is set apart for spiritual practice. If you have the space, add a chair where family members can come and sit for a few minutes of peace and quiet during the season.

Gift Collection

We are collecting unwrapped gifts for infants through 8-year-olds to donate to STEP (St. Louis Park Emergency Program), as well as Target gift cards in amounts \$5 to \$25.

Please contact Jan if you have a gift card to donate.



Jan M. Russell (she/her)
Director of Children, Youth
& Family Ministries
jan@good.org
952-452-9398



You are cordially invited to

Good Samaritan UMC CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 18, 2022 10 am
If you would like to participate this is a no rehearsal pageant
Arrive at 9am to be costumed!



Good Samaritan UMC 5730 Grove Street Edina, MN 55436
good.org

Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Join us for a magical evening!

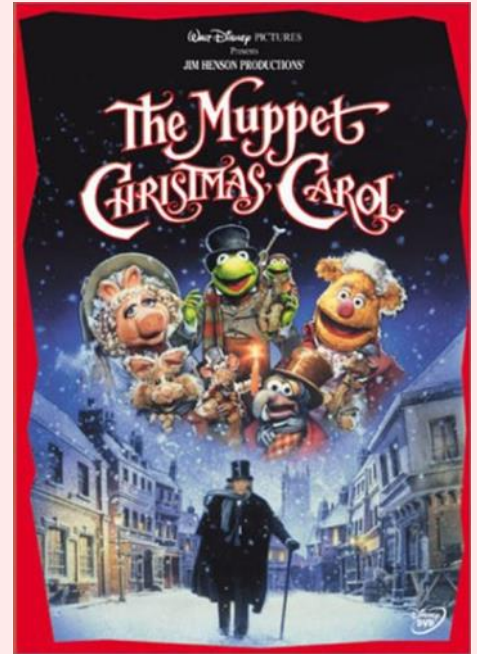
The Muppet Christmas Carol

Wednesday, December 28, 2022 | 5:00pm
 Good Samaritan United Methodist Church

Mark your calendars for a free, magical evening!
 On Wednesday, December 28, all ages are invited to
 a showing of the movie *The Muppet Christmas Carol*.

We will start off with a light dinner at 5:00pm and move to the
 Sanctuary for the movie. Kids can get cozy with their pillows,
 sleeping bags, and stuffed animals!

We will be collecting donations of socks and cans of soup to
 share with our food shelf partners.

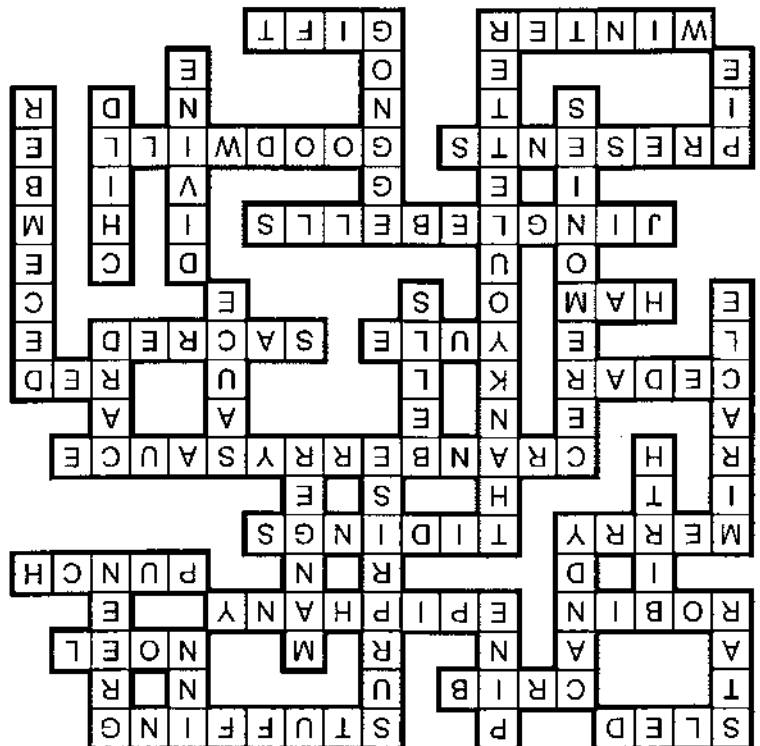


Don't Peek - Christmas Crossword Puzzle Solution (puzzle on p. 11)

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

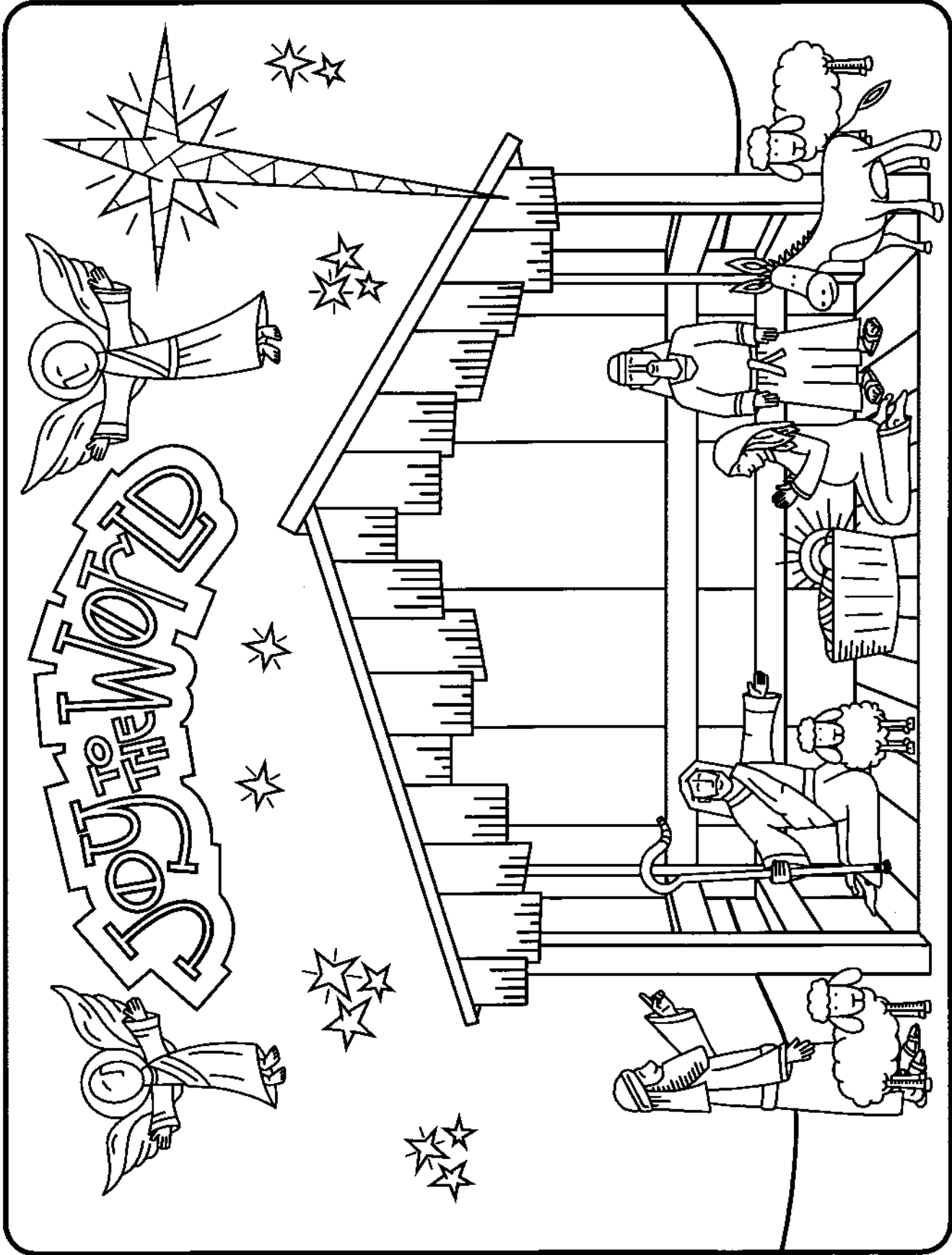
Across: 1 Sled, 3 Stuffing, 6 Crib, 8 Noel, 9 Robin, 11 Epiphany, 12 Punch, 13 Merry, 14 Tidings, 15 Cranberry sauce, 19 Cedar, 20 Red, 22 Yule, 23 Sacred, 24 Ham, 27 Jingle Bells, 29 Presents, 30 Goodwill, 31 Winter, 32 Gift.

Down: 1 Star, 2 Pine, 3 Surprise, 4 Inn, 5 Green, 6 Candy, 7 Manger, 10 Birth, 13 Miracle, 14 Thank you letter, 15 Ceremonies, 16 Bells, 17 Sauce, 18 Card, 21 December, 25 Divine, 26 Child, 28 Eggnog, 29 Pie.



Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Coloring Page



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Missions



Feed My Starving Children

Volunteer at the Chanhassen site (18932 Lake Dr E)

**Wednesday, December 14
from 9:00-10:45am**

Sign up with Jane Heimerl at jane.heimerl@yahoo.com by December 12.

Feed My Starving Children Update

FMSC volunteers pack lifesaving meals for children all over the world. Ten to 15 Good Sam volunteers led by the Missions Committee pack food at the FMSC Chanhassen location every second Wednesday of the month from 9:00-10:45am and on some Friday evenings. Our November group helped pack a total of 106 boxes of 36 packs per box. Each pack provides six meals, so 22,896 meals were packed! It was enough food to provide meals for 63 children for one year. If you would like to join us in this life-altering endeavor, contact Jane Heimerl: jane.heimerl@yahoo.com or 952-933-6628.

Helping Through The Dignity Center

The Dignity Center, a Ministry of Hennepin Avenue UMC, needs our help to help get needy people on their path to stability.



1. They need winter coats, jackets, ski gloves, scarves, and socks, for men, mainly, so bring those to our church and we'll get them there.
2. The Dignity Center provides counselling services to people living in poverty and they need volunteers to welcome the visitors and to help them to connect to appropriate resources in the community to address housing, food, employment, transportation, medical, legal, and financial assistance.

You can check out this worthwhile program at <https://haumc.org/dignity/>. If you could make time to help one morning a week, please check with the long-time volunteer from our church, Steve Kumagai at 612-203-4839 or vail12@comcast.net.

~Pat Deckas Becerra

Beacon Interfaith Housing



Twelve Good Samaritans attended the Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative's "Light the Way Home" fundraising luncheon at the Radisson Blu Hotel at the Mall of America on November 11. Various aspects of their work were highlighted:

1. Beacon sponsors Families Moving Forward which houses homeless families with children in different churches one week at a time. Good Samaritan has participated for 20 years.
2. Beacon has built or is building 22 low-income apartment buildings. Examples are their buildings for low-income Native Americans, men who have been incarcerated, families with autistic and other neurodivergent young adults, and homeless young adults at 66 West, here in Edina. Check it out at <https://www.beaconinterfaith.org/>
3. Beacon lobbies the legislature for more low-income housing and subsidies for families. Beacon has joined nearly 100 organizations/churches, mosques, synagogues across the state who champion the passage of the legislation to help the housing crises: *Bring it Home, Minnesota*. Today, 75% of people who qualify for rent vouchers don't actually get one. Why? Because the voucher program is vastly underfunded. Learn more about this at BringItHomeMinnesota.org.

~Pat Deckas Becerra

Missions

We Are a Reconciling Congregation



Since 1984, the Reconciling Congregation movement has grown to more than 861 Reconciling Congregations, Campus Ministries and Annual Conferences. It also encompasses over 34,000 Reconciling United Methodists who publicly witness to “open the doors” of the church to all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. This vital Christian movement seeks to fulfill the Biblical teaching that we are to LOVE God and our neighbor as ourselves and to do JUSTICE.

The Minnesota Reconciling Congregations group met on the beautiful fall day of November 10 in Maplewood and is meeting again at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday January 12, 2023. Izzy Alvaran, Reconciling MN Regional organizer, led a workshop October 22. Four churches were in attendance, including Good Sam; two are new to the Reconciling process, one is close to becoming a Reconciling Church and one is close to becoming a Reconciling Community. For more information on Minnesota Reconciling Congregations check out www.mnrcumc.org.

~ Brian Boysen & Pat Deckas Becerra

Marketing

2022 Election Report

Good Samaritan and Marketing once again served as a polling site for the 2022 election. During the day, 914 people voted. Combined with non-voters (children and others), over 1,000 people came through Good Sam. And what did they find? Happy and smiling greeters, freshly baked cookies, coffee, lemonade and ice water. The attendees were overwhelmed by our generosity and hospitality! Fourteen Good Samaritans helped throughout the long, long day. With redistricting, many new folks voted at Good Samaritan. Several times throughout the day, small groups of visitors sat in front of the fireplace, drinking coffee and visiting. As in the past, we served lunch and dinner to the election judges, staff and volunteers.

~Dave Knutson

Finance Team

Finance Update

As we enter the final month of the year, Good Samaritan's balance year to date is negative. Our expenses are coming in about as expected, but pledges and other donations are behind our plan. Unless donations pick up between now and the end of the year, we will have an unexpected loss this year. As the holiday season approaches, [please consider Good Samaritan in any year-end charitable giving.](#)

Also, all members should have received a statement of giving regarding their pledge and any remaining balance. If you have questions about your pledge, you can contact Cindy Bergstrom at the Church Office (cindy@good.org).

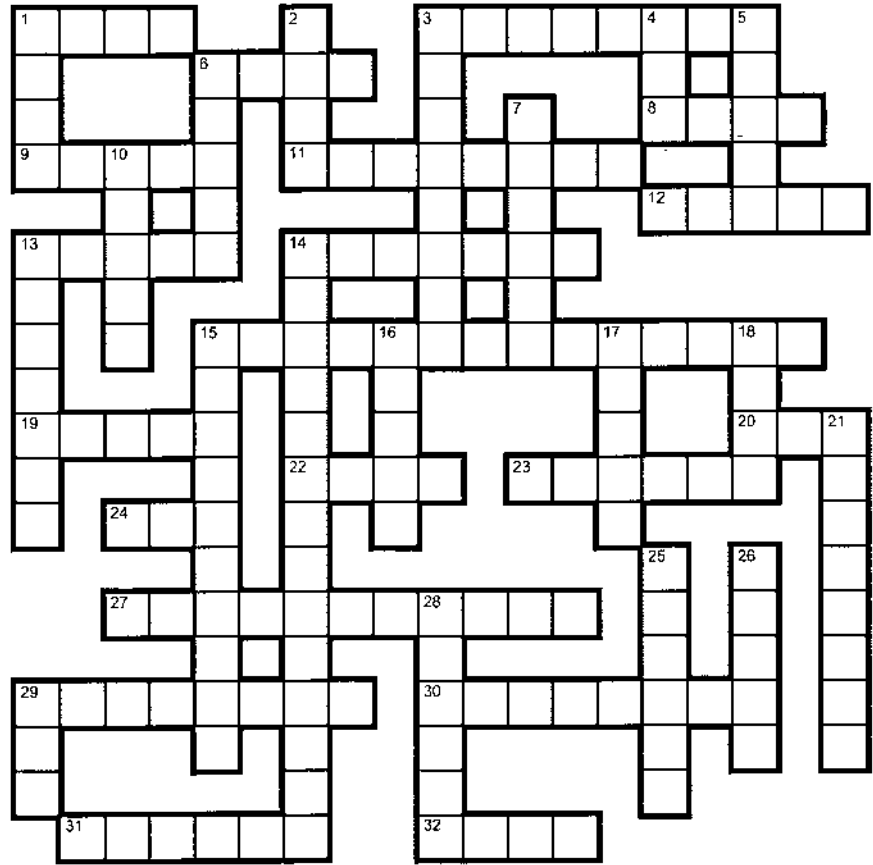
~Byron Olson

	October Plan	October Actuals	
Income	\$35,173	\$34,665	(\$102,751) behind plan YTD (unfavorable)
Expense	\$70,501	\$67,812	(\$41,116) behind plan YTD (favorable)
Net	(\$35,328)	(\$33,147)	(\$61,635) behind plan YTD (unfavorable)

Christmas Crossword

Across

- 1 Transportation for going over snow (4)
- 3 Mixture of seasoned ingredients (8)
- 6 Baby's bed (4)
- 8 Period from December 24th to January 6th (4)
- 9 Red-breasted bird (5)
- 11 Twelve days after Christmas (8)
- 12 Alcoholic drink normally served in a bowl (5)
- 13 Jolly (5)
- 14 News (7)
- 15 Goes with the turkey (9,5)
- 19 A type of tree used at Christmas (5)
- 20 The colour of Santa's hat (3)
- 22 ___ log; traditonally burned at Christmas (4)
- 23 Sanctified (6)
- 24 Cured leg of pork (3)
- 27 Christmas song (6,5)
- 29 Found under the Christmas tree? (8)
- 30 Grace (8)
- 31 Snow falls in this season (6)
- 32 Given at Christmas (4)



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Down

- 1 Bright celestial body (4)
- 2 Christmas tree type (4)
- 3 Take aback (8)
- 4 No room here! (3)
- 5 Elvish colour (5)
- 6 Sweets; flavoured sugar (5)
- 7 Container usually found in a stable (6)
- 10 Beginning of life (5)
- 13 Amazing event (7)
- 14 Written after Christmas? (5,3,6)
- 15 Formal events (10)
- 16 Ring out from churches (5)
- 17 Accompaniment for food (5)
- 18 Printed or written greeting (4)
- 21 Month in which Christmas falls (8)
- 25 Nature of God (6)
- 26 One was born in Bethlehem (5)
- 28 Sweetened milk drink, with eggs and alcohol (6)
- 29 Pastry dish (3)



Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
 5730 Grove Street
 Edina, MN 55436

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Return Service Requested

OUR VISION
 INSPIRING
 Joyful Faith
 BUILDING
 a Loving
 Community
 SERVING
 Neighbors Near
 and Far

SUNDAYS

Worship

10:00am (In-person and Online)

Nursery

9:45-11:30am, Infants - Age 3

Sunday School (Children & Youth)

Held during worship following Children's Time. All are welcome!

WEDNESDAYS

(Nursery open from 5:45-9:00pm)

6:00pm

- Chancel Chimes Rehearsal
- Caregivers (2nd Wednesdays)
- Children/Youth Choir

7:00pm

- Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Youth Activities

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Phone (952) 929-0049

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Poinsettias are said to symbolize good cheer and success while bringing wishes of laughter and celebration. Order a poinsettia for display in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one. They will adorn the Sanctuary for Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve. All the plants will be 8" red or white double poinsettias. The cost is \$25.00 each (payable to GSUMC; note "Christmas Flowers" on memo line.)



Fill out this order form and attach payment. Put it in the offering plate or mail to the church office by December 4, 2022.

NAME _____ PHONE _____
(Please print)

Please note quantity: Red _____ White _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

You may pick up your plant(s) after the 9:00 pm service on Christmas Eve or during the following week. Thank you.

_____ I would like to donate my plant to a homebound member.

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