

Proof of Light

On January 6 Christians celebrate Epiphany, when the Magi came to worship baby Jesus. Epiphany, which means an appearance or manifestation, symbolizes the first recognition of the Savior by non-Jews. Because Epiphany also is a reminder that Jesus came as the light of the whole world, its symbols include light, candles and a star.

How did the wise men know — and how do we know — that Jesus is the light of the world? As preacher George Buttrick said, “It would little avail to ask how we know. That would be like asking how we know that Beethoven’s ‘Hymn to Joy’ is joyous. If a man were to say, ‘It is not joyous to me,’ he would not condemn the music; he would tell only his morbidity. There is no logic to establish an axiom, for an axiom is the basis of all logic; and the soul of Jesus has axiomatic truth. Jesus is light, and there is no proof for light except light itself.”

Another year for God

Another year is dawning; dear Father, let it be,
in working or in waiting, another year with thee....
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
another year of proving thy presence all the days.
Another year of service, of witness for thy love;
another year of training for holier work above.
Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,
on earth, or else in heaven, another year for thee.
—Frances Ridley Havergal

Fresh starts

I suppose when we wake on January 1 the world will look the same. But there is a reminder of the Resurrection at the start of each new year, each new decade. That’s why I also like sunrises, Mondays and new seasons. God seems to be saying, “With me you can always start afresh.” ~ Ada Lum



TASTY CREATIONS

Make this yummy treat to remember what happened on each day of Creation.

What you need:

- 6 large pretzel rods
- Candy melts (white, chocolate and blue)
- Green sprinkles
- White or star-shaped sprinkles
- Fish crackers
- Animal crackers
- Adult help



What you do:

1. With help, melt the three colors of candy melts in separate dishes. Microwave for 30 seconds at a time, stirring until soft.
2. Decorate one pretzel for each day of Creation:
 - Dip half in white and half in chocolate to show light and darkness.
 - Dip half in white and half in blue to show separation of the atmosphere.
 - Dip half in chocolate, add green sprinkles and dip half in blue to show land, plants and water.
 - Dip in chocolate and add white or star sprinkles to show the stars.
 - Dip in blue and add fish crackers to show sea life.
 - Dip in chocolate and add animal crackers to show land animals.
3. Share the Creation story — and the snack — with a friend!



COMMUNION TEAM

Sunday, January 8

Communion Set Up: Loraine Shrader

Captain: Misty Kevech

Bread: Misty Kevech

Team: Jim Shrader, Linda Spowls, Bud Allen
and Dan Biwer

Offering and Attendance

December 25 ~ Offering \$1540 Attendance 30
Needed each week to meet the budget is \$3049 Per
Member Asking is \$37.50

Offering envelopes and the youth Sunday school envelopes

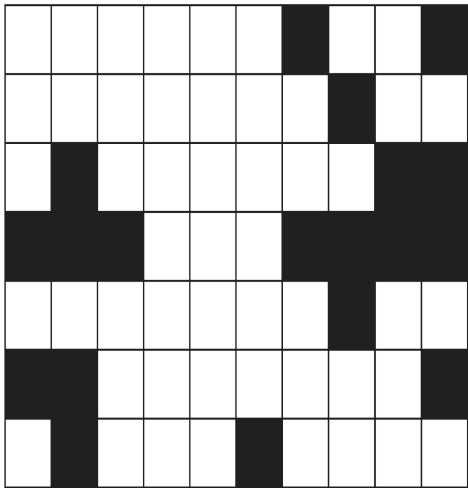
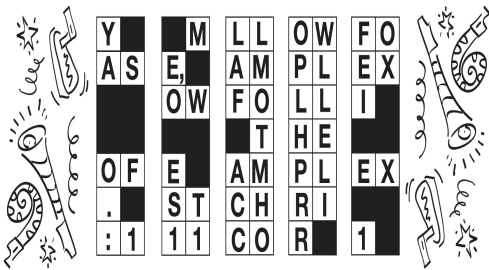
for 2023 may be picked up in the Annex. If you would like an envelope box and do not see your name on one, please contact Kim Neff at 724-239-5056. You do not need to be a member of the congregation to get a box of envelopes.

Calendar

Sunday, January 1	New Year's Day
Monday, January 2	7:00PM Live God 24/7 Youth Group
Wednesday, January 4	7:00PM Women's Connection
Thursday, January 5	7:00PM Bible Study
Saturday, January 7	6:30PM Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, January 8	Epiphany
	10:00AM Sunday School
	11:00AM Worship
	7:00PM Live God 24/7 Youth Group
Monday, January 9	7:00PM Evangelism and Worship
Tuesday, January 10	12:00PM Bible Release
	6:00PM Property Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 11	7:00PM Bible Study
Thursday, January 12	6:30PM Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, January 15	9:30AM Stewardship Meeting
	10:00AM Sunday school
	11:00AM Worship
	7:00PM Live God 24/7 Youth Group
Monday, January 16	Martin Luther King Jr., Day
Wednesday, January 18	7:00PM Bible Study
Thursday, January 19	6:30PM Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, January 22	10:00AM Sunday School
	11:00AM Worship
	7:00PM Live God 24/7 Youth Group
Monday, January 23	6:00PM Deacon's Meeting
Tuesday, January 24	12:00PM Bible Release Time
Wednesday, January 25	7:00PM Bible Study
Thursday, January 26	6:30PM Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, January 29	10:00AM Sunday School
	11:00AM Worship Service
	7:00PM Live God 24/7 Youth Group
Tuesday, January 31	7:00PM Session Meeting

Puzzle!

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to complete an NIV Bible verse about an important commitment.



I Cor. 11:1
Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.



NEWSLETTER

Date	Usher	Scripture Readers	Children in Worship	Offering Counter
January 1	Lisa Vipperman	Michelle Douglas	Linda Sprowls	Misty Kevech
January 8	Eric Dreyer	Michell Little	Linda Sprowls	Jim Shrader
January 15	Lorraine Shrader	Bud Allen	Elizabeth Sprowls	Bud Allen
January 22	Kim Neff	Joyce Myers	Linda Sprowls	Dan Biwer
January 29	Lisa Vipperman	Jim Shrader	Dan Biwer	Eric Dreyer

Thank you for volunteering, you are a blessing to the church.



Wisdom from MLK

I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practical realism. Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love. ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

Pursue Jesus — and your passions

If you struggle with making and keeping resolutions, you're not alone. It can be discouraging to focus on what you're doing "wrong" and all the difficult changes in store. Yet January offers great opportunities to listen to God's direction. After all, Jesus came to give us abundant life and wants us to pursue him.

As you review the previous year, ask: What brought me joy? How did I grow? How did I help others? What did I do that no one else could have done? Whether your list includes spending time outside, mentoring or coaching young people or making crafts to give away or sell, continue doing what brings you joy. God gives us each unique gifts and circumstances, so live passionately for him this year! ~Janna Firestone

Facing the future

Don't worry about the future. Worry quenches the work of grace within you. The future belongs to God. He is in charge of all things. Never second-guess him. ~ François Fenelon

